

IN OUR PRAYERS

✠ *Birthdays:*

Don Egerer – 87 on May 3rd

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Today: *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Divine Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Class 11:00 a.m.
Divorce Care 1:00 p.m.
Grief Share 4:00 p.m.

Monday: Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Voters' Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday: World Relief Quilters 9:00 a.m.
Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. (Office Conference)

Wednesday: LifeLight Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Evening of the Arts 5:30 p.m. (School Gym)

Thursday: Quilters 10:00 a.m.
Handbells 6:00 p.m.
Mixed Choir 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: *Sixth Sunday of Easter*
Divine Service 9:30 a.m. -Preschool, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade sings
Fellowship Time until 11:00 a.m.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. William L. Morris*
Liturgist: *Rev. Richard E. Mundt*
Organist: *Mr. Brian J. Heinlein*
Acolytes: *Sadie Cowling (5:00pm)*
Landon Sherry (9:30am)
Videographer: *Scott Neumeyer*

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Our Communion Practice

We welcome those who are confirmed members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations to commune with us. We believe that Christ gave us His true body and blood under the forms of bread and wine in the sacrament for the strengthening of our faith, for the assurance of our forgiveness, and for the grace of God to live a God-pleasing life. We come to the Lord's Table repenting of our sins, believing in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and with the prayerful intention to amend our sinful lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.

St. Peter Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

2461 N. Raucholz Road
Hemlock, Michigan
(989) 642-8188

Rev. Dr. William L. Morris, Senior Pastor



“Love Each Other”

April 27 & 28, 2024

† Fifth Sunday of Easter †

Introit *Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

**I will extol you, my | God and King,*
and bless your name forever and | ever.**

**Every day I will | bless you*
and praise your name forever and | ever.**

**The LORD is gracious and | merciful,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

**All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!**

**My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

Collect of the Day

☩ 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.

☩ **Amen.**

First Reading *Acts 8:26-40*

²⁶An 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. ²⁷And 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 ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about

Jesus. ³⁶And 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?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle *1 John 4:1-11*

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.

Holy Gospel *John 15:1-8*

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 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. 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.”

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING 1

ENTRANCE HYMN: #601

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and
ABSOLUTION: p. 151

INTROIT (inside bulletin)

KYRIE: p. 152

THIS IS THE FEAST: p. 155

SALUTATION and COLLECT: p. 156

FIRST READING

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

EPISTLE READING

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE: p. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

☩ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

☩ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED: p. 158

HYMN: #633 (choir sings v. 4 sunday)

SERMON

Text: 1 John 4:1-11

Theme: “**Love Each Other**”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

☩ Lord, in Your mercy,

☩ **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP PAD

OFFERTORY: p. 159

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: p. 160

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

HYMNS: #691, #476, #706

THANK THE LORD: p. 164

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT &
BENEDICTION: p. 166

CLOSING HYMN: #474