

RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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Some of you are aware that our grandson, Jonathan Berry, is employed at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Joan and I visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park in 2007 and remember well being in his cabin and hearing a ranger tell Teddy Roosevelt stories. He was the youngest president and among the favorites of our presidents, and is featured on Mount Rushmore along with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. His two terms made a lasting impression on our nation's history.

Theodore Roosevelt was well educated and bright. He is known for many famous quotes, like *"Believe you can and you're halfway there"*, *"Keep your eyes on the stars and feet on the ground"* *"People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care"*, *"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are"*.

Teddy Roosevelt was devastated after the premature death of his first wife and mother on the same day and headed west. The man who was always sick growing up became a cowboy and lawman as tough as a "bull moose". He left a lasting impression on the badlands. He was also a sheriff in the badlands and later was known as the police commissioner who cleaned up New York City.. He was a war hero and most remembered for his leadership of "Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders." He was the first president to fly in an airplane, and also won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Known as the conservationist president, Teddy Roosevelt approved 230 million acres of public land for five new national parks, 150 national forests and 150 national monuments.

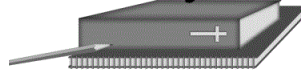
Here is one story I read recently. William Beebe was an explorer and a friend of President Theodore Roosevelt. Often when he visited the President, the two men would go outdoors at night to see who could first locate the Andromeda galaxy. As they gazed at the tiny smudge of distant starlight, one of them would recite, *"That is the spiral galaxy of Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It is 750,000 light-years away. It consists of one hundred billion suns, each larger than our sun."* After that thought had sunk in, Roosevelt would flash his toothy grin and say, *"Now I think we're small enough! Let's go to bed."*

We've learned that creation is far bigger than we could ever imagine. If God can do all that, why should we worry about the things that happen. The Bible encourages us, *"Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7 ESV. If we are losing sleep over something, don't worry, put it in God's hands. We are small enough, and He is big enough.

If you want to read another interesting story about Teddy Roosevelt go online and read about the day he was shot point blank and he refused to go to the hospital and still delivered his speech. The bullet lodged in his ribs and would remain there for the rest of his life.

In Christ, God's peace be with you!
Pastor Mitschke

September Sundays



11:45AM

Sept. 3 – Communion Pentecost 14

“Have You Seen the Doctor Lately?”

Romans 12:19-21

Sept. 10 – Communion Pentecost 15

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Romans 13:1-10

Matthew 18:1-20

Rev. Rich Bellas, guest pastor

Sept. 17 – Communion. Pentecost 16

Genesis 50:15-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Rich Bellas, guest pastor

Sept. 24 – Worship Pentecost 17

“Outrageous Grace”

Matthew 20:1-15

PASTOR MITSCHKE VACATION INFORMATION

Pastor and Joan are leaving Sept. 4 to visit their son in NC. If in an emergency pastoral service is needed you can call

Pastor Bill Ryden – Cell: 815-351-2933

Hope Lutheran Church, Shorewood

If you wish assistance in contacting Pastor Ryden,
call Sue Zitella (815-791-7152) or our Elder Chairman David Hall (815-263-4390).

We appreciate Pastor Ryden being ready to provide pastoral service in an emergency.

If you wish to reach Pastor or Joan for any reason, please feel free to call 815-325-3106 Cell.
We plan to return home Sept. 21.



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.

***Thanks to Pam Vermeulen for sending cards to our shut-ins
and those with medical issues!***



Judy C. Bremer, 80, was called home by our Heavenly Father on July 21, 2023. The Christian Service was on August 2, 2023 at River of Life Lutheran Church.

The Committal was at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where Judy's ashes were placed in a niche with husband Ken.

Judy and her husband Ken were members of River of Life since before moving to our present church building. When both were no longer physically able to attend services, first Pastor Fiene and then Pastor Mitschke brought the Word and Sacrament to their home. Ken preceded Judy in death on Dec, 13, 2020.

Judy was the mother of Angie (Terry) Eckstein, Keith (Kathy) Weinstock and Karl Weinstock; and grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of three.



