

This Week at VIC

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Today 5/2	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Tuesday 5/4	1:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Sunday 5/9	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch

Announcements

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – If it's time for a professional photograph, please consider joining VICCLA for PICTURE DAY on Tuesday, May 11, at 9:00 a.m. See Ruth Rohloff for package details if you are interested.

Mission Trip to Alaska – Please consider supporting Kara Rohloff as she prepares to teach VBS in Alaska. T-shirts are available for \$20 with a May 14 deadline. Donations are also appreciated.

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning this week are the Richardson and Scott Rohloff families.

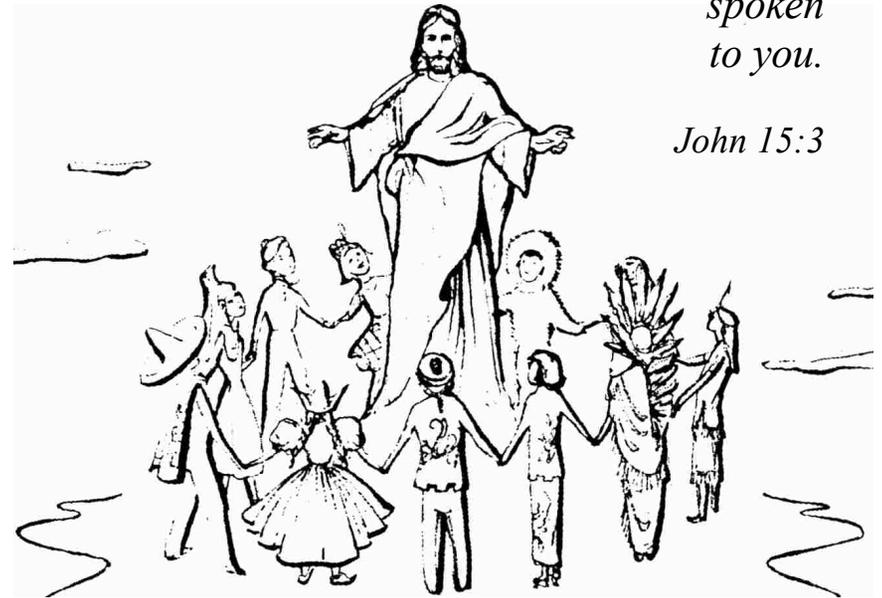
General Fund Income –

Weekly Budgeted Income	\$ 3,272.86
Actual Income Received Last Week	\$ 2,555.00
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$127,641.54
Year to Date Actual Income	\$133,583.69

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church

*You are already made
clean by the Word
which I have
spoken
to you.*

John 15:3



Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Hymn of Invocation: #601 – All Who Believe and Are Baptized

Divine Service Setting One: pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ A little while, and you will see me no / longer;
and again a little while, and you will / see me.

¹ **I will extol you, my / God and King,
and bless your name forever and / ever.**

² Every day I will / bless you
and praise your name forever and / ever.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and / merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in / steadfast love.**

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, / O LORD,
and all your saints shall / bless you!

²¹ **My mouth will speak the praise / of the LORD,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and / ever.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit;
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

¹⁶ A little while, and you will see me no / longer;
and again a little while, and you will / see me.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40 (English Standard Version)

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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 before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Second Reading

1 John 4:1-11 (English Standard Version)

Test the Spirits

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8 (English Standard Version)

I Am the True Vine

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Sermon Hymn: #633 – At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing

Sermon:

Communion Hymns: #461 – I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Closing Hymn: #474 – Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

Weekly Stewardship Focus

John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, we are grafted by grace into His vine. We desire to be more like Him and grow into His image. That’s growth in fruit bearing, and it always comes with some pruning.

**The Readings for today –
Fifth Easter of Sunday**

Acts 8:26–40

1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)

John 15:1–8

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

"*God is love,*" and He has manifested Himself to us by sending "*his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him*" (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, "*he has given us of his Spirit,*" so that we also believe and confess "*that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.*" In this way, we "*abide in him and he in us,*" and we "*love one another*" (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of "*the good news about Jesus*" to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when "*they came to some water,*" the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into "*the true vine,*" Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He "*bears much fruit*" in us (John 15:3–5).

**A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:34–48

1 John 5:1–8

John 15:9–17

The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who "*are witnesses of all that he did.*" He was anointed by God "*with the Holy Spirit and with power,*" and "*he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,*" and so He was with those whom He sent "*to preach to the people*" (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are "*baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,*" so that "*everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name*" (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with "*the water and the blood*" in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our "*joy may be full.*" For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to "*go and bear fruit*" in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).