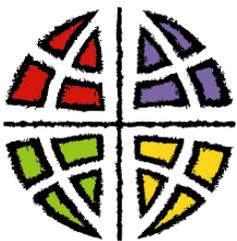


August 1, 2021 • 10:30am

Episode 5:

What If God Was One of Us? -- The Gospels



WELCOME

to Elk River Lutheran Church

Welcome to Elk River Lutheran Church! Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we're glad you're here. Elk River Lutheran Church is a forward-thinking congregation made up of people of all ages. We are a pretty new church (formed in 2009), located in a remodeled bank building on the Mississippi River in downtown Elk River. Our mission is: *Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, serving God and neighbor.*

Each Sunday, we have two vibrant Sunday morning worship services. The first, at 8:30 am, is a traditional Lutheran service that follows liturgical settings from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal. Our 10:30 am contemporary service has music led by an acoustic worship band and maintains many key elements of Lutheran worship.

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and celebrate the work we're able to do together as a denomination (to learn more about the ELCA visit www.elca.org). We welcome all people and as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation that welcome extends to the LGBTQ+ community.

We hope and pray you have a wonderful worship experience here today and invite you to join us again. There are many opportunities to participate and volunteer with the ministries of ERLC. Visit our website: <https://www.elkriverlutheran.org>.

Starting in July

Worship Options

Sunday Worship LIVE

**TRADITIONAL
INDOORS**
8:30AM



**CONTEMPORARY
OUTDOORS**
10:30AM



and Online via
Facebook & YouTube

Watch/Listen Later



Facebook



YouTube



Powered by LOVE
podcast

Find out more at elkriverlutheran.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Available in ERLC Parking Lot on 88.3FM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

OPENING SONG: "Vagabonds"

CHORUS

**Come to the feast, there is room at the table.
Come let us meet in this place
With the King of all kindness who welcomes us in
With the wonder of love and power of grace
The wonder of love and power of grace.**

VERSE 1

**Come all you vagabonds, come all you 'don't belongs',
Winners and losers, come, people like me.
Come all you travelers tired from the journey,
Come wait a while, stay a while, welcomed you'll be.**

CHORUS

VERSE 2

**Come all you questioners, looking for answers
And searching for reasons and sense in it all;
Come all you fallen and come all you broken,
Find strength for your body and food for your soul.**

CHORUS

VERSE 3

**Come those who worry 'bout houses and money
And all those who don't have a care in the world;
From ev'ry station and orientation,
the helpless, the hopeless, the young and the old.**

CHORUS (2X)

BIBLICAL PREVIEW

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,
Loving God, open our hearts and minds to hear your holy Word. Deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Bible, that it may be a living guide for us, in the name Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:9-17

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

SONG OF THE DAY: “Speak, O God”

VERSE 1

**Speak, O God, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,**

**That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O God, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.**

VERSE 2

**Teach us God full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise,
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

VERSE 3

**Speak, O God, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Jesus said, “Just as I have loved you, you should love one another.” (John 13:43)

Help us to live powered by love.

The Apostle Paul calls us to “a true living faith, active through love.” (Galatians 5:6)

Help us to live powered by love.

We are encouraged to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32)

Help us to live powered by love.

Most merciful God,

We have fallen short in our calling to love one another. Our selfishness, greed, and apathy, we confess to you. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may live Powered by Love. Amen.

Hear the good news! While we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ died for us to forgive our sins. You are wonderfully and marvelously created in God's image, filled with God's love, and called to share that love with the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

**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.**

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG: "Jesus Loves Me"

VERSE 1

It was just three words,
But it changed my life.
Just a childlike truth
That consumed my mind.
From my life's first breath
Till the day I rise,
All I need to know
Is this age-old line.

CHORUS

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak but he is strong.

VERSE 2

It was just three nails
That held Him on that cross.
But God was not restrained
For He was there by choice.
As He gave His life
For a world He loved.
So, the earth replied
In this age-old song.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen

OFFERING

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.

