

This Week at VIC

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Today 4/28	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:45 p.m.	Voters' Meeting
Tuesday, 4/30	1:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Sunday, 5/5	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch

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, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.

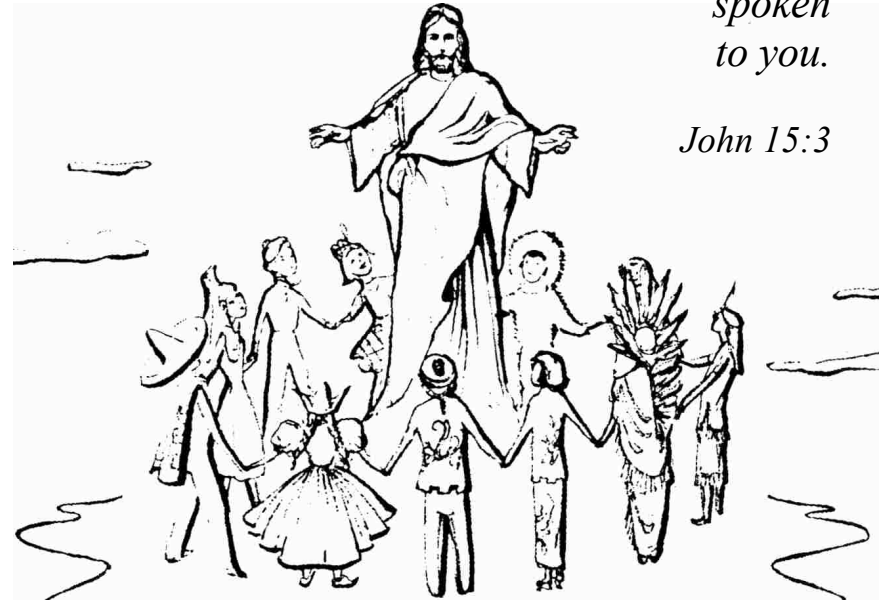
Life Quote in the Church Year for April 28 "It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world, and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives." *Deaconess Bethany Stoever, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thought in the Church Year for April 28 – Easter V – It is anxiety and fright that drive folks to pursue abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other measures that view death as a solution. Fear likewise bullies the sanctity of life into silence. But the Lord's perfect love puts all fear to flight (1 John 4:18). In surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis, we and our neighbors need not independence and empowerment but the presence, promises, and compassion of the Father Almighty.

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
April 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Cover illustration is by Evelyn Ortlepp and is from *The Children's Hymnal* (public domain).
The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel by C.F.W. Walther copyright 1969 by Concordia Publishing House. Used with permission. To order this book contact www.cph.org or 1-800-325-3040. Scripture text is based on *Revised Standard Version* © 1946, 1952, 1971 Division of Education and Ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All Rights Reserved.

This bulletin cover made available by www.scholia.net and is provided without cost.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
508 Main Street
Newark, Texas 76071
817-489-5400

Pastor Philip Schielke

Pastor's Email: pastor@viclutheranchurch.org

Church Website: www.viclutheranchurch.org

Church Email: churchoffice@viclutheranchurch.org

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: #480 – He's Risen, He's Risen

Divine Service Setting One: pg. 151

Introit

Psalms 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

²⁶An 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now 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.

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

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And 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?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor. He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

Second Reading

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

Test the Spirits

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, 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[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By 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: #636 – Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Closing Hymn: #463 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

Announcements

Thank You - Bobbie Sherrod, who is now 2½ years cancer free, would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this time.

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of May 4, is the VanDekerkhove family.

April Voters' Meeting – We will have our April Voters' Meeting **TODAY**, following the noon meal.

Save the Date – Our VBS 2024 will be June 10-14, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Clear your calendar now and plan to join us!

Texas Church Extension Fund – Did you know that in the past **25 years**, Texas District Church Extension Fund has been blessed with the opportunity to provide an average of **98 congregations** with an annual loan rebate check? Since 1998, more than **\$9.5 million dollars** has been distributed to our Texas LCMS congregations!

90 rebate checks for 2023 were mailed out. As congregations are receiving these, please join us in thanking God for this wonderful opportunity to give back to ministry. May the **over \$665,000** be used to help multiply followers of Jesus.

Supporting investments from individuals, congregations and other entities provide the funds for Texas CEF to make loans to congregations. Each investor may designate a congregation to receive credit for their invested dollars. Investments are NOT pledged for any congregation's loan.

At the end of each month the balance in each investors' accounts designated to support the congregation are added together and the monthly rebate amount is determined. After the end of Texas CEF's fiscal year (January 31) a check is written and sent to the congregation for the amounts earned for the previous twelve months. The checks usually arrive during the second half of February each year.

For investment information see [Invest – Texas District Church Extension Fund \(texascef.org\)](https://www.texascef.org).

**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).