Sandy Krause
North Aurora Nursing Home
310 Banbury Rd
Aurora, IL 60542

Bill Richardson
Arcadia
1095 Twilight Drive
Room 607
Morris, IL 60450
Daughter Janet Hopman, 815-954-6628

Vince Zitella
6105 E. Hilltop Dr.
Coal City, IL 60416

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

Pam Sterle
1008 Rodney Drive
Joliet, IL 60435

Continued Prayers...

Pastor Mark Willig
Friends in Christ Lutheran Church
513 E Main Street, Morris, IL 60450

Pastor David Daniel
Zion Lutheran Church
Ottawa, IL



Sunday School...

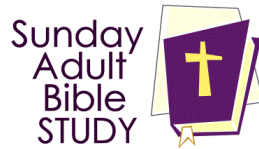
Sunday School will begin on September 10th at 10:45 am



See or call Pastor Mitschke about Confirmation class.

Youth Group...

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



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



Chairman and 1 Usher – **Vacant** (If interested in serving, see Bob Grimm)

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



The South Region of the Northern Illinois District will meet Sept. 26-27 at Starved Rock State Park. The presenter's theme is: *Communion Fellowship & Practice: a Fellowship of Love*. Pastor Mitschke will attend.



Head Elder Dave Hall and the Elders have been in touch with Pastor Ryden and NID and are working with them in regard to looking for a pastor.

Our delegation met again with the delegation of Friends in Christ at ROL on August 22nd to continue the process of partnership with Friends in Christ. Circuit Visitors from both churches were at the meeting as well as a representative pastor from NID. We will continue to meet and move forward with the partnership. There is continued work to be done to determine what the partnership would look like and then calling a pastor. Our next scheduled meeting is on September 19th, 2023, between the Friends in Christ call committee and the River of Life call committee at the FIC location. Circuit Visitors will again be there also.



Churches in Circuit South 17

River of Life, Channahon
Our Savior, Joliet
St. Peter, Joliet
St. Paul's, Lockport

Trinity, Marseilles
Zion, Ottawa
Lord of Life, Seneca
Hope, Shorewood

The Northern Illinois District has eighteen Circuits. A circuit must have at least seven congregations and a minimum combined membership of 1,500.

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

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

September 9

9 am – 12 pm

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

September 26

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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.

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. (Consider River of Life Lutheran Church)

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>



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.

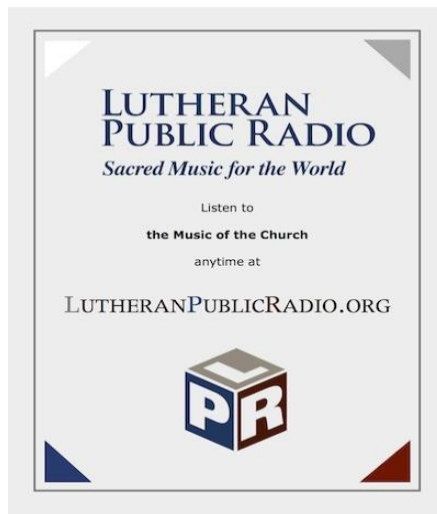
In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

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



What determines the changeable dates of The Church Year?

The date of Pentecost and dates of the seasons of Lent and Easter and *the Holy Days within those seasons* are changeable.

In 325 A.D., the Council of Nicaea established a formula for the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the spring equinox. In practice, that means that Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after March 21. Easter can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

The paschal full moon can fall on different days in different time zones, which can present a problem when calculating the date of Easter. If people in different time zones were to calculate the date of Easter depending on when they observed the paschal full moon, then that would mean that the date of Easter would be different depending on which time zone they lived in. For that reason, the church does not use the exact date of the spring equinox but an approximation, March 21. The actual vernal equinox can occur on March 20th in certain time zones. For

calculation purposes, the full moon is always set on the 14th day of the lunar month. The lunar month begins with the new moon. For the same reason, the church sets the date of the spring equinox at March 21. These two approximations allow the church to set a universal date for Easter, regardless of when you observe the paschal full moon in your time zone.