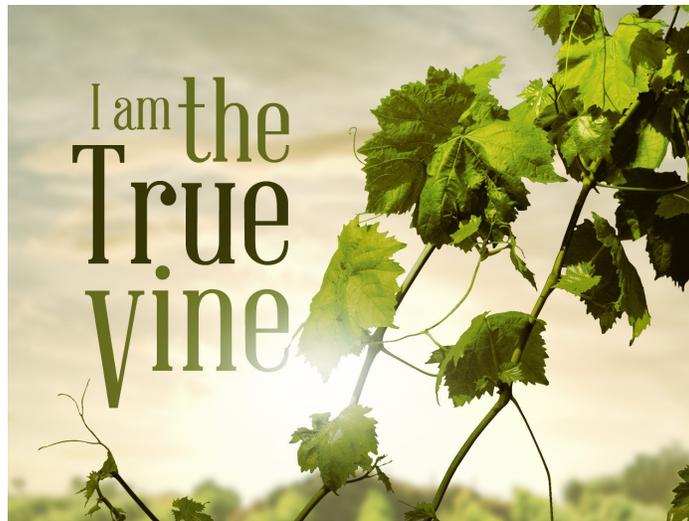




April 28, 2024

**Fifth 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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## Prelude

“Jesus Loves Me”  
“Praise to the Lord”  
“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Bradburn  
Nachtweg  
Gater

## 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** "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW 379

**\*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 give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Chancel Choir Anthem** "I Am the Vine" Allen Pote

**WORD**

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

**Lesson:** 1 John 4:7-21

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

**Psalm 22:25-31**

Reader: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

All: **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

Reader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

All: **For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

Reader: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

All: **Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

Reader: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**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 15:1-8 (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**

“We Know That Christ is Raised”

ELW 449

**\*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.**

**\*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.

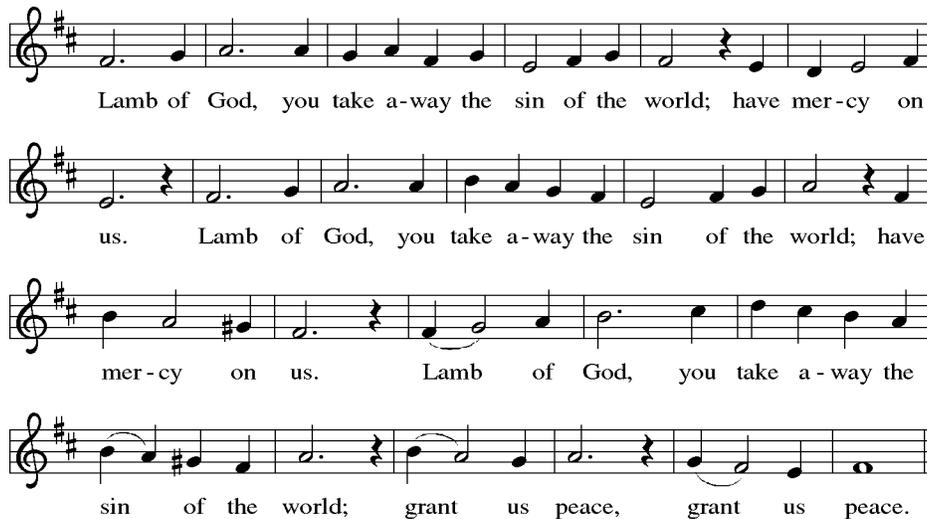
**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **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

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW 359

## 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.

## 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

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death”

ELW 452

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude:**

“Raised From Death To Love and Living”

Sweetwater

**THIS WEEK AT EZEKIEL**  
**April 28 - May 5**

**Sunday, April 28**

- 7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**
- 3:00 p.m. “Just Sing” Concert, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 100, 200

**Tuesday, April 30**

- 10:00 a.m. Head Start Parent’s Meeting, Rm 180

**Wednesday, May 1**

- 9:00 a.m. Mom’s & Dad’s Group, FH
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Kuss), Rm 190
- 1:00 p.m. Pierce County Men’s Caregiver Support Group, Rm 100
- 4:30 p.m. Homework Help, Rm 200
- 5:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 5:30 p.m. High School Group, Rm 200
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Music Room

**Thursday, May 2**

- 12:30 p.m. Hope for Creation, Rm 160
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (Bjerstedt), Library
- 3:30 p.m. Hope For Creation, Rm 100

**Saturday, May 4**

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Band, Sanctuary

**Sunday, May 5**

- 7:50 a.m. Prayer Before Worship, Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday School, 56 Club, G3
- 9:40 a.m. Milestone Event
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sanctuary**
- 4:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 100, 200

**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 Prayground 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!**

**Word for the Day**

- Mon** - Psalm 93
- Tues** - Acts 10:44-48
- Wed** - Psalm 98
- Thurs** - 1 John 5:1-6
- Fri** - John 15:9-17



# Just Sing

Presented by  
**The Pierce County  
Ecumenical Choir**

Ezekiel Lutheran Church  
Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 PM

Refreshments following concert.

