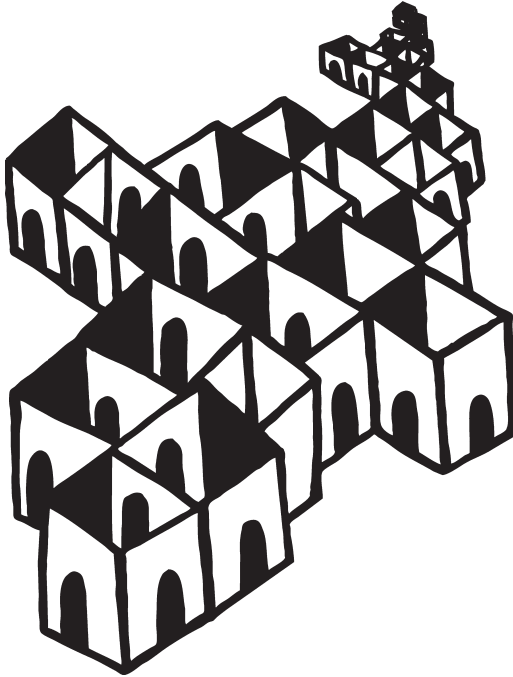




Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“No Place Like Home”



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Christ is Alive!”

J. Wayne Kerr

Announcements

GATHERING

Song

Highest Place

Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 119*)

P: Christ is risen! Our souls once clung to the dust,

C: But God has given us life according to the living Word!

P: We come with all our stories—our sorrow and our hope—

C: And the risen Christ meets us with mercy and new life.

P: Turn us from all that is false and lifeless, O God,

C: And set us on the path of faithfulness and grace.

P: With hearts made new and overflowing, we run in your way,

C: For Christ is risen indeed—Alleluia!

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

10,000 Reasons

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God, who chose us in Christ. Let us come to the fountain of mercy.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Almighty God,

C: In raising Jesus from the tomb, you destroyed the power of sin and death. Hear us as we confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Grant us the radiant power of your grace. Forgive us, heal us, and renew us, so that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

P: In great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In obedience to our Lord's command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God,

C: **In raising Jesus from the tomb, you destroyed the power of sin and death. Hear us as we confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Grant us the radiant power of your grace. Forgive us, heal us, and renew us, so that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

P: In great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In obedience to our Lord's command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

WORD

Lesson Acts 7:55-60

Gospel John 14:1-14

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Erik

Sermon "No Place Like Home" Pastor Erik

Hymn Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW 389

The Nicene Creed

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by

the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

please be seated

The Offer-

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

ing



On each 1st Sunday we collect a special offering for World Hunger through ELCA.

If you would like to donate, you may do so online or baskets are available near the Usher's Table at the back of the Sanctuary

Offertory Response

“We Are An Offering”

ELW 692

Offertory Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church *(the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)*

Members: Amy, Sylvia, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Kathy, Jessie, Adelyn, Kipp, Dale, Melanie,
Charles, Chuck, Mary, Carol, Bob

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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

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

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

SENDING

Benediction

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Song

Heaven is in My Heart

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

"Finale from Concerto No. 5"

G. F. Handel

(Please join us immediately following worship for fellowship and treats provided by Mission Support)

Vacation Bible School

We are having conversations about Vacation Bible School this summer, and your input will help shape what we offer. We're so grateful for the ways your families connect with us throughout the year, and we want to make VBS as accessible and life-giving as possible for everyone. Would you take a moment to share your preferences for this summer? In particular, we're wondering:

Week Preference: June 15-18, June 22-25, July 13-16, July 20-23

Daytime or Evening?

How many days feel manageable: 3 days, 4 days, a weekend format

Would you or another family member be interested in volunteering by:

- 1) Planning/preparing in advance; 2) Help lead; 3) Help with the children
- 4) Provide food; 5) Serve food; 6) Cleanup and setup for next day

Please talk to Pastor Erik or email him at erik.allen@kogcarmel.org

Confirmation

We have seven amazing young disciples who will be Confirmed on Sunday, May 17. Please plan to join us to celebrate their journey. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following worship where they will have displays and be happy to share their experiences that led them to this special day.

Work Day

Thanks to everyone who helped us spruce up the grounds and tackle some inside projects yesterday!

Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, May 3
 - 9:00 am Christian Ed
 - 10:00 am Worship
 - 11:00 am Guitar Class
 - 3:00 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor
 - 5:00 pm Bells
 - 5:00 pm Youth Year End Party
- MONDAY, May 4
 - 10:00 am Craft Group
 - 7:00 pm Aphasia Support
- TUESDAY, May 5
 - 10:00 am Craft Group (all welcome)
 - 12:15 pm Preschool Mother's Day Program
 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- WEDNESDAY, May 6
 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
 - 9:15 am Preschool Mother's Day Program
 - 3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
 - 6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study
 - 7:30 pm Choir Practice
- THURSDAY, MAY 7
 - 6:15 pm Girl Scouts
- FRIDAY, MAY 8
 - 9:15 am Women's Bible Study
 - 5:30 pm Piano Recital
- SATURDAY, MAY 9
 - 10:00 am Sons of Norway

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: He Is Risen to Proclaim the Truth

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The joy and light of the resurrection continue to illuminate our lives in ways both seen and unseen. In this Easter season, we are reminded that the risen Christ is not distant, but present—meeting us in Word, in water, in bread and wine, and in the gathered community. The Scripture passages before us this week reveal the abundance of God's gifts: the Spirit, righteousness, deliverance, freedom, forgiveness, and the enduring promise of everlasting life. These are not abstract ideas, but lived realities shaping our daily lives. God be praised!

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 16:5–15 “The Advantage of Jesus’ Departure”

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus tells the disciples, “It is to your advantage that I go away...” This is hard to imagine—what could be better than Jesus’ physical presence? Yet He promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who abides with us. The Spirit draws us into faith, comforts troubled hearts, and guides the church into truth. In baptism, we are joined to Christ and marked with the Spirit, who continues to form us in love and truth. Even when we feel uncertain or alone, the Spirit is at work, reminding us that Christ remains present with us in new and powerful ways. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 82 “Gods Among Mere Mortals...Or Not”

God calls leaders and authorities to seek justice, protect the vulnerable, and uphold what is good. These roles matter deeply for the well-being of communities and the flourishing of society. Yet this psalm reminds us that all human authority is limited and accountable to God. Our ultimate hope is not in earthly power but in God's reign of justice and mercy. Even as we participate in civic life and encourage those in leadership, we remember that God's justice is deeper and more enduring than any human system. *God of justice, guide those in authority and strengthen us to seek what is right. Keep our trust rooted in you alone. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: James 1:16–21 “The Implanted Word”

It can be tempting to rely on our own efforts or assume we can make ourselves whole. Yet Scripture reminds us that life and salvation are gifts from God. Through the Word—proclaimed, heard, and joined to water in baptism—God plants new life within us. This Word continues to shape us, calling us away from anger and toward lives marked by humility, compassion, and grace. Day by day, God is at work within us, forming us into people who reflect Christ's love in the world. *Gracious God, thank you for planting your Word of life within us. Nurture that gift, that we may grow in faith and love. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 12:1–6 “God Is Not Angry?”

While we know the reality of sin and its consequences, this song of Isaiah celebrates something deeper: God's mercy. In Christ, God turns toward us not with condemnation, but with compassion. Salvation is not something we earn but something God freely gives. This good news becomes the church's song—a song of trust, joy, and thanksgiving

that we are invited to sing together. *Lord, you are our salvation. Help us to trust in you and live without fear, rejoicing in your grace. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: John 8:21–36 “The Necessity for Jesus to Die”

Jesus speaks of being “lifted up,” pointing to the cross where God’s love is revealed most fully. In His death and resurrection, we see the truth of who God is: one who enters into suffering to bring life. The cross does not simply explain suffering—it transforms it. In Christ, we are set free to live in truth and hope, no longer bound by what diminishes life. *Jesus, you reveal God’s love through the cross and empty tomb. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us in your freedom. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14–21 “One Died For All”

In Christ, God brings about a great reconciliation. Jesus bears the weight of sin and brokenness, and in exchange, we are given new life. This is pure gift—grace upon grace. Through Christ, we are not only restored but also entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation, called to reflect God’s healing love in the world in our words and actions. *Reconciling God, thank you for making us new in Christ. Send us out as ambassadors of your peace and grace. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 “Out With Tears, In With Joy”

This psalm celebrates God’s power to restore and renew. Seasons of sorrow are real, yet they are not the end of the story. God brings life out of loss and joy out of grief. In Christ’s resurrection, we see the promise that even death does not have the final word. Our lives are held within God’s ongoing work of renewal, and we are invited to trust that joy will come. *Risen Lord, you turn sorrow into joy and death into life. Walk with us through every season and lead us into your everlasting joy. Amen.*