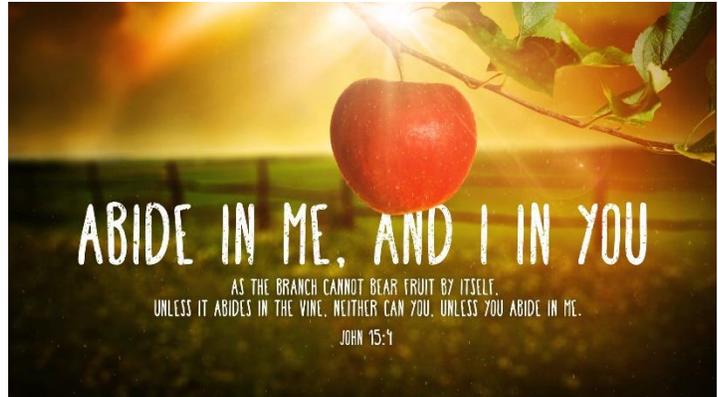


**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**The Vine and the Branches**  
*John 15:1-17*

**God's Word for Today**

We thank the Lord for 25 years of his grace on our congregation. Scripture readings are taken from the first service when we received mission status in the WELS in December 1995.



**WARM UP**

What plant best describes you now: Towering oak? Weeping willow? Tumbleweed? Crab apple tree? Explain.

What was a high point from your life this week?

**INTO THE TEXT**

**Read John 15.1-17.**

The entire book of John has shown the contrast between the children of God and the children of Satan. What assures us that we will remain children of God?

Jesus says that if we remain in him, we will produce much fruit. In that context, he repeats his promise that he will give us whatever we ask in his name. (verse 7) He follows that promise with the statement that God will be glorified when our prayers are answered. Here's the question: What does this imply about the nature of our prayers?

Jesus tells us to obey his commands in order to remain in his love. This kind of statement sometimes grates on the ears of people who know they are saved by faith alone. Try and explain what Jesus is saying here. (verses 9,10)

What is the difference between a servant and a friend?

What stood out to you the most from Sunday's sermon? Any questions that you'd like to ask in regard to the sermon?

### **GOD'S WORD FOR MY DAILY LIFE**

We may worry over becoming unfruitful branches and being cut off and burned. What assurance does Jesus give us in verse 16?

As a branch on Christ's vine, how would you describe the fruit in your life: Grade A-1? Juicy? Green? Wormy? Why?

How can this group support and pray for you right now?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

#### **My Next Step**

- **Key Verse.** *'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*
- **Key Response.** Individually, Jesus gives us the encouragement to stay connected to him. It's how we bear abundant fruit. What does it look like as a congregation? We give thanks for 25 years of staying connected to Jesus as a congregation at Messiah. May he continue to bless us!