

"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



April 28 / 29, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Easter / Confirmation
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
627 S. Washington Street
New Ulm, MN

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Today's service is televised locally

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Channel 3 - NU Telecom: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Worship Notes
Fifth Sunday of Easter / Confirmation Sunday
April 28/29, 2018

Prayer before worship: Almighty God, you nourish us through your Word and sacraments. Continue to strengthen and encourage us through your saving Gospel. May we always remain in Christ, just as the branch must remain in the vine, so that we may bear the fruits of faith with which we serve you and our neighbor. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Order of Service: *Common Service* page 15

OPENING HYMN

With High Delight Let Us Unite

CW168

FIRST LESSON

Acts 16:11-15

Acts 16:11-15 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the

city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to

respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

PSALM of the DAY

Psalm 67

p. 91

11 am Choir sings the first half of each verse; Congregation sings the second half of each verse

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 3:18-24 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

VERSE of the DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.
- John 14:6

ANTHEM

Christ Is with Me

Gerald Coleman
11 am

We were buried with him into death, That as he was raised, By God's glory,
We might walk in Life made new by grace. Having died with Christ. We shall live with him.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go, Never to leave me, this I know.

I have now been Grafted to the Vine, Drawing life from roots
Rich in mercy, Bearing fruit as I abide in him: Fruit forever fresh, Glorifying God.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go, Never to leave me, this I know.

I have now been Crucified with Christ, I no longer live, Christ lives in me.
Now I live by Faith in God's own Son, One who loved me so Gave himself for me.
Christ is with me ev'rywhere I go, Never to leave me, this I know.

Now I live by faith, Faith in God's own Son. One who loved me so Gave himself for me.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "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. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

HYMN of the DAY

This Is My Will

CW 497

11 am Congregation sings stanzas 1-2, 4-5; Choir sings stanza 3

SERMON

John 15:1-8

Stay Connected to Jesus

OFFERING

CONFIRMATION RITE

11 am

Responses in the Rite of Confirmation

My dear young friends, when you were younger you received the gift of saving faith and became members of God's family through Holy Baptism. From that time on your parents and church have provided you with many opportunities to learn more fully from the Word of God the meaning of that precious faith and of your position and high calling in God's family. Now you are gathered here before God and this Christian congregation to promise your faithfulness to the Triune God and to dedicate yourselves to Him for this life and for eternity. In the name of the Lord and on behalf of this congregation I invite you to lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and cheerfully to answer the questions I shall now ask you:

Are you ready and willing, in the presence of God and of this Christian congregation, to promise your faithfulness to the Triune God?

I am.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to Judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Do you believe that all the accepted books of the Bible are truly the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and that the teachings of the Bible as they are confessed and taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and as you have learned to know them, are true and correct?

I do

Do you intend to continue faithfully in the teachings of the Word of God and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and suffer anything, even death, rather than fall away from them?

I do so intend, with the help of God.

Do you also intend to live your whole life according to the Word of God, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace, to think, speak and act as is fitting for one who believes the gospel of Christ, and to remain true to the Triune God until you die?

I do so intend, by the grace of God.

Come, then, to the Lord's altar as a symbol of your promise, and then kneel to receive His blessing.

Exhortation Addressed to the Parents

Following the blessing of the confirmands the Pastor shall ask the parents to rise and shall then say:

When you brought these children to be baptized, you realized that you were following the will of your Lord Jesus, who said, "Let the little children come to me." At the same time you understood

that your responsibilities had not ended at their baptisms. You knew that the Scriptures also commanded you to "bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord." This you have done in your homes and by using the assistance that has been offered by your fellow Christians in this congregation. However, our Lord Jesus wants you to remember that your duties to these children are not completed at their confirmation, either. Rather, they continue until your role as their parents is ended by death.

