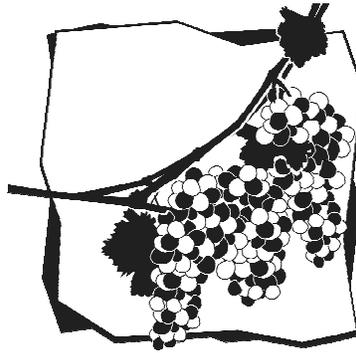


**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 01-02, 2021**

Kevin Vollrath – Organist



Easter is all about life, and the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, insists that it is only through our connection with Jesus Christ that we live the kind of life in him that bears fruit. In the First Reading, Philip’s explanation of an Old Testament messianic prophecy (Is 53:7–8) allows the Ethiopian eunuch to become connected to the Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ, by faith. The Psalm implores that “everything that has breath”—which is only given by God—“praise the Lord” (Ps 150:6). Finally, the Epistle is replete with witness concerning the fruit of God’s love. Our loving, life-giving God creates the fruit of love in his people: “We love because he first loved us” (1 Jn 4:19). The effect of the resurrection grows in ever-widening circles. The disciples know and are changed by it. The people of Jerusalem know and are changed by it. Soon the whole world will know and be changed by it. We certainly have been changed by it. The change manifests itself in a profound connection with the one who has been changed and who bears now the immortal, incorruptible body. He is the author and preserver of life and creative love. Easter makes all the difference, and living out our Baptism every day is an experience of that difference. We are attached to a living vine (John 15). In a world of death and decay, we need a source that can give us life. This source is, of course, the living Christ. It is an ongoing relationship, one that remains strong and sure, even in the midst of hardship and suffering. It brings peace and pardon, hope and purpose—and for that reason it is a cause for joy. We are not wasting away. Christ abides with us, preserves us, and rejuvenates us, so that we remain productive, alive, and healthy (“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you”; v 3). All of this gives us motivation for our praises. There is new life in the dead wood! The alleluias that have been put aside during Lent have a reason to be sung as we come to understand with greater clarity the implications of the resurrection for our faith, our life, and our future.

Who Will Guide Me? Acts 8:26–40

The Ethiopian may have thought at first that it was pure coincidence that Philip was traveling that same road. But God wanted him to know the truth about Jesus and brought the two together to achieve His glorious purpose. That same Spirit works through life's events to guide you into the truth and give you opportunity to be used as a chosen instrument. As he has guided you so far, let him continue to guide you to grow in faith and use the opportunities to witness about Jesus.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Make a note on your worship folder that you can read & remember EVERY DAY in the coming week to bring you back to the place where you began to worship today.

WELCOME

A Little Liturgy Lesson 1 Corinthians 10:16 (Col. 3:1 ESV)

The Preface & Proper Preface

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

RINGING OF THE BELLS

As the Bell rings at the beginning of worship – take time to silently pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you as God TRULY arrives in His Word and Sacrament among us.

Opening Hymn Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Public domain

Invocation

Take a moment when you first wake up to begin your day with the invocation and remember the grace of your baptism. End each day this week as soon as you go to bed in the same way.

Confession

Psalm 23; John 10:11

Each day confess your "sin-fullness" before God and ask Him for His forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to use you and yours to His glory.

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O Almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Absolution

Think of ways you can each day this week creatively show forth your sense of rejoicing that your "sin-fullness" has been cleansed.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Salutation

As you meet people throughout the coming week, pause for a moment and consider the greeting and the motivation of your heart and feelings towards the person you greet. What message do you want to send to the community around you today with your greetings?

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Use these 5 parts of prayer for your table grace, morning or evening prayer each day this week: 1) Address 2) basis for the petition 3) the petition 4) reason for the petition 5) conclusion of praise to God

First Reading *Acts 8:26–40*

Always read the Old Testament with Jesus and His ministry and mission as the key to understanding any Old Testament passage.

The eunuch was reading the book of Isaiah in his chariot and caught Philip's attention. The Spirit prompted Philip to approach the man and moved in him to share the Gospel that led to the eunuch's conversion and baptism.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 4:1–21*

The Epistles are great for personal weekday devotional reading and study – pick a letter this week and read it, think on it and share it with a friend, family member or someone with whom you work or play.

