

September 22, 2019 • 10:30am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**THIS
IS
US**

September
8—Serving
15—Welcoming
22—Accepting
29—Joyful
October
6—Grace Filled



 **Elk River** ELCA
LUTHERAN
Trusting in God's grace, an accepting,
joyful community, serving God & neighbor.



WELCOME TO ELK RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are a forward-thinking congregation, striving to create community that brings joy and hope. Worshipping together since December 2009, we believe that all people are welcome in the Lord's house, to hear the Word, share the Sacraments, and become strengthened for the life of faith.

*We encourage everyone to take a moment to sign the worship registration slip and place it in the offering plate. We hope and pray you have a wonderful worship experience here today and invite you to join us again. If this is your **first time visiting** us, please let an usher know as we have **a special gift for you!***

Please feel free to take home your worship bulletin for people and families to keep in your prayers.

PARENTS

We welcome kids with their wiggles and noises in worship. If your children are feeling a little squiggly in worship, you are welcome to accompany them to the playground in the middle of the sanctuary by the north wall where soft toys are available for their use. We are also aware that as a parent, time away from wiggles and noises can be a blessing too. You will find our staffed nursery (For children 5 and under) in the far corner of the fellowship hall.

Whether you have been coming for years or this is your first time, our LiFT! Family Sunday School is open to all families. Focus is for kids preschool to 6th grade. Grandparents with their grandkids are also encouraged to join us at LiFT! It meets between services downstairs in the community room.

Serving Us Today

Greeters:	Debby and Greg Pouliot
Ushers:	Heidi Halverson and Erik Becker, Matt Rotz
Musicians:	Musicians: Annelise Blomquist-Smith, Hannah Boese, Alana, Aria, & Isaiah Budish, Katie Carlson, Donna Heaston, Katherine Horner, Kara Hennig, & Alex Howland
A/V:	David McFarlane
Communion Steward:	Judy Lipka
Communion Servers:	Laura Wolcenski, Kate Loveland, Janelle Dalzell
Basket Holders:	Stanley/Teddy Mugaas, Amelia Schwarze
Communion Clean-Up:	Toby Moe and Marilyn Miller
Mid-Week Communion Set-Up:	Shirley Schmidt
Hospitality Coordinator:	Sandy Krumwiede

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GATHERING SONG

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

VERSE

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life,
I'm so glad You came to save us.

CHORUS

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

VERSE

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life,
I'm so glad You came to save us.

CHORUS

**You came from heaven to earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.**

CHORUS

**You came from heaven to earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.**

**Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Holy God you have called this church to be serving, welcoming, accepting, joyful, and grace filled. Strengthen us in our accepting, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 25:31-45

³¹ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are

accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Prayground Dedication

L: Living out our baptismal promises to support and pray for our children and families, we gather together as a people of God to dedicate this prayground space as a place for our youngest children to participate with us in worship.

C: Help us to be welcoming.

Children: Amen!

L: We know that children engage the world with their full bodies, full voices, and full hearts. May this prayground be a place where young people can worship alongside this congregation.

C: Help us to be accepting.

Children: Amen!

L: Raising children is no easy task. May we, as a congregation and community, find opportunities to support families as they grow in faith and continue to lift them up in prayer.

C: Help us to serve one another.

Children: Amen!

L: May the wiggles and squiggles that accompany this prayground space remind us of what it means to find joy in this journey of faith together.

C: Help us to be a joyful community.

Children: Amen!

L: May this prayground remind us that we all bring different gifts to the ministries of Elk River Lutheran Church. Help us to be mindful of the way we encounter things that make us uncomfortable.

C: Help us to be grace filled people.

Children: Amen!

L: We officially dedicate this prayground to the glory of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children: Amen!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

~Matthew 19:14

Thank you to the Prayground Team of Ellie Hallquist, Patty Herbert, Kate Loveland and Anne Mugaas as well as everyone that donated money and goods to make this Prayground a reality!

SERMON

Jeremy Hallquist

SONG OF THE DAY

"I Belong"

CHORUS

Hallelujah, I belong here
In Your presence, safe and
secure.

I see hope coming on the
horizon.

There's no need for hiding,
'cause I belong.

VERSE 1

Here I am
In the presence of the great I
Am,
Near to Your heart, oh God.
I have found my joy.
I've searched so long,
In darkness I walked so far,
Fighting, but I'm holding on
When Your love draws near.

CHORUS

VERSE 2

I often fail,
But daily Your love prevails.
Christ, my peace within.
I will trust in You.
In Your presence, Lord,
Joys will overflow.

You are God and friend.
I am whole again.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

I belong here, I belong here,
I belong here in Your
presence.

I belong here, I belong here
I belong here in Your
presence.

We belong here, We belong
here,

We belong here in Your
presence.

