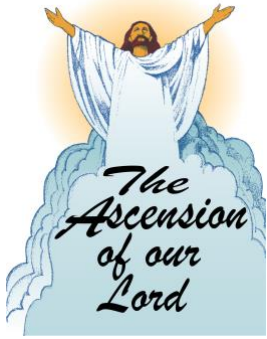


RIVER OF LIFE *STREAMS*

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

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



"Mission Accomplished"

Jesus had been with His disciples for three years. They listened to His teaching and also heard Him speak many words of comfort and hope. They had found in Him their teacher and leader and their best and closest friend. It's no wonder when He said to them He was going to leave them, sorrow filled their hearts. Jesus pointed out to them that it was to their advantage that He was going away. He was going to the Father to prepare a place for them and all who had faith.

And this the disciples finally realized when Jesus took His visible presence from them by returning to the Father. After He ascended into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They were to wait there to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then they finally realized what the Lord's ascension was all about. Jesus was returning to the Father because **His Mission was accomplished**. He had finished the work He came to do on earth. Salvation had been accomplished; the total victory over sin and death won! Now the whole world can look to Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and through Him come to God as their heavenly Father.

The Lord's ascension was great privilege and responsibility for the disciples and also means a great privilege and responsibility for us. Before He ascended, the Lord said to His disciples, *"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."* Christ's mission has now become the subject for our mission! He told them the good news of His life, death and resurrection must be proclaimed to the whole world, and *repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed to all nations . . . you are witnesses of these things*. **Christ's Mission Accomplished** means our **Mission Beginning!**

In our Baptism, we too have received the seal and promise of His Holy Spirit. Each of us has experienced His forgiving power in our lives and now He wants us to also share this Good News!

One day Jesus will visibly come again, just as He visibly went to heaven. Meanwhile He has promised to be with us. And by faith, above and beyond all that happens here, we see the glory of where we are surely headed, where our Lord has gone before us.

The four Sundays in May this year will be special for our services at River of Life.

- May 7 - With the Gospel from John 14, Jesus tell us He ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us that where He is we may be also.
- May 14 - Mother's Day
- May 21 - The Ascension of our Lord, observed.
- May 28 - The Day of Pentecost

With Christ love,
Pastor Mitschke



10:45am Sunday School and
Adult Bible Class
11:45am Holy Communion

May 7 – Communion.Easter 5

Reception of Members, Two Baptisms

SERMON

“How Do I Get There?” John 14:1-14

May 14 - Communion. . Easter 6, Mother’s Day

SERMON

“Mothers and Grandmothers” 2 Timothy 2:5

Ascension Day is May 18 this year. The day that marks Christ’s visible return to heaven is forty days after Easter and always falls on a Thursday. We will observe the Ascension of our Lord on Sunday, May 21.

May. 21– Communion Ascension

SERMON

“Welcome Home!” Luke 24:44-53

May. 30 – Worship The Day of Pentecost

SERMON

“Who Received the Gift of the Holy Spirit?”

Acts 2:1-21



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 Grell

650 S. Broadway St. Apt. 2F
Coal City, IL 60416

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



Sunday School...

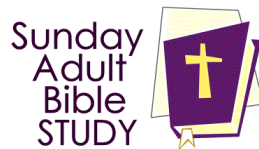
Sunday School is at 10:45am each Sunday in a Classroom



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



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.

May 13

9 am – 12 pm

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

May 23

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.