Therefore I exhort and ask you in the name of our Lord Jesus:

Will you continue to lead these children to appreciate the Word of God, to invite them to accompany you to the Lord's Supper often, and to encourage them to make daily use of their Bibles in their homes? Will you by your words, and especially by your examples, impress upon them the necessity of hearing the Word of the Lord which is that one thing needful, and which cannot be taken away from them? And finally, in all things will you continue to point them to their priceless Treasure, their Lord Jesus Christ, who has promised them and you a crown of righteousness in heaven? If so, then answer, YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

PARENTS: "YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD."

May the Lord grant you the strength to carry out your intentions in his name. Amen.

Exhortation to the Congregation

Dear members of this congregation and all brothers and sisters in Christ:

When these students were baptized, you who were present and witnessed their reception of the sacrament also made a vow to assist in whatever way possible, so that these students would continue in the faith of the holy Christian Church all of their lives. Our roles do not come to an end at their confirmation either. It is still our privilege and responsibility to carry out our duty to Christ.

Therefore I ask you, before God:

Will continue to assist in whatever manner possible so that these students may remain children of God until death? If so, answer by saying: "Yes, as God gives me strength."

CONGREGATION: "YES, AS GOD GIVES ME STRENGTH."

May the Lord grant you the strength to carry out your intentions in his name. Amen.

CONFIRMATION ANTHEM*Guide Us, Lord*

Mark Patterson

11 am

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way,
Trusting as you lead us with love, teach us again to pray.

Refrain: Help us know you more clearly, help us love you more dearly,
help us follow you more nearly day by day, day by day. Guide us, Lord, we pray.

Guide us through these days, O Lord; help us to seek your way,
Seeking wisdom from your word, strengthen our tender faith. Refrain

When we stray and fall to sin help us find your path again;
Draw us closer in your fellowship of love. Refrain

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HYMN*I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus***CW446****CLOSING HYMN***Evening and Morning***CW430**

† † †

ORGANIST**SENIOR CHOIR****CONFIRMATION (Gr. 8)****VIOLA****VIOLIN**

Jonathan Roux

Bethel Boeder

Adrian Smith

Miles Wurster

David Wendland

Former St. John's Confirmands

1 year ago 2017

Grace Bauer
Rachel Black
Cheyenne Blackwell
Nicolas Bleick
Justus Borgwardt
Reva Ecker
Cody Gilman
Joseph Goeglein
Walter Grubbs
Yvonne Havemeier
Bryant Karstens
Caylyn Kos (reaffirmation)
Anthony Lingl
Zachary Schroeder
Hunter Sehr
Elizabeth Strackbein
Joanna Wessel
Victoria Zacate

5 years ago 2013

Samuel Boeder
Dylan Borchert
Kayla Brandes
Callahan Diersen
Nicholas Fischer
Brandon Karstens
Joel Koelpin
Ryan Kuck
Hannah Mohror
Kaitlyn Roux
Austin Schroeder
Shasta Thomas
Brittany Vonderharr

10 years ago 2008

Nicole Berg
Alissa Block
MacKenzie Boni
Allison Bovee
Kyle Burdorf
Amanda Fox
Brady Greenwaldt
Hunter Holden
Zachary Lingl
Daniel Reinke
Caleb Schmidt
Louise Schmidt
Morgan Schmidt
Lucas Schmit
Emily Wessel
Grace Willis

25 years ago 1993

Adam Dittrich
Nathan Doering
Katie Evers
Jeanette Fischer
Jeremy Frederickson
Rachel Gaub
Shari Gieseke
Kevin Griebel
Melinda Gronholz
Meggy Grunst
Kristina Heidtke
Peter Hermanson
Andrew Hippert
Luke Hunter
Jennifer Johnson
Janelle Klatt
Rachel Klockziem
Timothy Meinert
Jody Meyer
Angela Mickelson
Melissa Mielke
Holly Olson
Angela Rieger
Rachel Shamp

30 years ago 1988

Heather Enter
Clete Fischer
Andrew Hermanson
David Klockziem
Danielle Klotz
Allen Kopischke
Rachel LaGrow
Jeremy Lenz
Nathan McClellan
Ross Mehlhop
Laura Purrier
Chad Savoy
Trent Wendler
Rachel Willems

