

# RIVER OF LIFE *STREAMS*

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***“Summer’s lease hath too short a date”*** William Shakespeare

When I was in high school at Concordia Prep School in Austin, Texas, our English professor felt we should have a “well-rounded” education. This included that we read some of Shakespeare’s works and perform for the student body a few of his plays and even portions of Macbeth

***“My times are in your Hand.”*** Psalm 31:5

that could be done without females. Concordia was an all boy school. (I still remember I was Macduff)

Recently I happened to read this short line, *“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date,”* from Shakespeare’s Sonnet 18 “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” Another year of summer’s activities will soon be gone. Where did it go? As short as summer’s lease is, the change of seasons gives us the opportunity to measure ourselves. Here are five thoughts that may be appropriate as our summer comes closer to an end:

#### First: **Thanksgiving!**

We had the pleasures of summer – maybe a vacation or short trips; or a time with family or friends – or the taste of water melon and ice cream – perhaps cookouts or a concert – or fireworks on July Fourth. Perhaps we should just give thanks for summer’s pace and summer’s grace. Whatever we have enjoyed we give thanks to God and then we add an Amen.

#### Second, perhaps: **A Confession**

Maybe, if we remember, instead of time to relax we had a frantic pace to get things done, a failure to find a “summer pace” amid the traffic of our days, the stubbornness of settled ways, and a too-cluttered mind, **and** let this summer get away.

#### Third: **A Time for Praise**

Praise to God, for long days, for shade trees and gentle breezes. Praise to God for the earth’s rotation, for our cycle around the sun, for sun, moon, and stars in their courses above. Praise to God for the order of the universe, the variety of the seasons, and the gift of another summer.

#### Fourth: **Hope!**

As I look ahead to the coming season, most of all I am thankful for our Heavenly Father’s continuing love for us in that He sent us His only-begotten Son to forgive us and to live a perfect life for us so that we may be covered by His righteousness. He fills me with His Spirit to make the most of what’s ahead, and also, first of all, to love God more dearly and live more closely to God and to others.

#### Last: **It all went so fast**

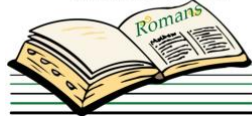
How can another summer have passed so quickly? How can vacations be ending and children be heading off to school. How can so many good intentions I had at the beginning of this summer have been mowed down like so much grass? What happened? What happened to pleasures I planned to enjoy, chores I intended to accomplish, places I wanted to see, so much I had hoped to do— Maybe next year.

Like the summer, time goes by fast. But we do have time and the time we have is a gift from God. In our church God chooses to give us opportunity to celebrate God’s love together. In our church it’s our joy to have one another while we enjoy our lease on life together. This is our time together as brothers and sister in Christ for **Thanksgiving, Confession, Praise** and **Hope** for now.

In Christ, our Savior,  
Pastor Mitschke

## August Sundays

11:45am



We will continue with using the Epistle Lessons from the Book of Romans as the sermon texts for Sundays in August.

**Aug. 6 – Communion . . . . . Pentecost 10**  
“God’s Miraculous Purpose for His People”  
Romans 9:1-13

**Aug. 13 – Communion. . . . . Pentecost 11**  
“Needed: A Gospel Proclaimer”  
Romans 10:5-17

**Aug. 20 – Communion . . . . . Pentecost 12**  
“The Great Mercy of God”  
(God Is Not Exhausted)  
Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 18-32

**Aug. 27 – Communion. . . . . Pentecost 13**  
“To Him Be Glory Forever. Amen”  
Romans 11:33-36



Our sister Circuit Church, Our Savior in Joliet has invited River of Life, to join them for a Divine Service celebrating the Ordination and Installation of Pastor-elect Matthew Carlson to serve as Our Savior’s next resident pastor. Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, NID President, will serve as Officiant

Matthew Carlson is presently completing his vicarage in California.

**The service will be on Sunday, Aug 20, beginning at 3:00pm. All are invited to remain for a dinner following the conclusion of the service. (Please RSVP to church at 815-725-1606 or oursaviorjoliet@gmail by Aug. 11 for the dinner.)**



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 C. Bremer** (80), our sister in Christ was called to her heavenly home on Friday, July 21, 2023. The Christian Service will be at River of Life on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 11:30am with a Memorial Visitation at 10:30am. We express our love and Christian sympathy to Judy's family, daughter Angie (Terry) Eckstein, sons Keith (Kathy) Weinstock and Karl Weinstock and her adored grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Ken, also a member of River of Life. Committal will be private at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery next to Ken.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26



**Paul T. Teske**, father of Sheree DeSalvo and grandfather of Matt and Joe, was called home by our Heavenly Father on July 15, 2023. A devout Lutheran, Paul found solace and inspiration in reading Scripture and sharing his faith with others. A memorial service to celebrate Paul's life was held Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, at his home church, Peace Lutheran in Beecher. We express our Christian love and sympathy to our sister in Christ, Sheree and her family. May the sure and certain promises of God's gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, give you God's comfort and peace.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15



**Sandy Krause**

North Aurora Nursing Home  
310 Banbury Rd  
Aurora, IL 60542

**Bill Richardson**

Arcadia  
1095 Twilight Drive  
Room 113  
Morris, IL 60450

**Vince Zitella**

6105 E. Hilltop Dr.  
Coal City, IL 60416

**Julianne Grell**

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

**Pam Sterle**  
1008 Rodney Drive  
Joliet, IL 60435

**Continued Prayers...**

Pastor Mark Willig  
Friends in Christ Lutheran Church  
513 E Main Street, Morris, IL 60450

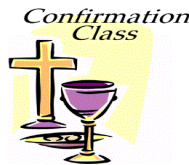
Pastor David Daniel  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Ottawa, IL

**GOD bless the Keller family, their last day at River of Life will be August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023!  
Please plan on wishing them the best after the service on August 20<sup>th</sup>, with cake and  
coffee in the Fellowship Hall.**



**Sunday School...**

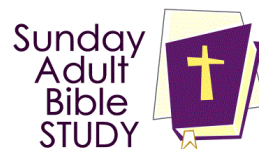
**Sunday School is out for the Summer!**



**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 out for the Summer!!**



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 NID and are working with them in regard to looking for a pastor.

