



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH

MAY/JUNE 2022 - RIVERSIDE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWSLETTER

Dear Riverside parishioners and friends.

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” - Revelation 2:10

These are the words of the crucified, risen, and ascended Christ to the church gathered in the Roman city of Smyrna. They were facing hostility, some of which would result even in martyrdom. But Jesus promised them a reward of unmatched value on the other side of death – the crown of life! Victory in His presence, and being counted among those who have overcome in the greatest way imaginable.

The month of May at Riverside begins with our annual celebration of God’s work in the life of our confirmands – this year, four young women will confess their faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and promise to remain faithful. Please keep Lilly, Victoria, Vanaysa and Lashay in your prayers! As I think back to my own Confirmation Day several years ago, I am always reminded of one of the questions my fellow confirmands and I affirmed, a question that echoes the words of Jesus in Revelation 2:10. We were asked... “Is it your intention, by the grace of God, to be a follower of Jesus Christ and obey the word of God; by shunning sin and walking in the fear of the Lord, even to death?”

We responded, “I do so intend by the grace of God.”

That is a very heavy promise! And if you were confirmed at some point in your past, you likely made that promise, too. So, how’s it going as you seek to keep that promise? Have you forgotten that you said those words at some point? Do you wonder if you have what it takes to remain faithful to Jesus, right up to the end?

On one hand, you don’t have what it takes, and neither do I. In and of ourselves, we’d never be strong enough or wise enough or faithful enough to stay close to Jesus and to follow Him even through death. Peter thought he

cont. on pg. 2

Riverside Apostolic Lutheran Church

Pastor: Ray Stenersen

3500 W Deschutes Ave.

Kennewick, WA 99336

Phone (509) 820-9934



cont. from pg 1

had what it takes, and so did the rest of the disciples, but they were proved wrong as the events of Maundy Thursday unfolded. This promise is not one that we can keep by our own ability! But that's why we answer with, "I do so intend by the grace of God." By His grace, we do have what it takes – His life-giving Word, our Savior's finished work declared to us and given to us personally in the Sacraments, and His mighty Holy Spirit to live in us. Not only that, but He gives us the gift of the Church, so that we might never walk the journey alone. Our God is faithful! Our Savior was faithful, even to death! And because our God is faithful to us, we can trust that He will give us the strength to live by faith each day.

May God bless our confirmands, and may God bless us to stick close to Jesus, this month and always!

God's Peace!

Pastor Ray

## LOOKING AHEAD

May 1st  
Confirmation Sunday

May 8th  
Mother's Day

May 15th  
Meal  
Following Service

May 22nd  
Last Day of Sunday  
School

May 30th  
Memorial Day

June 12th  
Sunday School Picnic

June 19th  
Father's Day

June 29, 30 & July 1  
Vacation Bible School

## Join us for our 2022 Vacation Bible School

June 29th, 30th & July 1st from 9am-noon (each day)

All Children Pre-K (4 years old) through 5th grade in the fall of 2022

are invited to join.

Register online at <https://riversidealc.com/vacation-bible-school>

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healthy pregnancies  
& the babies in the womb

Travel mercies for those  
with summer vacation plans

Safety and comfort for those affected  
by the war in Ukraine.

He is like a tree  
planted by water.

**Jeremiah 17:8**