

RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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Our Church Family

Sometimes it's said that for a family to be a good family, everyone has to do their job. You might agree. How much more does it add to the family joy if everyone's attitude is how much more can I do.

Before and after church at River of Life, I see people, who like to be together. There is a lot of friendly talking and lots of smiles.

Here we have a church family. Whether we are married, single, widowed, young, in-between or older, being a part of River of Life connects us. One of the strong points at River of Life is that members have a concern for one another and care about one another.

It increases the joy in a family if everyone's attitude is wanting to do more for the family. In our church family, it's a good thing when people say: *I will do more than belong, I will participate. I will do more than to care, I will help. I will do more than to believe – I will practice. I will do more than to be fair – I will be kind. I will do more than to forgive – I will forget. I will do more than give – I will serve. I will do more than live – I will let my life shine..*

Some Old Testament texts in Epiphany, like Isaiah 61, tell us what the Messiah will do when He comes. The Gospels show how He fulfills those prophecies, how He did *"more than"* and set the example for us in His love and care for all. In this Epiphany season, we are reminded that He is truly the Son of God and He set aside His godliness and became one of us to fulfill all righteousness for us. We thank God for His gracious love and all we have been given in Christ, our Savior. Jesus did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves.

We all profit from the many things members do for the Lord in thanksgiving for our salvation here at River of Life. Some of these jobs are seen. Some are done when nobody is watching. In Hebrews 6, Paul is speaking about Christian maturity and things that accompany salvation. *"For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness . . ."* (Hebrews 6:10-11).

In the time I've been here, I've seen some beautiful examples of caring at River of Life. Thank You! Your work may go uncelebrated, but it will not go unrewarded. May your "extra steps" and your "more thans" give you joy and satisfaction.

In Christ, Thank You!
Pastor Mitschke



Feb. 6 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

"The Calling of the First Disciples"

(When Man Meets God)

Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 13 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

"Through the Heart of Jesus"

Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 20 . . . 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

"Loving Those You'd Rather Hate"

Luke 6:27-38

Feb. 27 . . . The Transfiguration of our Lord

*"The Transfiguration Is Exciting/
Calvary Does All the Work"*

Luke 9:28-36



Brief meeting after Service.

Agenda: The remainder of the year and discussing a date for Confirmation Day

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February brings us Valentines' Day.

A day that encourages love.

We are reminded and also take opportunity to show and tell those dear to us how much we love them.



Judy Bremer

1215 Burns, Minooka, IL 60447

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

Sandra Krause

Living with daughter and son-in-law

Beth and Clint Wilkins

165 N. Kenard St., Braidwood, IL 60408

(Now at Silver Cross, Room 51160)

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

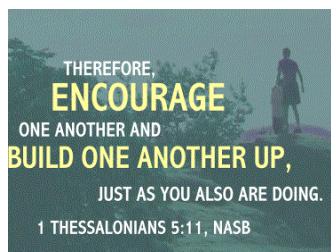
Roger Feiertag

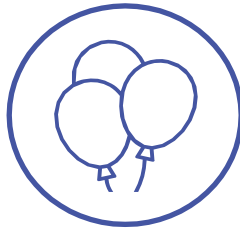
(Jan. 25 surgery postponed, again, due to hospital overload of COVID cases)

Pastor Mark Willig (Friends in Christ)

Park Pointe, Room 1102

1221 Edgewater Dr., Morris, IL 60450





Sunday School...

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



Confirmation

Confirmation Class is held at 5:45pm on Thursday evenings.

The class is now meeting in the upstairs classroom.

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



Youth Group

Look for another breakfast soon!

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



Adult Bible Study

The Dynamic Duo of Dave and Erich will alternate at times 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 2nd Saturday, and the 4th Tuesday of each month.

February 12th
8:30 am – 12 pm

February 22nd
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.

