

Fifth Sunday of Easter
PRAYER AND PREACHING

“CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION IN A CHARIOT”

Text: Acts 8:30-31 “Do you understand what you are reading?” Phillip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me.” So he invited Phillip to come up and sit with him [in the chariot].

INTRODUCTION – Today we learn that the Holy Spirit acts like the manager of the church. He appoints the right workers to the right areas to accomplish a specific task. Then he makes sure they have all the conditions to do their work. This story is repeated often nowadays in our world. Today’s story, however, involves Phillip, the Gaza road, and the instruction of a very influential man from Ethiopia.

- 1 – Queen Candace’s C.F.O.**
- 2 – The purpose of his visit to Jerusalem.**
- 3 – He had the means to buy the scroll of Isaiah.**
- 4 – He was reading chapter 53 (The Suffering Servant).**
- 5 – Even though educated, he did not understand the text.**
- 6 – Enter teacher Phillip who instructs him from a carriage.**
- 7 – The importance of baptism.**
- 8 – Catechumens today renew their baptismal vow.**
- 9 – Each has his/her own place in the world, assigned by God.**
- 10 – Each one teaches others as Phillip did.**

CONCLUSION – Not everyone is born to be a teacher of the faith or a pastor. But each baptized and instructed Christian knows enough to bring someone to Christ. Invite them to church and put them in touch with a pastor or a teacher of the faith. That is even simpler than it sounds, because you will not be acting on your own: the Holy Spirit will manage you as he managed Phillip! Do it to the glory of God, from whom all blessings flow! Amen.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

"God is love," and He has manifested Himself to us by sending *"his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him"* (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, *"he has given us of his Spirit,"* so that we also believe and confess *"that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh."* In this way, we *"abide in him and he in us,"* and we *"love one another"* (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of *"the good news about Jesus"* to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when *"they came to some water,"* the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into *"the true vine,"* Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He *"bears much fruit"* in us (John 15:3–5).

CHURCH INFORMATION

SPECIAL MISSIONS: For our second quarter missions, our Special Mission offering will support A Place of Refuge Ministries. APOR is a network of volunteers and staff who are committed to life and to caring for women facing crisis pregnancy in South Wisconsin.

MITES FOR MISSION CENTRAL: We are currently collecting mites for Mission Central, which is located near Mapleton, IA. Their mission is to help missionaries who are preparing to enter the field, as well as those who are currently serving with the funding that is necessary. For more information on how Gary Thies and 100 volunteers serve the church, please visit www.missioncentral.us/missions

FLOWER FUNDRAISER: It's once again time for our annual Spring Flower Fundraiser! If you are interested in ordering flowers, plants or hanging baskets, please fill out an order form and return it to Jaime Greene by May 2. Order forms are available in the Narthex, or as a PDF in The Messenger. The orders will be available to be picked up on Saturday, May 22nd.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week! The Lord has truly blessed us with great teachers both in our Sunday school program as well as our Early Childhood program. What a joy and honor to teach daily the Word of God and to share the love of Jesus with His little ones! Praise be to God for all of our teachers! If you would like to share a word of encouragement or thanks with our teachers please email it to Jaime or Jennifer and they will pass it along (jaimelynn581@gmail.com or jleinss82@gmail.com)!

SUMMER CHILDCARE HELP: We are looking for nurturing, reliable, kid-loving individuals to help work our summer childcare program. Team members must be at least 18 years of age and have some experience working with children. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Jennifer Leinss at jleinss82@gmail.com. Thank you!

CEREAL BOXES: We are now collecting full cereal boxes as our preschool students want to see how many cereal boxes it takes to line the hallways and make a giant domino game. Afterwards we will be donating the cereal to Bethany Lutheran Food Pantry. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, May 16th! Thank you for your support!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: Today is the last day to shop the Buy One, Get One FREE Scholastic Book Fair! Stop in Oswald Hall to browse the selection of books and stock up for some summer reading.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Jonathan Koch is working toward his Eagle Scout rank and has taken on the garden by the front doors as his project. The area will get new bricks, soil, mulch and flowers. If you would like to support this financially, please place your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering baskets in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

FLOWERS, BULLETINS, & SPECIAL MISSIONS SIGN-UP: If you would like to sign up for flowers, bulletins, or special mission contact the church office by email blesseavior.nb.lcms@gmail.com, or call 262-786-6465.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSIONS

We pray for those undergoing medical treatment:

Arliss Judy Adeline Gary Laverne Karen

John Holley Nancy

We also remember in our prayers these friends and relatives of our members:

Haddie

God bless our Confirmands

Casey Evan Robert Jonathan Cooper Aliyana Isaiah Hannah

The Altar flowers are sponsored by Don and Deb Marx in celebration of their grandson, Harry's, 3rd birthday and by Elaine Berndt and family in remembrance of their husband, father, grandfather, friend.

This week's bulletin is sponsored by the Schmitz family in celebration of Pat and Laura's anniversary.

The Mission is sponsored by Jaime Greene in celebration of our confirmands.

We pray the Lord to watch over those who are serving in the military.

WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR May 2 – May 9

Sun	8:00 am	Worship	Last Week's Offerings: \$9,627 Needed Weekly: \$11,800 Attendance: 167 YouTube Attendance: 84
	10:30 am	Worship & Confirmation	
Mon		Scrip Orders Due	
Tues	9:00 am	Bible Study (online)	
	7:00 pm	Bible Study (online)	
Thur	7:00 pm	Worship & Communion	
Sun	8:00 am	Worship & Communion	
	10:30 am	Worship & Communion	
<i>Mother's Day</i>			