



The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, IL 60546 708-442-5250

"Together in Worship and Serving in Faith"

Rev. Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 34

January 2012

Issue 1

"We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world."

Images of the Season: Epiphany

Depending on where in North America you live, it may happen to you during January and February once, or many times: When you go to bed at night all the trees and bushes are naked brown, bare branches and stalks, but in the morning every single twig glistens with ice. Each evergreen needle wears a stunning cloak of ice. As you look at this once-drab scene now transformed into another world, you wonder: How can such small twigs hold so much ice? How can our yard, which appeared so dead, be so miraculously transfigured? But look quickly, right now: the sun will soon melt all the shimmering magic away. Perhaps as the sun begins its shining, we can glimpse minute rainbows on some of the branches.

The icy cover changes how we live. Some of us are glad to walk slowly, to creep the car carefully along, for we want time to see the spectacular sight. Power lines are down, schools are closed, the church meeting postponed. The ice, which is nothing more than quite cold water, has realigned everything.

Each gospel narrative in the Epiphany season is like another ice storm, transforming the scene with amazing water and with shimmering light. The season begins with the magi traveling across the miles and presenting royal gifts to a newborn. Mary and Joseph look outside and are astonished to see on their doorstep an entourage of sages--surely more than three, probably wise women as well--altering their lives. In the sky is a star so brilliant that one can follow its movement. The season moves from the magi honoring an infant to the disciples witnessing the transfiguration. In both stories only a few people are alert enough to see the transformation that Christ brings to the world.

The infant grows up and is baptized by John, and the heavens open and a dove descends: the sky itself breaks open. Early Christians said that on that surprising day all the waters of the earth were renewed and all the monsters who lurked in the seas were defeated. Some fishermen recognize something new, and abandon their nets. The crowd sees only Jesus of Nazareth, but a madman glimpses the glory of God manifested before him, and the evil demon escapes as quickly as it can. Those bound by fever, leprosy, and paralysis see a bright light shining in Christ, and their restraints melt away. God is revealed, and all is new.

Like the ice that melts by midmorning, these transformations do not radiate a perpetual glow hour after hour, day after day. You have to be in the right place at the right time to see them. You have to help one another remember them, and be there next week to glimpse them again, trusting through the dark and barren time that such enlightenment is possible once more. Yes, in that dazzling vision, the

glorious Christ meets with Moses and Elijah, two visionaries who had actually seen God; but too quickly the scene is over, and we see only an ordinary person standing there alone. Our baptisms are over, and it seems like the same persons there, the same hungry baby, the same adults with their problems still there. Baptism affords no continuous halo. We wear albs for an hour, but then we take them off, and for the rest of the week it seems like the same old gang, in jeans or work clothes or suits.

And what is going on outside the liturgy during January and February? The wind is cold, sometimes bitter. People who describe life on the prairie say that the weather is trying to kill you. It is dark, and people stay indoors. Nothing much happens these weeks. Concerts get cancelled. City folk, who pretend that their buildings will keep them safe, complain at having to wear mufflers and mittens, or they freeze because they refuse to. Valentines wallpaper the stores in red, trying to liven things up. On February 15, the red hearts disappear, and pastel Easter bunnies begin hopping around the mall, spreading through these nastiest weeks of the year their pagan hope that springtime will come.

In great contrast, the church calls this time Epiphany and practices enlightenment. Together we glimpse a glory of God that others are not seeing. It is a season to admit that God's splendor is not like that of a Hollywood production, all enthusiastic action to amuse the couch potato in each of us. Rather, Epiphany is assembling each week on bleak Sundays because we have faith that God will diamond-coat the trees. The demon within us will flee before the shining light, and at least for an hour we will see in each other's faces a kind of luminous spirit. Did you see the heavens open? No? Well, I did, trust me. God is here, transforming the world.

—continued on the next page. . .

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:15 a.m. - Service of the Word (Slovak)
- 9:00 a.m. - Christian Education and Children's Choir
- 9:45 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 a.m. - Liturgy of Holy Communion (English)

Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, January 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 7:30 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, January 29th, 2012

Meeting and luncheon follows 10:15 a.m. liturgy.

(No 8:15 a.m. service)

Epiphany is a good time for catechesis. North America followed the pattern that with the fields too frozen for cultivation, winter was the time for education. School went on when farming didn't. But whether we work in the fields or go to the lake during the summer, we buckle down to study in the winter. Perhaps we can examine all the light imagery in the liturgy, or sing all the Epiphany and morning hymns, or have a discussion on where we see God's light illuminating our dark world. It's a good time to sit together in a warm room and help one another see.

Don't forget, however, to keep one eye to the window. The frost is on the panes, the field is wearing an alb, and the branches don a silver cope overnight.

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2002 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

The deadline for articles for the February, 2012 issue of the congregational newsletter is Sunday, January 1st. Thank you for being prompt!

KINGLY PRESENCE

by Herbert O'Driscoll

Because we know almost nothing about the wise men, our imaginations take wing. If we were brought up in the Christian faith, these characters have ridden across our minds and hearts ever since we were taken to our first Sunday school pageant. Even the most sophisticated children secretly envy those who have been selected to play the wise men. Parents will ransack attics for pieces of fabric—the more brilliant and exotic the better—and someone in the family will create a costume that will be linked to no particular age or time or culture but will somehow speak of far-off places, distant shores, desert sands and starry skies—all at the same time.

