

# **St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Gospel:** John 15:1-8 (*The Could the relationship be a closer one? There has to be a certain correspondence between the two parts, the vine and the branches. That correspondence is accomplished by the gospel that make us branches pure like the vine. Now the fruit from the good vine can be good fruit, pure because of its source in the vine.*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**Hymn of the Day:** 365 Love Divine, All Love Excelling

**Sermon:** Life Connected

**Offering:** (*Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.*)

**Distribution Hymn:** 377 Dear Christians One and All Rejoice

**Closing Hymn:** 369 Beautiful Savior

**Ushers:** This Week – Nathan Roth  
Next Week – Richard Engelhart & Mark Genz

**Greeters:** This Week – Larry & Patti Zastrow  
Next Week – Richard & Shirley Pfeifer



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

*Pastor: Mark Swanson* Church Tel: 920-674-3307

*Principal: Craig Winkler* School Tel: 262-582-3010

*Organist: Wendy Winkler*

# We Welcome You!

*The intimate connection to our risen Lord wrought by the gospel means of grace has rich consequences for our life with him even now.*

**Opening Hymn:** 346 In You Is Gladness

**Order of Worship:** Service of Word and Sacrament Pg. 26

## **Prayer of the Day:**

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **God's Word for Today:**

**First Lesson:** Acts 8:26-40 (*This Phillip was not one of the apostles; he was a dedicated layman, a deacon whom the Lord used in the spreading of the gospel. How did that come about? First and foremost Phillip loved the Scriptures. He knew them well. He thought about them and delighted in the Old Testament pictures of his Savior. Knowing the Scriptures and loving them was a fruit that in its turn and at the time of God's own choosing bore still more fruit: he had the honor of sharing his love of the Scriptures and of his Lord with a total stranger. Who knows what use God may put to the Word that we have come to know and love?)*

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." <sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. <sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth." <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was

deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." <sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**Psalm 67:** Pg. 91 (*Sung together*)

## **Second Lesson:** 1 John 3:18-24

*(Here is more fruit whose source is in the vine: an awareness that Christ is alive in us by his Word and when our conscience wants to drive us to despair he is there to assure us of our forgiveness. That assurance is renewed week in and week out as we hear his Word. Then there comes bursting forth the fruit of love. That love is not mere sentiment; it is in the will, not the emotion. It is love that is determined to seek the best interests of those around us, even those who may hate us or not appreciate our eagerness to be of service. Some of the grapes have to be crushed in order to make wine.)*

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> 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.