



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Sunday Worship!
May 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM*

The People of Covenant are called to:

Gather, Grow, and Go Serve

...with God's Love!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for Worship today!

WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, May 3, 2026 – 9:30 AM

Congregation participation is given in bold.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

NFC = Now the Feast and Celebration Booklet (Back of Hymnal)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Land Acknowledgment

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole, as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

Welcome

Call to Worship

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge.

Let me never be put to shame. Deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me. Come quickly to my rescue.

Be a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress,

lead and guide me, for the sake of your name.

Let your face shine upon your servant.

Save me in your unfailing love!

Gathering Hymn *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

ELW 645

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

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

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the seventh chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, beginning with the fifty-fifth verse.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

A responsive reading of Psalm thirty-one, beginning with the first verse.

¹ In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

**² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.**

³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

**⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

**¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Gospel Acclamation

NFC p. 8

Gospel

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip,

and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

Order of Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these members of the body of Christ who, today, are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Presentation for Affirmation of Baptism

Kathy Andrusz: I present Addeline Anderson, Brayden Edwards, Samuel Pietruszynski, Emma Rupp, Gavin Schumacher, and Ronnie Stensrud who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**



Faith Statements and Presentation of Bible Verses

Addeline Anderson

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Brayden Edwards

Deuteronomy 30:19

¹⁹ God sets choices before us and says "choose life."

Samuel Pietruszynski

Luke 1:37, 1 Peter 5:7

³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Emma Rupp

Psalm 46:1

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Gavin Schumacher

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Ronnie Stensrud

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ We live by faith, not by sight.

Profession of Faith – *Confirmands are invited to the altar*

Confirmands, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation of Baptism

You all have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Blessing of Our Confirmands

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Each confirmand is invited to kneel at the rail for laying on of hands by the Pastor, family, and sponsors.

Stir up in [Addeline | Brayden | Samuel | Emma | Gavin | Ronnie] the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Welcome!

Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ!

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world!

A welcoming applause may be offered by the congregation.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Especially... Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the

faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

Announcements

Grace Notes

I Will Sing You the Stars

by Mark Burrows

Recorded by Angie Kettner, Meghann Proper, and Donna Tarpinian

Offering and Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Communion Hymns

<i>Lamb of God</i>	NFC p. 14
<i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today!</i>	ELW 373
<i>The Strife is O'er the Battle Won</i>	ELW 366
<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	ELW 471

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

ELW 361

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!
(*Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.*)



Announcements:

- ✝ **Blessing and congratulations to Addeline, Brayden, Samuel, Emma, Gavin, and Ronnie for the affirmation of their faith! Thanks be to God!**
- ✝ **Last Day of Sunday School** for the academic year is today—see you this summer!
- ✝ **Worship & Music** will meet this Tue, May 5, at 6:30 PM in Gateway
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch** will meet Wed, May 6, 11:30 AM at Deaks RSVP: Marijo (608) 873-0622
- ✝ **Bible Study** is on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in Gateway
- ✝ **Food Ministry** at St. Mark's in Madison will be serving on Fri, May 8 at 10:30 AM
- ✝ **Book Club** will meet Thu, May 14, 1 PM in Gateway RSVP: karenrhanson@gmail.com
- ✝ **Scholarship & High School Senior Recognition** is Sun, May 31 during worship
- ✝ **Vacation Bible School** is Jun 22-25 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM sign-up soon!

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen* **Acolyte:** *Ariana*

Assistant Ministers: *Judy & Matthew Heil* **Lector:** *Kristin Forde*

Greeters: *Dan & Deb Oakland*

Communion Assistants: *Judy & Matthew Heil, Kathy Andrusz, and Gary Tarpinian*

Organist/Pianist: *Mark Everson*

Ushers: *Karl Nissler, Thor Anderson, Sue Richards, and Doug Juve*

Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

Altar Guild: *Mimi Hinshaw*

Communion Prep: *Jean & Norm Sime*

Fellowship Hosts: *Tamarine Westrand*

Altar Flowers: *Jerry & Karen Lapidakis*

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