In my house, which all four children have now left, there is an old pine dough box. Once it was used in a farmhouse as the repository where bread dough would rise. But year after year at Christmas, the dough box had another, more exalted role: It served as manger for the Christ child. To this day there is a brass box in our bedroom that served for years as “the gift of gold” borne up the aisle, as did two of our pottery jars, both of them filled by the congregation's imagination with frankincense and myrrh.

They have always fascinated us, these travelers who must have loomed in the entrance to the cave before an astonished—and probably alarmed—Mary and Joseph. All the language we use about them tends to reach for a larger-than-life quality. One of the church's hymns claims that to rival their gifts we would have to bring to this “brightest and best of the sons of the morning, odors of Edom, gems of the mountain, pearls of the ocean.” When Isaiah speaks of such visitors, he speaks in the most extravagant terms. “Kings!” Isaiah proclaims. “Kings come to the brightness of your dawn.” And because the traditional three camels do not seem enough to do justice to the celebration, we turn to Isaiah's evocation of “a multitude of camels . . . the young camels of Midian and Ephah.” Then, “all those from Sheba” are invited too.

But even Isaiah fails to satisfy our wish to paint a vast and wonderful canvas for these visitors to the stable. We go to the psalmist for more vivid images, and he obliges by bringing on stage “the kings of Tarshish and of the isles . . . the kings of Sheba and Seba,” saying of them that they “all fall down” before this child.

This child. In those two words we give the reason for our longing for the most expensive language and images we can create, for we know this child's glory calls forth every possible beauty of

utterance, image, art and song. We know that no stage is too vast for this child, no visitor too royal to kneel, and no gift too precious to offer.

Moments later we listen to Paul. How excited he is by what he has to impart—this mystery, this revelation, this gospel! Notice how he too is reaching for the most expansive language he can conjure up to express his thought. And no wonder. For instead of a small land and a marginal people being the recipients of this news, the entire world has become a wide field for God's seeding. To use Paul's term, the horizon has been pushed back to include the gentiles—the world!

As we finish listening to Paul's excited sharing of this vast new possibility for the gospel, we hear Matthew telling us how the Magi completed their journey—dismounting, entering into the shadows of the cave, kneeling and offering their gifts. And as we listen we realize that we have seen the coming of the very first gentiles, kneeling and worshipping before this God in human flesh, a God not yet even weaned by his mother.

The Magi fascinate us also because they do not fit into this tiny stage of hill village and humble stable. Their sophistication clashes with this simplicity, their obvious power sits uneasily beside the vulnerability of child and family. They are urban in a rural world, affluent in the midst of poverty, cosmopolitan amid the provincial.

We discern their wisdom even as we read of their dealings with the court of Herod. Civilized and mannered, they pay their respects to Herod, yet with contemptuous ease they see the reality behind the pathetic physical and mental wreck Herod has become. They have gained experience at a far more powerful court, and have no illusions about Herod's ability to be dangerous and vicious, even in his decline.

Theirs is a deep wisdom. The Magi represent forever and for all of us the wisdom that recognizes human life to be a journey taken in search of One who calls us beyond ourselves into faithful service—One before whom we are prepared to kneel, and to whom we offer the best of our gifts, flawed and unworthy though they be.

We watch these visitors to Bethlehem, as they kneel with supreme grace and dignity before what is to them simplicity, vulnerability and poverty. They are prepared to kneel, for in their wisdom—and this is the heart of what makes them truly wise—they discern the glory that is hidden in this place and in this child.

And so we too, daily engaged in our own all too human journey, searching for that which would have us be so much more than we are, and bearing our unworthy gifts, kneel on the stable floor beside these royal ones, worshipping with them the child who is most royal.

Copyright 2006 CHRISTIAN CENTURY. Reproduced by permission from the December 27, 2003 issue of the CHRISTIAN CENTURY. Subscriptions: \$49/year from P.O. Box 378, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. 1-800-208-4097

Official Pastoral Rites. . .

Funeral:

Elizabeth “Betty” Bosh, 96 years old, passed from this life on November 28th. Funeral services for Betty were held at Sts. Peter and Paul on December 2nd.

Our thanks. . .

Thank you to Lavinia Myers and Ramona Suffern with members of the Missions and Outreach Committee for coordinating our congregational holiday giving to Lutheran Child and Family Services and to the Riverside Township Food Pantry.



Join us on
Sunday, January 29th, 2012

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
(no 8:15 a.m. service)

followed by the

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Chairpersons and all committees and organizations of the congregation are reminded to submit your annual reports to the church office by Sunday, January 8th.

Reports will be available to the congregation on Sunday, January 22nd.

January Happenings

Community Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th, 6:30 p.m.

Slovak Athletic Association Meeting

Wednesday, January 11th, 1 p.m.

Ladies Altar Guild

Thursday, January 12th, 12 noon

Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 17th, 7 p.m.

Myjavsky Group Meeting

Thursday, January 19th, 12 noon

Church Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Dorcas Society Meeting

Tuesday, January 31st, 12 noon

Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 31st, 7:15 p.m.

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

AA Group meets weekly on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

RCA (Recovering Couples Anonymous) meets weekly on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

Legends of the Game Volleyball meets every other Monday, 6:30-9:15 p.m. beginning January 2nd through April 23rd.

Worship and Music News. . .

The Worship and Music Committee, along with the entire congregation, wishes to thank everyone who participated and provided leadership for the Christmas services to help make them worshipful, joyful and meaningful occasions. Special thanks to our Sunday School leaders, families and children who staged the Annual Christmas Pageant on December 18th as we began to celebrate the Christmas season.

