

RIVER OF LIFE **STREAMS**

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EPIPHANY

EPIPHANY AND THE NEW YEAR

Dear Friends,

The Epiphany of our Lord is on January 6, which happens to be a Thursday this year. Literally the word “Epiphany” means “shine through – the light shines through.” We will begin with the Baptism of our Lord in our Sunday services, on January 9, the First Sunday in the Epiphany season.

Do you remember “elephant jokes”? They were nonsensical. For example: An elephant was enjoying himself splashing in the river. A mouse on the sandy shore yelled, “Come out of the water.” The elephant laughed and said, “Why should I come out of the water?” The mouse says, “I want to see if you are wearing my bathing suit.”

The theological punch line is this: It would be easier for us to comprehend how an elephant could wear a mouse’s bathing suit than it is for us to understand the awesome mystery that the God of all creation would become a tiny baby. Why would He do it? In Epiphany, we see it was because of grace, God’s undeserved love for us, that Jesus took our place as a human under the Law to do what we couldn’t do for ourselves. In the season of Epiphany, Jesus reveals to us God’s grace.

It’s a divine mystery that Jesus, who is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, would be willing to be born a human so that we might know God’s grace. What does this mean for us as we close one year and begin another? There might be something in our past that may have never been cleared up, straightened up or paid for. But still we have to go forward in the New Year. If we can reconcile something in our past, that’s good, but it can’t always be done. By God’s grace, we repent of the past, ask God for forgiveness, leave it in His hands and go on living.

In 2022 it would be a good goal for all of us to live with a plan – not just go through life – but with a conscious effort to grow closer to the Lord who loves us and gave Himself for us. It would be good to make the most of our opportunities He gives us as members of River of Life, in our families where we live, work or go to school to make a difference.

It is my prayer that God's grace will always be the major force in the life we share together here at River of Life. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus and understand what He desires of us, we will also grow in our relationship with one another.

In Epiphany we trace
All the beauty of His grace.

May God's grace supply all of us with the strength and courage to face the challenges and meet the opportunities each day brings in the New Year.

With Christian love,
Pastor Mitschke



Jan. 2 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas
Pastor Barbey
1 Kings 3:4-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52

Jan 9 . . . 1st Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord
"The Theology of Baptism"
Romans 6:1-11, Luke 3:15-22

Jan 16... 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
"The Wedding Sign
John 2:1-11

Jan 23 . . . 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
"Why Were the People Angry with
Jesus?"
Luke 4:16-30

Jan 30. . . 4th Sunday after Epiphany
"Christ's Powerful Authoritative Word"
Luke 4:31-44



Judy Bremmer
1215 Burns
Minooka, IL 60447

Sandra Krause
Living with daughter and son-in-law
Beth and Clint Wilkins
165 N. Kenard St
Braidwood, IL 60408

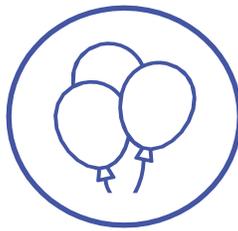
Bill Richardson
Senior Star, Room 355
605 S. Edward Dr.
Romeoville IL 60446

Julianne Zitella-Grell
650 S Broadway St, Apt. 2F
Coal City, IL 60416

Frank DeSalvo
1231 Wabena
Minooka, IL 60447

Pray for Roger Feiertag who will be having hip surgery this month, and that all will go well.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Willig of Friends in Christ Lutheran Church to have a quick recovery after having a series of strokes.



Sunday School...

**Sunday school is in the Upstairs Classrooms.
Sunday school will be every Sunday at 10:45am before church service.**

*Confirmation
Classes
resume 5:45pm
Thursday, Jan. 6*

A small illustration of an open book with yellow pages and a blue cover, positioned behind the text.

The class will begin the Office of the Keys and Confession in January.
The materials were given at the last class in December.

The class is now meeting in the upstairs classroom.
The members of the class are
Zach Graves, Lily Keller
Landon and Logan Sopkin
and Sage Williams



Youth Group

**Look for another breakfast soon!
Plan on attending for some fellowship and to help our youth group!**



Adult Bible Study

**The Dynamic Duo of Dave and Erich will alternate at times and enlighten us each week when we don't have a pastor.
Come join us for Faith, Fellowship, and Fun!**

Join us at 10:45am every Sunday before church service in the Fellowship Hall.

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

Open on the 2nd Saturday, and the 4th Tuesday of each month.

January 8th

8:30 am – 12 pm

January 25th

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

We are looking for **volunteers most Thursdays 5:45pm-6:45pm**. If you're interested in helping, please contact Amanda Graves. Contact Pam Sterle if you want to help some mornings.

The more, the merrier!

Please consider donating your time to this worthwhile ministry.
Help is always needed and appreciated.

