

RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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Why Were the Women Surprised?

Easter is a special day for Christians and each year we gather to hear the account of Jesus resurrection in the Gospel of what happened that first Easter morning. It's interesting to look at the Gospel accounts side by side for a more complete picture of what happened.

This year in our three year cycle of readings we will hear the beginning words from the Gospel of St. Luke 28:1, *"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared."*



Who were *"they"*? Actually, they were a group of women. While Luke doesn't give any names, John mentions one, *"Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb."* After they find the tomb empty, John states, they ran to tell Peter and John, *"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we (plural) don't know where they have laid Him."*

Who were these women? We go to the Gospel of Mark, *"When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him."*

What they found at the tomb left them perplexed. Matthew, Mark and Luke tell what they found, and didn't find. *"And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ^{that} the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words,"*

The women were greatly surprised that first Easter. It was not what they expected when early that morning they set out to anoint the body of Jesus and found the stone rolled away, an empty tomb and an angel who told them, "He is not here, He is risen."

Our theme on this Easter Sunday morning, when we gather to sing alleluias and give thanks to God, is "The Surprise in the Graveyard!"

May God give you a Blessed Easter!
Pastor Mitschke

"He Is Not Here! He is Risen!"

Lent

Easter



Sunday Services: 11:45am

Apr. 3 5th Sunday in Lent

“The Unusual Vineyard Owner”

Luke 20:9-20

Apr. 10... Palm Sunday, 6th Sunday in Lent

“The Passover Pilgrims”

John 12:20-43

Apr. 17... The Festival of the Resurrection

“Surprise in the Graveyard”

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

Apr. 24 2nd Sunday of Easter

“A New Start for Thomas”

John 20:19-31



Judy Bremer

1215 Burns, Minooka, IL 60447

(Overnight stay possible beginning of February at Amita St. Joseph for testing)

Sandra Krause

New Address

Alden Courts

700 West Black Road

E109

Shorewood, IL 60404

Bill Richardson

Senior Star. 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

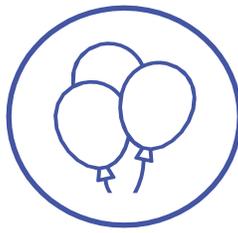
1610 Augusta Lane

Shorewood, IL 60404

Pastor Mark Willig (Friends in Christ)

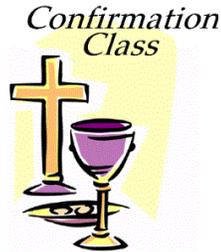
Home from Rehab. Donations requested to help fund a Wheelchair vehicle for Pastor's use. Any donations can be given to Lutheran Charities for him or to Friend's in Christ church directly.





Sunday School...

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



Pastor Mitschke has returned from vacation and classes resumed Thursday, March 31, 5:45pm. The class has just begun the study of the Sacrament of the Altar in preparation for First Communion and Confirmation Day.

DISTRICT CONVENTION ELECTIONS

Erich Keller, River of Life, Channahon was elected as a member of the LCMS Northern Illinois District Board of Directors. Erich serves as the lay representative of the South Region.



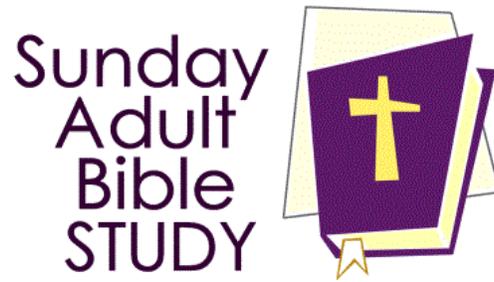
Youth Group

Look for another breakfast soon!

Joliet Slammers contacted us to see if we're interested in attending a ball game again this year, probably in July. We need 25 tickets sold to get the discounted price and to make some money.

If interested in going, contact Amanda Graves or Jennifer Sopkin.

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



10:45AM

The Class meets in the Fellowship Hall.
All are invited!

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

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

April 9th

8:30 am – 12 pm

12pm after Swaddling

Clothes change over Winter to Summer

Pizza after for all those helping!

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

April 23rd

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.

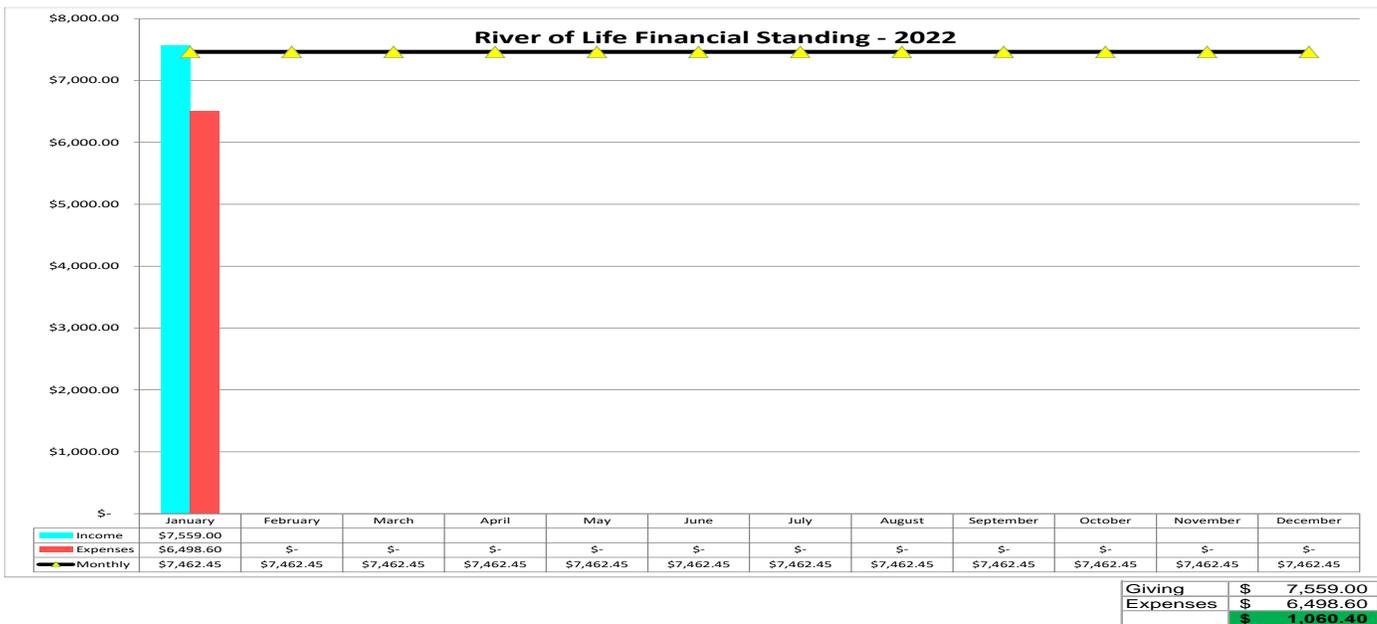
Donating to a charity using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)

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 on how it all works.

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



Church entrance is now through the side door!

There are easier steps up to the Sanctuary,
and 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