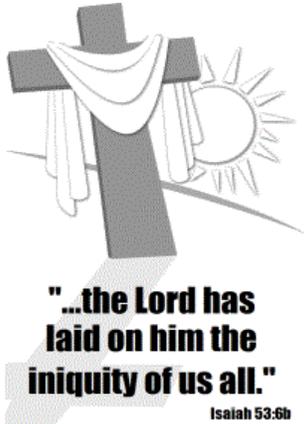


RIVER OF LIFE **STREAMS**

Interim Pastor William Mitschke 815-725-1341
email: wmjm920@gmail.com

24901 S Sage St., Channahon, IL 60410-5036
riveroflifelutheran@gmail.com



LOOKING AHEAD WTH HOPE

One of the first things our parents taught us was to look both ways before crossing the street.

As we got older and started driving, we again learned that we couldn't look just one way and pull into the traffic. Both views are necessary.

There are also two ways to look as we move ahead in life. Both ways can give us information that's helpful as we look ahead. Here too, it can be disastrous to look only one way.

Experience can teach us good lessons. The problem is if we get stuck in the past. Maybe you are one of them – somebody who can't *get past* what has happened *in* the past. Instead, we are to remember from the past what can help us as we look ahead.

Lent is a season for genuine reflection. A lot of people use Lent to look back. Lent reminds us that Jesus took all our sins upon Himself and completely paid for them. It is important for us to confess those things which bother us and ask forgiveness. Lent also reminds us that God is a faithful God, never giving up on unfaithful, messed up people, and yes, even when we think too highly of ourselves compared to others.

During Lent we can also look ahead to Easter and beyond. Sometimes, it can be harder to give the future to Jesus than it can be to give Him the past. The future involves hope. Hope is wanting and believing in something you don't have yet. When we are talking about the hope a follower of Jesus has because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we can look ahead with assurance. Hope isn't a maybe, or just a "I hope so" thing. It's a certainty because we can trust Jesus is in control.

Romans 8:28 assures us, "*we know that for those who love God all things work together for good*". The chapter concludes with the assurance nothing "*will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Lent and Easter are a time we can profitably look back and can confidently look ahead.

In Christ,
Pastor Mitschke

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Sunday Services
11:45am

Mar. 7 – Communion Lent 3
“Spring Cleaning”
John 2:13-22

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Mar. 14 – Worship Lent 4
“The Big Picture”
John 3:14-21



Daylight Savings Time begins March 14
Set your clocks ahead

The good music and singing will keep us all wide awake and alert!

Mar. 21 – Communion Lent 5
“I Will Make a New Covenant”
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mar. 28 – Worship Palm Sunday
Palms will be distributed
“Hosanna”
Mark 1:1-11



Anyone wishing to purchase an Easter Lily (Lilies) for our sanctuary chancel for the Easter Festival Service can contact Joanne Morris (815-467-8119) by Sunday, March 21.

Flowers may be placed in Memory of someone, in Thanksgiving for, or other Occasion. After sharing your lily with all the Easter worshippers, you can take your flower home to enjoy. Thank you!

Times for service on Maundy Thursday-6:00pm, Good Friday-3:30pm, and Easter Sunday-11:00am



Sunday School...

It will be each week at 10:45am



Our **Youth** made and the **Sunday School** helped distribute Valentines with a lollipop for all worshippers on Valentine's Day Sunday. It was a happy and delightful day for us, and we all thank our younger members for their gift and good spirit.

Confirmation Class

The class has officially divided.

Confirmation One class meets Wednesdays

6:00-7:15pm

Confirmation Two class meets Thursdays

6:00-7:15pm

Both have begun their remaining studies for the year. For Confirmation One it is the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer and two special topics. Confirmation Two will end the year with Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Office of the Keys and Confession, The Sacrament of the Altar and Confirmation.

Confirmation One

Zach Graves Landon Sopkin
Lily Keller Logan Sopkin
Sarah Schulte Sage Wright

Confirmation Two

Logan Davis Brie Dietz
Rebecca Hall

Confirmation Day for the Confirmation Two Class will be May 23.



Jeanette MacNichol remains in Northwestern hospital.

Senior Star, Romeoville: **Bill Richardson**

At Home: **Judy Bremer, and Sandra Krause**

***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10***

Adult Bible Study

Please join us every **Sunday morning at 10:45** in the downstairs Fellowship Hall
For Faith, Fun, and Fellowship!!

Dave Hall will be leading an Adult Lutheran Bible Class that will cover 14 different lessons. The units begin with creation, and the last lesson falls during the reign of King David. Together, our church family will learn key Bible accounts and give foundational learning of how God's plan of salvation all began.

So, then faith *comes* by hearing and hearing by the word of God. **Romans 10:17**

See you on Sunday!!

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

Open only the 2nd Saturday of each month.

**March 13,
8:30am - 12pm**

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

RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN
CHURCH

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Come join our youth group to help pack food
for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

MARCH 15, 3:45 PM - 7:30 PM

Drop off @ 3:40 at church

Volunteer from 4:30 to 6:00

Pick up @ 7:30 at church

Please make sure that your child has closed
shoes on and a mask. Also we will stop to grab
food when we are done, so make sure your child
has money.

Please sign up through this
link by
Friday March 5th

<https://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=WD93ZB>



ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TEXT OR CALL JENNY SOPKIN @ (708) 912 - 5366.

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian nonprofit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution to people in developing countries. Founded in 1987 it has reached to more than 70 countries.

Joan and I have participated in youth and adult groups a number of times that have done this. It's a great service and Joan and I will be going with our youth.





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.