

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.

Epistle

1 John 4:1–21

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.

Holy Gospel

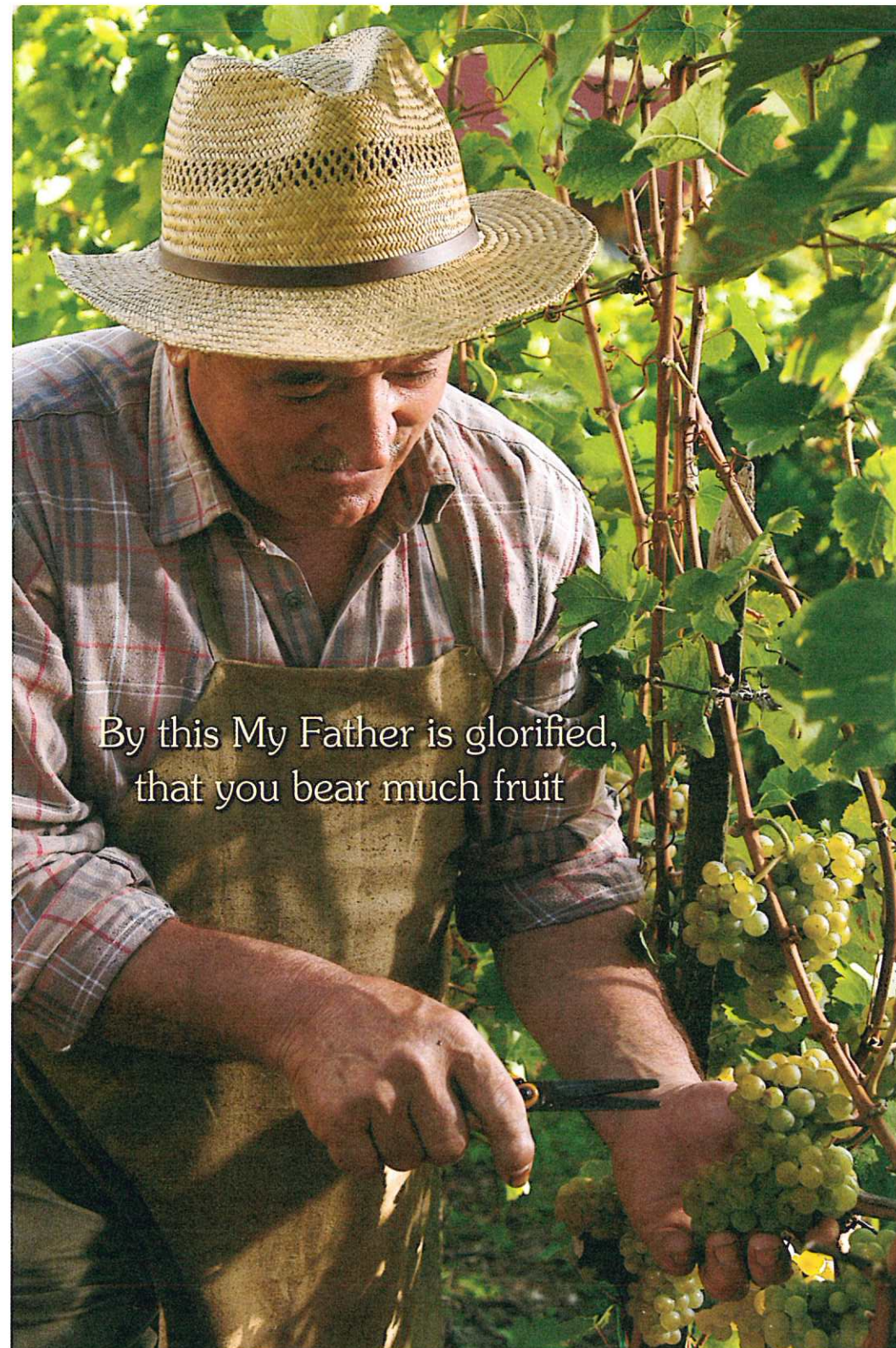
John 15:1–8

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.”

About the Cover: Christians, like branches, bear fruit. Such is the only possible result of branches being connected to Jesus, the vine. Jesus is our source of life. He is the source of the fruit that we bear. For in Jesus, there is never-ending life that conquered the grave in order to forgive and give us life. A life in Jesus always bears much fruit, so we need the Word of forgiveness and life poured into us each day.



Easter



By this My Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28 & May 2, 2021

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 One p. 151
Hymns: 837 vs. 1-3, 6, 595, 629, 594, 922
Sermon: "Fruitful Branches of the Vine Divine"
John 15:1-8

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

Attendance 4/21 (Wed.): 38	Offering: \$930.04
Attendance 4/25 (Sun): 55	Offering: \$1,107.00
Budget Needs: \$3,541	Scrip Profit 4/25: \$25.63
S.S. – 11	Staff – 3

KINGDOM WORK THIS WEEK

SUN (5/2) 6:30 p.m. – Farm & Home 4H
MON (5/3) Office Closed
WED (5/5) 7:00 p.m. – Worship
SUN (5/9) 8:15 a.m. – S.S./No B.C.
9:00 a.m. – Worship

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember Lois Stache, church secretary, as she recovers from surgery.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in God's glory by the confirmation class.

TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Gary & Linda Streck in honor of their anniversary.

CONFIRMATION & MOTHERS DAY CARDS are available in the card room.

CONFIRMATION – Congratulations to those who are confirming their faith – Ava Denor, daughter of Matt & Jody Denor and Alandra Grenzer, daughter of Aric & Andrea Grenzer. May you continue to grow in your faith!

THANK YOU to all who helped on the work day!

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE will again take place on May 9. Roses are \$3 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 2.

VACATIONING? *Try Electronic Offering with Joyful Response.* In thanksgiving for all we've been given, we joyfully give back to our Lord in offering. If you are planning any vacations, don't forget your offering. LCEF's *Joyful Response* will help you give automatically directly from your checking or savings account whether you are at home or away.

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 and growing up into His likeness.