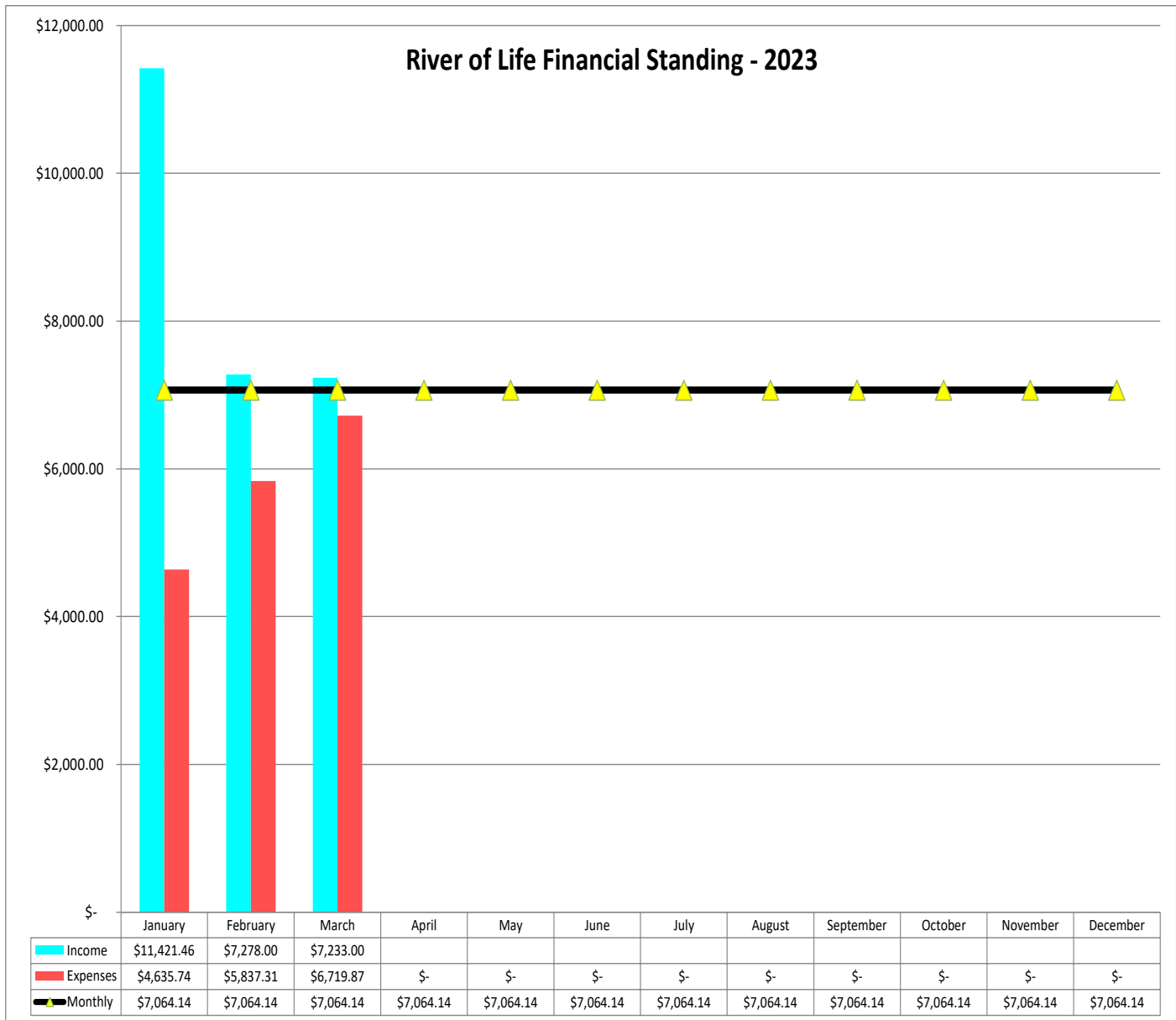
Donating to a charity using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

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>



Giving	\$ 25,932.46
Expenses	\$ 17,192.92
	\$ 8,739.54



Joan and I heard this song at a Keith and Kristyn Getty Concert. They are from Ireland and their group of nine to eleven singers and musicians travel to the United States every few years. We are always impressed with their talent and inspirational Christian music. **A Mother's Prayer** is a beautiful prayer for any parent or guardian as they watch their child grow in faith. It's a good prayer to share with a parent(s) you know.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all our mothers at River of Life!

+

A Mother's Prayer

**Before you close your eyes to sleep, I have a promise still to keep, as I hold you in my arms.
I pray your little frame grows strong and that faith takes hold while you are young: this is my
prayer for you.**



A
Mother's
Prayer
for her child

**Hold my hand, I'll teach you the way to go.
Through the joys, through the tears, the journey
of these years,
May you trust Him till the end.
May you trust Him in the end**

**This world is not as it should be, but the Savior opens eyes to see all that's beautiful and true.
Oh, may His light fill all you are, and the jewel of wisdom crown your heart: this is my prayer for
you.**

**Hold my hand, I'll teach you the way to go.
Through the joys, through the tears, the journey of
these years.
He is with us till the end,
He is faithful to the end.**



**You'll travel where my arms won't reach, as the road will rise to lead your feet on a journey of
your own.
May my mistakes not hinder you, but His grace remain and guide you through: this is my prayer for
you.**

**Take His hand and go where He calls you to.
And whatever comes, seek Him with all your heart:
This will be my prayer for you.
Father, hear my ceaseless prayer:
O keep her (him) in Your care.**

Words and Music by Keith and Kristyn Getty



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.

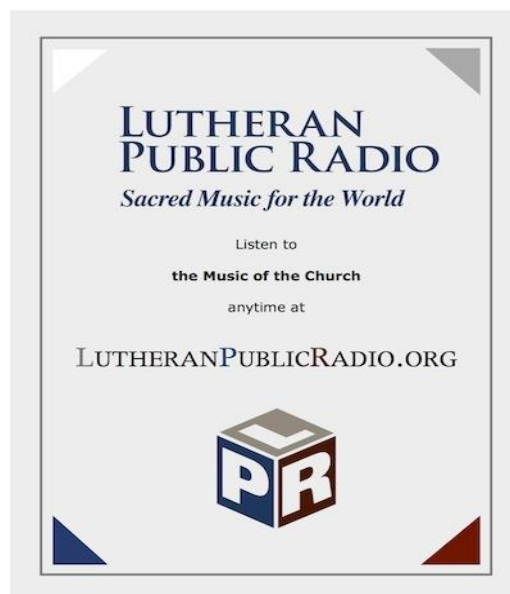
In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

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.