

# RIVER OF LIFE **STREAMS**

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*"I'll leave the light on for you."* It's been a long time since I remember hearing these words from my parents. It was 700 miles from the seminary in St Louis to home in Houston. Together with some friends, who also lived in Houston, we would drive straight through from the seminary, changing drivers along the way, and getting home in the middle of the night. My Dad would speak those familiar words of promise.



That light let me know that they were waiting and that I was welcome. In those days when I turned the corner onto our street, no other light looked as good as that single porch light. (I almost have tears remembering these many years later.) No other light had the power to give such joy. (My Dad was also sentimental, and he would have tears in his eyes.)

In Psalm 119, God's Word is called a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Like the porch light my parents kept on for me, God's Word has the power to overwhelm us with pure joy. For God's Word glows with the message of the promised Messiah. God's Word tells us about the one and only Word Made Flesh – Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is Jesus who is called the Light of the World, the light which no darkness can overcome. And it is Jesus who longs to greet us in a most extraordinary way – with a baby's cry, the Babe of Bethlehem.

The Wise Men had no maps. Instead they followed the light of a star to guide them. Each Sunday we light the Advent Candle like a lamp for our journey to the Christmas manger. God's Word for the day prepares our hearts and heightens our anticipation.

Advent is a season filled with music for our travel to Christmas. The angels knew how to use music to the fullest - in praise to God – when they gave directions to shepherds in their announcement of the heavenly birth.

From the manger newborn light, shines in glory through the night.

Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

Many new parents turn on the light the moment they hear their baby cry in the night. May we, too, turn on our lights – our glow of faith – when we hear again in various words the heavenly announcement: ***"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, the Savior, who is Christ the Lord."***

With joyful anticipation we will gather at River of Life each Sunday for the light of God's Word to guide us to remember and celebrate our Savior's birth.

## A Prayer

Jesus, light of the world, leave the light of Your Word on for us so that we may find joy in Your presence always. Amen.

May God bless us all!  
*Pastor Mitschke*



## 11:45AM Sunday Services

**Dec. 5 . . . . . 2nd Sun. of Advent**  
*"Repent Your Way to a Merry Christmas"*  
(Do you have your ducks in a row?)  
Luke 3:1-14

**Dec. 12 . . . . . 3rd Sun. of Advent**  
*"Are You the One?"*  
Luke 7:18-35

**Dec. 19 . . . . . 4th Sun. of Advent**  
*"The Blessed Visitation"*  
Luke 1:39-45



**Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve . . . . . 3:30pm**  
*"The Christmas Gift"*  
Isaiah 7:2-14, Luke 2:1-14

**Please Note no Service  
Christmas Day (Dec. 25)**

### Christmas Vacation

**Pastor and Joan**, son Ron from NC, and the Berry Family plan to be in Branson between Christmas and New Year and return home Jan. 3. You can reach Pastor on his cell (815-325-3106). Please feel free to call. If there is no answer, leave your number and your call will be returned.

**Dec. 26 . . . . . 11:45am**  
*Pastor Mendell*



**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

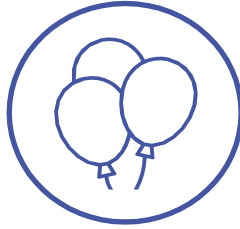
**Julianne Zitella-Grell**  
650 S Broadway St, Apt. 2F  
Coal City, IL 60416

**Frank DeSalvo**  
1231 Wabena  
Minooka, IL 60447

**Our sister in Christ, Diane Jebens was called to her heavenly home  
December 10, 2021 while at home with her family.  
No arrangements are yet known.**

**Pray for Roger Freitag who will be having hip surgery next month, and that all will go well.**

**Please pray for Pastor Willig of Friends in Christ Lutheran Church quick recovery after having a series of strokes. He is at Rush Medical Center in Chicago. We pray the Lord will make his recovery a quick one.**



## Sunday School...

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



Thursdays, Dec. 2 and 9, at 5:45pm

The class is now meeting in the upstairs classroom. We will complete our current chief part of the Catechism in December and start with "The Office of the Keys and Confession" on Jan. 2.

