



May 5, 2024

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**8:30 a.m.**



202 South Second Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-8294

[www.ezekiellutheran.org](http://www.ezekiellutheran.org)

# Welcome to



We are pleased that you are worshipping with us today!

\*Please stand.

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<b>Prelude</b>	“Children of the Heavenly Father” “Blessed Assurance” “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!”	Olson Knapp Nachtwas
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## Welcome and Announcements

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!

**All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom’s land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.  
Look, here is water!

**All: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Pastor: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Look, here is water!  
All: **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**\*Opening Hymn** "I Come With Joy" ELW 482

**\*Apostolic Greeting**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
All: **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
All: **O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**Lesson:** 1 John 5:1-6

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98**

Reader: Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.  
All: **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**  
Reader: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
All: **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**  
Reader: Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.  
All: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**  
Reader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.  
All: **Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**  
Reader: The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Children's Message**

Marci Norum

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**The Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17 (page 109 in pew Bible)**

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter.

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The Gospel is proclaimed...)*

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Word of the Day**

Pastor Steve Dow

**Hymn of the Day**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

ELW 708

**\*Apostles' Creed**

**Pastor:** With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

**All:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Installation of Pastor Sarah Schaffner as Interim Visitation Pastor**

### **Presentation**

Council Representative: After prayerful deliberation, we, of Ezekiel Lutheran Church, have appointed Pastor Sarah Schaffner to serve in the position of Interim Visitation Pastor.

### **Address and Questions**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to visit the sick and homebound, and to build up these gifts in others to assist you in this work, so that all share their gifts from God to inspire us all to love and good works.

Pastor Sarah, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

***Pastor Sarah: I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Pastor: Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

***Pastor Sarah: I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Pastor: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

***Pastor Sarah: I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Pastor: Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

***Pastor Sarah: I will, and I ask God to help me.***

Pastor: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**All: Amen.**

### ***The assembly stands.***

Pastor: People of God, will you receive Pastor Sarah into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

**All: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Pastor: Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake,  
and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?  
**All: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Pastor: Pastor Sarah Schaffner, I now declare you installed as Interim Visitation Pastor. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.  
**All: Amen.**

### **Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Pastor Sarah to this ministry. Grant her joy and a spirit of bold trust, that her work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, I present to you Pastor Sarah Schaffner, your Interim Visitation Pastor. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

### **\*Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: God of grace,  
**All: hear our prayer.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Please share a sign of peace with each other.  
*(People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and say:  
"Peace be with you.")*

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering**

*We will pass the offering plates or you may give online at: [www.ezekiellutheran.org](http://www.ezekiellutheran.org).  
Know that Ezekiel is most grateful for the gifts of support that you are able to give.  
May God bless you in your giving.*

### **Offering Hymn**

"Come to the Table"

ELW 481

### Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God...and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor: 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.

### Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

### Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### Communion Distribution

*As Lutherans, we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord. All who desire to receive the gifts of grace, forgiveness, and new life are welcome to come to the Lord's table. You do not need to be Lutheran or a member of Ezekiel to receive these gifts from God. Children that have not received their First Communion are invited forward for a blessing. It is helpful to servers if they cross their arms as a clear sign. We will be receiving communion by bread and cup. Both red wine and white grape juice, at the center of the serving tray, are provided. Gluten-free is available. The ushers will direct you to the front to be served.*

“The body of Christ, given for you.” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

**Prayer after Communion**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**All: Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Pastor: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✚ bless you now and always.

**All: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" ELW 836

**Dismissal**

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude:** "Pass It On" Kaiser

<p><b>THIS WEEK AT EZEKIEL</b> <b>May 5 - May 12</b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday, May 5</u></b> 7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel <b>8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary</b> 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club, G3 9:40 a.m. Milestone Event <b>10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary</b> 4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 100, 200</p> <p><b><u>Tuesday, May 7</u></b> 9:30 a.m. WELCA Meeting, FH</p> <p><b><u>Wednesday, May 8</u></b> 9:00 a.m. Mom's &amp; Dad's Group, FH 9:15 a.m. Rebekah Circle, Rm 100 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Kuss), Rm 190 4:30 p.m. Homework Help, Rm 200 5:30 p.m. Confirmation</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. High School Group, Rm 200 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room 7:15 p.m. Executive Team, Rm 190</p> <p><b><u>Thursday, May 9</u></b> 9:00 a.m. Endowment Committee, Rm 190 9:15 a.m. Rachel Circle, Rm 100 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (Bjerstedt), Library 1:30 p.m. Hannah Circle, FH Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Circle, Rm 190</p> <p><b><u>Saturday, May 11</u></b> 8:00 a.m. Worship Band, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Sunday, May 12</u></b> 7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel <b>8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Event 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club <b>10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary</b></p>
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## WELCOME TO EZEKIEL!

