



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.

John 15:5

Connected to the Vine

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Service
April 28, 2024



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at 812-392-2732 to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

Confession of Faith Presentations: Our confirmands will offer their confession of faith presentations during the Sunday School hour. The adult Bible classes and Sr. High Youth class will meet in the fellowship room today.

Adult and youth classes will resume next Sunday.

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent) meet in the Quiet Room

Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau

Acolytes: 8 AM Service Julia Burbrink

10:45 AM Service Haley Hauersperger

Church Calendar

Pastor Fickenscher on vacation through tomorrow

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Confession of Faith Presentations Sunday School for Children 9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 10:45 AM Divine Service Confirmation and First Communion <i>Pictures to follow the service</i> 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday-Wednesday	District Pastors Conference
Monday	9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 11:00 AM Small Group Handbells 6:00-9:00 PM Church Reserved
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 10:45 AM Communion Wafer Making 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir 7:15 PM Elders Meeting
Thursday	Shut-in Visits ECM Field Day at Camp Lakeview 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study
Saturday	11:00 AM-4:00 PM Church Reserved
Next Sunday	<i>Mite Box Sunday</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM New Member Recognition <i>Sunday School to follow recognition</i> 9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch Noon Sauce Making Day Noon Spanish Bible Study/Convivio 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

THE MAY NEWSLETTER... is available on the table in the gathering space or online at stpaulcolumbus.org.

APRIL-JUNE PORTALS OF PRAYER... are available on the table in the gathering space.

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH... are given in honor of our confirmands by their families.

TODAY'S RADIO MINISTRY... is sponsored to the glory of God by Colin and Linda Scheidt in loving memory of Kenneth Christopher, Linda J. Scheidt's father.

Confirmation Service

Prelude

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight—J. Biery

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringling of the Bell

Choral Call to Worship

Christ Is with Me—G. Coleman

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 everywhere I go, Never to leave me, this I know.

I have 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 everywhere I go, Never to leave me, this I know.

I have 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 everywhere 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.

Confession of Sins

please stand page 151

Kyrie

pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast

page 155

Salutation and Collect for the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C (*sung*) And also with you.

P 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.

C (*spoken*) Amen.

please be seated

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:1-11

[John writes:] 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand page 156

G *(sung)* **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fifteenth chapter.

G *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] "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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

540 stanzas 1, 3, and 6

Sermon

Connected to the Vine

John 15:1-8

Rite of Confirmation

page 272

Prayer of the Church

Offering and Confirmation Hymn

691

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 160-163

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin. Thank you.

Distribution

919, 633, 689, 685, 697

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Closing Liturgy

page 166

Closing Hymn

861

Postlude

A Trumpet Fancy—L. Nelson

2024 Confirmation Class

Owen Bradley Arnholt

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Jax Cohen Branaman

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26

Russel Stevin Chun Escalante

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28

Madelynn Olivia Dougherty

Jesus says, "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Elliana Suzette Glick

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Madeline Jo Marie Johnson

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1*

Keren Hazel Lewis

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

Luke Jonathan Warren

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Liam Alexander Wiltsey

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

Connected to the Vine—John 15:1-8

We are connected to Christ, the true and living Vine...

...Christ alone is our s_____. (Psalm 27:1)

...God has accomplished what is i_____ for us to do: taken us who were dead branches and grafted us into Himself, so that we are living, growing, and producing good fruit. (Luke 1:37)

...Connected to Christ, He is our s_____. (Philippians 4:13)

...Connected to Christ, we have p_____ even during trials and tribulations. (John 16:33)

...We are connected to Christ f_____, even after our bodies fail. (Psalm 73:26)

...Since we are connected to Christ, we are to abide in Him and abide in His W_____. (Luke 11:28)

...We are to t_____ in the Lord with all our heart, not leaning on our own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

...We are to h_____ f_____ to Christ and our confession. (Hebrews 10:23)

...Connected to Christ, we bear f_____ now and in the future as the Lord guides and strengthens us. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Next Sunday's Readings Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

LIVING THE SERMON... As our confirmands make the good confession, vowing their faithfulness to the Lord, consider your connection to Christ. How strong is your connection? Are you abiding in Him and His Word? Are you growing and bearing good fruit? Join with our confirmands today in vowing your faithfulness to feeding your faith through Word and Sacrament so that you remain connected to Christ, growing in Him, and producing good fruit.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH... Pray for our confirmands that they would remain connected to Christ their entire lives and for all eternity. Pray that you would remain connected to Christ and His Word so that your faith continues to grow and produce good fruit.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.* 1 John 5:4

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12; 9:00-11:30 AM

Go to stpaulcolumbus.org/vbs2024 or use the QR code to:

- + Register your child(ren) ages three-sixth grade.
- + Volunteer (youth and adults)



IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering: Emmy Baker, Jill Scheidt, Karen Hendershot, Debbie Schroer, Jill Hoeltke, Ron Arnholt, Lou Anne Denny, Gloria Schultz, Pam Jenkins, Pat Hall, Kay Newton, Kathy Hoover, Janeen Blumenberg, Connie Ball (Jan Voelz's friend), Lisa Benes (Kruger's friend), Amy Workman (Sandy Johnson's cousin), Esther Cleary (Cleary's sister-in-law), Paul Gannon (Cleary's brother-in-law), Kyle Huckaby (Koester's friend), Carolyn Kidd (Sandy Johnson's friend), Erica Gretzinger (Jennifer Dougherty's cousin), Naomi Gillespie (Haak's great-niece), Regan Hoevener (Kristy Hall's sister-in-law), Rick Sapper (Cleary's brother-in-law), Julia Carmichael (Kathy Harner and Nancy Lipka's cousin), Lauren Brewer (Kathy Harner and Nancy Lipka's niece), Lucy Boyd (Hinds' neighbor); **Active Military:** Noah Hoeltke

SUNDAY LUNCHES... Here are the upcoming menus:
Today: No Lunch Served—Confirmation Sunday
Next Sunday, May 5th: Pizza (Taco Sauce Making Day)
May 12th: No Lunch Served—Mother's Day
May 19th: Hotdogs (KfC Event)

SAUCE MAKING DAY... Volunteers are needed to take home ground beef **TODAY**, brown the beef, then return it next Sunday, May 5th so youth can make the sauce for the Taco Barn. The ground beef and instructions are in the church kitchen.

