

# RIVER OF LIFE STREAMS

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## EASTER TODAY AND ALWAYS

I read of an Easter sermon preached over 100 years ago by a man named T. DeWitt Talmadge of New York City. Talmadge illustrated our coming resurrection by referring to what was then a new-fangled invention called the phonograph. He spoke of how a person's voice could be recorded and preserved on a cylinder and then played back again and again after the person had died.

Then he asked the question, "If man can do that, cannot God, without half trying, return the voice of your departed?" But if God can bring back the voice, why not then the lips & the face & the body & the bones? He concluded with this wonderful sentence, "If man can do the phonograph, God can do the resurrection."

I don't know about his logic, but we sure do agree "God can do the resurrection."

Today we hear quite often the statement, "I can't wait until things get back to normal." We are all waiting for the pandemic and its restrictions and requirements to end.

I know we will need to continue to wait on some of those. But there is something we don't have to wait for any longer. The church year Easter season will still be with us the first three Sundays in May. But Easter doesn't end in three weeks. Because of Christ's resurrection victory Easter is with us today and always.

Easter isn't just about getting us to heaven one day when we die. You see, Easter brings us abundant life *right now*. Easter, Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil, changes everything – our future, yes – but also our today. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the old has gone, and the new has come.

There is no more waiting for a life of peace that you long for. It's yours, today! There's no more waiting for a life defined by forgiveness, freedom, joy, security, purpose and love. You have it right now. Because of Jesus, your old life, old mistakes, old habits, and old sins don't define you. You share in the resurrection life of Christ.

Yes, there are some gifts of Jesus that we continue to wait for. We wait for the day when sin will be no more and death will be but a memory. But let's not forget that we have so much already. Let's celebrate it, give thanks for it, and embrace it to the fullest! Jesus died (and rose) to bring you that life, after all. So let's praise Him for all He has done and make the most out of what we have, today.

Waiting is hard. That's why we pray for strength, endurance and patience. But, waiting is a whole lot easier when you already have so much. Easter (Christ) is with us today, and always!

In Christ,  
Pastor Mitschke

Services



11:45am

**May 2 . . . . .Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
*“The ‘R’ Word”*  
John 15:1-8

**May 9 . . . . .Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother’s Day**  
*“A Mother’s Love Is Like . . . .”*  
John 15:9-17

**May 9. . . CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE**  
**Vote on the Calling of a Pastor**

**May 16.. . . . Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
*“Jesus Prayed that . . . .”*  
John 17:1b-19

**May 23 . . . . . The Day of Pentecost**  
**Confirmation Day**  
*“The Three Lessons (Gifts) of Pentecost”*  
Acts 2:1-21

**May 30 . . . . . The Holy Trinity**  
**(Memorial Day Weekend)**  
*“The Holy Trinity”*  
John 3:1-17



The card with all the signatures and the generous gifts of the congregation and all the children with happy faces who came bringing candy with cleverly worded wishes attached plus birthday balloons, brought a special feeling of joy. I thank you all for remembering my double eight birthday. It is a celebration I will remember.

I thank you all! *Pastor Mitschke*





## Sunday School...

It will be each week at 10:45am. THERE IS **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**.

Sunday



May 23

## Confirmation

**Logan Davis, Bree Dietz and Rebecca Hall** will speak their **Confirmation Vows** and make their **First Communion** on Pentecost Sunday.

On the next four Thursdays, Logan, Bree and Becca will complete their years of classes and make preparations for their Rite of Confirmation.

We congratulate Logan, Bree and Becca on their good work preparing for this day and look forward to welcoming them as communicant members.



## Youth Group



The youth group had fun bowling and making bookmarks for our hymnals on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Our top girl bowler was Becca with a score of 91, and our top boy bowler was Zach with a score of 107. Thank you to all who came out to help and have fun.



## Youth Group continued,



Please keep May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-8pm open on your calendar. Our youth group plans on cleaning up the church yard. This is a BIG task so we are hoping others will join. There are multiple and various tasks to be done, something for everyone. 😊 Any questions, please contact Jenny Sopkin (708) 912-5366 or Matt DeSalvo (815) 641-1480. Let us know if you're able to come by May 9<sup>th</sup>.



Want to have some fun and help our church? Look no further! Our church will be having a fundraiser by selling Joliet Jackhammer's baseball game tickets for \$10. Our church gets to keep \$5 for each ticket sold. We are required to sell a minimum of 25 tickets. Please ask friends and neighbors to join. If interested, please let me know how many tickets you would like and pay for them at that time. The game is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 pm. Doors open at 6:05 pm. Please contact Jenny Sopkin (708) 912-5366.



Alden Courts, Shorewood: **Bill Richardson**  
Lakewood Nursing and Rehab Center, Plainfield: **Sandra Krause**  
At Home: **Judy Bremer**

***Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10***

### **Adult Bible Study**

Please join us every **Sunday morning at 10:45** in the downstairs Fellowship Hall  
For Faith, Fun, and Fellowship!!

**Dave Hall** will be leading an Adult Lutheran Bible Class that will cover 14 different lessons. The units begin with creation, and the last lesson falls during the reign of King David. Together, our church family will learn key Bible accounts and give foundational learning of how God's plan of salvation all began.

So, then faith *comes* by hearing and hearing by the word of God. **Romans 10:17**

**See you on Sunday!!**

# Swaddling Clothes

*Our outreach ministry for families!*

Open only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

**May 8th**

**8:30 am – 12 pm**

We are looking for volunteers in the Swaddling Room on Wednesdays from 6 – 7 pm. If you are interested to help, 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.



## **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.