



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2023 - RIVERSIDE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

I pray this note finds you well. I pray that your Christmas celebrations were blessed by God and filled with joy and peace in whatever form they took – joy and peace especially because of the gift God has given us in His Son.

As we come to a new year, I must admit that my thoughts seem to often be waffling between what the news says and what Gods word promises. Many news reports say that we as a country could be facing a significant downturn in our economy.

Rising interest rates and rapid inflation have already started to impact us within our church family. Due to the high number of our members who make their living working within the home building and construction sector a slowdown in home sales and construction projects is concerning to me. I worry whether or not you will be able to pay your bills, provide for your families and stay strong..... mentally, physically and spiritually. It's in the middle of these worries that I'm reminded once again that as Christians, we can and should approach this new year with a blend of realism and hope – not so much because of what the news says, but because of what Jesus says. Consider John 16:33. On the night before He goes to the cross, Jesus tells His disciples that they will face trouble in this world – that's being realistic. Followers of Jesus don't have to sugarcoat our difficulties. We may be called to struggle longer than we'd like. But in our real difficulty, we have even bigger hope: “Take heart,

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

for I have overcome the world.” In Jesus, the biggest problems of our lives – sin, death, and separation from God – have been solved forever. Nothing can separate us from the love of God, the one who works all things for the eternal good of those who love Him. And our King has promised His forever presence with us to guard us, feed us, and lead us.

In this new year, I do pray that God will bless us with those external gifts of health, peace, and Yes, even prosperity. But even more, I pray that He will bless us with His eternal perspective and with the confidence that comes from being joined forever to the ultimate Overcomer, King Jesus!

God’s peace and joy,

Pastor Ray

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Payton Matson  
healing from sinus infections

Relief from ongoing flu and sickness

He is like a tree  
planted by water.

**Jeremiah 17:8**

### LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 5th - Bible Study Resumes

Jan. 8th - Sunday School resumes

Jan. 8th- Meal at church  
with a youth group meeting after lunch

Jan. 28th - Annual meeting @ 9:00am

Feb 12th. - Meal at church