

RIVER OF LIFE *STREAMS*

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Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS
1847 - 2022

Confession & Absolution

“Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely”

Hebrews 12:1 ESV

An important part of the worship service that is vital for our spiritual health, and also for our mental and physical health, is the **Confession and Absolution**, which assures us of God’s forgiveness, grace and mercy.

Beneath the waterline of big ships is all the “junk” they pick up during voyages. Nobody can see it, but speed decreases and fuel consumption increases. An experienced captain can feel it because the ship lacks the “oomph” it once had. As a result, it takes longer to get goods to their destination and increases costs. To remove the “junk” takes hard work and is time consuming. The ship is put into dry dock. Finally, after the hard work the dry dock is flooded with water, the gates open, and the big vessel heads out to sea again.

Experts repeatedly tell us to get rid of the junk in our homes and garages so we can function more efficiently. We know it’s true. Isn’t it the same in life if we just keep carrying the junk of sin? We need to examine ourselves and ***“Let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely.”***

It’s always easier to examine our neighbor than to examine ourselves, just as it’s easier to talk about the good we once did rather than what good we should be doing now. Are we losing spiritual momentum? That’s not what we want. We’ll find the answer under the waterline where only God can see. There’s the “junk”, the sin, that builds up and slows us down.

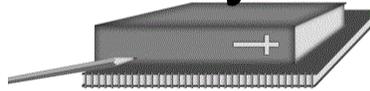
Confession is a blessing God has given us to deal with the subtle sins and the big sins in order to be what God has called us to be and receive the blessing of forgiveness and the many other blessings God has for us.

After Joan had her recent hip surgery, the doctor prescribed physical therapy to stretch and strengthen the hip and leg muscles that had tightened up. Some of you may have had to undergo the same. Confession, like physical therapy, can also be painful. But there is also the icing and massaging that accompanies physical therapy, that eases the pain and provides comfort. The Absolution (forgiveness) from God that follows Confession grants us God’s pardon and peace and assures us of His merciful and eternal love and puts a new and right spirit within us. To bypass the physical therapy would not be wise and would leave a person with lifelong problems. To bypass Confession and Forgiveness would be disastrous and leave us with eternal problems.

In **Confession and Absolution** in the worship service, God our Heavenly Father helps us ***“get rid of”*** the “junk” in our lives that holds us back in growing as God’s children. As it is true in our public worship so it also is in our private prayers, **Confession is good for the soul!**

Blessings, in Christ,
Pastor Mitschke

September Sundays



11:45AM

Sept. 4 – Communion Pentecost 13

“Learning to Shoot Left-Handed”

Luke 14:25-35

Pastor Rock

Sept. 11 – Communion . . . Pentecost 14

“Saving Private Ryan”

Luke 15:1-10

Pastor Rock

Sept. 18 – Communion. Pentecost 15

“Cheering for the Bad Guy”

Luke 16:1-15

Sept. 25 – Worship Pentecost 16

“There Were These Two Guys”

Luke 16:19-31



Pastor and Joan Mitschke are on vacation visiting their son in North Carolina. If you wish to reach Pastor Mitschke for any reason, please feel free to call 815-325-3106 (Cell). Reception at the cabin in the campground is not great so leave a message and we will return your call. We plan to be home Sept. 15.



Thanks to **Doris Anderson** and Joanne **Morris** for their service on the Altar Guild and faithfully setting up and putting away our Communion vessels and elements each week.



Judy Bremer

1215 Burns,
Minooka, IL 60447

Sandra Krause

North Aurora Nursing Home
310 Banbury Rd
Aurora, IL 60542

Bill Richardson

StoryPoint, Room 355
605 S. Edward Dr.
Romeoville, IL 60446

Vince Zitella

6105 E. Hilltop Dr.
Coal City, IL 60416

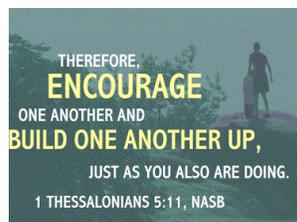
Julianne Zitella-Grell

650 S. Broadway St. Apt. 2F
Coal City, IL 60416

Roger Feiertag

1610 Augusta Lane
Shorewood, IL 60404

The Wheelchair vehicle for **Pastor Mark Willig's** use has been fully paid for through donations. Anyone wanting to help with funds for care and service of the vehicle can do so through Lutheran Church Charities, or to Friends in Christ Lutheran Church Morris, directly.





Church Cleanup Day



September 17 starting at 11am.

Matt DeSalvo will be grilling lunch for all! 

Many hands make light work!!! 

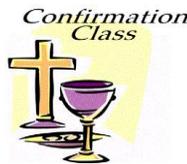


Sunday School...

Rally Day!!! Sept. 11 at 10:45am

SS and Bible class with fellowship, donuts, and songs!

Sunday School will resume again on September 18 at 10:45am.



See or call Pastor Mitschke about Confirmation class

Youth Group

Plan on attending all events if possible, for some fellowship and to help our youth group!