VERSE 3

It was just three days,
But it changed our world
For when there seemed no way,
From the grave, He rose.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

SENDING BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Hold Us Together"

CHORUS

**And love will hold us together,
Make us a shelter to weather the storm,
And I'll be my brother's keeper
So the whole world will know
that we're not alone.**

VERSE 1

**It don't have a job, it don't pay your bills,
Won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills.
Won't fix your life in five easy steps,
Ain't the law of the land or the government.
But it's all you need.**

CHORUS

SENDING

**"Go in peace, share the good news"
"We will, thanks be to God!"**

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VERSE 2

**It's waiting for you knocking at your door.
In the moment of truth
When your heart hits the floor
and you're on your knees.**

CHORUS

BRIDGE

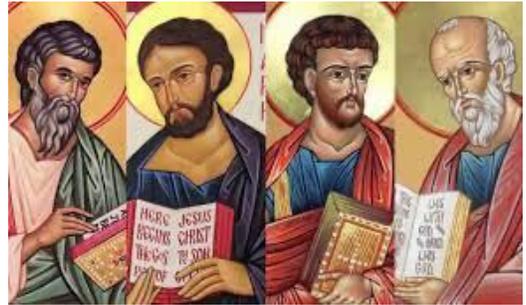
**This is the first day of the rest of your life,
This is the first day of the rest of your life,
'Cause even in the dark
you can still see the light.
It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be alright.**

CHORUS

Episode 5: What If God Was One of Us?

The Gospels + Acts:

The author and theologian Mark Allen Powell describes the four gospels as though they are series of paintings by four different people. Each image might show a specific quality, and some might capture the realism of the person Jesus. Others might depict the compassionate image of Jesus cradling a lamb or the disgruntled image of Jesus yelling at the Pharisees. Each image lends itself to the interpretation and question, "Which Jesus do I want to present? What element of the person do I want to emphasize?"¹ As we work to discover these sacred texts, it might benefit all to remember that imagery for the painting of Jesus and the ways in which an artist paints a portrait.



At their fundamental core, the Gospels tell the story of Jesus, his disciples, and the ministry which Jesus began here on earth. They emphasize their points by utilizing genealogies, hymns, parables, miracles, and speeches as a means of communicating the evangelistic message of Christ to the world. The word "Gospel" comes from the Greek word "*euangelion*," which means "good news." It refers to the proclamation that Jesus has brought Good News to our world through his life, death, and resurrection as a fulfillment of the promise of God that a Messianic King would be born from the line of David. It is an invitation for us as readers to hear, receive, and proclaim the Good News in our own lives and stories.

There are various theories about the origin and source of each gospel. Some gospels hold similar content, stemming from a central source, while some of the content is unique to each author. For instance, Matthew's gospel holds similar content as Mark's, but John's Gospel has elements unique to John. What remains consistent is the teaching of Jesus as the central fulfillment of God's promise to the world.

¹ *Introducing the New Testament: a Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey*, by Mark Allan Powell, Christian Literature Crusade, 2014, pp. 81–82.

Matthew:

The first sequential gospel of the four, Matthew, approaches the life and ministry of Jesus through a distinctly Jewish lens. Matthew makes direct connections between the Old Testament Messianic promise (promise of a Messiah) and the life and ministry of Jesus as a fulfillment of that promise. The opening verses of Matthew make the direct connection outlining the promise of Abraham, the line of David, culminating in the birth of Jesus. Its content and focus help bridge the gap between our Old Testament stories and the promised birth of a Savior.

Box 6.1

Material Unique to Matthew's Gospel

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This corresponds to what scholars sometimes refer to as the "M" material (see box 5.10).

Genealogy of Jesus (from Abraham)	1:2-17	Recovering the sinful member	18:15-20
Birth of Jesus (with focus on Joseph)	1:18-25	Peter asks about forgiveness	18:21-22
Visit of the magi	2:1-12	Parable of unforgiving servant	18:23-35
Flight to Egypt	2:13-21	Parable of laborers in vineyard	20:1-16
On fulfilling the law	5:17-20	Parable of two sons	21:28-32
The antitheses	5:21-24, 27-28, 33-38, 43	Prohibition of titles	23:7-12
On practicing piety	6:1-15, 16-18	Denunciations of Pharisees	23:15-22
Pearls before swine	7:6	Parable of bridesmaids	25:1-13
Mission limited to Israel	10:5-6	Description of last judgment	25:31-46
Invitation to rest	11:28-30	Death of Judas	27:3-10
Parables: weeds, treasure, pearl, net	13:24-30, 36-52	Pilate washes his hands	27:24-25
Peter tries to walk on water	14:28-31	Resuscitation of saints	27:52-53
Blessing of Peter	16:17-19	Guard at the tomb	27:62-66; 28:11-15
Peter pays the temple tax	17:24-27	The Great Commission	28:16-20