We also would like to thank the “hospitality crews” who set up and hosted the reception following the Advent Vespers Service on Sunday, December 11th, as well as the appreciation reception for Katarina Šoltésová on December 18th.

—Charles Matthies, *Worship and Music Committee*

Conference Epiphany Mission Offering. . .

The Annual Mission Offering of the Western Conference–Slovak Zion Synod will be received during the Epiphany Season on Sunday, January 29th, 2012. This offering will benefit the student leadership training program of the Ecumenical and International Relations Committee of our Synod which assists seminarians and other students who are preparing for church leadership in Central and Eastern Europe. Special envelopes for the offering will be available that Sunday. Please consider making an offering to this program which benefits so many students through summer internship programs in the U.S., student residencies, and to meet various expenses related to preparation for ministry.

January announcements. . .

- ★ The 2012 offering envelopes are ready for pick up in the lower hallway off the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives. If you would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.
- ★ Financial donations made to the congregation must be received in the church office no later than December 29th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement.
- ★ A reminder to the congregation, especially during these months of inclement weather, that complimentary cab service is available on Sunday mornings for rides to and from worship services. Please contact our driver Dave Hoppy from Blue Village Cab Company on his cell phone at (708) 743-0982 as early as possible to make arrangements for pick up. When arranging your pick-up, please remind Dave that the ride is to be billed to account number #101755.
- ★ The 2012 calendars from Hitzeman Funeral Home have been delivered and are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and on tables in the dining hall. Please take a copy for yourself and neighbor.
- ★ If you will be leaving the Chicago area during the winter months for warmer climates, please notify the church office before then so the monthly newsletter can be forwarded to your temporary residence or cancelled until you return. The congregation incurs a fee for each newsletter that is undeliverable; stopped mail delivery to your permanent residence is considered undeliverable and returned to the church for a fee. Thank you for your assistance.

We receive thanks. . .

November 30, 2011

Pastor Dennis Lauritsen
Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Dear Reverend Lauritsen,

Few of us can imagine what it is like to be displaced from our homes, be separated from our loved ones or live in a country where we are unfamiliar with the language and basic way of life. Yet this is the common plight of the many refugees RefugeeOne helps each year.

The support of congregations like yours helps RefugeeOne provide a full range of services to refugees brought to the United States by the State Department for resettlement in the Chicago area. Every year, RefugeeOne helps these refugees find housing, learn English, acclimate to American culture, develop computer and other employable skills, find jobs, obtain medical and other care, access the public school system for their children, apply for citizenship and obtain care for elderly family members.

As this year marks our 30th anniversary, we reflect on our rich history of welcoming and successfully resettling tens-of-thousands of refugees to the United States. Without the generous support of donors like you, our history would tell a very different story.

Thank you for your generous in-kind donations of furniture and household goods through the Co-Sponsorship of the Eh, Htoo family will help us to continue our long history of creating opportunities for refugees fleeing war, terror, and persecution to build new lives of safety, dignity and self reliance. The support of your church as well as the support of Riverside United Methodist Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ascension Lutheran Church, and Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mt. Prospect is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for partnering with RefugeeOne to provide safety, dignity and opportunity for refugees. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information on our programs and services.

Sincerely,

Your brother in Christ,

Greg Wangerin
Executive Director



Dorcas Society News. . .

Dear Friends,

Our "Post-Holiday" party plans have not been finalized and will be discussed at our next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 31st at 12 noon. Why not start the new year by joining us?

Wishing you a blessed and healthy new year.

Emily Kostelancik

And more thanks. . .

November 9, 2011

Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Dear Friends,

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran World Relief.

By sharing your gifts with our brothers and sisters in need, you change their lives. For impoverished communities who thirst, you share God's gift of water. Where hunger persists, you help farmers grow life-sustaining crops. Where chronic, oppressive poverty holds people down, your compassion lifts them up, equipping families and communities with the support and tools they need to free themselves from the grip of poverty and support themselves with dignity.

Please stay in touch so that we can show you what a difference you have made with your gift. Visit our website, www.lwr.org, to see pictures and get updates on our work. You can also sign up to receive updates by email, Facebook or Twitter.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone at (800) 597-5972 or by email at lwr@lwr.org.

On behalf of the entire staff of Lutheran World Relief, our partners, and those we serve in the name of Christ, thank you for this important gift. May God continue to bless you so that you may share your blessings with others.

In Christ,

John A. Nunes
President and CEO

Thank you from Missions and Outreach. . .

Missions and Outreach would like to thank the Sunday School children and their parents for creating the wonderful decorations for the "Trim-a-Tree" in Centennial Park of Riverside. Riverside Foods sponsored the tree which was decorated with the ornaments on Sunday, November 27th. Thanks again for your participation in this Riverside community event.

Thanks also to the congregation for your generous food donations to the Riverside Township Food Pantry. The requests for food have increased significantly within the past year. At present there are seventy-five families receiving groceries. It is with your support and spirit of giving that makes it possible for the food pantry to provide for the needy in our community. May your hearts be filled with joy for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Blessings to all this holiday season and a year of peace and happiness. Yours in Christ.

—Missions and Outreach Committee



And even more thanks. . .