Free Will Offering  
*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to  
local charities.*

LET'S COME TOGETHER

# National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2  
Theme: Faithfulness

"I will exalt you and praise your  
name, for in perfect faithfulness  
you have done wonderful things,  
things planned long ago."



Isaiah 25:1 (NIV)

The word "perfect" defines God's faithfulness...there is nothing lacking. The Ezekiel Prayer Team encourages you to set aside some time to pray for our nation and leaders. Watch for suggestions on how to engage physically and deliberately in the act of prayer. Come to prayer, meet Jesus as you are, for Jesus brings His perfect faithfulness to engage with you.

## ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

**What's with the envelopes?**  
This is a fundraiser to support students attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

**How does this work?**  
We ask that if you'd like to donate, please take an envelope (at random or your choosing) and the amount of the envelope is what you contribute. Please place the filled envelope in the offering basket or give to Allison Klein.



## 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.



# Drawn

TO THE WORD  
drawn-to-the-word.com



Experience a *Drawn to the Word* worship and artistic experience where artist and pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural of "Let the Children Come Unto Me" here before your eyes at Rush River Lutheran Church, N8623 County Road Y, River Falls on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. This story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and Scripturally during the event. All are welcome! Come and see!

In memory of Lawrence Johnson



**LOOK WHAT'S NEW!**

E3 Scrip now has the following for sale:

- Dunkin \$25 gift cards
- Kwik Trip Ultimate car wash cards (five washes per card) \$36.00.

[Ezekiel Extra Endeavors](#)



## 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.



EZEKIEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Summer Blended Services

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



**Please contact Pastor Steve if you would like to be a part of establishing what Ezekiel's Blended Service will look like this summer.**

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

Please Pray for:

- Jim Nordgren, prayers for healing.
- John Henning, prayers for healing.
- 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.
- All caregivers.

### Ezekiel

- Dear God, We praise you for giving us a community of believers to do life with. We come before you today with grateful hearts, thanking you for the gift of fellowship and community. Help us to see each other as siblings in Christ and to treat each other with kindness, compassion, and respect. We pray that our church will be a place where people can find healing, forgiveness, and renewal. 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.

**If you or someone you know** is going through a rough time, we have Prayer Shawls available. A shawl filled with prayers wrapped around your shoulders can be very soothing and healing! Contact Lana Bjerstedt at 715-781-1677.

**Prayer Chain:** If you have a prayer request, please e-mail Jan Ingersoll at [2ingie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2ingie@sbcglobal.net). Jan will forward it on to the 39 members of the Chain. You must have permission from the family to submit a request.

**Prayer Team:** The prayer team is available for private prayers after services, or by special request made by phone or email. If you see one of us with our Prayer Team tag feel free to approach us for prayer.

- |                 |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Katelyn Asmus | ◆ Roger Hammond | ◆ Ed Schramm      |
| ◆ Joyce Breen   | ◆ Jan Ingersoll | ◆ Sandy Schramm   |
| ◆ Jerry Breen   | ◆ Anne Janda    | ◆ Sandy Tauferner |
| ◆ Ruth Emerson  | ◆ Ruth Lee      | ◆ Velma Waalkens  |
|                 | ◆ Max Neuhaus   | ◆ Anne Waxon      |

Worship Assistants

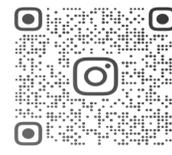
Pastor: Pastor Steve Dow  
Musicians: Dick Seebach, Greg Carter  
Cantor: Angel Egan  
Reader: Patti Kahut  
Sound: Jim Ashbach  
Recording Tech: Josh Ashbach  
ProPresenter: Mary Ashbach  
Ushers: Jerry Breen, Joyce Breen, Ken Lee, Joyce Walen  
Communion Servers: Theresa Jonas, Ellie Richards, Betty Skelton  
Altar Guild: Cathy Hjersjo, Nicky Thompson, Sandy Tauferner  
Coffee Hour: Ken Lee, Ruth Lee, Ruth Emerson, John Warneke



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



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



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

*Portions of our service and today's hymns can be found in the Evangelical Worship  
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