

Jacob's Ladder

4K/PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE



AMY NELSON

anelson@ezekiellutheran.org • 715-629-5427

JACOB'S LADDER INVITES YOU:

TRICK OR TREAT PARADE

Monday,
October
30th
9:00 AM
(10 Kids)



Tuesday,
October
31st
9:00 AM
(65 Kids)



1:00 PM
(36 Kids)

715-629-5427



THE BOX SCORE

General Fund: Sept 2023

Revenue:	\$26,002
Expenses:	\$40,363
Difference:	-\$14,361

General Fund Year to Date:

Revenue:	\$380,735
Expenses:	\$421,181
Difference:	-\$ 40,446

Keep the Light ON! 1 year Capital Campaign for Mortgage

Keep the Light ON! – Gifts thru June	\$108,366
Pledged over 1 year:	\$111,000

Ezekiel Mortgage Balance: \$380,704

The August Box Score showed a large revenue increase. This was from an insurance payout and was transferred to a restricted account for future repairs. Sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
River Falls, WI
Permit No. 43
Non-Profit



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CONNECTIONS

November 2023

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

Vol. 4 Issue 11

Congratulations!

THE FOLLOWING 9TH GRADERS AFFIRMED THEIR FAITH
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT THE 10:30 SERVICE.

Nora Lee Fitzsimons
Demi Grace Hanson
Jonah Wesley Hirstein
Jenna Kathleen Juetten
Dominik Phillip Lee
Julian Joseph Mitchell
Kendra Leigh O'Connor
Rory Christine Opatz
Jamison Dennis Schultz
Jordyn Elizabeth Senoraske
Piper Laura Lenora Shewczyk
David John Stapleton
Megan Mary Thompson



Thanksgiving Eve Service

7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

PIE SOCIAL FOLLOWING SERVICE

BRING YOUR FAVORITE
PIE TO SHARE!



Deck the Halls

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 26

Join us for an intergenerational
decorating event!

9:30 a.m. Blended Service
10:30 a.m. DECK THE HALLS!
11:30 a.m. Bring a main dish, side, or
dessert to share!



PASTOR



PASTOR STEVE DOW

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

“Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar’s rule?” So, some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool. Saying “no” would be sedition; saying “yes” would be a sin. Jesus changed the conversation, calling them to look within.—Carolyn Winfrey Gillette from the Gospel for October 22.

The above verse is from a new hymn text written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. She’s busy much of the time giving us new words set to familiar tunes. I have quoted her work because this is work that we can do as well. I’m looking for a group of people who might be interested in learning about and writing alternate texts for our Sunday morning worship. Luther believed that the language used in worship should be accessible to the people. What would it look like to shape the words we speak in conversation with others who may be interested in this work? If this sounds like something you might want to do, let me know and we can get a group together. I have a resource to help and guide us through this process.

I’ve also been thinking about adding Assisting Ministers to our worship. I have trained many Assisting Ministers over the years and it has been fun to watch how that experience has had an effect in their faith lives. One of the first Assisting Ministers that I trained later attended lay school and is now serving as a Synod Authorized Minister. Not everyone will become a SAM but if you are interested in learning a little more about our worship and assisting with worship on Sunday morning, come and talk to me. We don’t have to cover every Sunday but I want to give you a chance to serve in this way if you are interested. The Assisting Minister often leads the prayers that are spoken in worship. They may also assist with communion and help in other ways as needed.

There are many ways to assist in worship and these are two more ways where your gifts and talents just might have a place. If you have any questions about worship and how you might find a way to participate, please come talk to me and together let’s see where the Spirit leads.

God’s Peace,
Pastor Steve



Scrip Fundraising

- Ezekiel earns money by members buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases, instead of cash or credit cards.
- Each participating retailer has it’s own percentage that they give back to Ezekiel.
- Ezekiel uses the money earned for operating expenses, mission trips, youth programs, education, and so much more!

