

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

1285 North New Florissant Road, Florissant, Missouri 63031 (Area 314) Church: 837-1224 School: 837-1252 Childcare: 837-2802

WORSHIP: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. **EDUCATION HOUR:** Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (except in summer)

DATE: May 1-2, 2021

Welcome to Worship at Atonement

FOR OUR VISITORS: Our hymns and liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). The hymnals and Bibles are temporarily removed from the pews.

Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing-impaired are available at services. Large print worship folders are also available. Please ask an usher prior to the service.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers and refrain from flash photography.

We welcome to the Lord's Table all Baptized Christians, who commune in their home parish and who wish to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Those with questions about the meaning of Holy Communion or who wish a private confession and absolution should contact a pastor during the week prior to communing.

Until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, only individual cups will be offered. The darker wine in the center of the tray is non-alcoholic. For the present, only pastors will serve Communion. Those desiring a blessing may fold their arms across their chests.

The Congregation Council requests that communicants take special precautions as you approach the Lord's Altar, leaving your mask/facial covering on until you have received both the bread and the wine, then stepping to one side as you share in the Sacrament. Please also continue to practice social distancing.

Please be assured that all reasonable precautions are being taken to assure health and safety.

Sunday Education at Atonement -- 9:30 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Class will resume, when appropriate.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Classes for younger students will resume, when appropriate.

ADULT FORUM: Adult Forum will resume, when appropriate.

NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; First John 5:1-6; St. John 15:9-17



May 1-2, 2021

(*Seating may take place at these times.)

***PRELUDE:** (8:15/10:45) "My Lord, What a Morning"

Robert Lau

AN ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (please stand)

- P: The Lord is risen!
- C: He is risen indeed!
- P: Jesus Christ was the first to conquer death, the ruler of all the kings of the earth.
- C: He loves us, and by his blood he set us free from our sins.
- P: Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

- P: Most merciful God,
- C: we confess that we are dead in trespasses and sins. We have failed to bear the fruit for which we were created; we are in danger of being thrown into the fire. In your great mercy deliver us from the death we deserve, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
- P: The Word of God has drawn near you. The Son of God claims you as branches of the true Vine.
- C: In him we have forgiveness, life, and resurrection from the dead. By him we are redeemed and set at liberty.
- P: If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, dwells in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies.
- C: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

+ + + THE ENTRANCE RITE + + +

*ENTRANCE HYMN: #377 (stanzas 1-2; printed at page 9) "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

GREETING

- P: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together. Faithful God,

C: form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.

P: Make us love what you command

C: and desire what you promise, that,

P: amid all the changes of this world,

C: our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found;

P: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

P: one God,

C: now and forever. Amen

ANTHEM: (8:15/10:45; please sit) "Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)" Traditional

+ + + THE SERVICE OF THE WORD + + +

FIRST LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside 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 silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, 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 snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

(The hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 104:14-15.)

SECOND LESSON: First John 4:7-21

St. John writes: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives 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 do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they

abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so 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 reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE: Hymn #388 (printed at page 11; please stand)

"Be Not Afraid"

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

St. John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: 1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide

in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE: Hymn #388 (repeated; printed at page 11) "Be Not Afraid"

SERMON (please sit) Pastor Mueller

HYMN OF THE DAY: #377 (stanzas 3-4; printed at page 9)

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: (please stand)

Dr Martin Luther's Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe that Jesus Christ -- true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary -- is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil -- not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Each petition concludes:

A: Risen Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

+ + + THE SERVICE OF THE EUCHARIST + + +

HYMN, as the Altar is prepared: #377 (stanza 5; printed at page 9)

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER FOR EASTER 5

A: Let us pray. You are the vine, Lord; we are the branches.

C: You connect us in love to yourself and to each other.

A: Connect us again, Lord,

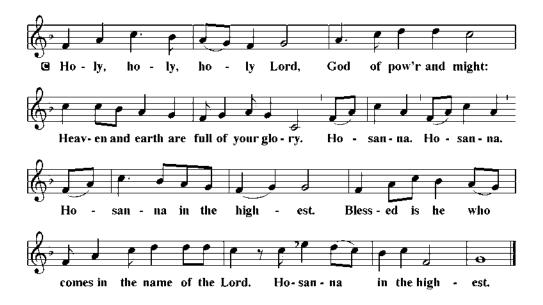
C: as we join in your feast of love.

A: We praise you now and evermore.

C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people

in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE 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, forever and ever. Amen



THE DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD AND WINE: (sit; Continuous/Pilgrim Communion) (Please observe "social distancing," as you follow the guidance of the ushers.)

Hymn #449 (printed at page 12)

"We Know That Christ is Raised"

Hymn #367 (printed at page 13; stand for stanza 4)

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

COMMUNION BLESSING (please stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

Hymn: #547 (stanza 1)

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THE EASTER SEASON:

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection.

C: Give us also the joys of life in your service,

A: and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal;

C: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

A: who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION FOR THE EASTER SEASON:

P: The God of peace -- who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant -- make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN: #547 (stanza 2)

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Abide in the Vine. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: (8:15/10:45) "Earth and All Stars"

David N. Johnson setting by Michael Burkhardt

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment.

He who fears is not made perfect in love.

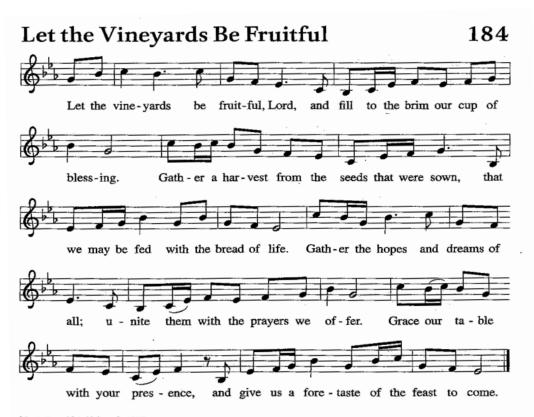
We love him, because he first loved us.

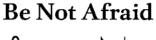
Presiding Minister	Pastor Vern T. Skarstad	
Preacher	Pastor Richard E. Mueller	
Assisting Ministers(5:30) Ruth Blundell; (8:15) Brenda Blight; (10:45) Sara Ruprecht		
Organists	(5:30) <i>Julie Binder</i> ; (8:15/10:45) <i>Cindy Vantine</i>	
Adult Choir	Dr. Bruce Vantine, Director	
Altar Guild(5:30) Jodi Laffold; (8:15) Bonnie David, Jack David; (10:45) Ruby Phelps		
Counters	Paul Schroeder, Greg Viehman, Jeff Moravec	
Head Ushers	(5:30) Joni Erickson, Larry Erickson	
	(8:15) Ron Behrens; (10:45) David Johnson	
Trustees	(5:30) Larry Erickson; (8:15) Jim Bunzel; (10:45) Carl Beck	

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text ♥ 1995 Augsburg Fortress Music ♥ 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress EARTH AND ALL STARS 45 10 45 10 and refrain





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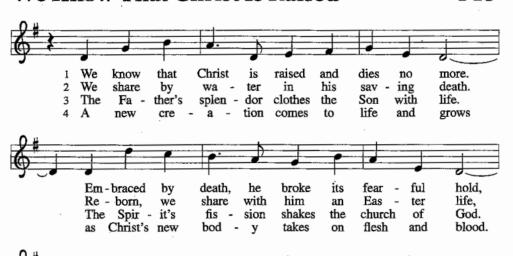


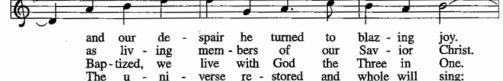
Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923−1994
Text and music € 1998 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

BE NOT AFRAID

We Know That Christ Is Raised

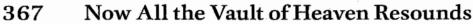
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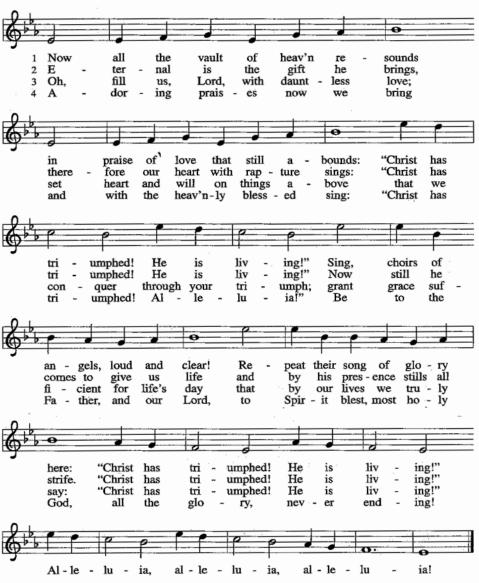






Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © John B. Geyer 10 10 10 4





Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt. Music: Geistliche Kirchengesünge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress LASST UNS ERFREUEN 888 888 and alleluias

Mission Statement for the Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Responding to God's grace, the members of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement serve north St. Louis County with programs of worship, nurture, service, and pastoral care. Our highest priorities are:

- (1) Providing opportunities for Christ-centered worship, focused on Word and Sacrament
- (2) Offering Christian Education opportunities for people of all ages
- (3) Developing opportunities for the expression of love and faith through fellowship and service to our congregation community and to the community at large.



MAY 2, 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Perfect love casts out fear.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:8-10	The Lord's chosen servant
Thursday	1 Peter 5:6-11	Tending the flock of God
Friday	Deuteronomy 31:6-8	Joshua becomes Moses' successor

Saturday Psalm 22:25-31 A vow of thanksgiving Sunday John 15:9-17 Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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MAY 2, 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HYMN OF THE WEEK
Where True Charity and Love Abide



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced? *Pray:* Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool.

Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Anniversary: Gene and Doris Hagen - 71 years

Death: Emma Balven

Hospitalized and Ill:

Marie Miller John Meyer Ben Eaton Jacki Bickel

Cathy Self Lee Mandrell Iye Sesay

Our Loved Ones/Friends:

Lorraine Haddock Harold Webster Kathy Zeuschel Missy Taylor

Jerry and Teresa Cuddy Shirley Rheuma

Please remember in prayer our chronically-ill and homebound loved ones and friends:

Steve Trawford **Bob Siegel** Jane Marshall Diana Dannemann Brian and Cheryl Kubiak Johnny Davis Leonard Harris Tyler Harms April Collier **Bob Harms** Katrina Ross Carol Xenos Gloria Phillips Faye Ford Roger Limback The Rev. Kenneth Ruppar Philip Brasher Gail Mueller Margaret Scholtes Cindy Neuhaus

To continue your loved one in the prayers, please notify the church office by Tuesday Noon.

Due to Federal privacy laws, please obtain explicit permission to list friends or loved ones in the prayers.

OUR WELCOME

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit richly bless your worship. Visitors are asked to sign the attendance form in the bulletin. Please introduce yourself to one of the pastors.

OUR CONGREGATION

Atonement is a family of professing Christians who are in ministry to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been in ministry since September 30, 1951. Atonement School has entered its 66th academic year.

OUR AFFILIATIONS

We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support local ministries including Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Humanitri, Lutheran High Schools, PAKT, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM).

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Richard E. Mueller

Senior Pastor

Cell: 314-330-8252

The Rev. Vern T. Skarstad Visitation Minister

Cell: 314-570-0751

Bruce and Cindy Vantine Ministers of Music

Jim Baumgartner -- Worship, Too

jimstrat@aol.com

Cell: 314-488-6903

Cathy Mifflin

Parish Administrator

Debbie Benne

Church Secretary

Wesley Johnson

Minister of Maintenance

Rob Biesendorfer 314-837-1252

Principal Stacy Bonner

School Secretary

Child Care 314-837-2802

Joyce Pingel, L.P.N. 314-740-2137 Parish Nurse

Visit our website at www.alcs-web.com or e-mail us at church.office@alcs-web.com

OUR CALENDAR

TODAY Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:15 a.m. - Worship - Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. - Worship - Holy Communion

MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - Bell Choir

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY June/July Newsletter Deadline - Noon

9:30 a.m. - Bible and Breakfast

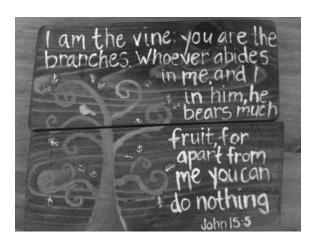
FRIDAY

1:30 p.m. - School Early Dismissal

SATURDAY

12:00 noon - Men's Club Barbecue

5:30 p.m. - Worship - Holy Communion



Bulletin Cover by Sally Beck

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