



Concordia Lutheran Church

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Livestream Link for Worship Services:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdSeS0MS0CsRYhHuf1sZL8w>

Welcome to Concordia

A Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Congregation

The back pews are reserved for families with small children.

*A nursery is available in our multipurpose room
on the side of the narthex.*

Large-print bulletins are available from the usher.

May 2, 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Hymn: “*When Morning Gilds the Skies*”

LSB 807

Invocation

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

People: Amen!

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.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

(Philip baptizes an Ethiopian.)

Pastor: ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” ³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. ³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 150

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise God

Left side: in His sanctuary;

Pastor: praise Him

Right side: in His mighty heavens!

Pastor: Praise Him
Left: *for His mighty deeds;*
Pastor: praise Him
Right: *according to His excellent greatness!*
Pastor: Praise Him
Left: *with trumpet sound;*
Pastor: praise Him
Right: *with lute and harp!*
Pastor: Praise Him
Left: *with tambourine and dance;*
Pastor: praise Him
Right: *with strings and pipe!*
Pastor: Praise Him
Left: *with sounding cymbals;*
Pastor: praise Him
Right: *with loud clashing cymbals!*
Pastor: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
All: **Praise the Lord!**

Epistle

I John 4:1-11

(God's love compels us to love.)

Pastor: ¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia & Verse (Romans 6:9; John 14:23)

Pastor: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia!

Pastor: If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word,

People: 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.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: ¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² 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. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also 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. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

Pastor: We just heard Jesus say, "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." (*John 15:1-3*)

We became "branches" of Jesus, the Vine, like the Ethiopian in the reading from Acts, through Baptism. The Holy Spirit has enabled us to hear the Word our Lord speaks. That Word is His forgiveness, which takes away our sins and makes us fruitful, for His purposes. Without such mercy and grace, we cannot live as branches of our life-giving Vine. We now consider our need for God's forgiveness, and we confess our sins.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, living Vine,

ALL: we confess that we have taken for granted Your grace and mercy, poured out on us in Holy Baptism. We have not appreciated the gravity of our sins; the sacrifice of Your life for us; and the abundant grace which You offer in Your full and free forgiveness. We have not recognized our heavenly Father's pruning as the loving action it truly is. By Your Holy Spirit, increase in us true devotion to Your will and a desire to bear fruit worthy of Your holy name. Forgive us, restore us, and set our feet on the path of true discipleship.

Pastor: In the Epistle, St. John writes, "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. . . By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." (*I John 4:10, 13*) As a called and ordained servant of Christ 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.

Hymn: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" vv. 1, 3 & 5

LSB 474

Prayer

Pastor: Risen and ascended Lord, you are the vine, and we are the branches. Apart from you there is no life. In Baptism, you have grafted us into your gracious life. Cause your Word to abide in us and make us fruitful to the glory of your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Creed

(Luther's Explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism)

ALL: 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. Amen.

Pastor: *What does this mean?*

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Rite of Fellowship/Children's Message

Hymn: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

LSB 611

Sermon: "The ABIDE Thing" John 15:1-8

Offering

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: ...let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

Participants in Today’s Service

Greeters:	Mike and Cindy Barich
Pianist:	Debbie Lichtenegger
Acolyte:	Reagan Ponder
Elder:	Bob Birk
Ushers:	Jeremiah Kohlfeld, Andrew Head, Evan Schuessler, Kent Luckey
Audio/Visual Team:	Amy Birk, Jenny France

This Week’s Schedule

Fri., April 30-	Pastor Hoemann’s Vacation
Mon., May 3, 2021	
Wed., May 5, 2021	9 a.m. Bible Study (Revelation) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Revelation)
Sun., May 9, 2021 (Mother’s Day)	8 a.m. Bible Class (Genesis 1-11) 9 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion
	After Worship Concordia LYF Meeting/Meal

Announcements

Church Attendance: Worship – 86, one year ago – (Covid); Adult Bible Class – 16, one year ago – (Covid)

As We Gather: Today’s readings draw our attention to our Baptism and then to our Lord’s command to love one another. Whenever we are able to produce such sweet fruit for God, it is only because He has lavishly bestowed grace and forgiveness on us. He has pruned us as a faithful gardener would prune the vines of His vineyard. When and where God intervenes with His care, we bear much fruit and give Him the glory. Today we hear the words of Scripture in all of its blessed Law and Gospel. In response to His Word, we confess our sins, ready to receive His forgiveness for what is past, and strengthened for future opportunities to love, show mercy, and forgive.

Welcome, Pastor Sievers! Rev. Ken Sievers of St. Louis is our guest preacher for today. Please give him a warm Concordia welcome. Pastor Hoemann will be back in the office on Tuesday. If you need pastoral care in the next couple of days, Pastor Frank Lucas of Immanuel, Altenburg, is available at 734-735-8613.

Please remember those who cannot worship with us regularly in your thoughts and prayers – Dorene Grebing, Violet Hellwege, Carl Jenny, Flora Kassel, Tillie Luckey, Flora Oberndorfer, Sandy Oberndorfer, and Vernon Steffens.

