

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”

Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor

www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

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Issues 7 and 8

“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.”

“The Good Life”

A Sermon for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 15th, 2011
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

“Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.”

“The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

I immediately recognized the voice on the other end of the phone as the same confident, reassuring, and very objective voice that I have known for almost twenty-five years. It was that same confident, reassuring, and very objective voice that had sold me my first life insurance policy at Daphne’s Restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue one spring afternoon not long after arriving at my first parish on the near northwest side of the city. You can tell I haven’t forgotten the momentous occasion.

It probably does not surprise you that this man had previously served as an ordained Lutheran minister. In those years, Jane and I were acquainted with a number of Lutheran pastors who, once having set their hand to the plow and then looking back for whatever reasons, had often turned to selling life insurance for the old Lutheran Brotherhood when life in parish ministry had gone bankrupt. Many people have the mistaken impression that life in parish ministry is finally about the ultimate life insurance policy anyway, so why not try something that will pay some big dividends—in this life?

In the world of finance, and if truth be told, this gentleman is Sade’s “smooth operator,” but in the very best sense of the phrase. He is a good man. He is good at what he does. And he has always “done good” by us. I hear his voice. I know his voice. And sometimes I even listen to his voice.

Early last Monday morning when he called, he said, “Dennis, I want to explain to you your options.” That’s how the conversations always begin. So, he explained my options, keeping them ever so simple so as not to fleece a brother unschooled in the world of finance. Finally, after reviewing the three options, he concluded by saying, “You know, Dennis, these days, in order for most people to comfortably retire (emphasis on *comfortably* retire), they need to have about a million.”

“A million what?” I gasped.

“Dollars,” came the expected answer, his voice still confident, reassuring, and ever so objective.

“Well, then,” I sputtered, in not such a confident, reassured, and objective voice, “I don’t think Jane and I will be so comfortable in retirement even if we ever were to think about it.”

“That’s alright,” he answered, “we’ll sit down and talk about it when you get done paying tuition.” “Uh. . . that’ll be a while,” I said. And that, as they say, was that.

And this, as we say, is “the good life.” Spend the rest of your days accumulating “a million” so that you can “comfortably retire” in a comfortable neighborhood, living in a comfortable house, driving a comfortable car, having a comfortable life. Well, maybe not all of us. What many of you tell me is that retirement is not so comfortable, that the “golden years” are not so golden. “Whatever you do, don’t get old,” you advise. You say that retirement is not so comfortable with all its knee surgeries and hip replacements, its Coumadin and congestive heart failure, its pacemakers and prescriptions, its Lipitor and loneliness, its heartburn and hearing aids.

I just don’t think this is what most of us have in mind as we daydream about “the good life” when we are “comfortably retired.” But then, I don’t think Jesus had comfort in mind at any stage of life when he said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

“The good life,” as most of us think of it, has more to do with “thieves and bandits” than it has to do with “the Shepherd” who lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus did not say, “I came that they may have life and have it comfortably.” (Maybe that’s a good reason for not padding the pews in this place.) He did not say, “I came that they may have life and have it

affluently.” He said, “I came that they may have life and have it beyond what is expected.” The “abundant life,” in the way that Jesus offers it, could be translated with words like “exceptional,” “outstanding,” “remarkable,” “unusual,” “profuse,” all in ways unbeknown to Hollywood celebrities and wealthy CEOs.

Usually, I suppose, we think of “the good life,” the abundant life, as one with plenty to eat, plenty of bathrooms, plenty of health, plenty of money, and plenty of time without trouble. This is living “the good life,” we think—safe, comfortable, well-off. Isn’t this what

“The good life,” as most of us think of it, has more to do with thieves and bandits than it has to do with the Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Jesus did not say, “I came that they may have life and have it comfortably.”

we spend our days toiling after?

