



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH

MAY/JUNE, 2023

RIVERSIDE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWSLETTER

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Finally, the grass is starting to grow, the days are getting warmer, we are all excited to get outdoors more often. The season has dramatically changed in the last few weeks, and for many of us, it is a most welcome change. The changes in our weather aren't the only seasons that we experience in our life. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that “for everything there is a season.” I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of “changing seasons” in that chapter. Here are a few examples: our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give.

For many of us, the warmer weather isn't the only change of season happening right now. Several in our greater church family are getting married in the next few months. Marriage begins a new season of life! Some of our families are expecting babies, many of you are entering into a time each year that you define as “travel season” we have graduating seniors in our congregation who are ending this season of life and praying for direction into the next. and we have the uncertainty of the economy and the possibility of changes in occupations and careers. These are just a few of the ways that our lives change over the course of time, and these kinds of things happen all through life!

At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says that this is the business God has given to mankind and that He has made everything beautiful in its time. You know, these kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. Those seasons can last

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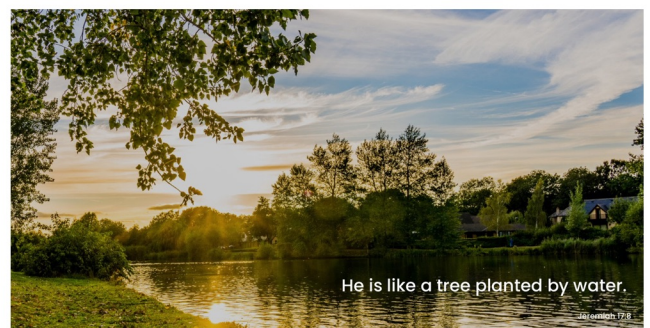
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days or weeks, months or even years! One of the main points of the book of Ecclesiastes is that God is in control through all these seasons of life and that He is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and He makes everything beautiful in its time! Because of that, Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 that the best thing for mankind in whatever we do in any season is to be joyful, “do good” as long as we live, and take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. He says that this is God’s gift to man. In other words, He’s in control so enjoy yourselves! Isn’t that kind of a fun thought?!

Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don’t always like change. If that’s you, whether you’re graduating from high school, getting married or having a baby, moving or retiring, remember that God is in control, He’s good to you, and He’ll take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life!

God’s Peace!

Pastor Ray.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Safe summer travels

Good health for all

He is like a tree  
planted by water.

**Jeremiah 17:8**

## LOOKING AHEAD

We are starting a 12 week video series  
on the Apostles Creed during our  
Thursday Night Bible Study  
(1st session will start on May 4th)

**May 28th** - Church Canceled  
Due to Memorial Day Campout

**July 26, 27 & 28th** - Vacation Bible Study  
Contact DaNita if you would like to  
help at VBS this year.

Register your children today on our website:  
**RIVERSIDEALC.COM**