In worship and community, we seek to grow in love for God and for our neighbor. We trust that we are called and transformed to create a world of abundance.

**Are you visiting today?** We look forward to meeting you. Feel free to introduce yourself to those around you and fill out the red welcome pad.

**Hearing Devices** are located underneath the stairs in the back of the sanctuary.

**Children in worship...** We love the joyful noises that little ones make! Kids of all ages are invited to come up front for the Children's Message. If your child needs a break or a creative outlet, check out the Playground located along the southwest wall of our sanctuary. For older students, we have an Activity Corner located by the stairs in the back of the sanctuary where they can select a few items to take back to their pew. Children's Bulletins are located in both areas.

**WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!**



Listen for more to come!!

Please sign the welcome pad and pass it down the pew.



Ezekiel will no longer lend out tables and/or chairs.

Thank you.



## WELCA evening circle

JOIN US THURSDAY, MAY 9 FROM 7:00-8:30 PM IN ROOM 190 FOR THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING OF WELCA'S NEWEST CIRCLE TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

- NEW CIRCLE NAME
- OFFICER POSITIONS
- WELCA GIVING
- MISSION, PROJECTS, ETC.

WE PLAN TO MEET THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

CONTACT VICKI OLSON WITH QUESTIONS AT 612-207-5962.

JOIN US FOR A MONTHLY NIGHT OF FEMALE FAITH-DEVELOPMENT AND FELLOWSHIP.

## SPRING CHURCH CLEAN-UP

May 11 8 AM - ?

### Bring your own:

- gloves
- shovels
- rakes
- leaf blowers

### Seniors & Homebound Members:

Please contact Leslie if you need assistance with your yard.



**Please join us in celebrating  
Sandy Tauferner  
& Barb Kuss**




RETIREMENT CELEBRATION  
MAY 19  
DURING COFFEE HOUR

EZEKIEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Summer  
Worship**

BEGINNING SUNDAY, MAY 26  
SERVICE AT 9:30 AM  
COFFEE HOUR TO FOLLOW

*Welcome*

**TO THE  
TEAM**

Sarah Schaffner,  
Interim Visitation  
Pastor

Ross Van Overbeke,  
Custodian



**Word for the Day**

**Mon** - Psalm 115  
**Tues** - Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
**Wed** - Psalm 1  
**Thurs** - 1 John 5:9-13  
**Fri** - John 17:6-19



Ezekiel Lutheran Church  
General Fund  
<https://www.ezekielchurch.org>



EZEKIEL.YOUTH  
Ezekiel Youth Instagram  
Follow for updates and events.

**EZEKIEL  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATE  
BLESSING**

SUNDAY, MAY 19  
10:30 AM SERVICE

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



RIVER FALLS  
**BACCALAUREATE**  
SPONSORED BY SOULED OUT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND  
7 - 8 PM

RIVER FALLS HIGH SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM

All graduating seniors, their friends, and families are welcome to attend the Baccalaureate service to celebrate and honor the graduating class of 2024.

Cake and refreshments following the service will be sponsored by The Sycamore of River Falls.



### Worship Assistants

Pastor:	Pastor Steve Dow
Musicians:	Dick Seebach, Greg Carter
Cantor:	Evelyn Ashbach
Reader:	Cathy Hjersjo
Sound:	Jim Ashbach
Recording Tech:	Josh Ashbach
ProPresenter:	Josh Ashbach
Ushers:	Greg Carter, Larry Larson, Ken Lee, Joe Walen
Communion Servers:	Ellie Richards, Theresa Jonas, Leah Gavin
Altar Guild:	Leah Gavin, Cindy Nolen, Dot Seebach
Coffee Hour:	Pam Anderson, Tom Anderson, Delane Claflin, Linda Potton

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### **Prayers of Healing, Care, and Joy This Week**

Please Pray for:

- John Wittenberg, prayers for healing.
- Woody Fangmeier, prayers for healing.
- Jim Nordgren, prayers for healing.
- John Henning, prayers for healing.
- All caregivers.
- Warren Leonard, prayers for healing.
- Jason Binger (Ken and Ruth Lee's son-in-law), prayers for healing.
- Sue Myers (John Henning's sister), prayers for healing.
- Ed Schramm, prayers for healing.

#### **Ezekiel**

- Dear God, We praise you for giving us a community of believers to do life with. Let it be a source of joy and inspiration and a place where people can experience your love and presence in their lives. Thank you for the blessing of fellowship and the opportunity to serve you and others through our church. Amen.

#### **World**

- Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for people in the Middle East who have been impacted by conflict. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you have a prayer concern please submit your prayer request to the church office 715-425-8294 or [info@ezekiellutheran.org](mailto:info@ezekiellutheran.org). All prayers are confidential.

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*Portions of our service and today's hymns can be found in the Evangelical Worship (ELW) ©2006 Augsburg Fortress - License #15208-ELW.*

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

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