There is a stark contrast between the Spirit of God and the spirit of the antichrist. One way to discern whether a spirit is from God is to look for love. Love is from God because God is love.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *John 15:1–8*

Think about discussing the readings for this Sunday around your family dinner table or over lunch at work this week.

We as Christ followers cannot bear spiritual fruit on our own. It is the True Vine, Jesus, who is our source of life and causes us to produce good fruit for His glory. As long as we are remaining in the True Vine, we are connected to His Spirit who guides us, leads us, and produces good fruit in us.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon "Who Will Guide Me? Acts 8:26–40

Take a few minutes this week as part of your personal and/or group devotions or studies to dig a little deeper into the sermon text. Using the sermon text for the past or coming week is a great source for bible study and preparation!

Nicene Creed

Take a few minutes this week to meditate on one of the creeds and seek ways it may help you put voice to your evangelistic opportunities that the Lord may provide.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Place your weekly prayer sheet in a very accessible place and look it over daily and think about ways you can pray for and even serve those in need.

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.

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

Take time this week to pray over the N & N and your gifts and talents. Seek the Lord as to how you can serve Him in this community.

"Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord."

Preface

Take time this week to meditate on the miracle of the Lord's Supper and the amazing truth of the presence of Christ in the sacrament.

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

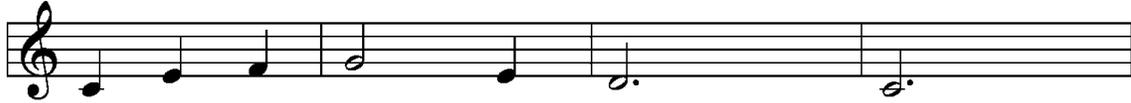
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Thanksgiving

Benediction



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain

In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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Notes & News Information

Altar Flowers this Week: “To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for His many blessings, the Ladies Aid has placed flowers on the altar.”

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR DATES

Available dates for altar flowers in June through September are as follows:

June 20	July 18	September 12
July 4	August 15	September 19
July 11	September 5	September 26

There are many dates available for altar flowers for the remainder of the year at this time. Please call Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111 to reserve any special dates for flowers in church. Chancel flowers are available almost every weekend.

The Flower Committee thanks you for your continued support.

Did you miss the Easter Caroling? Did you go and want to go again?

Walnut Crossing has asked for an encore performance. We had such an awesome time, and are looking forward to another awesome time of singing. We will do a patriotic/campfire theme. Join us at Walnut Crossing May 22 at 2:00 pm. Contact Marie Van Gorden 614 736 7162 or marievangorden@gmail.com.

Have an awesome day!!

Marie Van Gorden

Ladies Aid: Ladies, please join us for our first Ladies Aid meeting of 2021, Thursday May 6th, 1:30 p.m. at the Heritage House.

Church Coverage During Regina's Absence:

Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, will be undergoing a medical procedure on Thursday, April 15. At this time, she is scheduled to be out of the office, and unavailable from Wednesday, April 14 through Monday, May 3. Emails and voicemails will be checked while she is out, but please realize that you may not receive a response back immediately. The worship bulletin will be printed, but not in the current format that it is now. Notes & News information will be included at the end of the worship program in more of an “information” bulleted list. If prayers are needed, please email Pastor Jack and he can make a verbal prayer for you during the worship services. **If you need to reserve space** for a meeting or event, please send an email with date/start and end time/requested space to: scheduler@sismarysville.org We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of Regina's absence. Thank you!

Special Voter's Assembly : The Board of Education with the support for the Board of Administration announce that there will be a **Special Voter's Assembly meeting on Sunday May 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the gym**. The single topic of this meeting will be to consider extending a call for a 1st grade teacher. The biographies of both candidates and the motion to be considered are available in the narthex after worship this morning.



PENTECOST GERANIUMS



The Flower Committee is taking orders for geraniums to be displayed on the weekend of May 16 for Pentecost. The flowers are \$4.75 each and can be donated in honor or memory of loved ones. The deadline for orders is **May 9**. The flowers will be planted on the church grounds by the Landscaping Committee.

