

# River of Life Lutheran Church Chugiak, Alaska

## "Ripples" Monthly Newsletter February 2023

### *Our Purpose Statement:*

*We are a community of faith called to - glorify God - grow in faith and love, and - go into the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.*

[Visit our Website](#)

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### ***From the Pastor's Desk...***

“The Spirit of God is certainly evident in this congregation.” “The ones who need to read the RIPPLES ... never do.” “How are we ever going to increase our budget unless we increase our membership?” “Did I tell you, I think you’re doing a great job?” “I’ve already served all I care to serve ... someone else can do it.” “Of course I think that adult Bible study is important ... but this is the only time I can grab a cup of coffee and catch up with other members from the past week.” “I want you to know just how much you’ve influenced my life, and that you’ve been one of the persons who has strengthened my faith.” “This congregation is the friendliest church I’ve ever worshipped in!”

What do all these statements have in common? They come from the place where “all the action is”! The church ... the body of Christ. The church is not perfect ... it’s made up of human beings. Each member has his or her own needs and reasons for serving or for not getting involved in the congregation. And everyone experiences their church in different ways. That is to say, because of who we are, certain characteristics of our congregation are more obvious to us than others. But one thing never changes ... the church belongs to God, and Christ is the head. Everything else which takes place in a church can be

tolerated, made into programs, organized, debated, etc. But when we assume that our perceptions are the only ones ... then we tend to stop listening to one another, and to the Holy Spirit among us.

Do we have conflicts ... differences of opinions ... as well as times when we support and pray, laugh and cry with each other ... and times when we are humbled by the working of God in our midst? YES! The church is never monotonous. And especially for those of us who are mindful that February is the month of “love”, let me reassure us all that the church is the place where we get to practice sharing with one another and the greater community the love that God has for us.

St. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:1-6: *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

We may be different (take that as you will) ... and we do not have to share the same opinions ... but by God’s command, we are to learn God’s ways of doing things within the church. The challenge is to learn humility, gentleness, patience and love for one another. Because this was the way God demonstrated love for us in Christ. Join me in the challenge!

In His service, Pastor Bill Ottum

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## ***Sunday Worship Service***

**We worship at 11:00am**

*21301 Voyles Blvd., Chugiak, AK. 99567*

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### **PIGSS - Pretty Interesting Guys Studying Scripture**

**Our next breakfast and work party is Saturday, February  
11  
9:00am - Noon**

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***Join us for Sunday Morning Adult Studies at  
10:00am***

## "I & II Peter"

On January 8 we started reading and discussing our way through the first letter of Peter the Bible. Bring your own study Bible – no other materials will be needed. Classes meet Sunday mornings at 10am in the Fellowship Room. Please come and join us!

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### **Confirmation Classes**

Pastor Ottum is leading the class through the various sections of The Small Catechism, written by Martin Luther. The class is currently studying **New Testament**. Calvin Twohy is our current confirmand. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. *(All classes are held on Sunday afternoon, 12:30-1:30pm at the church. Check with the office, or Pastor Ottum, for a complete schedule.)*

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## February 2023

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### **Lent Worship Schedule**

#### **Ash Wednesday:**

February 22 – 7:00pm –Worship / Holy Communion

#### **Mid-week Lent Worship:**

Wednesdays, March 1 , 8, 15, 22 , 29

6:30pm – Soup Supper / 7:30pm Worship

*(We will worship with Trinity Lutheran – hosting schedule to be determined)*

#### **Holy Week:**

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm *(May be held at Trinity in Palmer)*

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday, 7:00pm *(May be held at Trinity in Palmer)*

#### **Easter:**

Sunday, April 10

9:30am – Easter Breakfast (potluck)

11am – Worship

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## **Prayer Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers for Our Congregation**

We pray for the health and vitality of ROL's Ministry & Mission.

### Prayers for Family and Friends

We pray for continued healing, encouragement, and strength for: Padi's cousin's husband **Jon** (prayers for healing & better health); Elaine's friend **Larry** (healing from stroke); Elaine's friend **Merv's Family** (upon his passing); Padi's friend **Lorraine** (cancer treatment); **Liam** (Cindy's nephew); **Bob Reupke**; **Stewart Mee**; Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); **Wayne Fredeen** (healing); Paul Krauszer's friend **George Gillis** (cancer); **Terry** (healing); Terry's friends **Dave** (support and encouragement) and **David** (recovery from surgery); Pastor Bill & Linda's friend **Jodi** whose husband passed away in a house fire; Linda H.'s sister **Susie** (healing and comfort); prayers of healing and direction for LaDonna's daughter **Danielle**; Eldred's friend **Marlene** (brain tumor); **Ann Copenhaver** (upcoming hip surgery); Diane's sister **Susan** (recuperating); Bob Kelly's brother **Ron** (healing); **Susan** (radiation); and, **Mary Alice** (heart treatment).

### Prayer Partners

We pray for the health and vitality of the ministry of our other Knik Cluster congregations and their pastors: **Joy, Eagle River; Trinity, Palmer; Good Shepherd, Wasilla; Table of Grace, Bethel;** and, our February *Prayer Partner* **Joy Lutheran Church in Eagle River.**

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## Emergency Food Bags Are Available

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Everyone is encouraged  
to take one or more to  
keep in the car and give  
to someone in need.

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## February Birthdays

6 - Dave Howe  
17 - Matt Budin  
19 - Diane Krauszer  
22 - Linda Heinzelmann  
22 - Linda Ottum

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## ***Friendly Reminder:***

Don't Forget to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

### **Need pastoral care?**

Please remember to notify the church office if you are ill or hospitalized so that we can offer prayer and support directly to you. If you have a pastoral emergency (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) contact Pastor Bill at 907-223-7042.

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## **2023 Church Council Members**

President: Padi Wallace  
Vice President: Dotty Eldred  
Secretary: Mary Ann Hartzog  
Treasurer: Bob Norton  
Committee Liaisons:

- Building – Terry Durst
- Worship – Dotty Eldred
- Fellowship – Linda Heinzelmann
- Outreach / Discipleship – Bob Kelly
- Mission – Church Council