Stewardship thought for the week: John 15:2 says, “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, we are grafted by grace into His vine. We desire to be more like Him and grow into His image. That’s growth in fruit bearing, and it always comes with some pruning.

A Door Offering will be taken next Sunday, May 9, for Lutherans For Life.

Bernice Bunkowske has published a devotional book titled "Send Me" based on her and her husband's experiences in the mission fields of Africa. The devotions end with a question, "What is the calling in my life?" The book is available at Saxon Lutheran Memorial for \$15, or contact Bill Bock. All funds Bernice receives will be used for mission projects.

Attention: 2021 Graduates – If you will soon be graduating from elementary school, high school, or college, please contact the church office (573-824-5435 or concordiafrohna@att.net) no later than Wednesday, May 12, with your name, name of the school you are graduating from, the degree you will receive, and the name of the school you will be attending this fall.

Vacation Bible School 2021—"God's Wonder Lab" will be held Monday-Friday, June 14-18, from 8-11 a.m. each day at Trinity, Altenburg. Children 3 yrs old to 6th grade (completed) AND volunteers can register until tomorrow, May 3, online at VBSMate.com/TrinityAltenburgMo. Please consider volunteering. VBS is always in need of adult help! If you have any questions, please contact Katie Miesner at 573-579-4755 or Jennifer Hadler at 573-517-1256.

Concordia's Summer Program is looking for any volunteers age 15 and over who would like to help out Monday through Friday during June and July with the program. Tasks will include helping to keep children safe, playing games, cleaning duties, possibly helping transport children to local events, and helping keep things organized. If you are interested, please call or text Whitney Hemman at 573-768-4344 so that she can get your name on the contact list.

Concordia Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) Notes

Lutheran Youth Fellowship (for students in grades 7-12) will have its monthly meeting/meal (2nd Sunday of the month) immediately after worship next Sunday, May 9.

Concordia Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) is collecting aluminum cans as a fundraiser. (Please, no steel cans.) If you have any cans you would like to donate, please place them in garbage bags (tied/closed) in the storage shed on the picnic grounds. Thank you for your help in sending our young people to the next LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2022 in Houston, Texas.

United in Christ Lutheran School (UCLS) Notes

UCLS is seeking synodically-trained candidates to fill a full-time, classroom teacher position. Successful candidates would be required to join one of our association congregations. If you or someone you know is interested, please submit the following information to Miss Honoree or the UCLS school office: full name, phone number, and address.

The East Perry Wildcats organization is taking applications for the following positions: Athletic Director, Girls Volleyball Coach, Boys Basketball Coach, Girls Cheerleading Coach, Girls Basketball Coach, and Boys Volleyball Coach. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions for the 2021-2022 school year, please contact the APS office (573-824-5857) or the UCLS office (573-824-5218) for an application form. All applications should be returned to one of the school offices by Friday, May 21, 2021.

Saxony Lutheran High School Notes

Saxony Lutheran High School Student Council is hosting a Blood Drive tomorrow, May 3, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. in the commons at Saxony Lutheran High School. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SaxonyLutheranHS to schedule an appointment.

The 22nd Annual Saxony Lutheran High School Crusader Classic Golf Tournament will be Friday, June 4, at Bent Creek Country Club. Morning (8 a.m.) and afternoon (1:30 p.m.) flights are available. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$130 per golfer (\$120 if paid by Monday, May 10). Would you like to help sponsor this event? (The sponsorship deadline is Monday, May 10, for sponsorship recognition.) For a sponsorship/registration form, or for more information, please contact Saxony by phone at 573-204-7555, or email to office@saxonylutheranhigh.org.

Neighboring Church & Community Notes

A Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the East Perry County Lions, will be tomorrow, May 3, from 2-6 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran School Gym, Altenburg. Appointments may be made at redcrossblood.org.

KFUO Notes

This week on KFUO.org, begin studying 2 Peter on *Sharper Iron* (weekdays at 8 a.m.), hear about 1 Kings 8-10 on *Thy Strong Word* (weekdays at 11 a.m.), and worship in Daily Chapel at 10 a.m. Find your favorite podcasts on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app!

“Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life

“We pray in our services for ‘the race of man’ not the races of man. There is only one race. All else are ethnic, national, cultural, or other differences. We’ve past histories to trouble us to be sure—like the Irish and the English, the Jew and the Christian, the Greek and the Ottoman Turk, and the slave and the slave owner—but there is no place from which a genuine reconciliation can emerge today, except in Christ. The goal is fellowship, brotherhood in Christ.” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Devotions (Easter 6)

Hymn of the Week

LSB 461

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

I know that my Redeemer lives;
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my ever-living head.

Bible Stories

- 05/03 -- M: Matthew 28:16-20
- 05/04 -- Tu: Acts 1:1-14
- 05/05 -- W: Acts 1:12-26
- 05/06 -- Th: Acts 2:1-13
- 05/07 -- F: Acts 2:14-21

Bible Verse

²⁶*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*
 1 Corinthians 11:26 (ESV)

Catechism

The Sacrament of the Altar – *“What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*