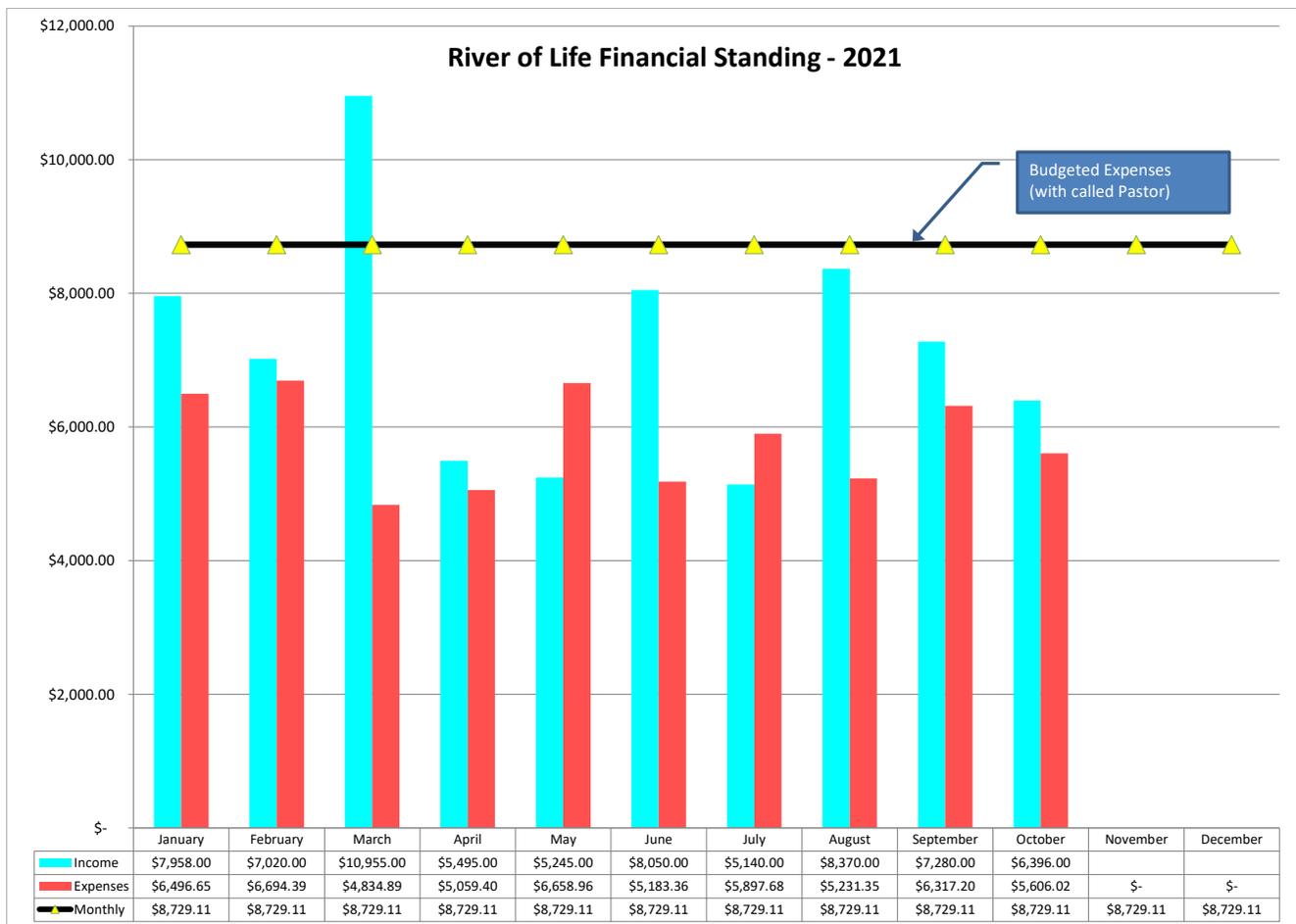


Church entrance is now through the side door!

There are easier steps up to the Sanctuary,
or down to the Fellowship Hall.

Plus the Lift is there for your use if needed!

If you need to use the LIFT, let an Elder or Usher know to assist you!



Giving	\$ 71,909.00
Expenses	\$ 57,979.90
	\$ 13,929.10

The Call committee **is** continuing to search for a Pastor!
When we have further info, it will be passed along.



Holy **COMMUNION**

The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is received reverently among us. With COVID-19, our reception of the Sacrament is still affected.

Social distancing is practiced coming forward. Communicants come to receive the Sacrament as singles or a family. As the first family/single leaves the Communion Table, the next single or family comes forward.

In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

The bread and wine are in individual cups touched only by the communicant(s). As the pastor says, "*Take eat*" . . ., each communicant takes his own cup with bread, "*Take drink*" ., each communicant then takes his own cup with wine. The pastor then speaks the dismissal.

We followed suggestions and introduced these new precautions long ago. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to share them with an elder or pastor.

We appreciate the service of our Altar Guild for their beautiful service and add an extra thank you for their special work currently.

Dave Hall, Head Elder

God Works IN MIGHTY AND MARVELOUS WAYS **through You!**

#Boulderstrong

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REMEMBER US
LAST

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." MATTHEW 5:16