

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+
Divine Setting One

WELCOME / BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

#837 vs 1,5,6

INVOCATION

KYRIE

“Lord, Have Mercy”

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast”

COLLECT OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40 (ESV)

An angel directs Philip to meet an Ethiopian royal official who is struggling to understand the Scriptures. Philip teaches the man about Christ, leading him to be baptized.

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. 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 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 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?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

CONFIRMATION SONG

“Our God is Everlasting”

10 am only

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:1-11 (ESV)

The chief responsibility of a Christian teacher is to lead others to glorify Jesus. True love begins with God and flows down from Him into and through His people.

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 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. 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. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 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. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?”

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8 (ESV)

Jesus is our True Vine and we are his branches. When we hold onto him in faith, he causes us to bear spiritual fruit in our lives.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St John the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you O, Lord.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. 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.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jon Dunbar

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"

#691

SERMON

OFFERING CONFIRMATION VIDEO

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

10 am only

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+

PREFACE

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

DISTRIBUTION

(Gluten-free wafers, for those who need them, are available on the stand as you come forward).

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#629 *"What Is This Bread"*

10 am only Hymns

#627 *"Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior" vs 1-4, 9,10*

#727 *"On Eagles' Wings"*

#687 *"Thine Forever, God of Love"*

#919 *"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*

Closing Hymn for 8:00 am Service

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thank the Lord"

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

#919 8 am only

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Ben Francisco, Faith Lutheran Church & School, York

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

**For Our Congregation and Community:
Confirmation Class**

Dealing with an illness: Rita Ritterling, Karen Stuart (Roy Richter's mother), LaVern Stuhr, Andrea Swanson Kuester, Jenni Conell, Shelley Scheele, Stephen Ramsey, Christal Fehlhafer, Roger Rhodes, Aaron DeWaard, Paula Huebschman (Jamie Ramsey's mother), Mitch Peeks, Hawley Family, Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Sheila Franks, Dick Greenwood, Linda Ehlers, Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law), Mya Noreen (Great Grand Daughter of Darlene Link)

Recovering from surgery: Dennis Conell, Lois Richters, Collin Sansom, Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer)

Declining Health: Norma Ehlers

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School:402-534-2121

Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar;

Visitation Pastor:

Principal: Mr. Bob Brauer

Cell:402-641-4813 Cell:

Cell:402-534-3406

DCE: Brittany Fulcer; 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love

April 25 : Total Attendance: 145 Sunday School: 11 Online: 107

VOLUNTEERS:

TODAY(05-02-21) Acolyte: Riley Ziegler/Garrett Brandenburg **Lay Reader:** Jeff Wellman/Justin Slawynk
Organist: Carol Erks

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (05-02)	8:00 AM	Worship w/Communion online and in person
	10:00 AM	Confirmation Service w/Communion online and in person
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Group
MONDAY (05-03)	8:45 AM	Orphan Grain Train
	1:00 PM	Bible Study
TUESDAY (05-04)	7:00 PM	Administrative Meetings
	7:45 PM	Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY (05-05)	7:00 PM	Womens Bible Study @ Jami Utter's home
THURSDAY (05-06)	-----	
FRIDAY (05-07)	6:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
SATURDAY (05-08)	-----	
SUNDAY (05-09)	9:00 AM	Worship online and in person
	10:30 AM	Bible Study online and in person and Sunday School
	6:00 PM	Junior High Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Senior High Youth Group

As of 04-26-21	Amount received 04-25-21	Needed each week	Received YTD 2021	YTD Amount needed to cover 2021 budget	Difference
General Fund	\$7,108.00		\$217,554.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$2,113.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$15,405.00		
Total	\$7,108.00	\$16,093.00	\$235,072.00	\$260,995.00	-\$25,923.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$250.00	Bldg Fund**	\$46,917.00
Teacherage Fund	\$0.00		\$300.00	Teacherage Fund	\$0.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$0.00		\$1,557.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/20-8/21) 5k goal	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$3,205.00	\$3,269.00	-\$64.00

Current Operating Note: \$0.00 (debt limit is \$90,000) **Insurance Proceeds Received

God bless all the people who bring joy and light into my quiet world with cards, visits and prayers. You are God's hands at work. Norma

Summer Camp Brochures As you're making plans for summer, remember Camp Luther of Nebraska has great outdoor camps of all types for kids and families! Brochures with more details are available at the welcome center. Scholarships are also available through our congregation; talk to Pastor Dunbar if you're interested. Visit their website to sign up now! www.campluther.org.

The LLL spring rally will be held Today Sunday, May 2nd at St. John's Lutheran Church, Waco in the Fellowship Hall beginning with registration at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 per person including the meal. The speaker is Dr. Dennis Brink from Concordia University who is the director of the new Ag Program. League presidents please call your group reservations to Raymond Luebke 402-363-9829 by Monday, April 26th.

Changes in Social Distancing & Communion You may notice that we have begun to relax our social distancing in the sanctuary. Due to the decrease in new COVID cases and wide availability of vaccinations, portions of our seating will no longer be distanced. Pews near the back of the sanctuary will remain roped off for those who wish to maintain distance. Beginning in May we plan on returning to regular communion distribution at the front of church, using only individual cups. We continue to encourage wearing a mask as recommended by Four Corners Health Department.

Thank you for your patience and grace as we move ahead. God is good! -St. Paul Board of Elders

The Wednesday evening women's Bible study that has been meeting at church is being moved to Jami Utter's house for the time being. We will still meet from 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings. Please join us for some time in God's word and great discussion! Address is 705 E Street, Utica. See you there!

Welcome our New Visitation Pastor! God has heard our prayers and provided St. Paul's with a new Pastor of Visitation. After meetings with Pastor Dunbar and our Head Elder, Rev. Dr. Terry Groth of Seward has agreed to begin making visits to our shut-ins starting in May. The hope is that he would be extended a call by the Voters later this month. Here is a message from him: Greetings, St. Paul, Utica! I look forward to being formally introduced to you at the worship services on May 2nd and to serving as St. Paul's new visitation pastor. By way of brief introduction, my wife Lorraine and I just celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary and are blessed to have five grown children and ten grandchildren. I retired last July from teaching theology at Concordia University, Seward for 15 years. Before that I served as a pastor in Edwardsville, IL for 21 years. I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve in the parish ministry once again. See you soon! Pastor Terry Groth

Thank you to everyone who has kept me in their thoughts and prayers during this time. I have truly appreciated everyone's prayers, offers of help, friends who have sat with me during chemo, and all the other thoughts. God has blessed me with many friends and family. Thank you! Joan Naber

A heartfelt thank you is due the members and Pastor of St. Paul's congregation! Thank you for the thoughtful plaque, the many words of appreciation, the prayers, cards, and gifts received upon my retirement. Thanks also for your kind words, written and spoken, given to Bonnie. Together we rejoice and give thanks to God for the opportunity He has given us to serve Him in this congregation for nearly 9 years -- and the opportunity to continue to be with you. Pastor Richard and Bonnie Gudgel

At the end of this school year Barb Erks will complete 25 years as cook at St. Paul Lutheran School and Church! We want to thank her for being such a wonderful servant and preparing so many tasty meals (over 400,000) for our students, staff, and the seniors of Utica. This "Thank You" will include a card shower, so please send or drop off your cards of thanks to the church or school office on or before March 20. Thank You. Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! Join us for VBS June 7th-11th 8:30-11:30am! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Open to kids age 4 through kids going into 7th grade. If you have any questions please contact Brittany Fulcer at the church office! Register at this link: vbspro.events/p/stpauluticavbs

The 2021 Confirmation Class

Rylee Roger Duane Barth was baptized July 9, 2006. He is the son of Alan and Christel Barth. His sponsors are Lyal & Cathay Weber and Aaron & Amber Rucker. The verse Rylee has chosen is Philippians 4:13 ESV "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Jayden Christopher Butzke was baptized September 23, 2007. He is the son of Chris and Robin Butzke. His sponsors are Jen Rothoee and Jedidiah McLellan. The verse Jayden has chosen is Matthew 5:16 NIV "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

Joseph William Dunbar was baptized May 20, 2007. He is the son of Jon and Hope Dunbar. His sponsor is Jay Krick. The verse Joseph has chosen is James 1:2-4 ESV "Count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Jake Christopher Fehlhafer was baptized May 21, 2006. He is the son of Steve and Kara Fehlhafer. His sponsors are Brian and Heather Hauptman & Rachel Saunders. The verse Jake has chosen is 2 Timothy 4:7 ESV "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Paul Henry Fehlhafer was baptized February 4, 2007. He is the son of Steve and Marci Fehlhafer. His sponsors are Ed and Macarla Eick. The verse Paul has chosen is Jeremiah 29:11 NIV "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Matthew Dana Hoops was baptized August 20, 2011. He is the son of Lynn and Dayna Hoops. His sponsors are Kevin Hoops and Layne Hoops. The verse Matthew has chosen is Philippians 4:13 ESV "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Ryan Dennis Richters was baptized May 3, 2006. He is the son of Jason and Nancy Richters. His sponsors are Cayla Nielsen, Morgan Brumm and Joshua Brumm (Honorary). The verse Ryan has chosen is Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV "But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Saige Kay Scheele was baptized May 20, 2007. She is the daughter of Jay and Danielle Scheele. Her sponsors are DJ & Tiffany Talbott and Kimberly Scheele Heimes. The verse Saige has chosen is Isaiah 40:8 NIV "The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God stands forever."

Devin Matthew Slawnyk was baptized February 4, 2007. He is the son of Mark and Deanna Slawnyk. His sponsors are Glenn and Barb Vonkampen. The verse Devin has chosen is Habakkuk 3:17-18 NIV "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vine, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Averie Rose Stuhr was baptized January 21, 2007. She is the daughter of Mitch and Wendy Stuhr. Her sponsors are Angie Miller and Daren Rediger. The verse Averie has chosen is Philippians 4:13 ESV "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Josephine Elizabeth Turnbull was baptized on March 11, 2007. She is the daughter of Clint and Stacie Turnbull. Her sponsors are Reba & Bart Deterding and Nora Rhoades. The verse Josephine has chosen is Romans 8:38-39 NIV "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Camden Joseph Winkelman was baptized December 10, 2006. He is the son of Sterling and Tammy Winkelman. His sponsors are Casey Tonniges and Gail Dishman. The verse Camden has chosen is Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."