November 15, 2011

Dennis J. Lauritsen
Sts. Peter and Paul Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Dear Mr. Lauritsen,

On behalf of hundreds of American servicemen and women, Operation Support Our Troops - America (OSOT - America) wants to thank you for your generous donation of goods sent to the troops. At this time we are sending an average of one hundred packages a week and this contribution will help us continue with our mission. The boxes we send go a long way to brighten the day of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We still have thousands of members of the armed forces in very difficult and dangerous living conditions. They need to know that we have not forgotten them. On our web site (www.osotamerica.org) you can read some of the responses from our package recipients, expressing their gratitude and telling us how these packages have lifted their morale. It is not only the contents of the package but the love that is enclosed from people who care and make it possible.

Our entire staff of volunteers thanks you for being part of Operation Support Our Troops - America. Without your support and help we would not be able to continue our work. We sincerely appreciate your contribution and are very grateful.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rickert
President
Operations Support Our Troops - America



JANUARY

Jan. 1	Steve Michael	Jan. 19	Sheryl Hallmann
Jan. 4	Suzanna Skudrna Ramona Suffern	Jan. 20	William Boor Emil Galandak
Jan. 6	Esther Meksto Emil Mendel	Jan. 21	Joan Mikulina
Jan. 8	Samuel Lauritsen	Jan. 22	Trevor Jech Kenneth Kostelancik
Jan. 9	George Waldman Olga Zavodny	Jan. 25	Mildred Riban Emily Kostial
Jan. 10	George Halas Joyce Hodul	Jan. 27	Mildred Melka
Jan. 14	Thomas Michaels	Jan. 29	Ethel Tybitancl
Jan. 15	Sarah Gavac	Jan. 31	Leslie Byrne Rachel Decosola
Jan. 18	John Galdun Lenka Mezera		



January 26, 1952 - George and Susan Waldman

Altar Flowers. . .

Nov. 27th: In celebration of Martin Bzduch's 85th birthday on November 26th by daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and Bob Tuider and Martin and Ann Pennino, and granddaughter Kristina Tuider.

In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and dearest granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

In remembrance of +William Boor+ on the 93rd anniversary of his birth on November 21st by remembering wife Irene and children William R. and Richard and Debbie, and grandchildren Brian and Michael.

Dec. 4th: In celebration of the 80th birthday of Luddy Kovalsky on December 1st by loving children Linda and Phil Painter and Bill and Debbie Kovalsky and their families.

In memory of dear husband +David Patula+ on the anniversary of our wedding on December 5th by remembering wife Charlene: "You were my strength when I was weak."

Dec. 11th: In loving memory of beloved wife +Arlene Antonovits+ and her mother +Mildred Greco+ by husband and son-in-law Michael Antonovits.

Dec. 18th: In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother +Mary Riban+ on the tenth anniversary of her death on December 18th, 2011 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and Family.

In memory of +William Boor+ on the ninth anniversary of his passing on December 13th by remembering wife Irene and children William R., Richard and Debbie, and grandchildren Brian and Michael.

In memory of +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the 20th anniversary of her death by remembering children and family John and Joanne Slahor and Don and Shirley Babyar.

Adult choir rehearsals are held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room (lower level). Please come and add your voice to the praises of God at worship.

M A T T H E W 5 : 7

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL
FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN

Mercy

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

A poem by T. S. Eliot about his own journey from agnosticism to faith; he wrote it around the time of his baptism and acceptance into the Anglican Church in 1927.



'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For the journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death,
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

—submitted by Pastor Lauritsen

Council Meeting Highlights. . .

- The Council approved a contract with Alliance Mechanical Services, our new boiler maintenance company, to make necessary repairs to the system to correct the heating problem in the sanctuary. Going with Alliances represents a very substantial savings over the bid we had previously received from our old service provider.
- The Finance Committee has been diligently working to establish Shepherd's Staff as our new financial reporting software. This software will allow the Committee and the Treasurer to prepare more detailed and easier to read financial reports, and will make it easier to track our income and expenses throughout the year.
- A number of unauthorized vehicles have been parking in our parking lot during the week. We will look into installing appropriate signage to prevent this.



Waiting for the Light

A Sermon for the Burial of Betty Bosh

Friday of the First Week of Advent, December 2nd, 2011
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Riverside, Illinois

Almighty and Eternal God, by the light of the resurrection of your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed to us that we shall not sleep in death forever. We pray that you would look upon the sufferings of your Church, so that our hearts may rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

My brothers and sisters, here in these days of Advent peace, hope and joy, even and especially in the midst of loss, grief and sorrow, we hear again of the peace, hope and joy of the resurrection according to the First Epistle of First Peter: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

During these weeks of advancing darkness that will eventually lead us into the longest night and the shortest day of the year, we hear John the Divine's vision of the New Jerusalem, "the city [that] has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." So the church comes to this Advent season of watchful waiting in the darkness for the glory of God to be revealed at Bethlehem, for "God acts on behalf of those who wait for him," says prophet Isaiah, "[who] does awesome things that we did not expect."

Especially today, we are like those of ancient times, "people sitting in darkness and. . . in the region and shadow of death. . . ." waiting for the light to dawn. I don't regard it as a coincidence that some of the words we used last Sunday to describe this Advent season are words that I might use again today to describe our beloved, adored sister Betty. For Betty was a person who knew how to wait, and to hope, and to yearn, words for a season when "people sit in darkness. . . and the shadow of death." These are words for Betty and words for us. And you know as well as I do that Betty was a woman who, even at the revered age of ninety-six, was remarkably, amazingly, even startlingly aware, alert, and

awake to the world around her, both near and far. Aware. Alert. Awake. These are words for Advent and words for Betty.