Mark Allen Powell. P. 108

Mark:

Box 7.4

Material Unique to Mark's Gospel

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- parable of seed growing secretly (4:26-29)
- healing of man who is deaf and mute (7:31-37)
- healing of blind man of Bethsaida (8:22-26)
- sayings on salt (9:49, 50b)
- flight of young man in the garden (14:51-52)

Mark Allen Powell p. 131

Mark is the briefest of all four of the gospels, yet within its narrative are pieces that are found in all four of the gospels. Mark's writing continually paints Jesus in motion, always moving from one thing to the next toward the end, which is death and resurrection. One unique feature of Mark's message is the sense of urgency by which Jesus' ministry takes place. Utilizing the term "*immediately*" thirty-nine times, stressing the importance of the work and the shortness of

Jesus' time on earth. While Matthew stresses Jesus as the King, Mark illustrates Jesus as the suffering servant.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45. It is important to note that the original ending of Mark is left unresolved with the woman leaving the tomb and fleeing in fear.

Luke:

The longest book of the gospels, Luke paints a rather artistic portrait of the life and ministry of Jesus. The Gospel writer Luke was most likely a physician but also a historian. Much of the content within Luke stem from the source writing of Mark, but Luke pays careful attention to physical details of Jesus, those whom he had healed, and the outcomes of healings within the larger context of Jesus' ministry. Where Mark speaks of urgency, Luke focuses on the meals and companionship of Jesus, all things that would take time to be fully

present with those whom he related. Luke uses the term Son of Man more than any other Gospel writer to emphasize the humanity of Jesus in connection to divinity. The emphasis on outreach to the disadvantaged, the outcast, and the outsiders are amplified by Luke's use of story to speak to the life transformation that happens to those who hear a message of salvation and respond. Luke invites readers to see the humanity of Jesus through beautiful imagery and the interconnectedness of Jesus to those whom he ministers. It is important to note that the author of Luke is also the same author who wrote the book of Acts, which we will discuss later.

Box 8.1

Material Unique to Luke's Gospel

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This corresponds to what scholars sometimes refer to as the "L" material (see box 5.10).

Dedication to Theophilus	1:1–4	Parable of severe and light beatings	12:47–48
Promised birth of John	1:5–25	Parable of barren tree	13:1–9
Announcement of Jesus's birth to Mary	1:26–38	Healing of crippled woman	13:10–17
Mary's visit to Elizabeth	1:39–56	Healing of man with dropsy	14:1–6
Birth of John the Baptist	1:57–80	Two parables for guests and hosts	14:7–14
Birth of Jesus (with shepherds, manger)	2:1–20	Counting the cost (two parables)	14:28–33
Presentation of infant Jesus in temple	2:21–38	Parable of lost coin	15:8–10
Childhood visit to Jerusalem	2:41–52	Parable of prodigal son	15:11–32
John's reply to questions	3:10–14	Parable of shrewd manager	16:1–12
Genealogy of Jesus (to Adam)	3:23–38	Parable of rich man and Lazarus	16:19–31
Good news to the poor	4:14–23, 25–30	Cleansing of ten lepers	17:11–19
Miraculous catch of fish	5:1–11	Parable of widow and judge	18:1–8
Raising of widow's son at Nain	7:11–17	Parable of Pharisee and tax collector	18:9–14
Encounter with homeless woman	7:36–50	Story of Zacchaeus	19:1–10
Parable of two debtors	7:40–43	Jesus weeps over Jerusalem	19:41–44
Ministering women	8:1–3	Reason for Peter's denial	22:31–32
Rejection by Samaritan village	9:51–56	Two swords	22:35–38
Return of the seventy missionaries	10:17–20	Jesus before Herod	23:6–12
Parable of good Samaritan	10:29–37	Pilate declares Jesus innocent	23:13–16
Mary and Martha	10:38–42	Sayings associated with Jesus's death	23:28–31, 34, 43, 46
Parable of friend at midnight	11:5–8	Jesus appears on road to Emmaus	24:13–35
Parable of rich fool	12:13–21	Jesus appears to disciples	24:36–49
		Jesus's ascension	24:50–53

