

RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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We Are Easter People! Alleluia!

Dear Members and Friends,

One third of the sacred writings in the four Gospels is devoted to one week of the 33 years in the life of Jesus. On earth. This is the week we know as Holy Week.



The week begins with Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the Messiah. ⁹*Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21)

As the week continues, Jesus teaches the people and seeks to prepare His Disciples for the tragedy of His death and for carrying on His work after His departure. Meanwhile his foes try to ensnare Jesus with questions.

On Thursday Jesus meets with His Disciples to observe the Passover meal and that same evening institutes the Sacrament of Holy Communion. After the meal Jesus and His Disciples go the Garden of Gethsemane where he is later betrayed, arrested and forsaken.

That night Jesus is examined and tried and after dawn formally condemned by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council). He then is taken before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, next King Herod, and then back to Pilate a second time. "So he delivered him over to them to be crucified." It was before 9am when Jesus was on His way to the cross to be crucified. That Friday afternoon before 6pm He was buried.

There is so much to the story of our Savior Jesus Christ. On the Third Day, early in the morning Jesus rose from the dead. We are a unique people because of that mighty event in history – God raising the crucified Jesus from the dead. We celebrate the Good News – Christ has conquered sin and death.

As we worship in this holy season we are reminded that:

- **Easter** can never be separated from the cross. The Lamb of God, by His blood has saved us from death, taken up life again, and reigns over all creation.
- **Easter** is God's mighty plan of the divine way of setting the world free through suffering love.

In Romans 6:3-5 we read the Good News, ³*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

Christ our Savior is risen! We are Easter people! With joy we cry out the Good News: **Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

Joan joins me in wishing you a joyous Easter. We can all look forward to our worship together. **We are Easter People! Alleluia!**

With Christian love,
Pastor Mitschke



HOLY WEEK

Apr. 2 – 11:45am Palm Sunday

Palms will be distributed

*“Palm Sunday - Understandings
and Mis-Understandings”*

Apr. 6 – 6:30pm Holy Thursday

“Jesus Comes to Feed My Hungry Soul”

Apr. 7 – 3:30pm . . . Good Friday Service

“It Is Finished! Part 1”

John 19:17-30

Apr. 9 – 11:45am Easter Festival

He Is Risen Indeed!

“It Is Finished! Part 2”

Matthew 28:1-10

APRIL SUNDAYS

Apr. 16 – 11:45am . . . 2nd Sun. of Easter

“What Would Jesus Say to Us?”

John 20:19-31

Apr. 23 – 11:45am . . . 3rd Sun. of Easter

“As He Said”

Luke 24:13-35

Apr. 30 – 11:45am . 4th Sun. of Easter

*“My Sheep Hear My Voice
and I Know Them”*

John 10:1-10



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 Bremer

1215 Burns,
Minooka, IL 60447

Sandy Krause

North Aurora Nursing Home
310 Banbury Rd
Aurora, IL 60542

Bill Richardson

StoryPoint, Room 318 (new room number)
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



Bridgitte Kossack

Jan. 25, 1939 – Mar. 9, 2023

Our Heavenly Father has called to Himself in heaven, Bridgitte Kossack, 84, of Beaver, Oklahoma, the beloved mother of **Roger Schmidt**, our fellow member and brother in Christ. We express our Christian love and sympathy to our friend Roger.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors,"

Rev. 14:13 esv

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



Roger and Mary Ann Feiertag have sold their house in Shorewood and on March 13 moved back to the South. It was our joy to have them with us at River of Life. Their new church home will be Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, AL. Roger and Mary Ann's new address is:
366 Lee Road 2192
Cusseta, AL 36852



Sunday School...

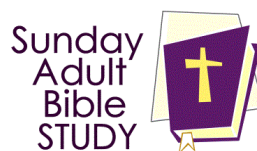
**Sunday School is at 10:45am each Sunday in a Classroom #2
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER SUNDAY - April 9th**



See or call Pastor Mitschke about Confirmation class.

Youth Group...

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



**Bible Study is at 10:45am each Sunday in Upstairs Classroom #1
NO BIBLE STUDY EASTER SUNDAY – April 9th**



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!



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

Swaddling Clothes

Our outreach ministry for families!

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

April 8

9 am – 12 pm

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

April 25

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.

