May 17, 2026

Alone Together

9:30am Outdoor Worship Service

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.*

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.

Please fill out the enclosed Connection Form slip and drop it in an offering plate to receive more information about Elk River Lutheran or share prayer concerns.

Things to know
for the service:

- **Bathrooms**, complete with changing tables for little ones, are located in the Fellowship Hall in the corner opposite of the main entrance.
- We welcome **kids** with their wiggles and noises in worship. 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) by the entrance in the far corner of the fellowship hall.
- **Assisted Listening Devices** are available. Please contact the Media Booth

We hope and pray you have a wonderful worship experience here today. To learn more about the many opportunities to participate and volunteer with the ministries of ERLC, visit our website: https://www.elkriverlutheran.org

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

Worship Volunteers

Roles	May 17 Outdoor 9:30am Service	May 24 8:30am	May 24 10:30am
Greeter		Christianson, Milo Christianson, Kari	Horner, Kelli Horner, Adam
Usher	Nelson, Dan Erickson, Kristina Domeier, Jane Campbell, John	Olson, Cedric Erickson, Kristina	Mitzuk, Carolyn
Scripture Reader	Guimont, Laura	Gottschalk, Annika	Katzner, Nevaeh
Communion Servers		Haugen, Julie Marie Campbell, John	Pouliot, Greg Pouliot, Debby
Communion Steward		Campbell, Debbie	Chur, Sarah
Mid-Week Communion Filler		Hels, Joyce	
Powerpoint Operator	Ziner, Dale	Ziner, Dale	Sandvig, Nathaniel
Soundboard Operator	Jenkins, Kevin	Johnson, Bennett	Schrock, Jeff
Switcher Operator	Clements, Tom	Clements, Tom	Clements, Tom
Worship Volunteer Coordinator	Hansen, Chris	Simpson, Vicki Pruchnik, Jenny	Hansen, Chris

If you would like to serve, Great! Please contact the Worship Volunteer Coordinating Team so we can get you filled in. If you cannot volunteer for the upcoming Sunday, also contact the Team at erlcvolunteers@gmail.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG ***"The House that Love Is Building"***

VERSE 1

In the house that Love is building There is room enough for all,
Endless welcome in her rafters, Mercy singing through her walls.

Here is refuge for all people From every tribe and tongue.
In the house that Love is building There is room for everyone.

VERSE 2
In the garden Love is tending there's a great and boundless feast,
Where the seeds of hope are planted, And the yield is heaven's peace.

As the field becomes a harvest For the many hungry ones,
In the garden Love is tending There's enough for everyone.

VERSE 3
Oh, the song that Love is raising Is of pure, unending light
In the voices of her people, Rising to eternal skies.

Now the darkness shall be swallowed by the Living Word of God.
Oh, the song that Love is raising Is a song for everyone.

In the house that Love is building There is room for everyone.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us to life, who gathers us into community, who fills us with grace.
Amen.

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

Gracious God, we confess that we fall short in thought, word, and deed. We turn from you and from one another, and we lose sight of what truly matters. We fail to love as you call us to love and to live as your people. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways, so that we may live with faith, serve with love, and walk in your peace.
Amen.

Hear the good news: God meets us not in perfection, but in grace. In ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are known, you are loved, and you are made new. Receive this gift, and walk in the freedom of God's mercy.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE ***"Come People of the Risen King"***

VERSE 1
Come people of the risen King, Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth, We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach, To gather children in.

CHORUS
Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice! One heart, one voice;
O Church of Christ, rejoice!

CHORUS
Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice! One heart, one voice;
O Church of Christ, rejoice!

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Prayer of the day:
God of community,
you gather us as your people and call us into life together. Break down the walls that divide us and draw us into deeper connection. Make us a community of grace, where all belong and are loved. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: ***Acts 2:42-47***

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of
bread and the prayers.
43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done
through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as
any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they
broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God
and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their
number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SERMON ***Pastor Anne Schaefer***

SONG OF THE DAY **ELW #656 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

VERSE 1

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.

VERSE 3

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

VERSE 4

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

SHARING & RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

APOSTLES CREED

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.

BIDDING PRAYERS

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
you gather us, sustain us, and call us into life together. Receive these gifts and our whole selves. Use them to bring healing, connection, and hope to a world in need. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

NEIGHBOR LITANY

The Apostle Paul writes: “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.” (1 Cor 10:24)
May we seek the good of our neighbors.

The old maple trees along the boulevard
have burley roots that rise up,
causing my sidewalk to buckle.
But I can’t stay mad
about the concrete cracks for long,
their leaves like a rough apology each autumn.
So fierce and sincere.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)
May we love our neighbors as ourselves!

