

RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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My Private Caring Nurse

Joan and I were planning to have picnics and avoid possible COVID hot spots on our leisurely trip back home. The first would be in Smoky Mountain National Park at Chimneys Picnic Area, a quiet scenic place with a mountain stream running through it. It was raining the morning we were preparing to leave our vacation cabin at Tumbling Waters. One of the last things we packed was our cooler. As I was putting the cooler behind the driver's side, I felt a pain in the upper part of my back. I could barely walk.

Joan put an ice pack on my back to help manage the pain. She also did most of the driving and the last day was the only driver. At the two motels we stopped at she unloaded the luggage we needed for the night and loaded the car for the next day plus helping me in and out of bed each night and keeping me comfortable with the much-appreciated ice packs while we travelled during the day.

We did have the picnic in the park. The picnic table was wet from the rain, so we sat in the car facing and enjoying the fast-moving stream. The sandwich with an apple for dessert tasted like a gourmet meal.

I have been blessed on this trip in having a private care nurse who has been doing for me what I could not do for myself. I'm reminded that in the beginning God created Adam and Eve for each other, to be a companion in life and to care for one another.

Genesis 2:18-25 - Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

It's interesting that God puts off creating Eve until after Adam names the animals. It looks to me like God knew all along Adam needed another human being to be with—but Adam didn't know that! And so God gave him a task that would force him to realize what he was missing. Fur and feathers, four legs and no legs and six legs, wings and flippers and claws—all wonderful, all beautiful, but none like him, none the same, none of them with which he could share home and life.

Only then does God put Adam to sleep and create Eve. And Adam appreciates her! Now he knows what he was missing. She is *"bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,"* he says. *And he is glad.*

In the King James version, we read, *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.* (Genesis 2:18) The ESV reads *. I will make a helper suitable for him.*" They were to be "Help Mates".

The vacation was great. We also got to celebrate our anniversary with our son and also on a Sunday in Church. Joan and I have been attending Grace Mountainside for 16 years when we are in the Smoky Mountains. We were called forward and our 63 years together were recognized.

I've been getting more than my share of help from Joan at this time and not giving much help in return. Maybe God meant that it is especially for times such as these that He in His wisdom gave us the blessed estate of marriage. We always need one another, and sometimes especially so.

We need family, friends, neighbors and people who pass us in the street. The pandemic with its lockdowns and social distancing has forced us to understand that—to feel it in our flesh and bones.

So God made humanity, not a single specimen, but a family where we help each other—and eventually, billions of people, interconnected in so many different ways. And then, God became a part of humanity—was born a human baby, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bones—to make us His own relatives, His own sons and daughters. As our relative, He would suffer, die, and rise for us, because He loved us. And through the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts, He would join us to Him forever—never lost, never alone again.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for becoming a part of our family, and making us part of Yours.

Help us to serve you by being "Help Mates" for one another. Amen.

May God bless you all!
Pastor Mitschke



Oct. 3 - COMMUNION **Pentecost 19**

Pastor Keller

Genesis 22:18-25, Hebrews 2:1-13
Mark 10:2-16

Oct. 10 – COMMUNION **Pentecost 20**

Pastor Willig

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Hebrews 3:12-19
Mark 10:17-22

Oct. 17 – COMMUNION **Pentecost 21**

Pastor Mitschke

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20, Hebrews 4:1-13
Mark 10:23-31

Oct. 24 – COMMUNION **Pentecost 22**

Pastor Mitschke

Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

Oct. 31 – COMMUNION **Reformation Day**

Pastor Mitschke

Jeremiah 31:31-34, *Romans* 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



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24009 S Navajo, Channahon, IL 60410

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



Sunday School...

Sunday School is back!!!

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



Confirmation

Confirmation meeting with Pastor Mitschke after church service on October 17,



Youth Group

Info about any events will be listed here.



**Adult Bible Study
Bible Class is BACK!!!**

The Dynamic Duo of Dave and Erich will alternate 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.

October 9th
8:30 am – 12 pm

October 26th
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pam Sterle or Amanda Graves. The more, the merrier!

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

The Church LIFT is operational again!!!
Let an Elder or Usher know if you need to use it!!



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