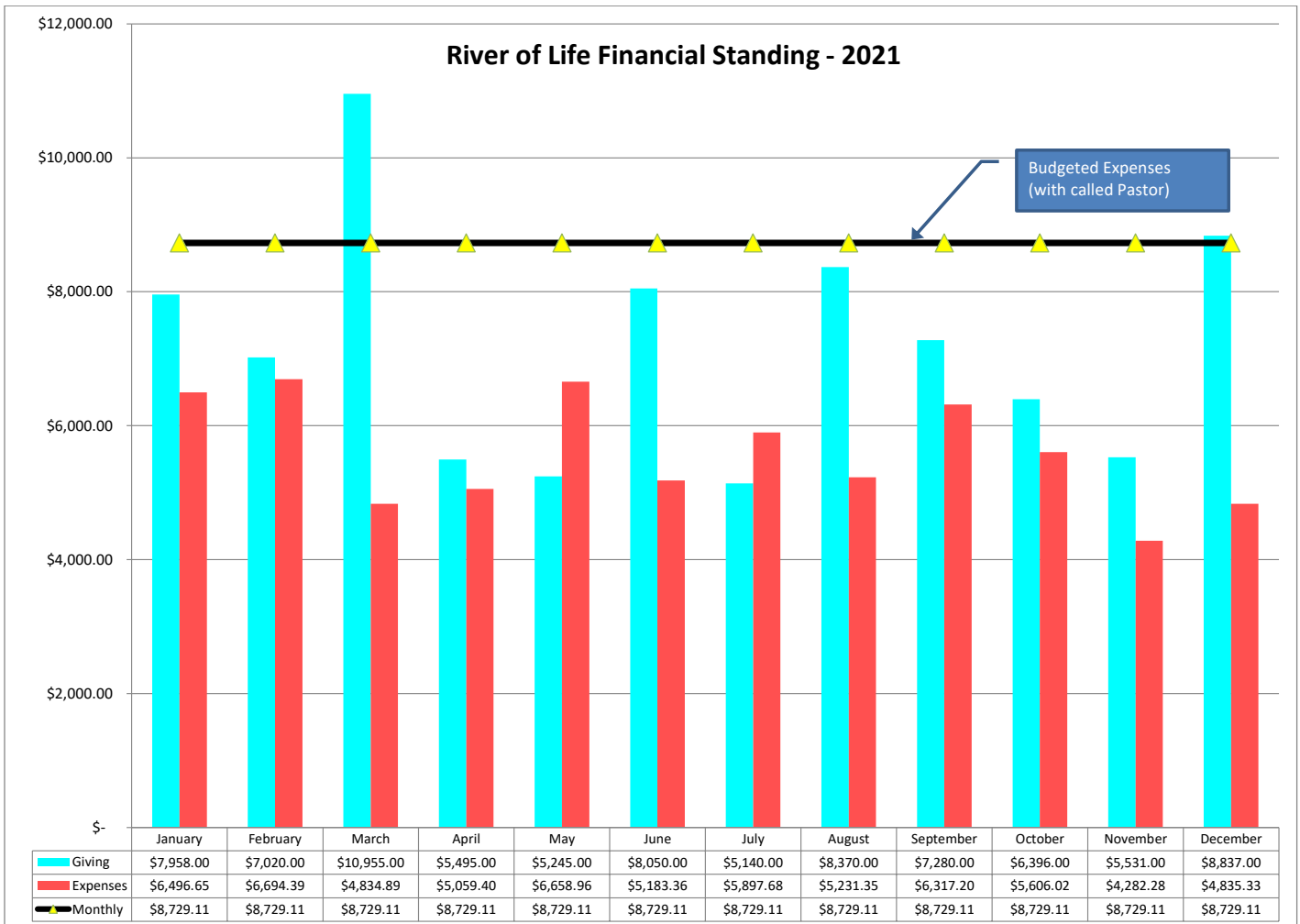


Church entrance is now through the side door!

There are easier steps up to the Sanctuary,
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!



Giving	\$ 86,277.00
Expenses	\$ 67,097.51
	\$ 19,179.49

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