I can tell you the names of dogs
who promenade like clockwork,

dragging their humans toward squirrels
or looking smug while poop is collected
from the lawn.

The Psalmist encourages us to worship with creation saying, “Praise God, hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests; all animals, tame and wild, reptiles and birds.” (Psalm 148:9-10)
May we honor creation and worship alongside the whole world!

Sometimes the widow next door plays hopscotch.
Kids giggle and hold her cane,
then help carry her groceries to the door.
We are losing our battle to her crabgrass,
but I’d rather lose together
than win without her.

The Apostle Paul writes, “I thank my God every time I remember you.” (Phil 1:3)
Thank you for our church, our neighbors, and our neighborhood! Amen!

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.

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF CONGREGATION
May the God who delights in your goodness bless you, keep you, and hold you in the depths of love and mercy. In the name of the Triune God +
Amen.

SENDING SONG ***ELW #674 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"***

VERSE 1

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

REFRAIN

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

VERSE 2

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

REFRAIN

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

VERSE 3

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

REFRAIN

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

SENDING DIALOG

"Go in peace. Share the good news."
"We will, thanks be to God!"

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News & Opportunities

Luther Crest Summer Camp Grades 3-8

Registration is now open for Luther Crest Bible Camp!
Students finishing grades 3–5 (Leapers) and 6–8 (Witnesses) can attend either June 28–July 1 or July 19–24. Thanks to our Endowment Team, **half the cost of camp is covered for ERLC youth**.
Registration: https://luthercrest.org/summer-camps

Summer Festival Camp High School Youth

July 12–15 • Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter
High school youth are invited to experience Summer Festival Camp—a powerful few days of worship, music, speakers, and faith-building community with youth from across the region.

Vacation Bible School – Save the Date!

August 3–6 • 9:00am–12:00pm
Embark on an exciting journey with Road Trip VBS, inspired by Joshua 1:9: "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Kids will explore new places, build friendships, and discover God's presence through engaging Bible stories, games, and hands-on activities. Led by the Navigator and Scout the pup, this fun-filled adventure helps children grow in faith while making lasting memories. Join us for excitement, connection, and discovering God's goodness together!

ERLC's Social Justice Action Team (SJAT) meets monthly

to discuss happenings in our greater Elk River community to find ways for ERLC to love God and love all our neighbors by advocating for the least of these. We focus on educating ourselves as well as the ERLC community, and helping to provide opportunities for involvement and support of local organizations. For more information or if you want to be a part of SJAT, contact Kevin Jenkins FRMagnum@gmail.com.

Hey KIDS! If you are 3 years old through 5th grade, we have a new fun BINGO game with prizes just for you! Grab a bingo card off the cool poster in the Fellowship Hall. Follow the directions on the back to win a bingo! You'll win a sucker every time you play, and you'll be entered to win an even bigger prize in a few weeks! This new program is thanks to the Age to Age initiative that we are part of! See Pastor Anne with questions!

Prayer Requests

***Praise the Lord** (joys and answered prayers):*

- Cailean Popper

In Sympathy

- The family of Lyle Niemeyer as they grieve his passing
- Death of Betty Youngner, sister of Vicki Simpson

For Support

Health Concerns

- Carol Sindelir, Val Nelson's Sister
- Lori Hines has a knee replacement. Friends of Tom and Joyce Hels.
- Phylis W. friend in Iowa has heart condition and been in hospital for 1 week
- Carol Anderson hospitalized, Mark Johnson's sister
- Joe Clemenson heart problems, Bev Weidner's cousin
- Carol Sindelir, sister of Val Nelson
- Katie W., daughter of Tom & Joyce Hels
- Lori Hines recovery from knee replacement, friends of Tom & Joyce Hels
- Rick Hines waiting for transplant, friends of Tom & Joyce Hels
- Alex Hensen cancer treatment
- Brian Harding
- Carol Sindelir, Val Nelson's sister
- Cheryl advanced cancer, sister-in-law of Ron & Sue Sass
- End stage Alzheimers, friend of Deb & Greg Pouliot
- Fonda Whalen dementia
- Hartley Dahl
- Kay Foss esophageal and stomach cancer, Karen Froelich's cousin
- Ken Bucher
- Kris West, daughter of Bob and Sue Hagen
- Les Johnson, friend of Don & Val Nelson
- Linda Nielsen, recovering from total ankle replacement
- Loretta Mae Roden in hospice care, Mike Roden's mom
- Marianne Jackson home recovering from her stroke which happened April 10th.
- Pat Miller, sister of Mary Hansen
- Sue Anderson fighting metastatic breast cancer, friend of Debby Pouliot