The members of the class are  
Zach Graves, Lily Keller  
Landon and Logan Sopkin  
and Sage Williams



Dec. 5 – Zach Graves & Sage Williams  
Dec. 12 – Logan Sopkin and Becca Hall  
Dec. 19 – Landon Sopkin and Lily Keller  
Dec. 26 – Zack Graves & Sage Williams



## Youth Group

**Pancake Breakfast** was a great success!!  
Almost \$200 was raised for the 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**December 11th**  
8:30 am – 12 pm

**December 28th**  
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.

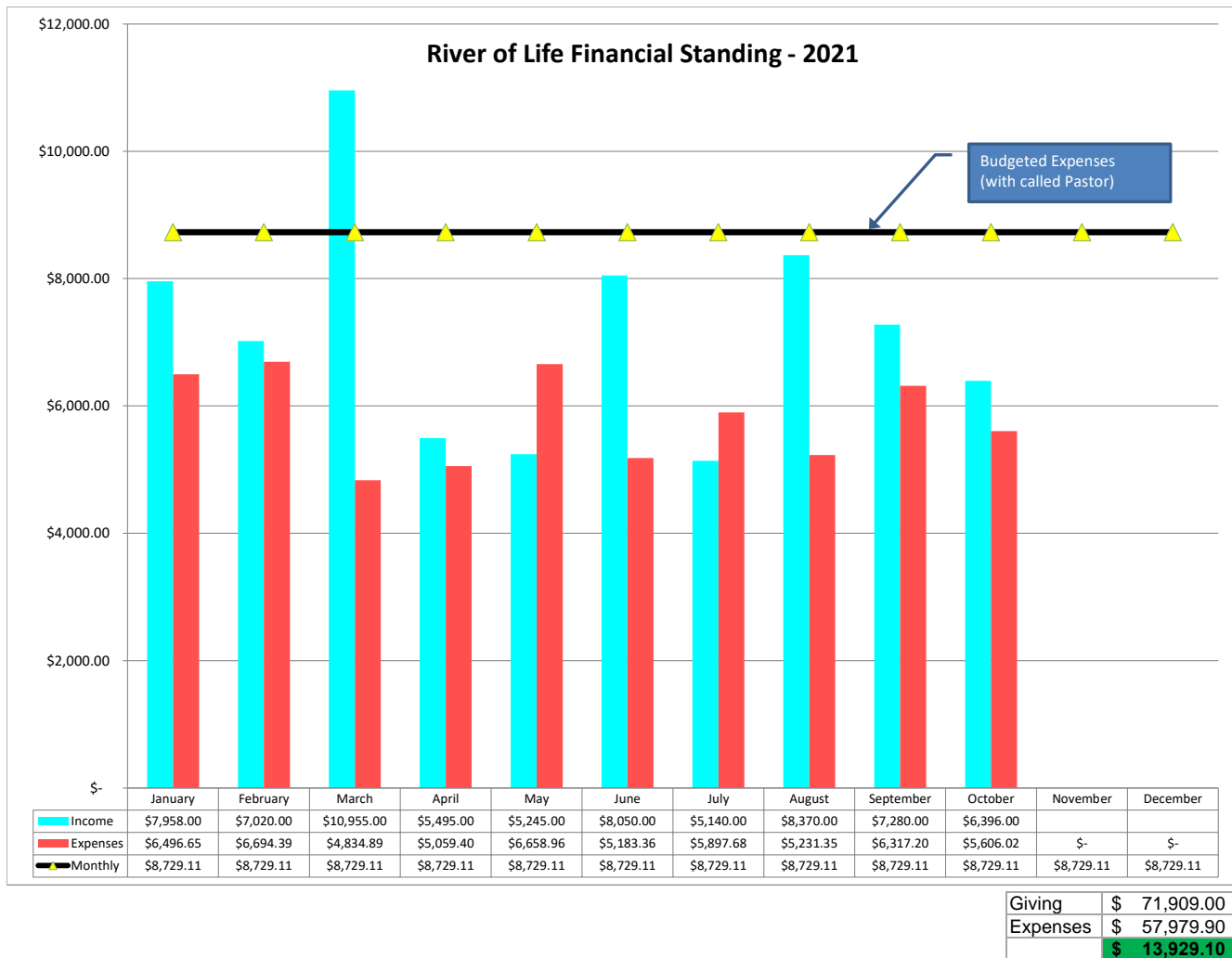


## Church entrance is now through the side door!

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!**



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