NID President Buss has appointed a new Circuit Visitor for us, Pastor William Ryden of Hope, Shorewood. Head Elder Dave Hall has been in touch with Pastor Ryden and will be working with him regarding looking for a pastor. Elders and Council met with Pastor Ryden to discuss our church's needs.

The Elders are continuing to search for a pastor!

Sunday
Adult
Bible
STUDY



Bible Study will resume again on September 18th at 10:45am

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

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

September 10th

9 am – 12 pm

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

September 27th

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers to help change out clothes for the upcoming fall/winter season!

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.



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

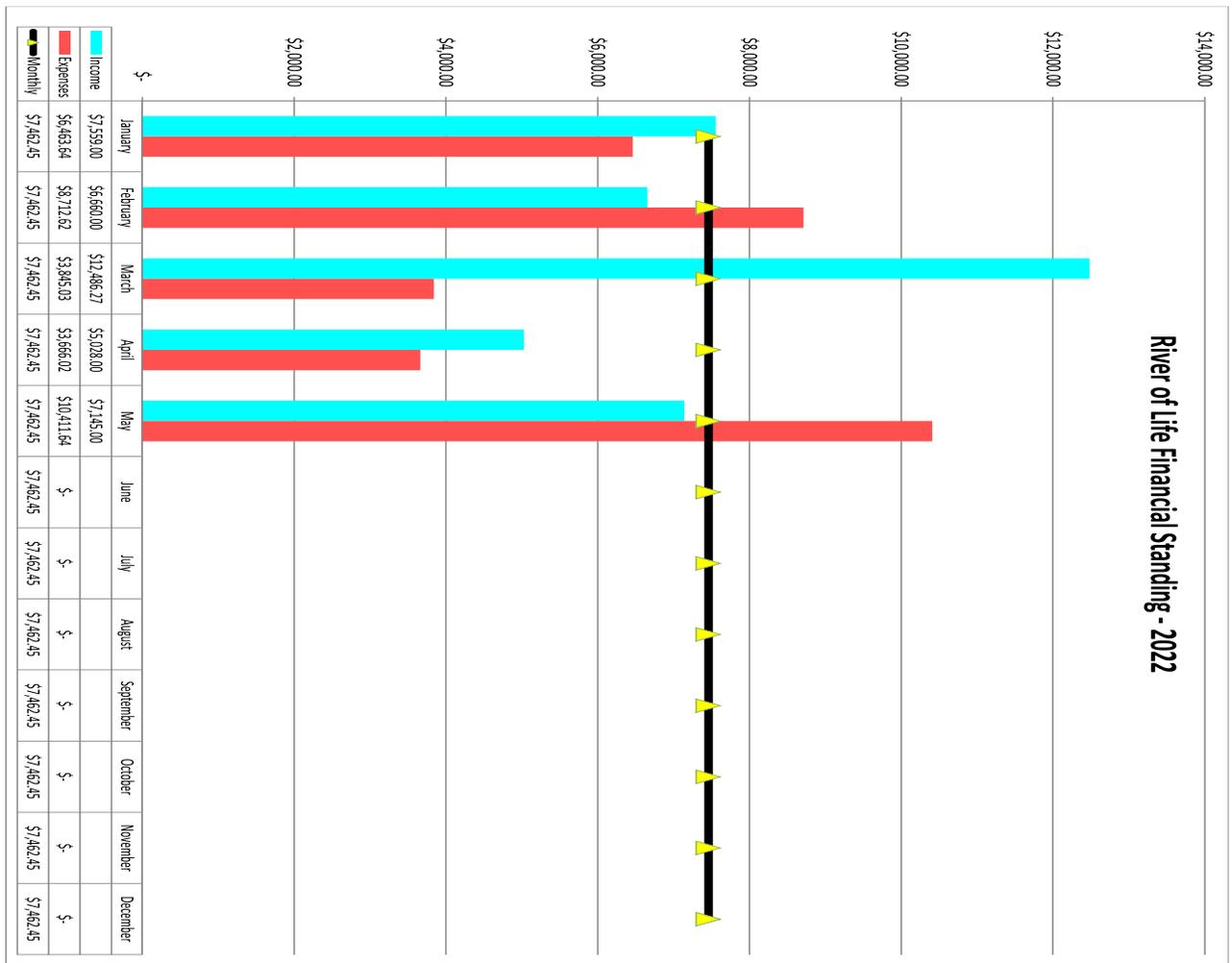
Donating to a charity using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

If you are age 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts.

Learn how by taking your RMD as a QCD and donating directly to a charity it will not be considered as taxable income.

Check the website listed below for an explanation or you can ask Vince on how it all works.

<https://www.fidelity.com/learning-center/personal-finance/retirement/qcds-the-basics>





World Conference of Lutheran Church Leaders

Over seventy presidents, bishops, and other leaders from worldwide confessional Lutheran churches will meet in Kisumu, Kenya for the triennial INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL WORLD CONFERENCE, September 13-16. Please pray for safe travel and a blessed conference.

For more information about the World Conference and about the International Lutheran Council visit www.ILCouncil.org.



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