Order forms in the Notes & News can be dropped with payment in the Flower Box in the Narthex. Orders can also be placed by either mailing the order form or by calling.

Mail forms or call: Charlotte Blumenschein
20570 State Route 245
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 644-4111

Thank you for supporting the Flower Committee.

ACES will start back up on May 5 at 1:00 pm in the Heritage House. Masks are required and temperature checks are taken upon entering. Cost is \$1.00. We will play Euchre from 1:00-3:30 pm. If you have questions, please call Mary Mayer at 937-642-2181.

Confirmation 2020-21 Information: Confirmation for both the 2020 & 2021 classes will take place on Pentecost Sunday May 23rd. The 2020 class will observe the Rite of Confirmation at the 9 a.m. service and the 2021 class at the 11 a.m. service. Plans are to have communion at these services to allow the confirmands to celebrate their First Communion.

The Board of Elders is asking for everyone's cooperation on a situation concerning the 9 a.m. service with the 2020 class. This is the largest of the 2 classes and with family members and anticipated numbers of invited guests, the sanctuary will be completely full. We are asking, if at all possible, if you are not an invited guest of family members of a confirmand that you consider attending the Saturday Evening Service at 6 p.m. May 22nd which has ample room. The 11 a.m. service has a smaller class with fewer invited guests so there might be a little extra room there. If you want to attend either service and are not guests or family members of the confirmands, the cafeteria will be open for both services and view the live streaming of the services on the large flat screen TV. We realize this is an inconvenience but we are asking for your understanding.

REVISED: Church Sanctuary Worship Service Guidelines

Special guidelines will be followed to help assure the safety of everyone attending church, but we know the coronavirus is still active among us. We know that God desires us all to be together in worship again, but we are also sure He wants us to use good judgement in protecting our health.

Many members who were considered “at-risk” and felt uncomfortable sitting inside the church have now been vaccinated. If you now feel comfortable coming back inside, please do so. We still ask that you wear a mask and practice social distancing. The pews are sanitized after each service and hand sanitizer is available throughout the church. **However, if you have a symptomatic health condition, please check with your doctor to see if it is advisable to return at this time.**

Wearing face masks inside the church/sanctuary is REQUIRED. If you don't have one, masks are available at the door, along with hand sanitizing stations. Pastor will wear a mask, except when preaching God's Word.

To comply with 6' social distancing guidelines, seating will be limited to every other pew. Family groups and individuals will be separated by 6' in each pew. Services will be limited to approximately 180 attendees. Overflow will be asked to listen to the service on FM 92.1 in their cars.

Ushers and Elders will assist with entry and dismissal to maintain social distancing. Do not sit in the taped off pews and follow the Ushers/Elders directions. We will be seating front to back upon entry and dismissing from back to front.

Ushers (wearing gloves & masks) will hand out bulletins with the service liturgy and hymns (please take these home; they can't be reused). Hymnals, Bibles and attendance books have been removed from the pews.

Offerings are collected at the sanctuary doorways while exiting the service.

These guidelines are based on current Federal, State and County Health requirements and the recommendations of the LCMS to provide for your well-being. Although, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of Covid-19 or other infectious agents, the ultimate responsibility for preventative measures belongs to whomever comes to join us at St. Johns'. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times.

Additional Worship Service Information: (all 3 services are traditional worship services)

By radio You can join our worship service by tuning to WQTT 1270 AM and 96.7 FM at 8:00 a.m. airtime.

From your car Join us in the parking lot by tuning your car radio to 92.1 FM at any of our sanctuary services.

