

# RIVER OF LIFE

## ENDURING JOY

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THE JOY OF NEW LIFE



**RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN** | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

## *The Baptism of Our LORD*

### **OUR PASTOR**

**Pastor Lincoln Albrecht**

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### **WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE**

**Thank you** for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

**The worship folder** you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

**Restrooms** are located in the front corner for your convenience.

**God wants all his children to worship together.** We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

### **OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

When John the Baptist saw him standing there, he must have done a double-take. There amongst the tax collectors, Roman soldiers, and other guilty sinners stood Jesus of Nazareth. He was not sinful like they were. He is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. So why did he need to be baptized? This question doesn't just trouble us—it troubled John as well. Yet Jesus puts all our troubles in their proper place. He says (Mt. 3:14) **It is to fulfill all righteousness.** Jesus did not need to be baptized to cleanse himself of sins. He was baptized to connect himself with sinners and also connect sinners with his righteousness. In Romans 6, Paul speaks of the transformational power found in Baptism. We are connected with Christ and so we cannot return to our old way of living that only resulted in death. Rather we long and we strive to live like our Savior did.

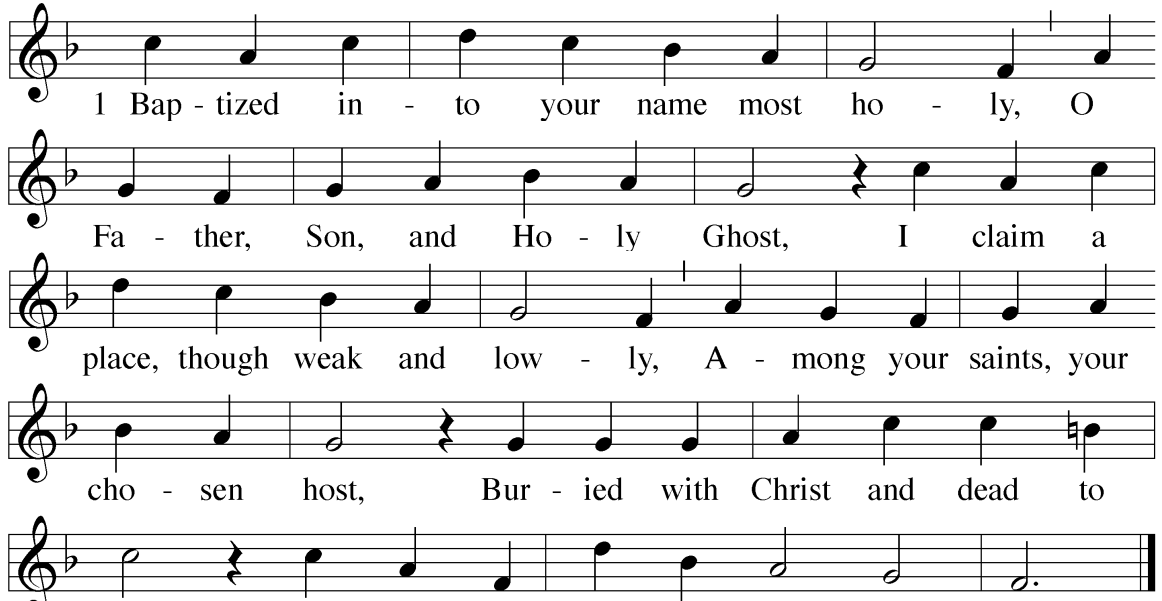
# The Gathering

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## HYMN

*Baptized into Your Name Most Holy* | 294 (1)



1 Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a  
place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your saints, your  
cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to  
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

P: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**<sup>1</sup>

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.

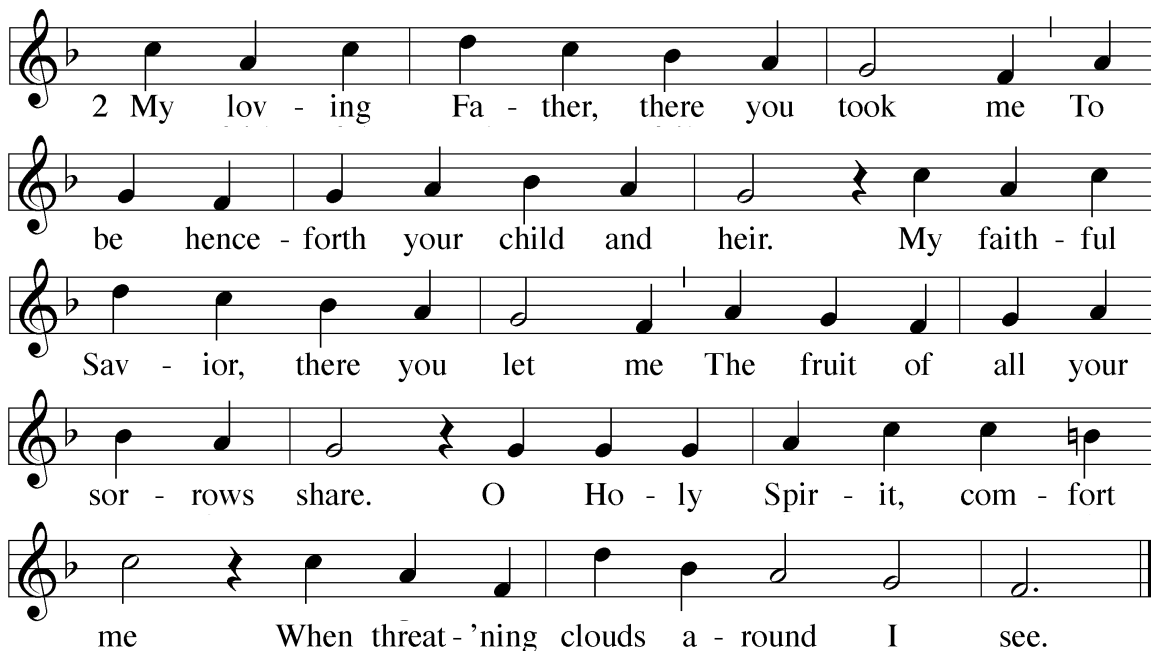
P: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 3:5; **John 3:6**

