

This Week at VIC

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Today 5/5	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Tuesday, 5/7	1:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Saturday, 5/11	8:00 a.m.	Work Day
Sunday, 5/12	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

1 John 5:3 – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

God's commandments are not burdensome, but that's only true for Christians precisely because we know that we are not saved by our keeping of the Law. We are saved by grace. Therefore, we are set free by grace to walk in newness of life, to grow in faithfulness, and rejoice in the Law of the Lord, loving God and our neighbor by keeping His commandments.

Life Quote in the Church Year for May 5 “The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven.” *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thought in the Church Year for May 5 – Easter VI – Surprise pregnancy does involve difficulties too great for our abilities. Terminal diagnosis indeed comes with insurmountable obstacles. Taking life-and-death matters into one's own hands only compounds the problems. Instead, trust the Son of God to overcome and deliver out of every threat (1 John 5:4). Cry out to Jesus in repentance and prayer, for the Father above will not fail to supply immediate and eternal salvation (John 15:16).

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Victory in Christ Lutheran Church

*Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life
for his friends.
You are My friends.*

John 15:13-14



Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024
10:00 a.m.

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

Pastor Philip Schielke

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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: #469 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Divine Service Setting One: pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: Psalm 66:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who | fear God,
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

**¹ Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;
² sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!**

⁸ Bless our God, O | peoples;
let the sound of his | praise be heard,

**⁹ who has kept our soul among the | living
and has not let our | feet slip.**

²⁰ Blessed | be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast
| love from me!

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 Come and hear, all you who | fear God,
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

First Reading

Acts 10:34-48 (English Standard Version)

Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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 5:1-8 (English Standard Version)

Overcoming the World

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Testimony Concerning the Son of God

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17 (English Standard Version)

⁹[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

Sermon Hymn: #556 – Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Sermon:

Communion Hymn: #594 – God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Closing Hymn: #488 – He is Arisen! Glorious Word

Announcements

Work Day – There is a work day on Saturday, May 11, beginning at 8 a.m. We will be working on repairing the playground so it be safe for our students and our VBS, and we will be working on bracing the floor joist in the church. Lunch will be provided for all workers.

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of May 18, are the Crutcher and Mitchell families.

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

Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas CEF) wants to help you and your family save for something specific or for something unexpected. The Rainy Day Fund is a perfect investment to help you meet your financial goals. Find out more about this great savings opportunity at texascef.org.

MAY 2024



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Investment	Fixed Rate (2)		Floating Rate (2)	
	Rate	APY	Rate	APY
One Year Note (1)	4.000%	4.06%	3.250%	3.29%
Three Year Note (1)	3.750%	3.80%	3.500%	3.55%
Five Year Note (1)	3.850%	3.91%	3.750%	3.80%
Jumbo Investment	4.150%	4.22%		
<small>\$100,000 minimum, 18 month term</small>				
Flex Savings			1.000%	1.00%
Rainy Day Fund			1.250%	1.26%
<small>Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate</small>				
Congregation Savings			1.250%	1.26%
Building Fund			3.000%	3.04%

General Fund Income –

Monthly Budgeted Income	\$ 16,641.49
Actual Income Received in March	\$ 18,770.00
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$149,773.41
Year to Date Actual Income	\$159,747.10

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

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).

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

Acts 1:12–26
1 John 5:9–15
John 17:11b–19

Our Great High Priest Preserves Us in the Name of His Father

On the eve of His Passion, Christ Jesus intercedes for the disciples as their merciful and great High Priest. He prays that His Father would protect them *"from the evil one"* and preserve them in His name (John 17:11–12, 15). Along with His prayer, Christ Himself comes to the Father by His self-sacrifice upon the cross, thereby consecrating Himself for the sake of His disciples, *"that they also may be sanctified in truth"* (John 17:19). To that same end, He speaks to them in the world and gives them His Father's Word, that is, Himself. His apostles, in turn, have written these things *"to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life"* (1 John 5:13). For *"this life is in his Son,"* whom He has given by His Word, and *"whoever has the Son has life"* (1 John 5:11–12). By this apostolic testimony, disciples are gathered together *"with one accord,"* as one Body in Christ, *"devoting themselves to prayer"* and waiting upon the Lord in *"the upper room"* of His Church on earth (Acts 1:13–14).