40 years ago 1978

Miriam Birkholz
Susan Blaaid
David Blackstad
Jennifer Braun
Greg Brinkman
Paul Denninger
Mark Hirsch
David Jobe
Christine Juhnke
Mark Koelpin
Douglas Lueck
Jonathan Nitz
Vicky Pearse
Karen Schneider
Karen Spoon
Michael Tanley
Carol Winter

50 years ago 1968

Trudie Benson
Lee Brei
Hope Fredrich
Susan Hartwig
Barbara Huebner
David Kaiser
Jonathan Scheitel
Harry Schwartz
Christine Tews
Allan Wacker

60 years ago 1958

Marvis Beilke
Carol Juhnke
Richard Lueck
Constance Oldfield
Clarke Sievert
John Trapp

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	9:30 am	Bible Class and Last Sunday School
	11 am	Confirmation Gr. 8 sings
	12 pm	Basement Reserved
	3 pm	MLC Called Worker Anniversary Service
	7:30 pm	MLC Wind Symphony Concert
Tue	7 pm	Women of St. John's Meeting
Wed	1 pm	Sewing for Christian Aid & Relief: 116 N. Franklin St.
	7 pm	Senior Choir
Thu	10:30 am	Last Adult Bible Class
	7 pm	Last Adult Bible Class
Fri	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
	7:30 pm	MVL Spring Play
Sat	2 & 7 pm	MVL Spring Play

† **Weekend Services** †
 Saturday: 7 pm
 Sunday: 8, 9:30 & 11 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6	9:30 am	Sunday School Children sing
	9:30 am	Bible Class
May 7	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
May 8	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
	7 pm	Education Meeting
May 9	7 pm	Senior Choir
May 10	4 & 7 pm	Ascension Services
May 11	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
	4 & 7:30 pm	MLC Commencement Concerts
May 12	10 am	MLC Commencement Service
	2:30 pm	MLC Call Service
	5 & 8 pm	MVL Prism Concerts
May 14	7 pm	Joint Council Meeting at St. Paul's Church
May 15	4 pm	Oak Hills Living Center Service
May 17	7 pm	St. Paul's School Band Concert
May 18	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
May 19/20		Summer Schedule Begins (no 11 am service)
May 23	6:30 pm	St. Paul's School Kindergarten Spring Show
May 25	9:30 am	Women's Bible Class
	10 am	Sunset Apt. Service
May 27		25th Anniversary Celebration of Laura Balza
	2 pm	MVL Graduation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance for the past weekend was 550.

Fruits of faith given:

\$21,828	Home Operations ~ \$14,532 is our weekly need		
\$1,585	MVL ~ \$1,118 is our weekly need	\$5,000	601 S. Washington Purchase
\$2,464	Missions ~ \$1,648 is our weekly need	\$100	Audio/Video Equipment
\$7,694	Building Fund ~ \$1,603 is our weekly need	\$25	Church Library Fund
\$14	Food & Fellowship	\$5	Prison Ministry

New Associate Pastor ~ Pastor Rob Guenther has accepted the call to be the pastor of St. John's as the associate of Pastor Bovee. Pastor Guenther, his wife Rebecca, and their four children will arrive in late June. The Guenthers plan to live in the recently-purchased home at 601 S. Washington. Therefore, we are thankful for the timing of the purchase of that property. Keep the Guenthers in your prayers as they prepare for the long move from Alaska to Minnesota. His installation will take place on July 8th. Please watch the bulletin and *Fortress* for further developments.

