

Jacob's Ladder

4K/PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE



AMY NELSON

anelson@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-629-5427

The 2023-24 school year has started off fabulously! Over 80 students have entered their classroom doors to form new relationships, and to grow in their development. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff who challenge each child to reach their full potential and pour their hearts in to Jacob's Ladder. Special Thanks to Kahla Fuller, Rachel Simpson, and Erin Timm for following their calling and sharing their talents with us year after year.



THE BOX SCORE

General Fund: Aug 2023

Revenue:	\$203,944
Expenses:	\$ 80,015
Difference:	\$123,929


General Fund Year to Date:

Revenue:	\$527,946
Expenses:	\$415,311
Difference:	\$112,635

Keep the Light ON! 1 year Capital Campaign for Mortgage

Keep the Light ON! – Gifts thru June	\$104,720
Pledged over 1 year:	\$111,000

Ezekiel Mortgage Balance:	\$389,519
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 202 South Second Street
River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 715-425-8294
Fax: 712-425-8274
Email: info@ezekiellutheran.org
Website: www.ezekiellutheran.org
www.facebook.com/ezekiel.lutheran

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CONNECTIONS

October 2023

A PUBLICATION OF EZEKIEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, RIVER FALLS, WI
Pastor Steve Dow

Vol. 4 Issue 10

Installation of Pastor Steve



Bible Gifting



Rally Sunday



PASTOR



PASTOR STEVE DOW

sdow@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-425-8294 ext 110

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.—Ecclesiastes 3:1

I would guess that most of us are familiar with the beginning of chapter 3 in Ecclesiastes. We know that everything has its time. Things change. It's a reality of life that we, especially Lutherans, like to deny. For myself, I will wear shorts for as long as I can into the fall because I don't want to admit that the seasons are changing.

Over the past several years, Ezekiel has experienced a lot of change. In the midst of all of the change, it's easy to lose sight of all the good that happens in this place each week. I recently attended my first confirmation class at Ezekiel. And, I was glad to see confirmation students engaged in conversation, meeting new people, and trying to figure out where they fit into a new group. It was exciting to see and celebrate the beginning of a new year. I also celebrate that confirmation doesn't look like it did when I took those classes so many years ago. I was excited on Rally Sunday, as I saw all of the children and families gathered for the various activities. I love to hear the comments about how much kids grew over the summer. They changed!

A lot of life happens at Ezekiel. And while things may be called the same, they are always changing. Each group of kids bring different personalities. Every Sunday when we gather for worship the gathered body is different than the week before. Therefore, every week brings a certain amount of change.

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." I agree with this verse but I push it a little farther, because my understanding of Jesus Christ continues to change. As I continue to live and study, I continue to learn and grow in my understanding of who Jesus is for me but more importantly who Jesus is for the world.

We won't fully know Jesus until we finish our baptismal journey but, in the meantime, we continue to grow in our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The season is always right for this growth (change).

God's Peace,
Pastor Steve

To Our New Friends at Ezekiel,

There aren't enough words to express how grateful we are to all of you. Your welcome has been a gift. Thank you for your moving help, your beautiful installation and baptismal celebration, your kind words and prayers. Our family looks forward to sharing this next phase of our lives with you! Thank you again.

Pastor Steve, Sarah, Elijah and Sahalie

Sunday School/Children/Families MINISTRIES



MARCI NORUM

mnorum@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-425-8294 ext 112

Sunday School, 56 Club, and Confirmation classes have all begun with excitement for the year that lies ahead! G3 will hold its first class on Sunday, October 1, in the library from 9:40 a.m.—10:20 a.m. (same as Sunday School and 56 Club).

G3 is for birth to two year olds and their parents. In this class we will sing songs, hear Bible stories, learn how to pray and bless each other, and PLAY! This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet others with young children and learn faith skills that you can use in your home.

We want to welcome ALL families to Ezekiel. We especially want to welcome ones with littles. It makes my heart smile when I hear older children say proudly, "I've learned to read and I can read the words and sing along!" And boy, do they belt out the words! It also makes my heart happy when I hear other sounds during worship. It may be a cry, chatter, a laugh, or the sound of a little car being driven by a small hand.

I'm thankful that ALL children are welcome to worship at Ezekiel! It's important for us to remember to encourage parents of small children. If you see a parent that's struggling, send them a warm smile or ask if you may be of assistance. More than anything, let's make ALL feel welcome.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Teen and Young Adult MINISTRIES



ALLISON KLEIN

aklein@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-425-8294 ext 124

Rally Sunday has come and gone and the 56 Club is finally getting back to meeting on a regular basis. Coming up, Sunday, October 22 from 1:00-3:30 the 56 Club is visiting White Pine Berry Farm. Transportation can be provided upon request.

The first few classes of Confirmation have begun, and this group of 7th-9th graders are full of energy! So far, we've done plenty of icebreakers, been introduced to our Confirmation Bibles, and met the incredible adult leaders who are supporting us this year. In addition to 7th-9th graders attending Wednesday evenings, high schoolers have been meeting for a special youth group. This year, students will build relationships and engage in weekly faith conversations and Bible study. High schoolers are invited to attend from 6:30-7:30 in Room 200 (and friends are always welcome).

Looking ahead, October 1 and 22 we will have informational meetings for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering following the 10:30 service held in the Fellowship Hall. Students currently in 8th - 12th grade are invited to attend the Gathering and we are looking for 2-4 caring adult leaders to attend as well. Please reach out if you are interested or have any questions.

Relational MINISTRY



SANDY TAUFERNER

stauferner@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-425-8294 ext 114



New members will be introduced at both services on October 8.

Join us in welcoming them.

Everyone is welcome to become a member at Ezekiel. If you are interested in or have questions about membership, please connect with Sandy Tauferner at 715-821-8379 or stauferner@ezekiellutheran.org.

Opportunities to Serve



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Ezekiel's current volunteering needs are:

- Altar Guild (changing paraments and preparing communion supplies)
- Communion Servers (distribute communion on the 2nd & 4th Sundays)
- Funerals (serving and clean-up)

Questions? Contact the church office. 715-425-8294