

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD  
ST. JOHN'S EAGLE'S NEST PRESCHOOL**

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving and  
Proclaiming!

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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*"Abide in Me; Abide in Love"*

**5:30PM — April 28, 2018**

**8:00AM — April 29, 2018**



**THOSE WHO SERVE US**

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Ted Gall .....	Senior Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker.....	Preschool Director
Mr. Dean Manuel .....	Organist
Ms. Holly Hulskotter .....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band.....	10:30AM
Mr. Dave Wall .....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Sophia Jansen .....	5:30PM Acolyte
Mr. Gayland Bourland .....	8AM Elder on Duty
Makenna Duckwitz.....	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Chris Niebrugge.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor & Aiden Hanks.....	10:30AM Acolytes
Mr. Dave Wall 347-0893 .....	Elder on Duty for April 30 – May 4, 2018
Missionaries from Pakistan .....	Younis Darshan and Raja Shaleem
Missionaries from India .....	Ajay Paul & Sonne
Sister Congregation .....	in Blidene, Latvia
Mrs. Julie Scott .....	(343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator

**WELCOME** To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

**CHRIST** is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

**YOU** are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

***HOLY COMMUNION*** – When the members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we confess the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ’s Body and Blood are present “in, with and under” the elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther’s Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to one of the Pastors or the elder on duty before the service.

**HIS VISION FOR US:**

St. John’s will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

**HIS GOAL FOR US:**

We will pray and work with singleness of purpose to expand the impact of our ministry to God’s children of all ages, with special emphasis on young families, by developing new ways to strengthen the relationship between St. John’s, our members and our community, providing the facilities and resources to involve more people in ministry and outreach.

***WELCOME CENTER*** Greeters are present at the Welcome Center in the atrium adjacent to our sanctuary before and after the service to answer any questions you may have, provide directions to restrooms, classrooms, etc. If you are a first time guest, we also have a gift for you. If you live in our community or surrounding area and you do not have a church home, we welcome your consideration. We offer true fellowship with a living Savior and membership in His Church.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER** Kindly fill out a registration card (welcome side) located in the pew rack. Our guests are also asked to complete the address and phone number portion. Please pass your card to the center aisle to be gathered during the offering.

**CELL PHONES** Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

**AS WE GATHER** In one of His several “I am” statements, Jesus says, “I am the vine. You are the branches.” Inviting His hearers to a place of rest and refuge, He says, “Abide in Me.” In the Epistle, John correlates confessing that Jesus is the Son of God with experiencing and coming to trust in the love God has for us. Abiding in Jesus means abiding in God’s love. God Himself abides in us. This relationship of abiding in Jesus, Who Himself is love, was experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch when Philip told him the Good News about Jesus and the Ethiopian was baptized.

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ PREPARATION +**

**HYMN**..... **“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”** .....**[LSB 919]**

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 150*

**Pastor:** Praise the LORD!

**People:** **Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens!**

**Pastor:** Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

**People:** **Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!**

**Pastor:** Praise Him with tambourine and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!

**People:** **Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!**

Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

People: **Praise the LORD!**

### ***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***

Pastor: God Who is gracious and merciful:

People: **We confess that we are sinful by nature and have turned away from abiding in Your love. We have been enticed by our own desires and lured away from Your love by the spirits of this age. Yet, greater is Jesus Who dwells in us by faith than the spirit of the Antichrist who is in the world. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins and bring us again to abide in Your love.**

Pastor: God hears you and God loves you. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

### ***KYRIE***

Pastor: O Lord, Who sent Philip with Good News about You for the Ethiopian eunuch,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Christ, Who are Yourself the full manifestation of the love of God for all people,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Lord, Who tenderly invites us to abide in You as You promise to abide in us,

People: **have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

### ***SALUTATION***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**FIRST READING..... Acts 8:26–40**

*(Philip is sent to meet the Ethiopian eunuch to tell him the Good News about Jesus.)*

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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 <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

**EPISTLE..... 1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)**

*(Test the spirits. God is love.)*

**4** 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. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from

God, <sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**..... **John 15:1–8**  
*(Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Abide in Him and abide in love.)*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### ***APOSTLES' CREED***

***HYMN OF THE DAY*** ..... “*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love*”..... [LSB 900]

***SERMON***..... “*The Right Connection*”.....*John 15:1-8* by Rev. Gary Fortkamp

***OFFERING/OFFERTORY*** ..... “*Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful*”..... [LSB 955]

### ***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH***

Pastor: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, You are greater than all and have been given the name that is above every name. Grant us discernment to test all spirits. Tune our hearts to listen to Your voice, and draw us away from the voices that clamor to deceive us according to the spirits of this age. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Good Shepherd, Your Word is true and Your love is greater than any power on earth. Fill with Your love our Synod president, our District President; our Circuit Visitor, and all those who speak in Your name to others. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious King, Your kingdom is greater than all, and Your rule is limitless and unbounded. Grant that the rulers of the kingdoms of this world would bow their knees to Your gracious reign, seeking only the knowledge of Your will and the power to carry it out. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Great Physician, Your healing power is greater than all the technology of human invention. Be at work for good through the vocations of all healthcare professionals, workers, and caregivers that those who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or spirit, [*including . . .*], would know the nearness of Your presence and experience the joy that comes from abiding in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Hope of all the saints, You have purposed and prepared a future greater than we can imagine in Your creation of a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Bring us together with all Your saints to experience Your love together gathered around the throne of the Lamb, who loves all people and gave Himself for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN..... “Lord, Take My Hand And Lead Me”..... [LSB 722]**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **GREETING OF PEACE**

### **POSTLUDE**

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