One of the reasons, I suppose, that we love Psalm 23 is that the setting for this shepherd psalm is in those lush green pastures and quiet waters. We like the scenery. Jesus has come that the sheep may have green pasture, that “they may have life and have more of it,” but not in the sense of more years or more stuff. And Jesus says that he is “the gate” through whom the sheep “will come in and go out and find pasture.” But the sheep will not find those lush green pastures and quiet waters of Psalm 23 unless the Shepherd “drives” them from where they are “comfortably retired” in the sheepfold. Sometimes the Shepherd not only has to “bring out” the sheep but “drive them out” from their places of comfort so that they may feed upon the abundance of green pasture and drink from the quiet waters. They can’t do this in the confines of the sheepfold where, by the way, Jesus says thieves and bandits are given a chance to

and cause trouble.

Life can be delayed, put on hold, made dormant. There can be death in the midst of living. So, we often retreat into the comfort of our own personal sheepfolds where we may feel “comfortably retired” but not able to follow the Good Shepherd into the fullness of an Easter life lived with him. Existing in the sheepfold is easier than following the Shepherd, but existence is not life. Ease does not bring joy. And what is “less demanding” often means that which is “less fulfilling.”

I don’t need to tell you that there are a multitude of “thieves and bandits” with ten thousand ways to climb into that secure sheepfold of yours ready to fleece you of your life with the Good Shepherd. Most of the mail these days is junk; the postal carrier can hardly get it through the mail slot. I rarely answer the land-line at home because the phone calls are practically all bogus. The streets and expressways are a cesspool of advertizing. The Internet and TV are veritable welters of all breeds of “thieves and bandits” armed to rob you, not only of your money, but of your very soul. And we, like sheep without a shepherd, don’t even know that we’ve been fleeced until we are so far gone astray, caught in some thorny thicket of trouble, with no one but the Shepherd to find us.

Lost, little lambs are we. Surf the Internet another hour or two; what does it matter? Play another couple video games; it’s only two o’clock in the morning. Pour yourself another drink—and another. Watch another reality show, and then another, and maybe another. Do just enough to keep your job til Social Security. Go home, lock the doors, turn on that TV, get comfortable in the Lazy Boy, and whatever you do, don’t get close to anybody, and don’t commit yourself to anything.

This sounds to me more like the tomb of Lazarus in the next chapter of John’s Gospel than it does, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. . . Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. . . surely goodness and mercy shall

pursue me all the days of my life. . . .”

I’m not sure about you, but there are lots of times when I need to be pushed, pulled and pursued out of that place of dormancy, stagnation and death, especially when I start settling into my safe, comfortable sheepfold. And here, in a comfortable sheepfold like Riverside, well into mid-life, the kids almost raised (although I’m told boys these days don’t grow up until 35-40 years old), three decades of doing pretty much the same thing, habits seemingly impossible to break, well, I suppose a sheep gets kind of hungry for some green pasture, some fresh water, some rehabilitation of the soul, a walk in the paths of righteousness, maybe even a stroll through the valley of the shadow—just to know that “Thou art with me.”

How about you? How about life abundant—for a change? How about some Easter—for a change?

“Cure your children’s warring madness,” we pray in the hymn, “bend our pride to your control; / shame our wanton, selfish gladness, / rich in things and poor in soul. / Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, / lest we miss your kingdom’s goal, / less we miss your kingdom’s goal.”

“For to this you have been called,” First Peter reminds us, “because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”

“So that you might follow in his steps.”

Here is abundant life, following in his steps as he graciously and mercifully leads, drives, and pursues us from the comfortable confines of death where thieves and bandits have plundered our lives.

“[For] he himself bore our sins in his body on the wood, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. . . For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”

“The Christian religion . . . does not begin in comfort,” C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, “it begins in . . . dismay . . . In religion, as in war and everything else, comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end: If you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth—only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair.”

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“Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.”