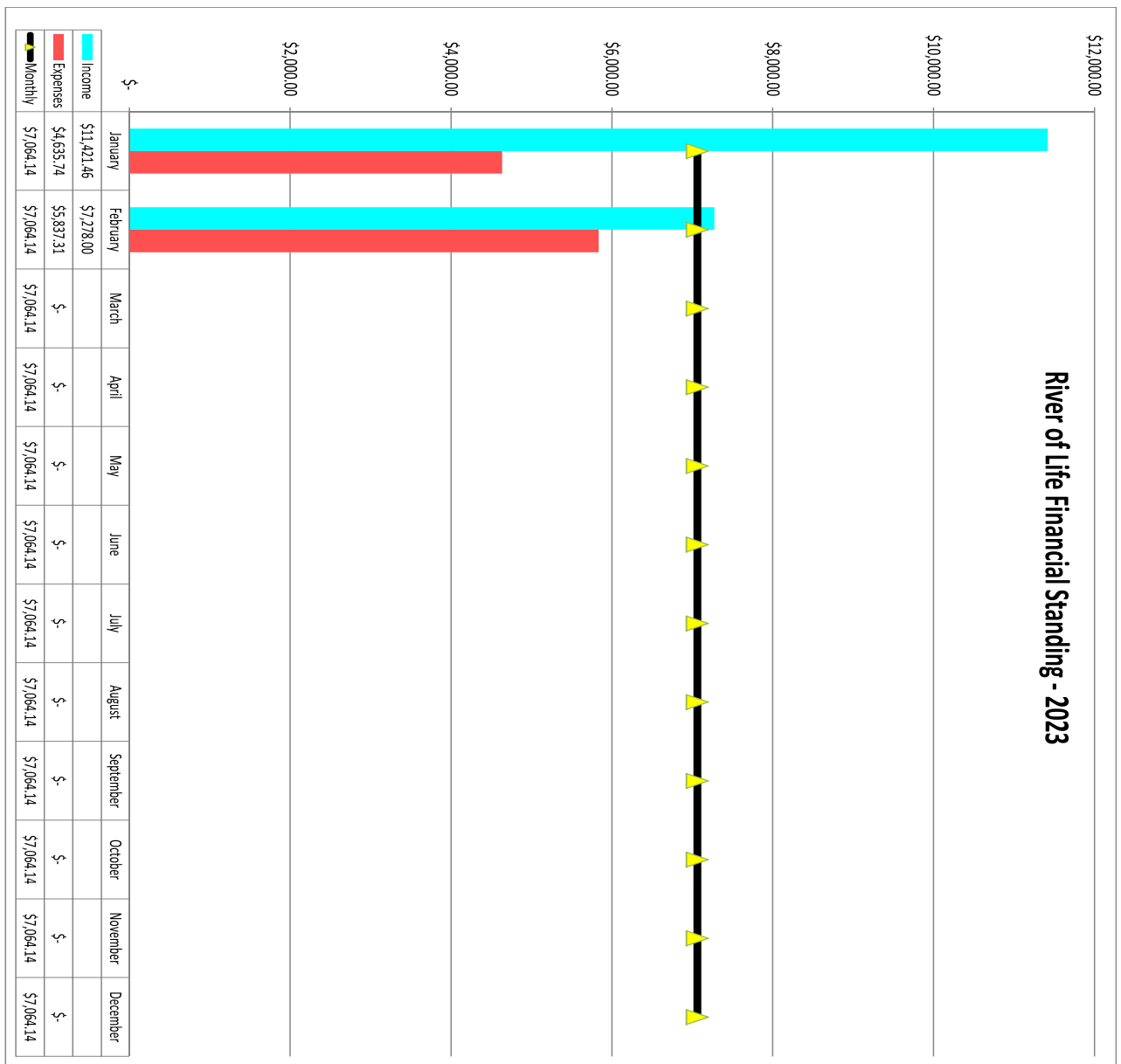
Donating to a charity using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

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>





A
Partnership
Gathering
at
Hope,
Shorewood
Saturday, Mar.
25

On March 25th the Northern Illinois District of the LC-MS hosted a meeting of the congregations in our circuit along with a few nearby congregations of other circuits. The gathering was a first step toward exploring how congregations can work together in word and sacrament ministry. We were encouraged to learn that our congregation is certainly not the only one facing the challenges we are and that others are open to partnering as well. Please continue to pray for our congregation that this may be an important first step in securing the future of word and sacrament ministry at River of Life in Channahon.

Bob Grimm, Dave Hall and Erich Keller

Further details:

Northern Illinois District Circuit 17 South Congregation Chairmen, Elder Chairmen, Treasurers and Pastors participated. Representing the NID were Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, President, Pastor Kris Whitby, Mission, Stewardship and Outreach and LeeAnn Acosta, District Business Manager.

There was good discussion on how district and congregations might work together and help one another and understand the resources and gifts that are available through the NID and sister congregations in meeting the needs, challenges and opportunities of the ministry we share.

There was also a time for chairmen, treasurers and pastors to meet in a sharing session.