Our delegation at a District 17 meeting in March met with the delegation of Friends in Christ and exchanged information so we could start the process of partnership with Friends in Christ. At the last meeting, it was voted unanimously by both churches leaders to continue to meet and move forward with the partnership There is still work to be done to determine what the partnership would look like and then calling a pastor. Our next scheduled meeting is on August 22, 2023, between the Friends in Christ call committee and the River of Life call committee.



### **Churches in Circuit South 17**

River of Life, Channahon  
Our Savior, Joliet  
St. Peter, Joliet  
St. Paul's, Lockport

Trinity, Marseilles  
Zion, Ottawa  
Lord of Life, Seneca  
Hope, Shorewood

The Northern Illinois District has eighteen Circuits. A circuit must have at least seven congregations and a minimum combined membership of 1,500.

## **Swaddling Clothes**

*Our outreach ministry for families!*

**Open** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**August 12**

9 am – 12 pm

Contact Amanda Graves for any questions.

**August 22**

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>



## 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.

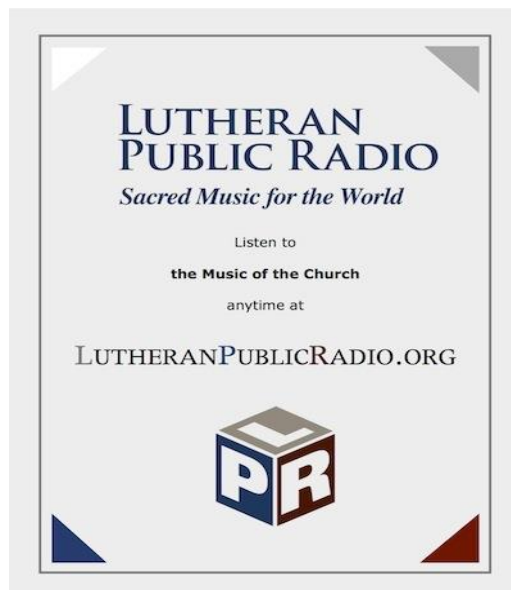
In our distribution of the wine and the bread in the Sacrament, there is now no contact between the pastor/elder and the people.

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.

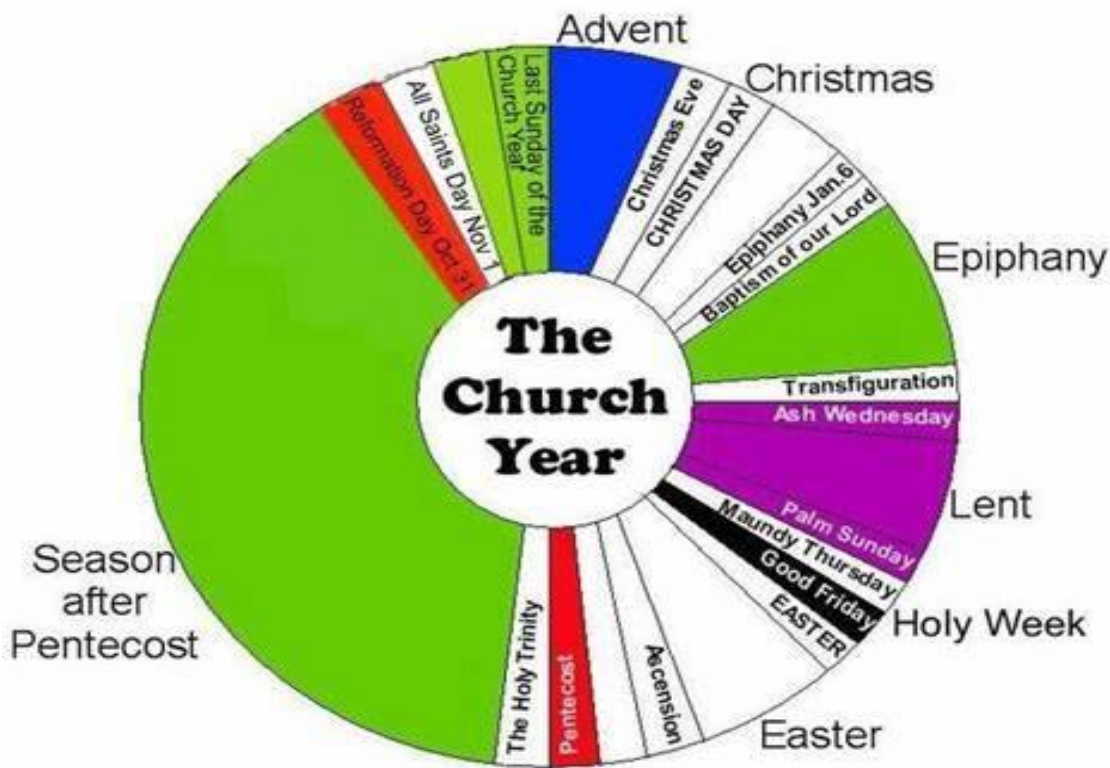
We followed suggestions and introduced these new precautions long ago. If you have comments or suggestions, please feel free to share them with an elder or pastor.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.