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 51:5; **1 Corinthians 6:11**

## HYMN

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy | 294 (2)



2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To  
be hence - forth your child and heir. My faith - ful  
Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of all your  
sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort  
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

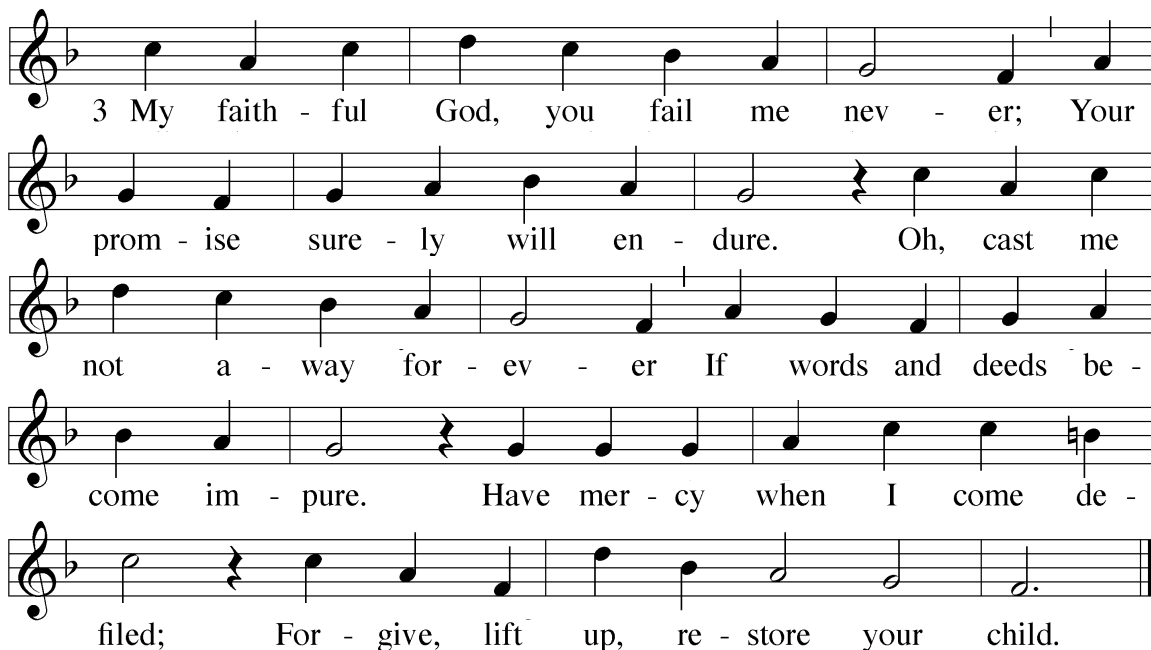
M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

P: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



## HYMN

*Baptized into Your Name Most Holy* | 294 (3)



3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your  
prom - ise sure - ly will en - dure. Oh, cast me  
not a - way for - ev - er If words and deeds be -  
come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -  
filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

## FORGIVENESS

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

P: **Amen.**

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<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 5:25-27

## PRAISE

M: Our hope is in God. He is our Savior, our joy, and our delight. Let us praise him with songs of joy and thanksgiving!

## HYMN

*Baptized into Your Name Most Holy* | **294 (4)**

4 All that I am and love most dear - ly - Re -  
ceive it all, O Lord, from me. Let me con -  
fess my faith sin - cere - ly And help me your own  
child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or  
own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Let us pray:

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 49*

**49** Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the Lord called me;  
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand,  
and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says—  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord  
and my God has been my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Mark 1:11*

M: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love;

P: **with you I am well pleased. Alleluia.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*These Words Are Written* | **DS II**



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Romans 6*

**6** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.



## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Romans 6*

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL READING**

*Mark 1*

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."



