

RIVER OF LIFE



18 FEBRUARY 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

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

The First Sunday in Lent

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 everyone 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

In the season of Lent, we see Jesus taking our place in his passion—the Valiant One fighting for us on the battlefield. Today's struggle is against temptation. In our Gospel reading, Jesus is sent by the Holy Spirit out into the wilderness to face off with Satan. Despite the Devil's best attempts at temptation, Jesus is not moved. He is faithful to his Father and confident in what the Word says and means. In Romans 8, we learn of the gifts given to us through Christ's victory. God is for us. That is why Jesus came to stand in our place. But this promise isn't just something for the past. God continues to be for us. He remains faithful to his promises and his people and even intercedes on our behalf. In Genesis 22, we see that same God step into the life of Abraham and Isaac. While this test may trouble us from afar, God does not stand far off. He injects himself into the incident and prevents Isaac's sacrifice. This is the same God who sacrifices himself in our place so that we might have his blessings. God is always for his people!

The Gathering

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | 523 (1)



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all
mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

P: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

P: **Holy God, gracious Father,**
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | **523 (2)**

2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.

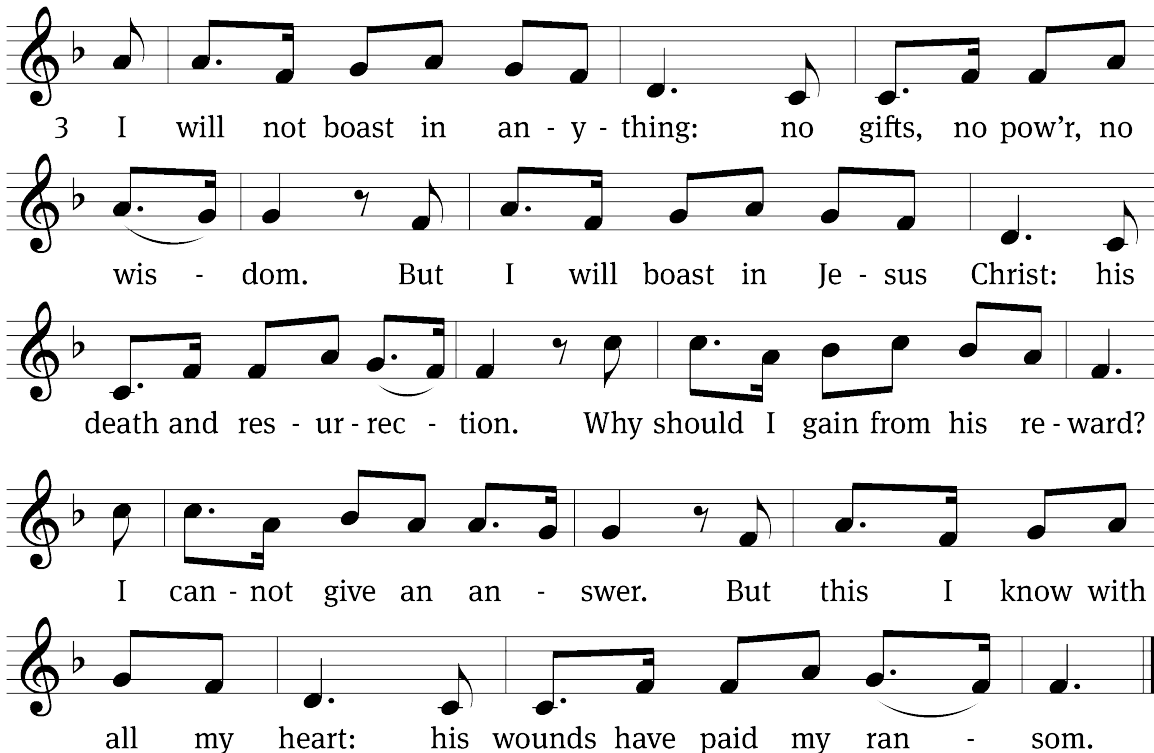
FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | 523 (3)



3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the truths of God are presented in a simplified way for all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 4:10

It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

SONG OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | **201 (3-4)**



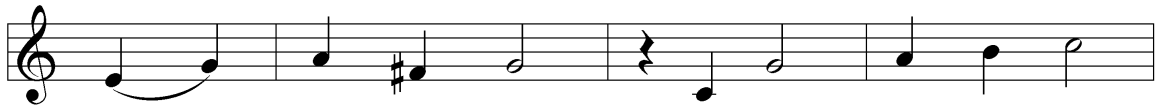
3 Though dēv - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger
4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y



to de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no
thanks have for it; He's by our side up - on the



ill; They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This
plain With his good gifts and Spir - it. And



world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
do what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is
Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is



done! One lit - tle word can fell him.
won; The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22

¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1

M: The Gospel according to Mark, chapter one:

P: Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their
 4 He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and
 5 He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now

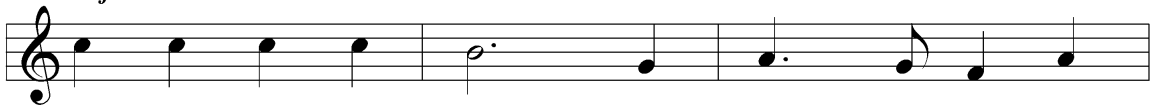


sac - ri - fice? Faith sees, be - lieves God
 of - fer - ing. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let
 shep - herd kill So still, his will, On
 wretch - ed - ness. He lives, for - gives, He
 o - ver - flows. His song pro - long 'Til

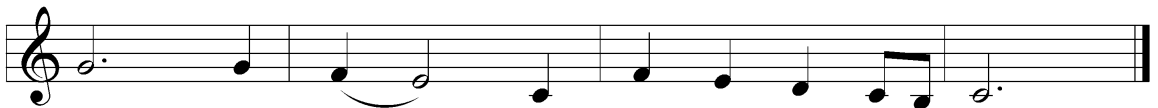


will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
 our be - half the law to fill.
 gives me his own right - eous - ness.
 ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

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.

NICENE CREED¹

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

¹ *The Nicene Creed is the only common confession of faith for the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox, the Anglican Communion of churches, the Oriental Orthodox churches, and many Protestant bodies—which includes Lutherans.*

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) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God Most High, almighty fortress and protector, we praise you for providing for us each day. You have brought us safely to this time and place.

P: In the midst of many dangers and temptations, we are still your children only by your grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you for saving us.

M: Jesus took on our flesh and faced sin's seduction as we do, but he did not yield to temptation. He was obedient in every way, at every moment. He is our Victory. His triumph over sin, death, and the devil is ours forever.

P: When we are tempted through our fleshly appetites, by the riches of this world, and by our love for honor and prestige, help us to use your Word as a weapon. Fill our hearts and minds with the counsel of your Holy Spirit.

M: God of grace, give us patience and strength for the tests we face in this life.

P: Remind us that you have not promised to never give us more than we can handle. Assure us that you are the only refuge we need in trouble.

M: Lord of love, the old, evil foe loves to isolate sinners from you and from the body. Hear our prayers for those who are not being strengthened regularly by your Word. Lead them back into the fold to experience your love again.

A time for silent, personal prayer for the spiritually lost and wandering.

M: Christ Jesus, you came to win back the lost. We pray as you 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.

Prayer of Preparation: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You called me by name and declared that I was Your child through the washing of my Baptism. I desire, now, to receive the true body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in this Holy Meal. Continue to grant me grace, that I may stand before You and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that is mine through Your life, death, and resurrection. Strengthen me. Grant me the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree be overcome. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus | SWS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✙ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✙ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

P: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei | SWS



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



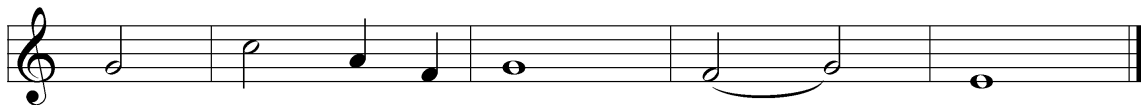
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION



At River of Life, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread & wine, we miraculously receive the real body & blood of Christ for the full forgiveness of sins. Scripture directs believers in preparation and reception: **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** (1 Cor. 11:29)

This meal is also an expression of unity with one another: **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."** (1 Cor. 10:17) Therefore we ask that if you are not familiar with our teachings, please speak with Pastor Albrecht before taking the Lord's Supper. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious
 5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, Yet faith this



our sal - va - tion; It is your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion, But you are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That your true bod - y
 truth em - brac - es: Your bod - y, Lord, is



and your blood, And at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where And with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing,
 ev - 'ry - where At once in man - y plac - es.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, And there is
 I leave to you how this can be; Your Word a -



you for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, For you, Lord, are al - might - y.
 lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.

Additional stanzas for this hymn are in the red hymnal or on the screens in front of you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Thank the Lord | **SWS**



Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

CLOSING HYMN*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* | **201 (1-2)**

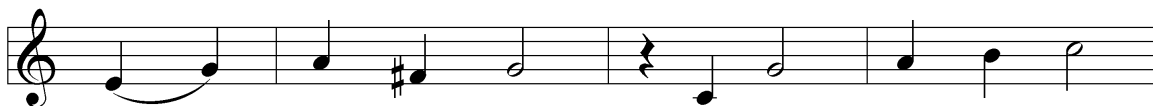
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our



shield and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry
 loss ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant



need That has us now o'er - tak - en. The
 one Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You



old e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
 ask, "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in
 The al - mighty Lord. And there's no oth - er



fight; On earth is not his e - qual.
 God; He holds the field for - ev - er.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. What a joy to hear that Jesus has paid for all our sins and gives us the free gift of eternal life in heaven! It's our prayer that you enjoyed your time here, at River of Life, and that God's Word has strengthened your faith. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and developing lasting relationships.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & WORSHIP SERVICES WEDNESDAYS

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. During the next 5 Wednesdays (7pm), we are going to examine the moments when the Son of God was literally on trial. Each Wednesday service will also feature a potluck soup supper beforehand. Make plans to be fed physically & spiritually.

DAYLIGHT MISSION TEAM

MARCH 3-10

Three young ladies—Morgan, Kaitlin, and Caitlin—from Martin Luther College (New Ulm, MN)—our synodical worker training school will be helping us advance God's kingdom in our community. They need your help, support, and prayers. How can you help? You can go with them out into our community, provide housing, treat them to a home-cooked meal, or sponsor a lunch or dinner. Talk with Pastor Albrecht if you have any questions.

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Hymn #201 **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. composite.

Hymn #714 **The Lamb** Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953 © 1987 Bimamwood Publications (ASACP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hymn #312 **Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared** Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603-68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Feb. 18** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Breaks Bread With Sinners**
- Feb. 21** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Feb. 21** (7:00 pm) Midweek Lenten Worship: **God On Trial – Misconceptions**
- Feb. 23** (4:30pm) Youth Catechism Class
- Feb. 25** (9:00 am) Worship: **Spared: Through – But Not From – Suffering**
- Feb. 25** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Immanuel: Washes His Disciples' Feet**
- Feb. 28** (6:00 pm) Lenten Soup Supper
- Feb. 28** (7:00 pm) Midweek Lenten Worship: **God On Trial – Truth**

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.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AzRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you