

An open Bible is shown from a top-down perspective. The left side features a blue cover with a quilted, floral pattern. The right side shows a page of text with a decorative border. The text on the page is partially legible, including the word "Bible" and some handwritten notes.

**Do you
understand
what you
are reading?**

ACTS 8:30

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Greeter This Week: John & Margie Swannack

Greeter Next Week: Dickie & Cathie Bettge

Reader This Week: Beverly Bodden

Reader Next Week: Dwight Jander

Acolytes This Week: Volunteer Needed

Acolytes Next Week: Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild This Month: Carol Ann Sagebiel & LeAnn Jander

Altar Guild Next Month: Carol Ann Sagebiel & LeAnn Jander

Communion Assistant This Month: Wanda Hays

Communion Assistant Next Month: Johnny Jank

MISSION STATEMENT

We the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, strive to be witnesses for Christ, a Christian family striving to be models and examples to others, loving one another and trying to be friendly to all; acknowledging that we are sinful, but being patient, faithful, giving, caring, forgiving, and forgiven believers.

HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to commune with us if, as a baptized Christian, you believe that you are a sinner and in need of God's forgiveness; that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Sacrament; that this is more than a symbolic act, but a way God proclaims forgiveness to us who are repentant.

May your participation increase your faith and strengthen your love for God and one another.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please prepare for worship with silent meditation at this time.

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending. We thank God that we are once again able to gather together either under the trees or inside the church. For those who are not comfortable sitting outside or entering the church we are also broadcasting as we have been doing. You are more than welcome to remain in your car. The service, the organ music, and Pastor John's message will be routed through the church's sound system and broadcast on your car radio on FM channel 101.5. Please follow the service in the bulletin. The communion distribution will be by stations. Those of you remaining inside your vehicle for the broadcast and wishing to commune, please make this known to the ushers so we can serve you in the vehicle.

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL
ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS
BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

L If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for Reflection and Meditation

L Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

“Beautiful Savior”

LBW #518

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

**Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be thine!**

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

L Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray,

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

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.

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 150

¹Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple;
praise him in the firmament of his power.

²**Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him for his excellent greatness.**

³Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;
praise him with lyre and harp.

**⁴Praise him with timbrel and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe.**

⁵Praise him with resounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

**⁶Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:1-11[12-21]

¹Beloved, 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. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and 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. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.]

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL VERSE

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia.**

Please be seated

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (*sung*)

¹{Jesus said,} “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (*sung*)

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LBW #315

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Stand as you are able

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles' Creed

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Each petition ends with "...Lord, in your mercy,"

The congregation responds with "**Hear our prayer.**"

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

L The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

L Let us share the peace.

OFFERING: You will be given an opportunity to share God's blessings with your offering as you exit after the service

OFFERTORY

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; united them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

L Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the same of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

L Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,

That all those who believe in him should not perish,

But have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation

You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

That we may receive our Lord

With a living faith as he comes to us

In his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L In the night in which he was betrayed
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Father remember us always and teach us to pray;

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation.
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

L Come for the Lord's Table is ready.

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

L May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

POST COMMUNION

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let us pray;

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

L Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

THE DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Today 5/2 | Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship |
| Mon 5/3 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours |
| Tues 5/4 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours |
| Wed 5/5 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours |
| Thurs 5/6 | ~ Office Closed ~ |
| Fri 5/7 | ~ Office Closed ~ |
| Next Sun | Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:00a.m. Property Team Meeting 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship ~ Happy Mother's Day! |



Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.

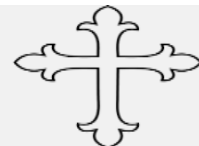
Prayer request cards are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.

April 25, 2021 General \$1,138.00, MOM-Water Missions \$755.00, CAMAL House \$25.00, Organ \$15.00, Cemetery \$20.00, Sunday School \$84.00, Youth \$60.00, Building \$40.00, Reno. \$485.00 **Total: \$2,622.00**

Attendance: Worship - 89 Sunday School - 18 - Children, 14 - Adults Confirmation - 0 - No Class

NALC Warehouse and Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting for these charities all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will be collecting hairbrushes & combs for the month of May. Thank you!



NEW UPDATE: Worship Team Notes

We will be having church in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. from now on, unless something changes. Communion will go back to the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month by stations. Any changes will be noted in this article. Please note there are certain guidelines that have to be followed. These specific guidelines are posted on our website & FaceBook page. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. Please Note: The service will NO longer be videoed & posted to the church website. Please continue to check the church website & FaceBook page for updates.