Enroll in Scrip by
using the QR Code
provided or check out
the Scrip Table on
Sunday mornings!



Scandinavian Holiday Bake Sale & Tea

Saturday, Dec. 2,
1-3 p.m.

This event supports activities and mission projects of the church. Everyone is invited to participate by providing holiday goodies. Watch for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center. Christmas Breads, Cookies, Lefse, Sandbakkels, Rosettes, Spritz, Krumkake, Fattigman, & Fellowship. Bring a friend! We will be glad to see you at the complimentary tea.

Sunday School/Children/Families MINISTRIES



MARCI NORUM

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

Building Faith in Your Home

Bible Reading With Children

- Brings a sense of peace, calm and joy into the home. It can change the emotional tone of individual family members and the family as a whole from the stresses of the day to the calm of being aware of living in the presence of a loving and gracious God.
- Changes the focus of life in the home from taking to giving, from wanting more and more things to the joy of serving and living for others.
- Creates a family tradition that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Family Devotional Time (reading the Bible, FAITH 5, etc.)

- Strengthens the health of the family (the physical, emotional, relational and spiritual health of the home).
- Allows us to share the highs and lows of life. Family members get to learn what each others are experiencing.
- Encourages family members to pray for each other and for the world.

Blessing (asking for God’s favor upon someone/thing)

- Doesn’t have to be formal, but just remind your child daily that God is with them and loves them very much!
- Can be a ritual for the morning or evening.
- Say, “(Name), you are a loved child of God” and make the sign of a cross on their forehead.
- In the morning, especially on their way to school or daycare you may say, “God be with you today.”
- Communicate with your child that the sign of a cross on the forehead is a reminder of baptism.

Prayer (a conversation with God)

- We can tell God anything and ask for anything.
- God sometimes says “yes”, sometimes “no” and sometimes “not yet.”
- Repeat after me prayers work well with young children. You pray a line, they pray it back.
- Go around the table and let each member of the family name someone or something they would like to pray for.

I was in a Sunday School classroom recently and happened to see the guide blessing her students. The students in turn, blessed this guide. It was such a powerful moment to have observed!

If you ever find you want more ideas for faith building in the home or books to read to your children, look no further than the Ezekiel Library! There are many of great resources to use for free!

“God be with you today in all that you do and all that you say.”

Teen and Young Adult MINISTRIES



ALLISON KLEIN

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

Coming up November 19, the students attending the ELCA Youth Gathering are holding a Beignets and Coffee fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. We’ll be using New Orleans’ famous Cafe Du Monde’s recipe and serving special coffee, with regular coffee available as well.

In October, we soft-launched a reimagined Wednesday night at Ezekiel for people of all ages. Starting at 6:00 PM we will have a fellowship activity in Room 100 or the Chapel, followed by a large group lesson with Confirmation students at 6:30, and a small group discussion led by Pastor Steve. Childcare is available for families with younger children. The goal of this evening is to promote lifelong learning of all the things that make us Christians and building community across generations. If you have questions, please contact myself, Pastor Steve, or Sandy. November activities and topics are listed below.

- November 1 – Game Night & Exploring Article 1 of the Apostles’ Creed
- November 8 – Worship & Exploring Article 2 of the Apostles’ Creed
- November 15 – Service Projects & Exploring Article 3 of the Apostles’ Creed
- November 22 – No Confirmation, Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 PM
- November 29 – Worship & Law + Gospel and Sinner + Saint

Relational MINISTRY



SANDY TAUFERNER

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

Entering Advent:
A Candlelight River Walk
Sunday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.
All are welcome.

The time of Advent is a Christian tradition
rooted in the earth and its seasons.

Hope for Creation invites you to join us by the Kinnickinnic River
to walk, reflect, and set our hearts to greet Advent.

We start at Veterans Park on Main Street in downtown River Falls.

Please bring a flashlight.

In the event of bad weather, check www.hope4creationrf.org