1 God's own child, I gladly say it:  
 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this pro - ce - la - ma - tion:  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I  
 To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -  
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing  
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so  
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it  
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures  
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science  
 soon en - ticed. Now that the font I've  
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and  
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y  
 seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me  
 trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,  
 ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:  
 rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,  
 In a dear for - giv - ing flood,  
 And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,  
 Bap - tism has the strength di - vine  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 To make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 I'm a child of par - a - dise!

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## *Our Response to God's Word*

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

**P: We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.**

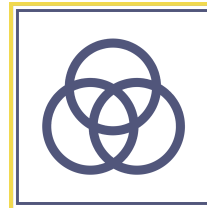
M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

### **APOSTLES' CREED** <sup>4</sup>

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



### **THANK OFFERING**



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card ([azriveroflife.com/connect](http://azriveroflife.com/connect)) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

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<sup>4</sup> *The Apostles' Creed first appeared in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD after a church council. This creed was written to confess the Bible's teachings in a simple way.*

HYMN

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | 89 (1-4)



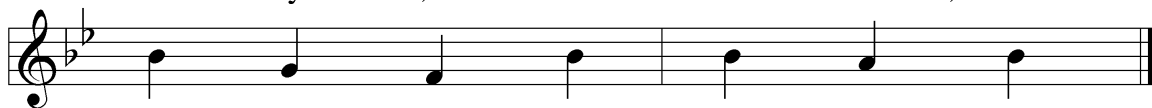
1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The  
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The  
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And  
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came



Christ, whom heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The  
 Son of God in flesh dis - guised— To  
 John bap - tized the Lamb of God, The  
 God's own voice with words pro - found: "This



God from God, the Light from Light, The  
 stand be - neath the Fa - ther's will And  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, De -  
 is my Son," was his de - cree, "The



Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.  
 all his prom - is - es ful - fill.  
 scend - ed on him from a - bove.  
 one I love, who pleas - es me."

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God Almighty, you are the source of all energy, all truth, and all power. You are a holy God. We come before you with awe and wonder.

**P: We are not worthy to stand before you. No power on earth can cleanse us from a single sin, but you are pleased to wash us clean from them all.**

M: God of grace, in immeasurable love you washed away all our sins—past, present, and future—through the waters of Baptism. This too is beyond our grasp. How can water do such wonderful things?

**P: You assure us that this water is nothing more than plain water connected to your powerful promises. Sanctify us by the truth. Your word is truth.**

M: By your grace, you call us to be what we were not. You make poor sinners rich in righteousness. You give life to the dead and sight to the blind.

**P: You make us beloved children. Empower us to represent our Father well.**

M: When our sins accuse us; when our sordid past haunts us; restore us gently with the good news that your Son fulfilled all righteousness for us.

**P: Use us to bring healing to sinners who've hurt themselves and others. Refresh them with a clean conscience towards God and their neighbors.**

M: Heavenly Father, we believe Baptism creates and sustains faith. Yet there are some who have not yet been washed and claimed as yours through Baptism. Listen now to our prayers on their behalf. Move them—and those responsible for them—so that they might be cleansed by water and Word.

A time for silent, personal prayer for those who are not yet baptized.

M: With the confidence of dearly loved children, we pray as your Son taught:

**P: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

P: Amen.

## SONG OF DEPARTURE

*To Jordan's River Came Our Lord* | **89 (5-6)**



5 The Fa - ther's word, the Spir - it's flight A -  
noint - ed Christ in glo - rious sight As  
God's own choice, from A - dam's fall To  
save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!  
This man in Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.



## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

### OPEN FORUM AND VOTERS' MEETING

**FEBRUARY 4**

Join us after worship on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, to hear updates on ministry over the past year, discuss future plans, and make important financial decisions for our congregation. After the open forum, we'll also have a fellowship meal for all!

### SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**ACSTO**

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can make a donation to ACSTO and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit in return. If you usually receive a refund from the state of Arizona, you'll get a bigger refund. If you typically owe; you'll owe less. When you make a donation you can identify a specific school or student to receive your donation.

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Hymn #294 **Baptized into Your Name Most Holy** Text: Johann J. Rambach, 1693-1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Hymn #737 **God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It** Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957 © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hymn #89 **To Jordan's River Came Our Lord** Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949. © 1993 James P. Tiefel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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# RIVER OF LIFE

*Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days*

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- Jan. 14** (10:20 am) Congregational Long-Range Planning
- Jan. 21** (9:00 am) Worship (w/ Lord's Supper):  
**Enduring Joy: The Joy of Real Reconciliation**
- Jan. 21** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Jan. 28** (9:00 am) Worship: **Enduring Joy: The Joy of Refuge**
- Jan. 28** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Feb. 4** (9:00 am) Worship (w/ Lord's Supper):  
**Enduring Joy: Renewed Strength**
- Feb. 4** (10:20 am) Open Forum & Voters' Meeting

## CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

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refreshing truth for you