SPY and C4Life youth and parents are invited to help make the taco sauce **next Sunday, May 5th** from noon-2 PM. A pizza lunch will be served.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL FFA PLANT SALE... is **today** from 12:30-4:00 PM at the Trinity Greenhouse. Come by and get your yearly plants while supporting Trinity Lutheran!

COMMUNION WAFER MAKING... You are invited to help make Communion wafers **this Wednesday, May 1st** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY... meets **this Thursday, May 2nd** at 6 PM in the conference room. Join us as we take an honest look at Sunday School stories. The study is led by Deaconess Fickenscher. All women are invited to attend.

WORK DAY AT CAMP LAKEVIEW... is **next weekend Friday-Sunday, May 3-5th**. Come out to camp for a weekend of service, fellowship, and making camp look

awesome before thousands of campers arrive for the summer. They have projects for all ages and ability levels, from kids to retirees and everywhere in-between. Spend a weekend living out your faith by serving God at camp! For more information go to lakeview.camp/workweekend.

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION... **Next Sunday, May 5th** at the beginning of Sunday School, we will recognize those who have joined our congregation since January. Please plan to attend to get to know our newest members and to welcome them to our family of faith.

COLUMBUS BRASS QUINTET CONCERT... is **next Sunday, May 5th** at 3:30 PM at St. Peter's, Columbus. You are welcome to attend. A freewill offering will be received.

MOMS IN THE WORD... will meet **Monday, May 6th** at 10 AM in the nursery, which will be the last meeting until school starts again in August. Moms, bring your child(ren) and join us for fellowship and a children's devotion.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORK DAY... is **Tuesday, May 7th** from 10 AM-noon at the Jonesville Warehouse. Volunteers are always needed. The warehouse is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM-3 PM. Donations Needed: Clothing donations are not keeping up with the current demand so please consider donating gently used clothing. Donations are accepted at any time. After regular hours, there is a donation collection container on the east side of the warehouse.

ECM CLOSING CHAPELS... Please join our early childhood ministry students and families for this year's closing chapels:

- + Lambs—Thursday, May 9th at 8:20 AM
- + Doves—Friday, May 10th at 8:20 AM
- + Kindergarten—Friday, May 17th at 6:30 PM for chapel and celebration.

EUCHRE AND GAME NIGHT... is **Friday, May 10th** at 6 PM. Even if you don't know the game of euchre, there are plenty of other card games and board games available and lots of wonderful goodies to eat. Come help kick off Mother's Day weekend with some fellowship, food, and fun! A free will offering will be collected that goes towards the in-gathering for the District LWML Convention in June.

WOMEN'S FLOWER ARRANGING EVENT... On **Saturday, May 11th** at 10 AM, ALL women are invited to a fun filled event in the fellowship room that includes a light brunch, devotion, and flower arranging. This event is open to all women, so please invite others! Please RSVP so enough supplies can be provided for attendees by **next Sunday, May 5th** to Mackenzie Wint at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org.

PENTECOST SERVICE OF SONG... is **Sunday, May 19th** at both services. Please join us as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit with special instrumentation and our Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells.

EXTENDING CHRIST'S LOVE AWARENESS FORUM... Please plan to attend the Awareness Forum for our Extending Christ's Love campaign on **Sunday, May 19th** during the Sunday School hour. The presentation will include information about the capital campaign including important dates and opportunities to be involved in the exciting endeavor. There will also be time for questions and answers. Please continue to pray for Extending Christ's Love and also prayerfully consider how you can support this campaign.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES... We will recognize and pray for our high school and college graduates during our services on **Sunday, May 19th**. If you are graduating, please contact Mackenzie Wint in the

church office at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org with the school you are graduating from and your future plans so that you can be included in the bulletin that day.

MAY KFC EVENT... is **Sunday, May 19th** from noon-1:15 PM. Children fifth grade and younger will gather for lunch and activities. Please RSVP to Rachel Fohne by Wednesday, May 15th by email at rnoiting@alumni.iu.edu or by text or phone at 812-343-3786. Friends are welcome!

FLOWERS FOR SALE... Lisele Bockes has several types of perennial flower transplants (spring, summer, and fall bloomers) from her flower garden for sale. All proceeds go to Extending Christ's Love. Please call her at 812-390-1670 if you have questions.

TACO BARN SIGN-UP... The Bartholomew County Fair is Friday, June 21-Saturday, June 29. The sign-up sheet for the taco barn is posted in the gathering space. Please sign up to serve to support our youth ministry!

The Response of God's People

Last Sunday, April 21st

Divine Service Attendance: **379**; Communion: **289**

Sunday School Attendance: **223**

Offering: **\$11,275**

Needed Weekly: \$15,397

Additional Gifts: \$5,000 Extending Christ's Love; \$105

Radio Ministry

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

Church and ECM Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Financial Secretary Melissa Pevlor; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-1919

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Early Childhood Ministry Director Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Social Media Coordinator Kacey Patterson; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 251-463-1906

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Jen Probst and Michelle Schultz (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Glory Wofford, Jenna Green

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow

Connected to Christ ✠ Connected to One Another ✠ Connecting Others to Christ