As I think today of the many conversations that Betty and I enjoyed together, especially during these past several years at Bethlehem, one of the things that I shall remember about those visits is that moment of, shall we say, “Advent anticipation,” which happened to me just before opening Betty’s apartment door, sort of like that second or two before the lights go up on the stage, or just as the conductor of the CSO raises the baton. I would walk down the hallway, anticipating the room at its end, then knock gently on the door, wait for the distant, muted “Come in!” and then open that door upon one of the brightest, warmest, most welcoming smiles I have known. It was a Christmas moment.

Whether it was a cold, gloomy winter day or a hot, steamy summer afternoon, there was always a brightness and warmth about that room with its window welcoming the sun shining on a stately, blue-spruce within earshot of our conversation. I know, however, that the warmth and brightness filling the space that we shared was a warmth and brightness that Betty brought into every heart that she was allowed to occupy, whether it was the heart of a lone shepherd at Bethlehem [Woods], or a nursing assistant at Lexington Rehab Center, or a treasured family member in her home at Christmastime.

Betty always looked nice, even in the hospital. And then, she would smile that gracious, somewhat shy, very welcoming smile and say, “How good to see *you*. And how are *you*? And how’s your wife? And how are the children? And how’s everybody at church?”

“How are *you*?” I’ll miss that question and the way Betty asked it. Regardless of how much Betty was enduring in her own life, she would never allow the conversation to linger very long on herself. She encouraged others to do the same—to ask about other people and not dwell on yourself. She recognized that it wasn’t good to be overly self-absorbed. So, Betty would give me the facts. She would tell me where she hurt. She would talk about how she was feeling. She definitely would complain about the salty food. She might hope for someone more alert with whom to share her meals. But that was it. No more about herself. Betty genuinely wanted to know about others. And she did. I think she knew a whole lot more about you and me than we probably knew about her. She was sincerely interested in the well-being of others, even the nurses who took care of her and the people who cleaned her room. And it was never just the cursory, “How are ‘ya,” without so much as giving you a glance. It was always, “And how are *you*?” looking directly your way. Then there were the follow-up questions about taking care of yourself, and what was going on with the family, and knowing how much there was for all of us to do. Betty was about *you*.

Betty, remember, was the oldest, *big* sister of seven. Though she was a tiny woman, she was a big sister. Betty was that rare person who, like her Lord Jesus, was “a person for others.” She was so interested, and inquiring, and curious about life, and other people, and the world around her. She read the newspaper everyday, pretty much cover to cover. She listened to the news on TV—several stations—probably more than was good for her. She could talk about situations in the world of which I wasn’t even aware. She was often in conversation on the telephone with family members. She knew very well the ways of the places where she lived, whether it was her neighborhood, her workplace, her apartment facility, the voting precinct, the hospital, or the rehab center. And if something wasn’t right, whether it was the food, or the city council, or her right to vote, well, she would set out to make it right in her own determined, respectful and dignified way.

Betty was not given great physical stature, but she was blessed with great stature of spirit. Nobody looked down at this woman and got away with it. There was no backing down from others who may have assumed that they were a lot bigger than she.

And I think she shared an affection for others who were perceived as the “little people” by the “big people” of this world. Betty was always the big sister, I suppose, looking out for the little brothers and sisters, always making sure that they, and we, found our way in life. Today, we give thanks for our big sister. We give thanks for this Advent woman who knew how to wait, to hope, to yearn—this woman who was alert, awake, and aware of the presence of God and others in her life.

St. Paul commends the Corinthians for “eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus to be revealed,” and the Ephesians are reminded that God does “immeasurably more than all we ask or even imagine.” “Patient endurance is what you need now,” writes the author of Hebrews. “Patient endurance,” “waiting eagerly,” “watching out,” all seemed to occupy center stage in Betty’s life. “. . . But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,” sings the prophet Isaiah, “they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Through it all, often “sitting in darkness and. . . in the region and shadow of death. . .,” by God’s grace and mercy, Betty has kept the faith. So, she is a witness to the faith among the saints, a witness for all of us who continue to follow our Lord and his way of the cross through death to life, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. Like Abraham and Sarah of long, long ago, Betty just kept “hoping against hope,” as Paul puts it in Romans. “. . . Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations . . . Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead . . . Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. . . More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.”

“So, my beloved, we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, / born to set thy people free; / from our fears and sins release us; / let us find our rest in thee. / Israel's strength and consolation, / hope of all the earth thou art, / dear desire of ev'ry nation, / joy of ev'ry longing heart.

*Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Riverside, Illinois*



JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

New Years Day, January 1st:

Greeters: Mildred Melka and Steve Michael
Acolytes: Abby Collins and Jake Collins
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Anne Otjepka
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Nursery Attendant: *No Nursery Coverage*
Usher: Wally Kessler

January 8th:

Greeters: Steve and Beverly Podzamsky
Acolytes: Nina Ritacco and Sara Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: Joan Triska
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Nursery Attendant: Carrie Boike
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Paul Watkiss

January 15th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Acolytes: Isabelle Boike and Carrie Boike
Assisting Minister: Kristin Klade
Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: Joanne Sefara and Sheryl Hallmann
Nursery Attendant: Olivia Lauritsen
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

January 22nd:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolytes: Jonathon Meyers and Amanda Meyers
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Charles Matthies and Emily Kostelancik
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

January 29th:

Greeters: John Broussard and Fred Kuzel
Acolytes: Charles Haase and Johnathan Haase
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Ann Pennino

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Anne Otjepka



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5th:

Greeters: Anne Otjepka and Mildred Melka
Acolytes: Sara Watkiss and Isabelle Boike
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Comm. Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Shirley Wood and Joanne Sefara
Nursery Attendant: Carrie Boike
Usher: Wally Kessler and Paul Watkiss

February 12th:

Greeters: Milan and Anita Horak
Acolytes: Charles Haase and Jacob Czerak
Assisting Minister: Lois Mika
Comm. Minister: Anne Otjepka
Lectors: John and Kristin Klade
Nursery Attendant: Olivia Lauritsen
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

February 19th:

Greeters: Ann Kmet and Fred Kuzel
Acolytes: Abby Collins and Jake Collins
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: Jan Hapgood
Lectors: Phil Painter and Anne Otjepka
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike
Ushers: Wally Kessler and John Broussard

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Acolytes: Rachel Michaels and Katie Melnyk
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: Karyn Bute and Dale Hawes
Nursery Attendant: *No Nursery Attendant*
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

February 26th:

Greeters: Emil and Mildred Mendel
Acolytes: Carrie Boike and Isabelle Boike
Assisting Minister: Jan Hapgood
Comm. Minister: Joan Triska
Lectors: Jan and Janice Hapgood
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
Ushers: Wally Kessler and Edward Kovack

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Ramona Suffern

Remember

If you are unable to keep your scheduled date, please arrange for a replacement and call the church office with the change. Thank you.

We are in need of congregation members to serve as communion ministers. If interested, please speak with Pastor Lauritsen or a member of the Worship and Music Committee. Thank you.

Not Your Parents' Offering Plate

The following are excerpts from J. Cliff Christopher's *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship* (Abingdon Press, 2008) in which Christopher chides church leaders like me who sound the alarm and plead for more money for ministry:

"The church is the only nonprofit I know of that seems to believe that the more you cry that you are sinking, the more people will give to you. The exact opposite is true. No nonprofit I know of would ever send out a donor letter stating that they are running a horrible deficit and they just want the donors to help balance the budget. They know that such a letter actually discourages giving rather than motivates it. A nonprofit board will deal with budget matters in a board meeting but never publicize such to its donor base. The church goes out of its way to do just that.

"The church is the only nonprofit I know of that seems to believe that the more you cry that you are sinking, the more people will give to you."

"In the nonprofit world, two institutions continue to outperform most of the others. The Salvation Army continues to get more donations each year than any social service agency or group. Harvard University leads all universities in endowment-giving year after year. Do they send out a message that they are dying on the vine and must have one more contribution to stay afloat? No, they say, 'We took your money last year and we did great things with it. If you will give us more, we will do more great things.' And people give and give to them. People want results and these institutions give positive results!"

Above all, Christopher stresses that "money follows mission." He asked a group of pastors why people give:

"They started blurting out, 'taxes, guilt, involvement . . .' No one was even close. Finally, a lady who had been sitting quietly in the back raised her hand and said, 'Number one is a belief in the mission. Number two is a regard for staff leadership, and number three is fiscal responsibility.' She was right. I was stunned. I asked her where she was a pastor and she sheepishly said, 'I am not a pastor, but my pastor told me about this seminar and thought I might learn something. I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.'"

The one absolutely most important factor in why people give is mission:

"People want to make the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better. There is embedded in us, it seems, a desire to finish out our work on this earth with a sense that we amounted to something. To sum it up, people

"The one absolutely most important factor in why people give is mission: 'People want to make the world a better place to live. They want to believe that they can truly make a difference for the better.'"

want to be a part of something that changes lives.

"The best way to raise money for your church is simply to *do your job!* I get frustrated reading newsletters of church after church that tell me how the men's group is going to have a breakfast on Saturday and the women are going to have a bazaar next Thursday and the youth will have a dance next Friday after the ball game. Then, over in the corner, usually separated by a bold line so that it stands out, I see financial statistics, which usually indicate that a certain amount was needed and a lesser amount was received, with a quote underneath, 'God loves a cheerful giver.'

"When I see that I want to say, 'What have I got to be cheerful about?' Did you show me one life story in this newsletter about how the church has been making our world better? Is there one life-changing story in the entire document? Do you really just exist so that men can have breakfast, women a bazaar, and youth can dance? What is it exactly that you want me to support?"

Christopher's understanding of financial stewardship as "mission first. . ." is so reflective of what I have believed and tried to practice for many years that I needed very much to share it with you. Maybe this is one of the reasons that I have often resisted the idea of reporting what appear to be dreary financial details in church publications, and I have frequently tried to remind myself and our leaders that "I don't want this to be about money; I want this to be about mission." So, when any kind of giving to the church, monetary or otherwise, appears to be in a slump, I readily see the finger pointing in my direction as the primary, called "missionary" at the congregation; and I wonder, "How do I need to change?"

I'm not sure about your experience, but I am aware of a multitude of life-changing stories in our congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul and the communities to which we minister, and I regularly try to offer thanks for these changed lives in my prayers. But maybe it is time for you to ask yourselves the questions, "Is my pastor-missionary making any difference? Is he or she *doing the job* that needs to get done in these circumstances? If not, how does our leadership, charged with mission, need to change? Is our congregation transforming lives for the reign of God? Are people being called to a relationship with the Lord Jesus and his body the Church? Are we inviting and nurturing others to follow the Lord's example of humble service? Are we growing more deeply into lives of prayer and worship in Jesus' name?" I live with these questions everyday, and I ask you as brothers and sisters in Christ to ponder them as well in your prayers for our community of faith.