Present at the meeting were our circuit congregations Hope, Shorewood; Our Savior, Joliet; St. Peter, Joliet; St. Paul, Lockport; Trinity, Marseilles; Zion, Ottawa; Lord of Life, Serena; and River Of Life; and our close neighbors: Friends in Christ, Morris; and Peace, Plainfield.

Marseilles is being served by vacancy Pastor Sampson of Serena, and Joliet by Pastor Rock from Beecher. Joliet has requested a candidate from the Seminary and will know if they are receiving a candidate by April 26.

Representing River of Life at the meeting were Vice Chairman Bob Grimm, Head Elder David Hall, Treasurer Erich Keller and Pastor Mitschke.



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.

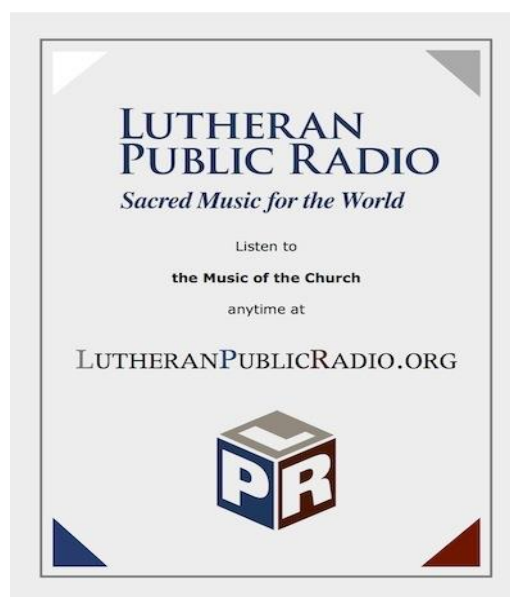
In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

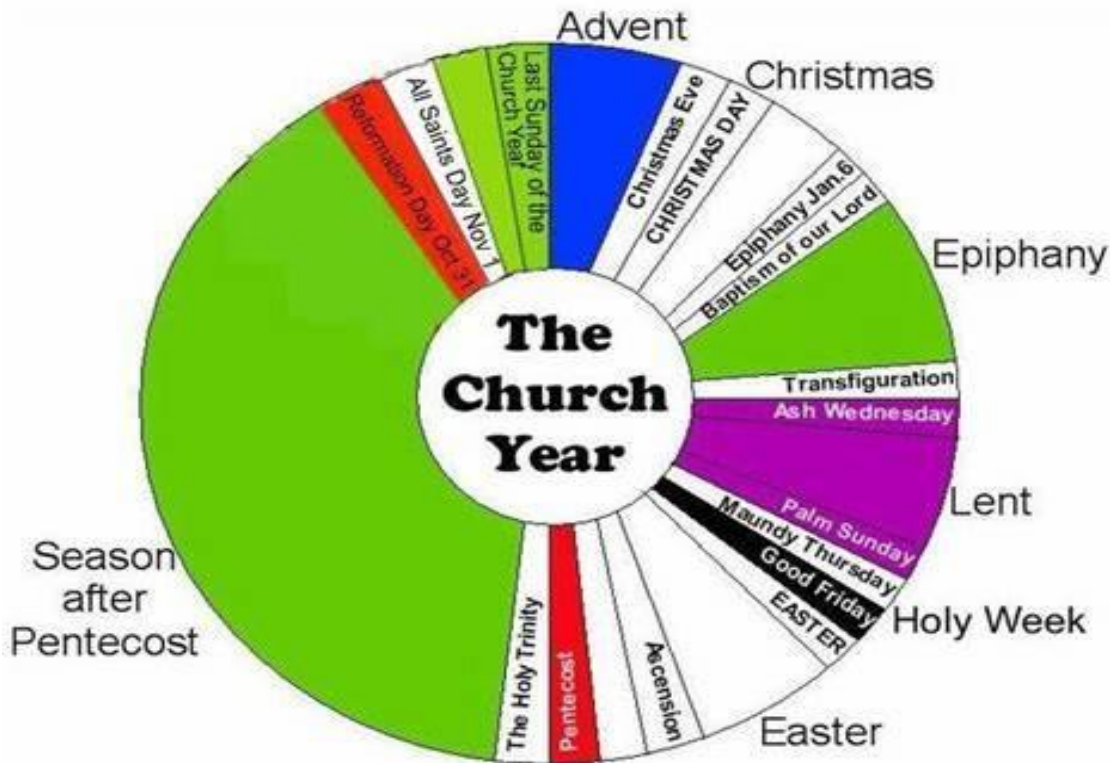
The bread and wine are in individual cups touched only by the communicant(s). As the pastor says, "*Take eat*" . . ., each communicant takes his own cup with bread, "*Take drink*" . . ., each communicant then takes his own cup with wine. The pastor then speaks the dismissal.

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.