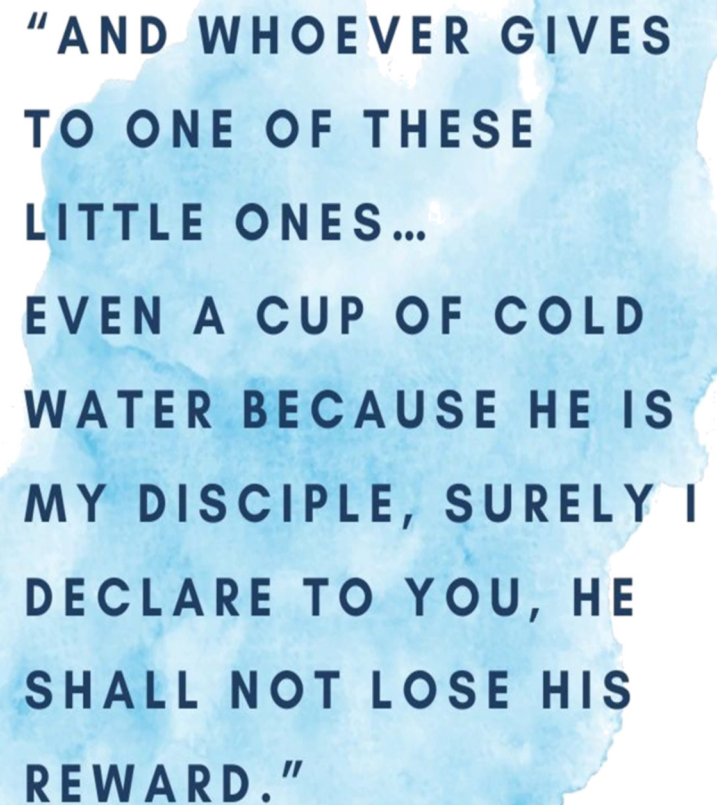


Union Creek Lutheran Church

June 28, 2026

Pastor April Peterson



**"AND WHOEVER GIVES  
TO ONE OF THESE  
LITTLE ONES...  
EVEN A CUP OF COLD  
WATER BECAUSE HE IS  
MY DISCIPLE, SURELY I  
DECLARE TO YOU, HE  
SHALL NOT LOSE HIS  
REWARD."**

**MATTHEW 10:42**

# *Union Creek Lutheran Church*

Pastor April Peterson

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

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\* Indicates congregation stands as you are able

*Italics = Pastor*

**Bold = Congregation**

## *Prelude*

## *Announcements*

## *Birthday Wishes*

Taylor Heeren-29; Kristal McKee-2

*(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*

## Offering & Attendance

Sunday, June 21

Attendance: 46 / Offering: \$907

*We are always grateful for your continued offerings and support!*

## Union Creek Communications

Union Creek Lutheran Church

PO Box 246 — 31030 481st Ave., Akron, IA 51001-0246

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**06.28.26**

**Greeters:** Garry/Cheryl

**Usher/Bell:** Garry

**Lector:** Cheryl

**Communion:** Volunteer

**Fellowship:** The Ericson Families

**07.05.26**

**Greeters:** Carol

**Usher/Bell:** Kyle

**Lector:** Carol

**Communion:** None

**Fellowship:** Kyle/Jessica

**Calendar of Events**

**Sunday, June 28**

9:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Pastor April

10:00 a.m. Fellowship hosted by the families of

Roger & Roseann Ericson and Arlo & Iola Ericson

11:30 a.m. Committal Service

**Sunday, July 5**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship

**Our Prayer Concerns**

The Families of Roger & Roseann and Arlo & Iola Ericson,  
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 Netti Dunham

**Meat Sticks Sale**

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

*\* Confession & Forgiveness*

*Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.*

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin to God.*

*Compassionate God,*

**We confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy,**

**and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray.**

**Amen.**

*Jesus says, "Come to me,*

*all you who are weary*

*and are carrying heavy burdens,*

*and I will give you rest."*

*In the name of God,*

*the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*our sins are forgiven.*

*Rest in God's love.*

**Amen.**

*\* Opening Hymn #641*

*"All Are Welcome"*

*\* 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,*

**You direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*A Time for the Young Church with Pastor April*

*Noisy Offering for Missions: ELCA Good Gifts*

*(Mosquito Nets for a Family: In many places around the world, just one bite from an infected mosquito can transmit malaria and lead to serious illness or death. A mosquito net can protect those most at risk—especially small children and older adults—from this life-threatening disease.)*

*First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9*

*(Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon [Jer. 27]. Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death [v. 16-17]).*

<sup>5</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup> But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup> The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

*Responsive Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18*

<sup>1</sup> *Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth  
will proclaim your faithfulness.*

*Special Music by Carole Heider & Phillip Claeys*

*(Carole and Phillip are cousins of Roger and Arlo. As a young man, Roger Ericson sang at many weddings and funerals at Union Creek. "The Lord's Prayer" was one of his favorite hymns and he requested this hymn be sung at his own service.)*

*Invitation to Communion*

*Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!*

*Holy Communion*

*Post Communion Prayer*

*Compassionate God,*

**Through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

\* *Benediction*

*Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you, today and always. Amen.*

\* *Closing Hymn #715*

*"Christ, Be Our Light"*

\* *Dismissal*

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

\* *Postlude*

*Please join us for a time of light refreshments and fellowship hosted by Douglas Ericson, Jane Edmunds, Connie Whan, Rick Ericson, and Susan Michal. At 11:30, the family will move to the church cemetery for a brief graveside memorial service. Please feel free to join us as we say our final goodbyes.*

*Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We pray especially for the Families of Roger, Roseann, Arlo, and Iola Ericson, 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*Living God, inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones such as our Noisy Offering Mission, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors through our upcoming VBS week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.***

### *Presentation of our Offerings*

*Offertory Response #879      “For the Beauty of the Earth” verse 5*

**For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav’n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv’n:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

### *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*

**2 For I am persuaded  
that your steadfast love  
is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness  
firmly in the heavens.**

*3 “I have made a covenant  
with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath  
to David my servant:*

**4 ‘I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne  
for all generations.’”**

*15 Happy are the people  
who know the festal shout!  
They walk, O Lord,  
in the light of your presence.*

**16 They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant  
in your righteousness.**

*17 For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor  
our might is exalted.*

**18 Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

### *Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23*

*(Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin’s final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin’s slavery to live obediently under God’s grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.)*

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. 13 No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those*

who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*\* Gospel Acclamation #864*

*“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven” verse 1*

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;  
joyfully your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
ever more God’s praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!**

*\* Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42*

*(When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.)*

*Spoken response after the announcement:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup> “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup> and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

*Spoken response after the conclusion:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Message*

*Hymn of the Day #719*

*“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” verses 1-4*

*\*The Apostles’ Creed*

*Page 127 ELW*

*Prayers of the People*

*Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.*

*Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***

*Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.***