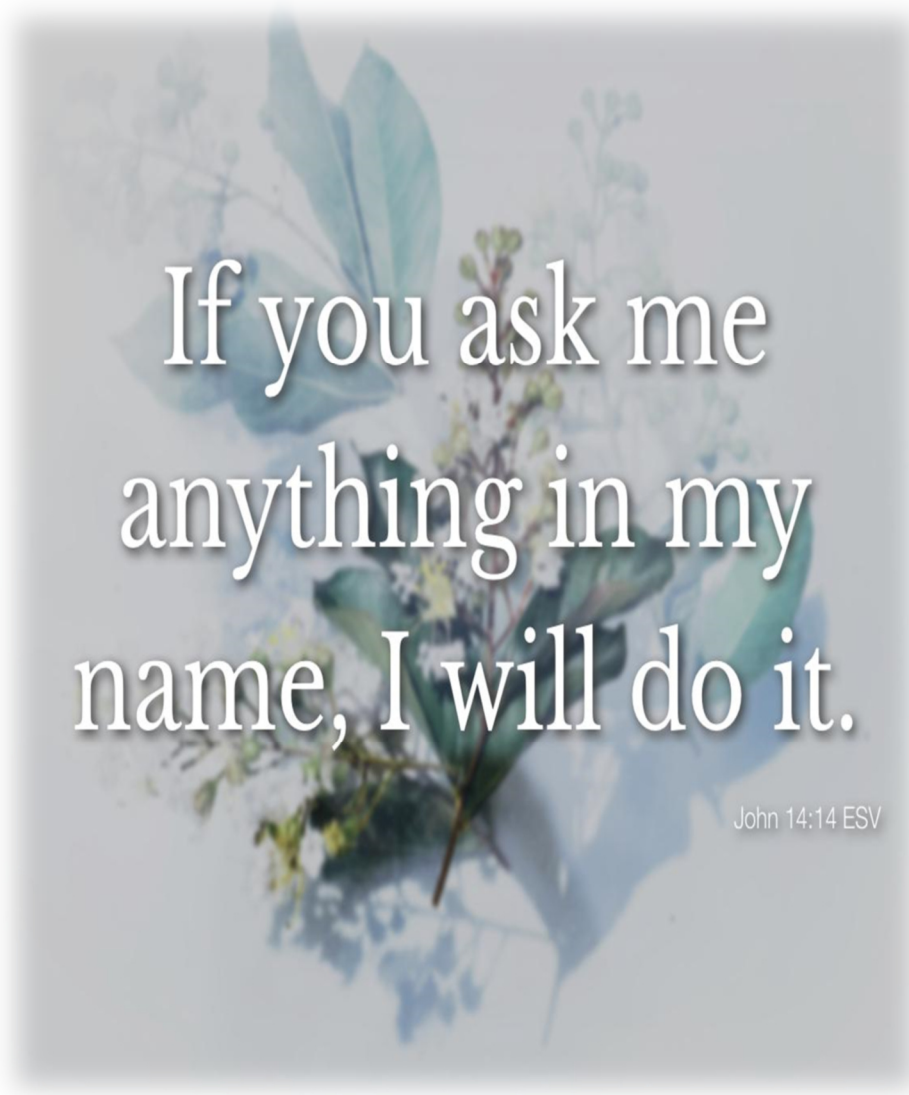


Union Creek Lutheran Church

May 3, 2026

Pastor April Peterson



If you ask me
anything in my
name, I will do it.

John 14:14 ESV

Union Creek Lutheran Church

Pastor April Peterson

May, 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, and our life.

* Indicates congregation stands as you are able

Italics = Pastor

Bold = Congregation

Prelude

Announcements

Birthday Wishes

Lainey Kjose-1 (missed last week); Elena Saloum-3;
Mike Pedersen-3; Jayce Ruhland-4; Nick McKee-5; Calvin Saloum-10

(Sung to the tune of Happy Birthday)

**God bless you today, God bless you always,
God bless you and keep you, another year through.**

Lighting of the Candles

Ringling of the Bell

** Thanksgiving for Baptism*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Our Prayer Concerns

Family of Ione Lucht, Joann Hedeby, Elaine Swift, Ron Siemers, Becky Kjose, PeeWee Kincaid, Duane Forslund, Marilyn Heeren, Dylan Haverhals, Penny & Richard Britt, Doug Eckmann, and Netti Dunham

Meat Sticks Sale

The youth are selling their remaining meat sticks for \$1.25 each.

Offering & Attendance

Sunday, April 26

Attendance: 50 / Offering: \$1,685

We are always grateful for your continued offerings and support!

Union Creek Communications

Union Creek Lutheran Church

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Council Vice-President, Tom Podzimek (605.933.0848)

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<p>05.03.26 Greeters: Carol Usher/Bell: Dene Lector: Carol Communion: Patti Fellowship: Dene/Jean</p>	<p>05.10.26 Greeters: Gary/Karen Usher/Bell: Gary/Karen Lector: Karen Fellowship: Gary/Karen</p>
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Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 3

Pastor April Peterson / Mike Pedersen, Organist

9:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Congregational Vote on calling Pastor Kent Krumwiede

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday, May 6

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition

Pastor April Peterson / Naomi Graves, Organist

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Notice of Congregational Vote

The Union Creek Lutheran Church Congregation will vote to extend a call to Pastor Kent Krumwiede on Sunday, May 3, 2026 immediately following worship. Only full members present that day may vote.

The sole purpose of the meeting will be this vote and no other business.

*Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.*

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

You are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the water that nourishes us.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

*Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.*

*We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.*

Amen.

* *Opening Hymn #384* “That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

* *Pastoral 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.

A Time for the Young Church with Pastor April

First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

(Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.)

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ *In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.*

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ *Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name,
lead and guide me.*

Offertory 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 we pray. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

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

Holy Communion

**Post Communion Prayer*

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.

** Benediction*

*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.*

** Closing Hymn #389 "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"*

** Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

** Postlude*

*Please remain in the sanctuary following the service for the vote.
Join us for fellowship following the vote.*

*God of mercy, we ask that your Holy Spirit guide our congregation as we make decisions today on a new pastor. Lead us to act in love and unity, trusting that you know our needs. We commit this process into your hands. 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. We pray especially for the Family of Ione Lucht, Joann Hedeby, Elaine Swift, Ron Siemers, Becky Kjose, PeeWee Kincaid, Duane Forslund, Marilyn Heeren, Dylan Haverhals, Penny & Richard Britt, Doug Eckmann, and Nettie Dunham. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.***

*God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. 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 life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.***

Presentation of our Offerings

** Offertory Response*

“Because He Lives”

**God sent his Son, they called him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because he lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.**

**⁴ Take me out of the net
that they have secretly set for me,
for you are now my tower of strength.**

*⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, God of truth.*

**¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

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

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

(Christ is the cornerstone of God’s saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God’s chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.)

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

* *Gospel Acclamation #377*

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

**Weeping be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

* *Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14*

(On the night he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.)

Spoken response after the announcement:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ "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.

Spoken response after the conclusion:

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Message

Hymn of the Day #810

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

* *The Nicene Creed*

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Prayers of the People

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

God of glory, you have built your Church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys, pastures and fields. We ask you to protect our farmers. Guard them against fatigue, injuries, and the heavy burdens of their work. Give them strength for long days and peace for their weary hearts. Merciful God, receive our prayer.