My suggestion is that, in order to more faithfully exercise stewardship (management) of finances, we need routinely to ask these somewhat difficult questions. More significantly, I think we need to recount some of the daily, life-changing stories to our congregation and those who support our mission—stories of lives, not only being transformed, but being saved by the power of God through our Lord Jesus. Where I have been in the past, we call these stories "testimonials," that is, "Here's what the Holy Spirit of our Lord is doing among us (in my life) through the life of our congregation." If you have such a "testimonial" to tell, and I fully

I think we need to recount some of the daily, life-changing stories to our congregation and those who support our mission—stories of lives not only being transformed but saved by the power of God through our Lord Jesus.

believe you do, please write it down and send it to me, and I will gladly publish it, anonymously if you wish, in our church newsletter.—DJL

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

FOR THE CHURCH

In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+, on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family and dearest granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Betty Bagel and Family, in memory of the deceased members of The Bagel, Kucan, and Hrusik Families.

Wally Kessler, in memory of dear wife +Mildred Kessler+, on the anniversary of her death.

In memory of husband +David Patula+ by remembering wife Charlene.

Anne Roth, in memory of parents +John+ and +Christine Klimek+ Edward and Ann Borsuk, in memory of parents +Andrew+ and +Sophie Borsuk+.

Anne Babinec, in memory of parents +John+ and +Anna Kolarik+ Vera Borysek, in memory of father +Samuel Babiar+ In memory of +Earl Mika, Sr.+ on the 12th anniversary of his passing by loving family Lois, Earl Jr. and Rita.

Paul Jurca, in memory of wife +Ann+

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH “BETTY” BOSH

Lois Michaels
 John and Kris Racek
 Tom and Vicki Michaels and Family
 John and Janet Broussard
 Steve and Beverly Podzamsky
 Robert and Suzanna Skudrna
 Ramona Suffern
 Milan and Anita Horak
 George Duczman
 Betty Kany
 Ken and Shirley Wood
 Joan Triska
 Peter and Sandra Spilotro
 John and Shirley Kostelny
 Emil and Mildred Mendel
 William Boor and Irene Boor
 Martin and Ann Pennino
 The Kozik and Jones' Families
 Adolf and Ellen Heimann
 David Raack
 Michael Busovsky
 Jeanne Turek
 Joseph Busovsky
 Walter Raack
 Lorraine Michalicka and Family
 Gayle and Reven Ryan
 Laura Hunt
 Anne Gavic

November, 2011



Attendance and Offering Report

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering Recap Budgeted Offering: \$3,219.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Weekly Attendance</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>
11/6	101	\$3 881.00
11/13	84	\$2,531.00
11/20	99	\$2,063.00
11/27	86	\$2,903.95

November, 2011 average attendance: 93
 November, 2010 average attendance: 119



January Scripture Readings

1. **Luke 2:22–40 - First Sunday of Christmas**
2. Luke 2:15-21 - Name of Jesus
3. James 3:13-18 - Praying for wisdom
4. Genesis 1:1-5 - Children of the light
5. Psalm 29 - Give the credit to God
6. Matthew 2:1-12 - Epiphany
7. Acts 19:1-7 -Disciples of Jesus
8. **Mark 1:4-11 - Baptism of Our Lord**
9. Judges 2:6-15 - Forsaking God
10. Judges 2:16-23 - Judging fairly
11. 1 Samuel 2:21-25 - Cost of rebellion
12. 1 Samuel 3:1-10 - Is it I, Lord?
13. Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 - Nowhere to hide
14. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 - Mind, body, spirit
15. **John 1:43-51 - Second Sunday after Epiphany**
16. 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8 - God's desire and ours
17. 1 Samuel 15:10-31 - Playing politics
18. Matthew 16:13-19 - Confession of Peter
19. Jonah 3:1-5, 10 - One more time
20. Psalm 62:5-12 - The beckoning silence
21. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 - Detached and free
22. **Mark 1:14-20 - Third Sunday after Epiphany**
23. Romans 9:6-18 Mercy has its day
24. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 - Beyond flash
25. Conversion of Paul - Acts 9:1-22
26. Deuteronomy 18:15-20 - Who speaks for God?
27. Psalm 111 - Overwhelmed in wonder
28. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 - Without love
29. **Mark 1:21-28 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
30. Numbers 22:1-21 - Divine freedom
31. Numbers 22:22-28 - Flashes of insight



Operation Hay-Lift

In November I received the monthly newsletter from my home congregation of Bethesda Lutheran Church in western Iowa. In the pastor's column, she recounts the congregation's story of ministry during this past autumn to the people of Clifton, Texas where, as you may have heard, farmers and ranchers endured record-setting drought this past summer.

Pastor Carla Johnsen writes to her congregations at Bethesda and St. John's in Moorhead and Dunlap, Iowa:

"Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and so we pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings [which] have been placed in our lives. These past two months, I have been profoundly touched by the way I've seen God at work in the hearts of this community. Between the communities of Moorhead and Dunlap, three loads of hay will have been shipped to Clifton, Texas by the time this project is [finally] wrapped up. The hay was completely donated, [and] most of the trucking was donated in-full, too. Donations were given to cover the total cost of the project, and just when I think all that might be given has been given, someone else comes up to me and says, "I've been so touched by the 'hay lift story' . . . I'd like to give something to help, is it too late?"

