

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶Now an 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.

Epistle

1 John 4:1–11

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.

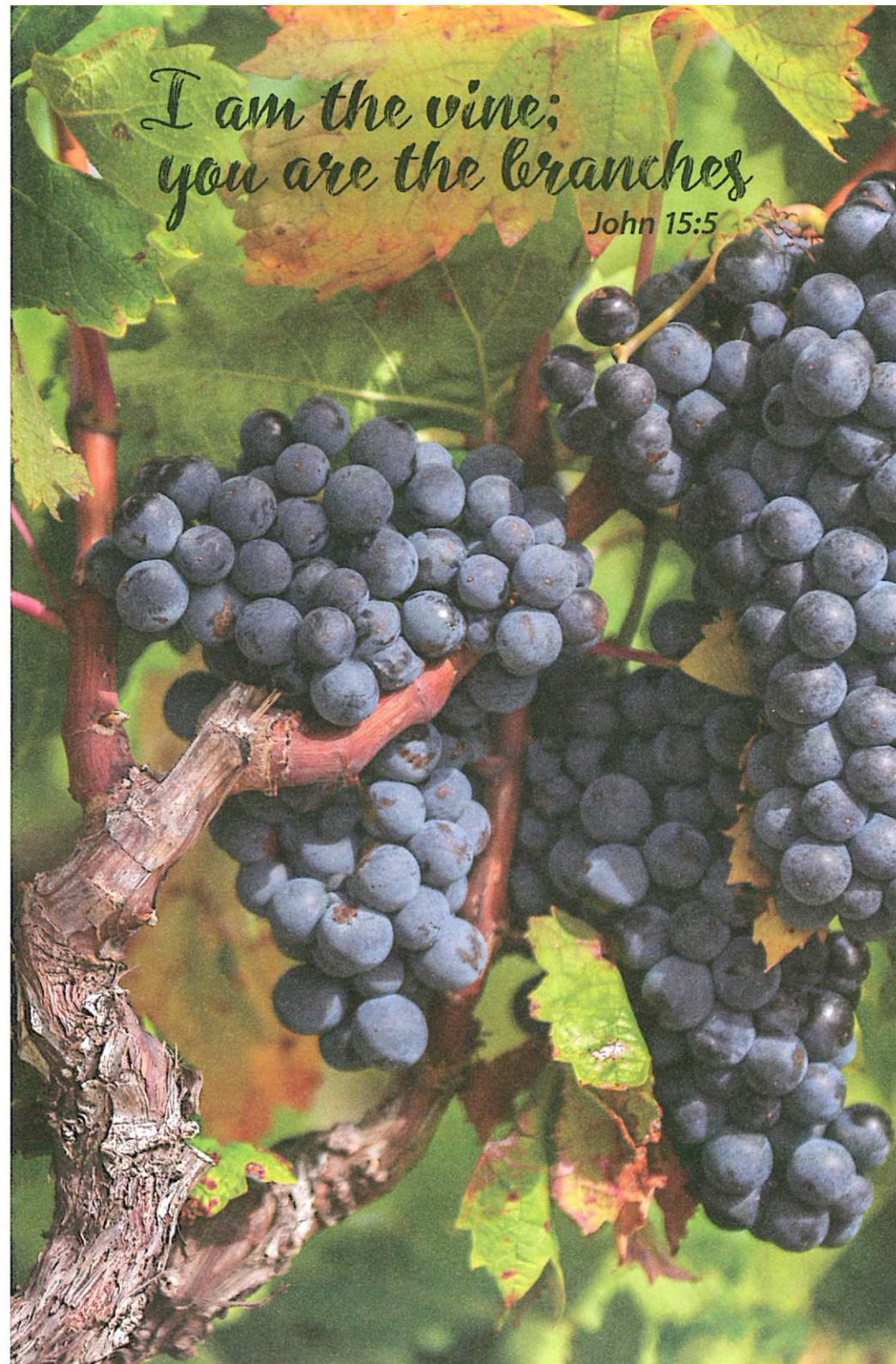
Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every 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. 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.

*I am the vine;
you are the branches*

John 15:5



Easter

About the Cover: We have a very special relationship with Christ. He is not detached from us, but rather, we are grafted into Him through our Baptism and His love for us. Jesus is the true vine that gives and maintains life, and we are His branches that produce fruit for His kingdom, in keeping with the faith that has been worked in us by the Holy Spirit.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25 & 29, 2018

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
105 Horn St., Brillion, WI
(920) 756-3031
www.stbartbrillion.org

Rev. Mark L. Krueger, Pastor
Devin Zahringer, Organist
Pastor Email: sblcpastor@gmail.com
Secretary Email: sblcbrillion@gmail.com

Liturgy: Divine Service Setting Four p. 203
Hymns: 474, 691, 805, 619, 633, 919
Sermon: "A Precious Branch That Bears Fruit"
John 15:1-8

Holy Communion: Members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. Non-members are requested to speak with Pastor before worship.

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 4/18 (Wed.): 37 Offering: \$602.00
Attendance 4/22 (Sun.): 112 Offering: \$2,804.00
Budget Needs: \$3,397.00 Scrip Profit 4/22: \$106.13

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

WED (5/2) 6:00 p.m. – Choir
 7:00 p.m. – **Worship w/Comm.**
SUN (5/6) 8:00 a.m. – S.S./No B.C.
 9:00 a.m. – **Worship w/Comm.**

ZION'S ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER - April 29, 4-7 p.m. -
All you can eat potato & buttermilk pancakes. Also serving: brats, hamburgers, applesauce, dessert, milk, & coffee. Cost: \$9 adults, \$5 6-12 years, 5 & under free.

CONFIRMATION CARDS are available in the card room.

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE will again take place on May 13th. Roses are \$2 each. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to purchase a rose for Right to Life. You can pick up the rose after the service on Mother's Day. Proceeds go to Mother & Unborn Baby at Appleton and Pro-Life exhibit at the Calumet County Fair. Deadline is Sunday, May 6th.

FLOAT COMMITTEE – The Board of Stewardship/Evangelism is looking for 3-4 people to organize the church float for the parade on June 8. Contact the church office if interested.

OUR STEWARDSHIP LIFE

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights." God is the source of all goodness. When we do good, therefore, we imitate Him and reflect His light to all the world. Christians give freely because God has first given so freely to us: we are only imitating our Father, growing up into His likeness.

DISTRICT MISSIONS – This week, pray for our District pastors in our **urban neighborhoods**—**Pastors Christian Ikanih, Elija Ndon and Dennis Harmon**— who provide compassion and hope to our brothers and sisters living in the city.