We belong here, We belong
here,

We belong here in Your
presence.

CHORUS

I see hope coming on the
horizon

There's no need for hiding
'cause I belong

SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

BACKPACK AND BRIEFCASE BLESSING

As you begin this new school year we pray for God's blessing for you at school, work and at home:

“13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:15

For teachers, all school staff and adults, that through the challenges and frustrations, they may abide in love and find joy in the work. As Jesus said,

“¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:10-11)

Let us pray,

Lord bless these backpacks and briefcases, these children of God both young and old and the crosses they carry. May this year be filled with learning, friendship, and joy. Guide them in making good decisions and sharing your love, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – BIDDING PRAYER

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

OFFERING

“The Table“

*by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Wayne Jolley
featuring the ERLC Youth Choir*

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE 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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

COMMUNION SONG *“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”*

VERSE 1

Amazing grace, how sweet
the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm
found,
Was blind but now I see.

VERSE 2

'Twas grace that taught my
heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace
appear
The hour I first believed.

CHORUS

My chains are gone.
I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has
ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy
rains,

Unending love, amazing
grace.

VERSE 3

The Lord has promised good
to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion
be,
As long as life endures.

CHORUS (2X)

VERSE 4

The earth shall soon dissolve
like snow,
The sun forebear to shine.
But God, who called me here
below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING OF CONGREGATION

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 **“The Church Song (We Are the Church)”**

REFRAIN

We are the church,
the body of our Lord;
we are all God's children.
We have been restored.

VERSE 1

The church is not a building
where people go to pray;
it's not made out of sticks and
stones,
it's not made out of clay.

REFRAIN

VERSE 2

You can go to worship
but you cannot go to church;
you can't find a building that's
alive

no matter how you search.

REFRAIN

VERSE 3

The church is not a business,
a committee or a board;
it's not a corporation for
the business of the Lord.

REFRAIN

VERSE 4

The church, it is the people
living out their lives,
called, enlightened, sanctified
for the work of Jesus Christ.

REFRAIN

SENDING DIALOG

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

We will! Thanks be to God.

Accepting - Sermon Chat

Notes:

Welcome creates _____ for someone to exist. Acceptance sees the other person as _____ or in church terms as though they were _____.

Every person is _____ for me, and since there is only one Jesus, that person is the one person in the world at that moment. I see _____ in every person I touch, it is as simple as that.” – Mother Teresa

Questions:



These questions are meant to be answered by LIFE Group members and brought to their weekly meeting. These questions will help guide the conversation for the night.

Even if you're not in a LIFE Group you can reflect on these questions or find someone discuss them with.

1. Think of a time where you felt that you could be truly yourself. What did it feel like to be completely authentic with others?
2. John 4:1-26 carries with it a great story of acceptance. The woman goes to the well at the hottest point of the day. Why? The world has judged her as unworthy. Jesus meeting her there is something radically different. What picture of acceptance do you get from the story?
3. Have you ever struggled with an individual who has a difficult personality? How about someone you politically disagree with? What would it be like to find Jesus within that person? Could you do it? What would be the challenges, or what would be the cost of learning to accept them for who they are?
4. In what ways is our church good at accepting people for their authentic self and what could we do to be more accepting of others?

Prayer Requests

Praise the Lord (joys and answered prayers):

- God of grace, we pray for students of all ages and disciplines, teachers and professors, teaching assistants and aids, substitute teachers, and administrators. Provide safety in travel and in the classroom, so that a spirit of learning is fostered for all.
- For the new ministry of our prayground in worship!

In Sorrow:

- Family of Rev. Robert Raabe, memorial service 9/21
- Judy Felice and Family, in loss of husband Hank, dear friend of John & Conni Natwick

For Support:

- All Military Personnel and their families
- Steve and Sandy Thompson of Steve's Car Repair Shop (Steve is at HCMC with 3rd degree burns)
- Kris West, daughter of Bob & Sue Hagen

Health concerns:

- Eric, Son-in-law of Linda and Al Kopp (thyroid surgery/cancer)
- Norman Esch, neighbor of Pauline Kuhn
- Michelle Spaniol, starting a new treatment for ovarian cancer
- Marti Kingsley
- Eli, grandson of John and Conni Natwick (surgery for hand injury)
- Pat Baysinger
- Chad Harding, son of Brian and Diane Harding
- Ida Sass, Ron Sass's Mom (103 years old, pray for comfort & peace)
- Bill Mattson, hip replacement surgery 8/26/19
- Carol Sindelir
- Jim Jones and family, father-in-law of Taylor Quinn
- Duane Jerde
- Steve Lindberg, cancer treatment
- LeRoy Wegscheid
- Gary Ristau, battling cancer
- Hazel Norris
- Erich VanRyn
- Gene Conley
- John Ernst