**Worship
Team**

Mission of the Month of May



Our Church Mission

NALC Seminary Mission Statement

The NALC set a seminary goal in 2020 to be the denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran Seminary Training System in North America. Last year in October of 2020 Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, President of NALC Seminary Board of Regents was our mission speaker on this topic. At that time he informed us of how this could be done. With our donations we can help the NALC attain its goal to upgrade the structure, the program, and recruitment of the seminary over the next 3 years.



NALC Warehouse and Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting for these charities all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will be collecting scrub hairbrushes & combs for the month of May. Thank you!

Please Help

The Old Stone Church Historical Committee is in search of vintage photographs of both the Old Stone Church and of St. John church. The current church (gothic structure) will be 100 year old in July 2021. We would ask permission to scan the images for upcoming projects and preservation purposes. Please contact M'Liss Moore at 275-8069 if you have any pictures tucked away in your treasures.



~ UPDATE ~ Valerie, Jordan, Aiiven & Emma

These 3 children ages 5, 7 & 8 along with their mother were in a terrible car wreck Monday, April 5th. They were all transferred to a San Antonio hospital, where the little girl, Emma age 5 has been fighting for her life. She is doing better & the doctors were able to remove her breathing tubes. The 2 boys & their mother are doing well, but have multiple injuries. Jordan & Aiiven are now at home. This family is our church cleaner, Maria Ricardo's daughter & grandchildren. Prayers are very much still needed, they have a long road to recovery! Any donation would be greatly appreciated as well if you are able. Please just put "Maria" on the envelope & make any checks payable to Maria Ricardo. Thank you for your help & prayers. God bless. + + +



Vacation Bible School



Summer is near and St. John's is starting to work on Vacation Bible School! Here are the details so far:

When: August 2 - 6

Time: TBD

Ages: 6-12

For those with kids interested in attending, mark your calendars and we'll be mailing out sign up forms. We'll be taking all kids in this age range, including friends and family members of church members.

For those with kids who are older, we need as much help as possible. We need help with class leaders, song leaders, and activity leaders. Please contact Laurie Pokluda, Trish Hood, or Johnna Picard if your child is interested in helping out during camp.

And for all adults who'd like to help, we need as many volunteers as possible. We are not enlisting the help of outside councilors; we are managing all work with church members. So if you can help out the whole week, a few days, or just one day, please reach out to Laurie, Trish, or Johnna because we need all available hands!

We're looking forward to an amazing Vacation Bible School and can't wait to rejuvenate our faith this summer!



Special Prayers for Cole

Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and will soon also be doing therapy in Victoria. God continues to be with Cole each and every day strengthening his faith, patience, and courage as he travels down this long and difficult journey. We thank each and every one again for all your prayers, concerns, and support for Cole and his family. We ask for you to continue praying for Cole's healing and for strength and patience for him and his family. Thank you and God Bless.

+Please pray at 12:00 PM daily for Cole+

At his request, these are the prayers he has on his list:

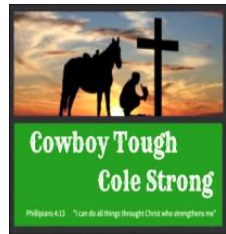
Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual

To help family stay strong

Patience

Stay positive

The drive to keep trying (perseverance)



Church Renovation Update

Remaining items for the construction progress are to complete the canopy and final grade the site. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched-up. The estimated costs for construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, and incidentals is \$599,553. We are required to pay as construction progresses so the bills are coming in on a regular basis. This project received almost unanimous support so we ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to this project. GOAL: \$599,553 RECEIVED AS OF April 25, 2021: \$575,738.30



PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Our Military and their families:

Jeff Zengerle - U.S. Army NG, Kuwait
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Hawaii
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Virginia
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force
Michael Petrash II - 1st LT, United States Army
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL
Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA
Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, North Carolina



Please Pray for: Adam Womble
Hunter Jacob
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Carly Waters
Joy Hoy
Marie Liner
Bill Roeske
Jimmy Caskey
Britany Jank Tomas
Dugan Chandler
Samantha Hein
Bea Fagg
Bette Jo Haun
David Diebel

Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Alfred Rangnow, Marjorie Ideus
Twin Pines Nursing Facility-Victoria ~ Meta Bennett
Sodalis Senior Living ~ Bette Jo Haun



Keep up with St. John online
St. John Meyersville
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>
Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

Easter 5

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

The love of Christ is shown to the world by the way his people live our lives. Nothing good can be done apart from God. It is the Spirit of God that leads us into opportunities to share this love, as is evidenced by the way in which Philip was led to meet the Ethiopian and explain the Good News to him. God desires that all people would come to know him and be a part of the Kingdom's true vine.