Join us on Facebook: at 11:00 a.m. for our “live streaming” service, or after on Sundays at: <https://www.facebook.com/jack.heino>

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Church Window Restoration: The Board of Properties would like to thank all who contributed to the Church Roof and Steeple Project (Save Our Steeple)! Thanks to the kind donations and the efficient work of our contractors, there is a substantial amount of money left to roll forward into the next large upkeep and maintenance project; our stained glass windows. These windows were made in Germany and are original to the church in the year 1900. Now is the time that we need to invest in these sentimental and historically important parts of our church. The work will include the removal, historic restoration and reinstallation of the window behind the organ. Fix bulges, install new steel supports and re-cement the large window on the North side, and cover the front windows with storm windows. The estimate for this work is \$117,000. Thanks to the carryover from the roof project and other donations we have about \$75,000 in hand. There is a Window Restoration fund on the Give Plus App and on the Vanco website to contribute by credit or debit card. Checks may be placed in the offering box during services or mailed to the office with Windows in the memo line. Thank you for your consideration in helping out with this important undertaking.

LYF News: LYF Mission Trip - LYF is excited and planning on serving in Imperial, PA this summer from June 20-26th! While many of our youth signed up for last summer are planning on attending, we do have a few open spots for youth who were not previously committed. The mission trip is a fantastic experience, where our youth and adults will shine Christ's light on a deserving community through home repair projects. We will also attend daily devotions and worship sessions to grow in our faith and relationships with one another. There are many COVID-19 precautions in place on this year's trip, such as mask-wearing, our group lodging together, only outdoor home repairs, and increased worship/devotional/dining sessions to assist with physical distancing. Eligible youth are those entering 9th grade in fall 2021-college. We have 1 remaining youth spot still available, as well as 2 adult spots that need filled before we head to Imperial, PA! If you are interested in being an adult chaperone on the trip, please reach out to lauraezeiler@gmail.com with any questions and interest. It's sure to be a remarkable experience! **Cinco de Mayo LYF Party** - Sunday, May 9th at the Youth House, 6pm. We will play games, enjoy some Mexican fare, and fellowship with one another!

VBS Updates! We are really getting into gear - there will be lots of information coming over the next few weeks - so keep watching here for updates! Here's the latest:

- Put June 21st week on your calendar for VBS - registration for kids and volunteers will be up online around May 1
- We will be doing a 'family night' on Wednesday this year - watch for upcoming details.
- Please help us by bringing in **paper towel tubes** for crafts. There will be a collection box in the Marie Pfarr room. (These will be quarantined before use)
- If you are a **Thrivent member and have not used your \$250 annual member benefit gift card** for a volunteer project, would you consider applying for your card for VBS? We need 3-4 of them - and we need to coordinate these efforts to ensure that all get approved. Please contact Amanda if you can help us in this way.
- We are planning 'work days' on Saturday 5/15 and 6/5 - more details on those to come also.

Amanda's contact info: 937-243-7471

AmandaDavisand2littles@gmail.com / vbs@sjsmarysville.org

Sunday School Teachers Needed: We are in need of Sunday School Teachers for Grades 1-6. Right now we have the entire age group in one classroom and we really think it would benefit all the children if we could split up into different age ranges. We would love your help if you enjoy sharing God's Love with children. If we can get enough teachers, we could rotate and you would not have the commitment for every single week. We love having so many children and hope that we can get more help to make it a great experience for everyone! We have a great group of kids and we have great, easy-to-follow curriculum. We would love for you to prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Please reach out to Lisa Arnold if you are interested or have any questions at 937-205 1802 arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com

N&N Article Deadline is Tuesday by NOON

Please submit articles and announcements by calling directly at 937-240-3004, or emailing them to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org **Thanks.**

*Geranium Order Form
Pentecost 2021*



The Flower Committee will be decorating the chancel with geraniums on May 16, the weekend before Pentecost. The earlier date is due to the Confirmation of two classes on Pentecost Sunday. The Landscaping Committee will plant the donated flowers on the church grounds. Geraniums may be donated in honor or memory of loved ones.

Orders will be taken for **three weeks** through the deadline on **Sunday, May 9**. Please complete the order form below and place it along with payment in the Flower Box by the offerings in the Narthex; or call Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111 and mail payment to her at 20570 State Route 245, Marysville, Ohio 43040. The cost of each plant is \$4.75.

Checks need to be made payable to **St. John's Lutheran Church**.

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number _____

Quantity _____ Total due @ \$4.75 each: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Memorials/honors given by:

(List all names for Notes & News)



The Flower Committee thanks you for your support.