Together you've given a huge gift of love. [And] every time I think about it, tears fill my eyes. Below is a "thank you" letter sent from Pastor Ruth Hetland and the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran [Church] of Clifton. I think the story of Thanksgiving lives in this letter. [For] Thanksgiving Day at its center is the story of God providing for our needs, and people thinking beyond their own needs to the needs of their neighbors; and then, sharing their gifts and talents so that all can eat and survive the winter. Thanks for being the "Thanksgiving Story" for me this year! With love in Christ, and Happy Thanksgiving, Pastor Carla

And Pastor Ruth Hetland writes for her congregation at Our Savior's in Clifton, Texas:

"Dear Pastor Carla and the Congregations of Bethesda and Saint John's. . . The days that the hay arrived here at our little church were beautiful days. Not only was the weather lovely, and we were pleased with how smoothly the process of receiving and distributing the hay was, but the spirit around this place was a wonderful thing to behold. I wish I could describe to you how sweet and joyous it was for me to see farmers and ranchers, who have had such a long, difficult summer arrive with their trucks and trailers [to] receive fresh, good hay at no cost to. . . feed their hungry cattle and horses. The mood was light, [and] there was a sense of joy and peace and true kinship in the air. People kept remarking how they could not believe that their Christian brothers and sisters in Iowa—complete strangers—would give them such a gift. During both those days I felt humbled and happy and blessed to be reminded how our God works in such marvelous ways—through some simple bales of hay.

"Words fail me to thank you all properly. You probably think it is no big deal what you have done, but I want you to know that we have seen Christ through you in these past weeks. What you have done has been real, tangible, good news for so many, and it has helped this area of Lutherans feel unity with other Lutherans—a connection that has really been missing here for a very long time.

"I have been a pastor for twelve years, and I have loved the work God has called me to do here and in the other two churches I have served, but I want you to know that this experience of seeing how you have blessed [these] people here and allowed God to work through you has been one of the most wonderful things I have witnessed in my years of ministry. How beautiful to see the Spirit of God alive and well and working to bring together Christians from one farming community to another! How inspiring to see Christ at work in such surprising ways!

"When my little boys asked me about these big hay trucks arriving and why they were here, I just said, 'Boys, some friends in Iowa sent this hay for us [in order] to remind us that Jesus loves us.' They shrugged and proceeded to jump up on the hay bales and play; but I knew it was true: these were no ordinary bales of hay because, woven among the strands of grass and alfalfa, was love. Pure love.

Please know that you all are in our hearts and prayers always. In Christ, Ruth E. Hetland, Pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Norse, Clifton, Texas

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us. . . Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking (I Corinthians 8:1-7).—DJL



All members of Sts. Peter and Paul are invited to serve on the Congregational Council. Elections will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. Please contact any member of the Council if you have questions or if you are interested in serving. Thank you.

Winter Humor

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet. He insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know", he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

Louie and his wife are listening to the radio when they hear the weather report. "A snow emergency has been declared, you must park your car on the odd numbered side of the street." So Louie gets up and moves his car. Two days later—same thing. "A snow emergency has been declared" blares the radio. "Park your car on the even side of the street." Louie gets up does what he's been told. Three days later "There will be a foot of snow today. Park your car on the ..." and then the power goes out. "What should I do?" a confused Louie asks his wife? This time she says, "Just leave the car in the garage."

—submitted by Anne Otjepka

A Prayer for the New Year

God of the years that lie behind us,
Lord of the years that stretch before,
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,
Keeper and King of the open door.

Grant us hope and courage glowing
White and pure as the stars above;
Grant us faith in a full stream flowing,
From the heights of Your eternal love.

Out of the ruins of doubt and sorrow,
Out of the aches and pain and tears,
Help us to fashion a new tomorrow,
Free from the anguish of blighting fears.

All through the seasons of sowing and reaping,
All through the harvest of song and tears.
Hold us close in Your tender keeping,
O Maker of all New Years!

-Author Unknown



Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, IL 60546
708-442-5250 708-442-5264 (fax)
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Rev. Dennis J. Lauritsen Church 708 442-5250
email: djlauritsen@sbcglobal.net

Council Officers

President	John Broussard
Vice President	Thomas Myers
Secretary	Fred Kuzel
Treasurer	William Boor
Financial Secretary	Charles Matthies

Council Members

Kristine Boike	John Kostelny
Iveta Boyanchek	Charles Matthies
John Broussard	Susan Martinek
Ivan Durkovic	Carol Melnyk
Charles Haase	Thomas Michaels
Sheryl Hallmann	Thomas Myers

Organizations/Committee Chairpersons

Community Life Committee	Martin and Ann Pennino
Dorcas Society	Emily Kostelancik
Finance Committee	John Kostelny
Ladies' Altar Guild	Susan Hrusik/Vera Borysek
Long Range Planning	Jan Hapgood
Maintenance	Jim Boyanchek
Missions and Outreach	Dan Tornil/Ramona Suffern
Mutual Ministry/Staff Support	Gary Drahos
Nominating Committee	Fred Kuzel
Social Ministry	Nick Sasuta/Joanne Sefara
Stewardship	Thomas Michaels and Thomas Myers
Sunday School	Sheryl Hallmann
Worship and Music	Charles Matthies

Staff

Administrative Asst.	Karen Rouleau
Parish Musician	David Richards
Preschool Director	Donna Tuider

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL