

RIVER OF LIFE



19 MAY 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

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

The Festival of Pentecost

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

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.

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FOR PENTECOST

Israel had three annual pilgrimage festivals—the feast of Passover, Tabernacles, and Weeks. The Lord timed his outpouring of the Holy Spirit with this third pilgrimage festival which was celebrated seven weeks and a day (or fifty days) after the Passover Sabbath. On this day when the city tripled in size, the Lord chose to grow his Church. Through the words of his Apostle who had been filled with the Holy Spirit, life was breathed into dead sinners. The harvest that Jesus had been speaking of was coming to fruition. On that day, three thousand people were brought to repentance and the saving waters of Baptism. But this work was not a one-off. As Peter pronounced, the promise of Christ is not just for those who happened to be there that day. It is also for the coming generations and all who are far off—all whom the Lord would call.

The Gathering for the Festival of Pentecost

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✚ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

M: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

P: **The Spirit of God has made me. The breath of the Almighty gives me life.**

HYMN RESPONSE

O Holy Spirit, Enter In | **184 (1)**

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in And in our hearts
your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
That we May be Tru - ly liv - ing, To you giv - ing
Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - ceas - ing.

M: O Lord, where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ¹

P: **If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Brothers and sisters, on this day we celebrate with joy the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is that same Holy Spirit who has come into our hearts and made us children of God. But we must admit with grieved hearts that we haven't always lived our lives as God's obedient children.

Our Lord has said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever." Let us then acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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. Do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.**

HYMN RESPONSE

O Holy Spirit, Enter In | **184 (3)**

*O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From you true wisdom learning.
Your grace And peace On us shower;
By your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.*

¹ Our Pentecost Gathering Rite and seasonal Confession & Forgiveness of Sins (p. 2-4) recalls the divine work and nature of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Genesis 1:1-2; Job 33:4; Psalm 139:7-8; Genesis 6:3; Psalm 6:1-4; John 20:21-23; John 3:5-6; Isaiah 61:1; Romans 8:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 4:23-24.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Children of God, take heart! God our heavenly Father has heard your confession and he does not punish us with the hell our sins deserve. In his infinite mercy, he sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer the punishment in our place. He has removed your guilt forever! 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: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

M: Jesus said to his disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

P: No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

M: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

P: Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

M: Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Let us, his worshipers, worship and praise him in spirit and in truth.

HYMN RESPONSE

O Holy Spirit, Enter In | 184 (2)

*Give to your Word impressive pow'r
That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity
We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, Cheer us By your teaching;
Let our preaching And our labor.
Praise you, Lord, and serve our neighbor.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word of God

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."
¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the children are invited forward to learn a truth tailored for them.

PRAISE RESPONSE

Holy Spirit, God of Love | 180



Ho - ly Spir - it, God of love, Who our dark - ness bright - ens,



Poured on us from heav'n a - bove, And our faith en - light - ens,



In your light we gath - er here; Show us that Christ's prom - ise clear



Is A - men for - ev - er. Je - sus, our as - cend - ed Lord,



Oh, ful - fill your gra - cious Word; Bless us with your fa - vor!

37 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.' "

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.' "

GOSPEL READING

John 15

²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

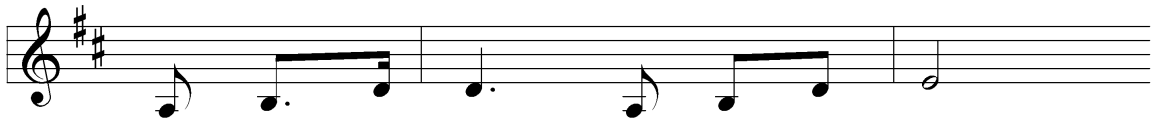
In Christ Alone | 752



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



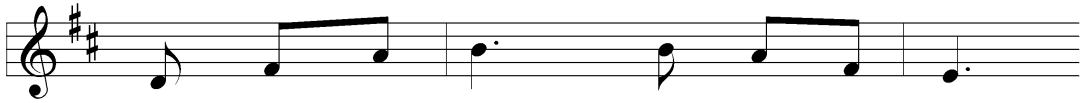
He is my light, my strength, my song;
Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



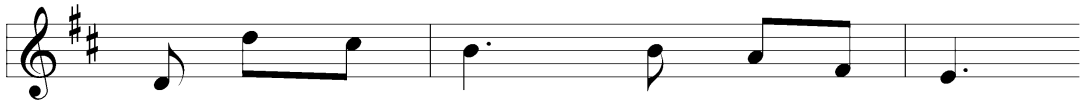
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;



My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,



Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

(Fine)



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 CREED

**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.

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: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons, but one God, enlighten our hearts and minds through your precious means of grace.

P: **You sent your Advocate to bring us to a knowledge of the truth. Keep us steadfast in the one, true faith, despite the challenges and obstacles we face.**

M: Holy Spirit, renew a right spirit in us. As we grow weak and faint, give us an extra measure of strength and patience—not just to make our journey easier, but so that we might run the race you have marked out for us.

P: **Create in us a new heart—one that studies the Scriptures out of joy, not guilt or compulsion. May your Word enlighten all our steps. May your strength be imparted to us through your Scriptures.**

M: Loving Lord, we live in a world that does not know the Light or understand the Truth. We know this is where we would all be without your grace and mercy, but we ask that you would hear our prayers for the many who dwell in darkness and have bought into the devil's lies.

A time for silent, personal prayer for those who are spiritually lost.

M: Trusting that you hear and love us dearly, we pray as you taught us:

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 good and right so to do.

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, our Lord, who on this day kept his promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to proclaim the Gospel in all the world. 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 | CS



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 | CS



C: 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.

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv-en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you. *Last time*

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos-en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the Shep-herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell-ing place; on me you rest
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride-groom, this my wed-ding song. *To Refrain*

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

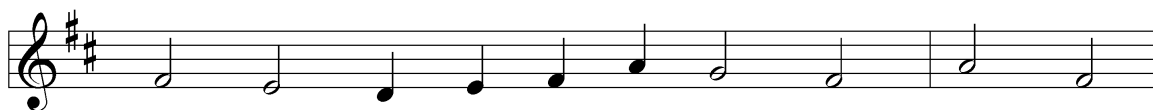
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Feed Your Children, God Most Holy | 616



Feed your chil - dren, God most ho - ly; Com - fort



sin - ners poor and low - ly. Je - sus, bread of life from



heav - en, Bless the food you here have giv - en.



As these gifts the bod - y nour - ish, May our souls



in gra - ces flour - ish Till with saints in heav'n - ly



splen - dor At your feast due thanks we ren - der.

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

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest | 177 (1-2)



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make our
2 To you, the Coun - se - lor, we cry, To you, the



hearts your place of rest; Come with your grace and
gift of God most high; The fount of life, the



heav'n - ly aid, And fill the hearts which you have made.
fire of love, The soul's a - noint - ing from a - bove.



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.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. If you're interested, speak with Pastor Albrecht.

JUNE VOTERS' MEETING & OPEN FORUM

JUNE 9

On June 9th, we will be hosting an open forum for the council to provide an update on the ministry work we share and for the congregation to provide feedback. The major items up for discussing and deciding upon are the church budget and discussing future plans for our shared ministry. After the open forum, we will have a fellowship meal.

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Hymn #184 **O Holy Spirit, Enter In** Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-73, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, st. 1, 3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 2, alt.

Hymn #176 **Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord** Text: German hymn, 15th century, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483-1546, st. 2-3; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

Hymn #752 **In Christ Alone** Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.

Hymn #177 **Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest** Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776-856, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.

Hymn #741 **Take and Eat** Text (refrain): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Text (verses): James Quinn, S. J., b. 1919 © James Quinn, S. J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Hymn #616 **Feed Your Children, God Most Holy** Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- May 19** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed Be the Name: Abraham and Sarah**
- May 22** (5:30 pm) Youth Catechism Class
- May 22** (5:00 pm) Church Council Meeting
- May 26** (9:00 am) Worship: **Acts of God: Adoption**
- May 26** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed Be the Name: Jacob/Israel**
- June 2** (9:00 am) Worship (with Lord's Supper): **Acts of God: Real Rest**
- June 2** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed Be the Name: Jacob/Israel**
- June 9** (9:00 am) Worship: **Acts of God: Marked By Blessing**

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