Prayer Concerns: can be shared by writing it on your registration slip, contacting the church office at **(763) 595-1216** or by visiting the church website at www.elkriverlutheran.org/prayer-concerns
Generally, names will run for 3 weeks. If more time is needed, please call the church office

New Members

Would you like to make Elk River Lutheran Church your faith community? Join us as we connect with other new members and current members to learn about the vision, history and ministries of Elk River Lutheran Church. Find your place within this faith community. The following events are scheduled this fall for our new member orientation. To sign up, let us know on the registration sheet during worship or send an email to elkriverlutheran.info@gmail.com

Sunday Oct 6, 9:20am

Sunday Dec 8, 9:20am

Wednesday Dec 11, 6pm

Sunday Dec 15

Coffee with the Pastor

New Member Orientation

Christmas Dinner Church with New Members

New Member Sunday with Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK

NEXT SUNDAY

CYF Day & "Backpack & Briefcase Blessing"

8:15am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – Fellowship Hour

9:20am – LiFT! Jesus Performs First Miracles

9:30am – Worship Band Rehearsal

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

2pm – Pokemon League

MONDAY

6:30pm – Riverside Ringers Handbell Rehearsal

TUESDAY

9am - Quilting

10:30am – Prayer Team

7pm - Gather

WEDNESDAY

6:30pm – Choir

6:30pm – Confirmation

6:30pm – High School Youth Group

THURSDAY

10:30am – Genealogy Group

6:30pm – Worship Band Rehearsal

7pm – The Way Out (AA Group)

SATURDAY

8am – Men's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY

Music Day

8:15am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – Fellowship Hour

9:20am – LiFT! Jesus Heals People

9:30am – Worship Band Rehearsal

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

1:30pm – Guardian Angels Hymn Sing

2pm – Pokemon League

Backpack and Briefcase Blessing

Today bring your backpacks and briefcases to worship. There will be a special blessing for children and adults. A special gift will also be received!

3rd Grade Bibles

Saturday Oct 5: 10:30 – 12 Noon

- Special bible time with 3rd grade students and their parents

Sunday Oct 6: Both Services

- During both services, parents and their 3rd grade child will be invited up front for a special bible presentation.

Email linda@elkriverlutheran.org or call the church office (763-595-1216) to reserve a bible for your child!

Guardian Angels Hymn Sing

Join us for a Hymn Sing at Guardian Angels Care Center

Sunday September 29th

At 1:30PM

Contact Taylor Quinn to RSVP



We are currently working on gathering a team of partners who **love the Halloween season**. Last year, Elk River Lutheran hosted a city-wide *Trunk or Treat* event that included indoor trunks and a haunted house in the basement.

If you are interested in designing a haunted house or working on the details, please connect with Jeremy. We would love a lot of help with this huge event.

DRINK SLOWLY • SING JOYFULLY • MAKE FRIENDS

Beer & Hymns

Oct 1st, 2019

HOSTED BY



Trust in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, singing God & neighbor.

Pour Wine Bar & Bistro

Donations will be collected for Great River Faith in Action <https://www.grfia.org>



STAFF

Pastor: Nathan Mugaas
763-242-8347
pastornathan@elkriverlutheran.org

Minister of Congregational Care & Discipleship

Jeremy Hallquist
Seminarian in Residence
612-201-6382
jeremy@elkriverlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Taylor Quinn
816-519-2719
taylor@elkriverlutheran.org

Music Leader: Bea Bastyr
BeaBastyr@gmail.com

Children, Youth & Family:

Jeremy Hallquist, Interim
763-595-1216

Office Manager: Linda Nielsen
763-595-1216 linda@elkriverlutheran.org

Bookkeeper: Lori Sundman
763-595-1216
ERLCBookkeeper@gmail.com

Custodian: Brian Harding

Nursery Attendants:

Gabby Klinkenborg, Gabe Livingston,
David McFarlane and Charlotte Oudekerk

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President: John Natwick
Vice President: Mark Schwarze
Secretary: Kari Christianson
Treasurer: Jennifer Stanley

John Auel
Sarah Chur
Jodie Dahlheimer
Ryan Herbert
Brian McFarlane
Michele Smith



Please Recycle Me!

LAST WEEK UPDATE

Worship Attendance:

8:15am Traditional 118
10:30am Contemporary 108

Monthly Financial Report 2019, January – August

	August Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
<i>Income (General Offering)</i>	\$38,547.57	\$301,135.28	\$303,814.60
<i>Expenses</i>	\$38,409.55	\$327,880.82	\$318,925.36
<i>Profit/Loss</i>	\$137.92	-\$ 26,745.54	-\$ 15,110.76

Online giving: bit.ly/erlcgive

Elk River Lutheran Church

729 Main Street – Elk River, MN 55330

(763) 595-1216

www.elkriverlutheran.org

Office Hours

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