Mark Allen Powell. P. 151

John:

Box 9.5

Some Stories about Jesus Unique to John's Gospel

Published by Baker Academic
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- calling of Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael (1:35–51)
- changing of water into wine at Cana (2:1–12)
- conversation with Nicodemus (3:1–21)
- encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well (4:1–42)
- healing of a crippled man at Pool of Bethzatha (5:1–18)
- rescue of an adulterous woman from stoning (7:53–8:11)
- healing of a man born blind (9:1–41)
- raising of Lazarus (11:1–44)
- washing of disciples' feet (13:1–20)
- prayer for believers to be united (17:1–26)
- resurrection appearance to Thomas (20:24–29)

Mark Allen Powell. P. 178

The Gospel of John differs from the other gospels in that the emphasis is on the identity of Jesus. Beginning with an immediate connection to God who spoke creation into existence, John connects Jesus to those spoken words and to the God of the Old Testament. John's focus isn't to present a chronological narrative but rather to connect and correct a narrative that disconnected Jesus from God. The emphasis on Jesus as the "Son of God," fully God and fully man, would have been a word of promise to those who doubted or wondered about the faith which was being professed. "But these (words) are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have eternal life." John 20:31. John invites hearers to a message of salvation and belief that we may be people of light rather than of darkness.

Acts:

Why include Acts in the section on the gospels? The book of Acts was written to provide a history of the early church and how it lived out its life and ministry together. The book of Acts witnesses to the work of the Holy Spirit, who empowers, guides, and teaches the disciples along the journey and as they live out their mission to bear witness to Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, and the ends of the world. (Acts 1:8) As a result of receiving the

Holy Spirit, think Pentecost, the disciples can speak in other languages and thus the spread of the early church. Instead of a unified language (Tower of Babel), the Holy Spirit creates a standard message spoken in various languages.

People will spend the rest of Acts working to maintain what it means to have a common belief and finding methods of maintaining that belief instead of losing it to interpretation and cultural structures. Chapter 2 of Acts, we see an ideal image of community where everyone has enough care and concern for neighbor remains central to community formation, and then the rest of the book lays out the unsustainable nature of this ideal community and the conflict which arises.

The book continues through the miracles and preaching of the disciples, the spread of the faith to outsiders, and the continued wrestling of communities of faith as they live out the faith to which they have been called.

Binge the Bible Weekly Reading Plan:

Monday: Read the opening passages of each gospel. What stands out to you about the introduction of each book? What wonderings do you have?

Tuesday: Feeding of the Five Thousand: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6: 30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14. Who is Jesus in each of these texts? What is his temperament? What is the purpose of feeding the people?

Wednesday: Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:9-11, Mark 11:8-11, Luke 19:36-38, John 12:12-13. What do you find in common between these stories? What is different? What might the author want us to think about in this passage?

Thursday:

Jesus is Buried in the Tomb: Matthew 27:59-61, Mark 15:46-47, Luke 23:53, John 19:29-42

They went to the Tomb: Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1, John 20:1

What do you see in common between these stories? What is different? What message do you hear about Jesus or Jesus' ministry in these texts?

Friday: Acts 2.

What do you hear about the life of the early church? What challenges are already a part of the story? What do you think the call is for the disciples and early believers?

Saturday: Acts 9:1-19.

Saul's conversion invites us to wonder aloud how God works in the lives of God's people. What word of hope do you hear in these verses? How is Saul identified throughout the text? What significance would Saul's title have for the inclusion in the community?

Prayer Requests

Thanks for lifting these up in prayer!

Praise the Lord (joys and answered prayers):

- *Birth of Harper Marie, granddaughter of Lisa Sampson born July 14.*

In Sympathy

- *Family and Friends of Jack O'Hara*
- *Family and Friends of Harry Larson, former colleague of Linda Nielsen*
- *Family and Friends of Jay Hakes*
- *Family and friends of John Barth, former English Teacher and Athletic Director at ERHS*
- *Family and Friends, Father of Dawn Kultala who died related to COVID*

For Support:

- *Barb Laurence, friend of Donn and Vicki Granros*
- *John Ernst and Carol Black*
- *Linda and Mike Cheney*
- *Jan Bucher*
- *All military personnel and their families*

Health concerns:

