

# Vine & Branches

~ JOHN 15:5 ~



New Life Lutheran Church  
Pastor Randy Whitehead

*“Disciples of Jesus Growing Disciples of Jesus”*

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*Deadlines: Sunday announcements - Tuesday A.M., Newsletter - 15th of month*

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Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10:00 am - 2:30 pm.

**New Life Lutheran Church**

**April 28, 2024**

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Pastor: Randy Whitehead  
Reader: Jessica Nelson  
Organist: Joyce Peterson



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** [Leader-fine print, **Congregation-Bold Print**]

- C:** Dear God, for the day you have given us, with all its possibilities, we thank you. For your gifts of life and love, of labor and rest, we praise your holy name. Forgive us that too often we are unappreciative while your goodness surrounds us; that we feel alone when there are many who love us; that we despair when your strength is near at hand. Tear down the walls that isolate us, make strong the ties that bind us, and help us to walk together with joy in all your ways; through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of your Spirit. Amen
- L:** The good news is that God forgives us and gives us Christ to be living water and true bread. Let us accept with joy these precious gifts of abundant life. Amen



**OPENING HYMN**

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

**LBW # 520**



**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (in unison)

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



## Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31 [Leader-fine print, **Congregation-Bold Print**]

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
**saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”**



## **Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.



## **Gospel: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



## **CHILDRENS SERMON**



## **SERMON**



**OFFERING** (Offering will be received during the hymn of the day)  
You can use the QR code to give online



**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**



**APOSTLES' CREED** (In unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**  
**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**  
**and the life everlasting. Amen.**



**THE PRAYERS**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



## BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
bless you now and always.

**Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

**LBW # 260**



## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

**April 28th** - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany  
9:00 am Coffee Hour  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship at New Life

**April 29th** - 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan

**April 30th** - Office hours from 10 am to 11:30 am

**May 2nd** - 9:00 am Tai Ji Quan  
3:00 pm Communion in Pelican Rapids

**May 5th** - 8:45 am Worship at Little Bethany  
9:00 am Coffee Hour  
9:00 am **Last Day** of Sunday School  
10:00 am Worship at New Life & **Sunday school sings**

### Sunday School

Sunday School students will be singing in church on **May 5th**. This will also be our last day of Sunday school for the year.

Thank you to the teachers, students, and parents for another great year!

### Confirmation Orientation

May 15th 6:30 pm

We will have a brief introduction to Confirmation for any students that will be entering 7th grade or higher in the 2024-2025 school year and their parents.

Sundae's and floats will be served during orientation.

### Membership updates

We are doing our best as a church to improve our methods of communication and making sure our members are well informed. You can help us make this possible by scanning this QR code and by filling out the form for each member of your family!



## Senior Recognition Sunday

May 19th

Join us for refreshments at 9:00 am and for worship at 10:00 am as we celebrate the a great accomplishment for these students:

- Cassie Brandt
- Kali Brandt
- Zachary Christ
- Kinsey Heier
- Peyton Kadel
- Elli Meyer
- Gracyn Petersen
- Travis Shirley Jr.

## Community Baccalaureate Service

May 22nd at 7:00 pm  
at the New Life Lutheran Church

The Rothsay community and all Rothsay Public School graduating seniors, along with their friends and family, are invited to a service in their honor.

Congratulations Seniors!

Because of you, life doesn't stop.



## ROTHSAY BLOOD DRIVE




**TUESDAY, MAY 28**  
**2:00PM - 6:00PM**  
**NEW LIFE LUTHERAN-FELLOWSHIP HALL**

FOR AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CONTACT JASON @  
570-660-3994 OR DIANE @ 218-671-0885 OR SCAN  
THE QR CODE

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