God Bless Our Confirmands ~ We commend into the hands of our merciful Savior all those who make the good confession before God's altar today. They are:

Abigail Margaret Deters	Liliana Jayne Mohror
Ruth Marie Dobberpuhl	Brooklyn Rae Moldan
Madelyn Mead Fischer	Josiah Louis Smith
Zander Michael Fischer	Ruth Ann Ulicky
Kaiden Michael Hammerschmidt	Nathan Luis Zacate
Kaylee Ann Hunter	

Sunday School Children Singing Time Change ~ Please note that we have changed the time for next week's Sunday School singing. Instead of singing at the start of the 11 am service as planned, the children will sing at the start of the 9:30 service. We ask that all Sunday School children assemble at the front of the sanctuary at 9:10 to rehearse the song. They are then welcome to sit with their families or walk up and back from the narthex if they are attending a different service. There will not be a Sunday school session that day. We thank all the parents who brought their children to hear the word and grow in their relationship with their Lord this year. Fall session will begin again in September.

Lost and Found ~ Please check the table in the new narthex for any items that you may have lost over the past few months.

Women of St. John's ~ Our next gathering will be Tuesday, May 1, at 7 pm. The presenter for the evening will be Christina Wolffgram who will share her experience of growing up in Russia. We hope you are able to join us!

Sewing for Christian Aid & Relief ~ Sewers for Christian Aid and Relief will meet Wednesday, May 2, at Kramer's from 1 to 5 pm. Come for as long as your schedule allows.

LWMS Ladies ~ It is time once again to cast your vote for the International LWMS officers and projects. The ballots are in the new narthex. Please fill out and return to the basket provided by May 13th. Select one from each category. Thank you for voting.

The *Continue in My Word* ~ books are now available for those that ordered them. Please see Kelly Emde for your order. Cost is \$3 per copy.

MLC Wind Symphony Concert Rescheduled ~ The Martin Luther College Wind Symphony concert, "An Affirmation of Life", has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 29, at 7:30 pm in the WCC Auditorium.

Advanced Organ Student Recital at MLC ~ Selected advanced MLC organ students will present an organ recital on Monday, April 30, at 4:30 pm in the Wittenburg Collegiate Center Auditorium. The program includes a variety of hymn-based and free works. The public is welcome to attend.

MLC Anniversaries ~ The Governing Board and faculty of Martin Luther College invite you to join the campus family of MLC to give thanks and praise to Jesus for the gospel ministries of the following faithful servants: 40 years: Cynthia Whaley and Ronald Ohm; 25 years: Lawrence Lotito. A service of thanksgiving to the Lord of the Church will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 3 pm, in Chapel of the Christ on the campus of Martin Luther College. You are cordially invited to be present and we look forward to having you celebrate with us. Congratulatory messages may be sent in care of: Office of the President, Martin Luther College, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073.

MVL Spring Play ~ This year's production is a Mr. Ron Wels original, titled "Incomplete Strangers or Two Can Play at This Game." The play will be performed on Friday, May 4, at 7 pm, and Saturday, May 5, at 2 pm and 7 pm. All are invited!

One Campaign Ends; Another Begins ~ May 1 marks the end of the *A Time to Build Campaign*. Praise God that God's people have given almost \$2.2 million to this first campaign. May 1 also marks the official start of the new three-year campaign in support of our school project scheduled to start in spring of 2019. So far, new commitments total just under \$200,000 and new gifts are coming in. The total amount of gifts from the two campaigns is \$2,215,548. The fund balance after expenses is \$1,703,777. If you are interested in supporting the project, commitment packets and project booklets are in the narthex. Pray for the success of this campaign. For info go to splnewulm.org/church/time-to-build/. Please make donations out to St. Paul's Lutheran School.

MLC Blood Drive ~ The blood drive is being held On May 3rd, from 1 - 7 pm. It is held in our LSC building, above our cafeteria. Anyone who wishes to donate can sign up at www.redcrossblood.org, or can walk in the same day and sign up.

About the Cover ~ Jesus told his disciples that he is the vine and they are the branches. Just as a branch cannot be separated from the vine and continue living, so it is with us and our Savior. Without Jesus we are lost and dead in sin. It is only as we are connected to him through faith that we receive the blessings he won for all sinners when he came to this earth to live a perfect life and die a sacrificial death on behalf of all of us. Only in Jesus do we have life and salvation.