- *George Laurence, friend of Donn and Vicki Granros*
- *Teddy Mugaas, rebroke arm*
- *Melissa Macari-Coons, recovery from knee replacement surgery*
- *Pauline Kuhn*
- *Bob and Lee Johnson*
- *Jackie Bolin, breast cancer*
- *David Boyer, uncle of Linda Nielsen*
- *Steve Lindberg*
- *Elvi Peterson*
- *Carol Sindelir, Val Nelson's sister*
- *Margaret Blahosky, friend of Donn and Vicki Granros (cancer of the lung and liver) .*
- *Diane McGrath, pancreatic cancer*
- *Mike Cheney, healing from 7/8 hip surgery & previous stroke*
- *Ken Bucher*
- *Kris West, daughter of Bob and Sue Hagen*
- *Duane Jerde*

Prayer Concerns: can be shared by emailing linda@elkriverlutheran.org or by contacting the church office at (763) 595-1216, or by visiting the church website at elkriverlutheran.org

Generally, names will run for 3 weeks. If more time is needed, please call the church office

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY August 1

8:30am – Traditional Worship Service
(Indoors in Sanctuary)
9:30am – Fellowship Hour
(Community Room)
10:30am – Contemporary Worship
Service (Outdoors and Online)
5:30pm – Family Vacation Bible
School

MONDAY August 2

4pm – Choir BBQ
(Taylor's House)
5:30pm – Family Vacation Bible
School

TUESDAY August 3

9am – Quilting (ERLC Basement)
5:30pm – Family Vacation Bible
School
6:30pm – Internship Committee

WEDNESDAY August 4

5:30pm – Family Vacation Bible
School

THURSDAY August 5

11am – Binge the Bible Breakdown
LIVE on Facebook & Youtube

SATURDAY August 7

8am - Men's Bible Study
(Zoom Bible Study)

NEXT SUNDAY August 8

8:30am – Traditional Worship Service
(Indoors in Sanctuary)
9:30am – Fellowship Hour
(Community Room)
10:30am
Bless My Ride
Contemporary Worship Service
(Outdoors and Online)

Men's Bible Study

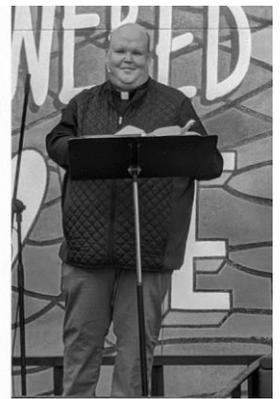
Saturday mornings at 8am
Meeting on Zoom

Find the link at elkriverlutheran.org/adult-ministries.html



Binge the Bible Breakdown

Thursdays
@ 11AM



Get more from the "Binge the Bible" series than cannot be covered on a Sunday morning.



Monday, August 9 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Beer & Hymns @ ERLC lower parking lot
Taylor Quinn

Wednesday, August 11 - 9:30am - 11am
Coffee @ Elk River Lutheran
Pastor Nathan

Wednesday, August 11 - 6:30pm-8:30pm
Playdate/Social @ Amore Ice Cream Shoppe
Intern Pastor Jeremy

CHOIR BBQ

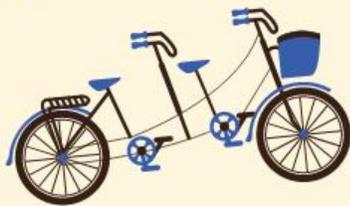
AUG 2ND, 2021 • 4PM TO 10PM

TAYLOR'S HOUSE
EMAIL TAYLOR FOR ADDRESS



Bless My Ride Sunday

.....
SUNDAY AUGUST 8 @ 10:30 AM



Bring your ride to outdoor worship
to receive a special blessing
and a "Blessed Ride ERLC" sticker.





FAMILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, August 1 - Wednesday, August 4
5:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Register and Volunteer at elkriverlutheran.org

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME & TALENT FORMS

We would love to connect your gifts with our current needs!

Please take a moment to fill out the back of your registration slip and let us know how you would like to help.



STAFF

If you have specific questions or needs, please feel free to contact any of the church staff:

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pastornathan@elkriverlutheran.org

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Brian Harding

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Find out more at www.elkriverlutheran.org/give

Elk River Lutheran Church

729 Main Street – Elk River, MN 55330

(763) 595-1216

www.elkriverlutheran.org

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am – 4 pm; Fri Closed