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Sunday Summer Worship Schedule

8:15 a.m. - Liturgy of the Word (Slovak)

9:15 a.m. - Liturgy of Holy Communion (English)

Outdoor Worship

9:15 a.m., July 17th (no 8:15 a.m. service)

Potluck Luncheon follows service celebrating

Pastor Lauritsen’s 10th Anniversary at

Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church

(more information inside).



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Our congratulations to the following individuals on their accomplishments, and Godspeed to them for their future endeavors:

Graduating on June 3rd from Riverside Brookfield High School (RBHS) was **Jacob Andrew Sicaras Czerak**, son of Elaine and Donald Haase and Richard Czerak. While at RBHS Jacob received the Fredrickson Scholarship Award “for

the education and training of graduating RB students who will be attending a technical college or a trade school.” Jacob looks forward to studying at Triton College in the fields of culinary arts and criminal justice.

Joshua John-Thomas Czerak graduated May 20th from Wilbur Wright College in Chicago with an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He is also the son of Elaine and Donald Haase and Richard Czerak. Joshua plans to attend Northeastern Illinois University to study for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. He writes, “I feel blessed and honored [for] all the opportunities our Lord has given me so I may follow my dreams.”

Jonathan Phillip Martin Haase, also the son of Donald and Elaine Haase, graduated on June 1st from S. E. Gross Middle School in Brookfield where he was on the “A” and “B+” Honor Rolls. While attending RBHS this coming fall, Jonathan looks forward to continuing with the Berwyn Police Explorer Program. “I love to help people anyway I can,” Jonathan writes, “I have had one dream—to become the best police officer like my Dad.”

Also graduating from middle school this year is **Karin Kubova** who graduated from Westfield Community Middle School on May 26th where she received the Presidential Award, was on the Super Honor Roll, and participated in many extracurricular activities. Karin is the daughter of Adriana and Branislav Kubo and the sister of Kristian. She is looking forward to high school and eventually going to college in 2015.

Samuel Irving Lauritsen graduated on April 30th from the Music Conservatory of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University with the Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies (trumpet). In the fall, he will be attending the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where he will study for the Master of Music degree and work as a graduate assistant to the Director of Jazz Studies. Sam is the son of Jane and Dennis Lauritsen.

Graduating from Lyons Township High School (LTHS) on June 5th was **Sarah Lynn Michaels** who has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship at Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana, where she will be pursuing a degree in pediatric nursing beginning this fall. At LTHS, Sarah was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. She was also an All-Conference Cross Country runner and a member of the LTHS varsity soccer team. In the area of service, Sarah has volunteered for hospice, “Relay for Life,” and her soccer team “Pink Out Camps for Cancer.” Sarah is the daughter of Tom and Vicki Michaels, sister to Brandon and Rachel, and the granddaughter of Lois and (the late) Edward Michaels and Kenneth and Marjorie Hudnall.

Rachel Ann Michaels, daughter of Tom and Vicki Michaels, graduated on June 1st from Park Junior High School in LaGrange where she was involved both with the cheerleading and basketball teams and achieved the Gold and Red Honor Rolls during her academic years. Rachel is a sister to Brandon and Sarah, and also the granddaughter of Lois and (the late) Edward Michaels and Kenneth and Marjorie Hudnall. She will be a freshman at LTHS in the fall.

Kathryn Lynn Painter graduated on May 14th from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree with the Performer’s Certificate Award. Kathryn is the daughter of Linda and Phil Painter and the granddaughter of Al and Luddy Kovalsky. She is interested in teaching music to elementary age students and is currently teaching private lessons in voice and piano. Kathryn extends her thanks to everyone in the congregation who has offered her support throughout the years.

On Sunday, May 15th, **Michelle Ruska** graduated from Benedictine University with a Master of Public Health degree in Disaster Management. Michelle lives in Riverside with her husband Bill and their two children, Bradley and Clare. She is the daughter of Arnošt and Anna Bulir and the niece of Alena Uhlir. Michelle has served as a firefighter and paramedic in Oakbrook for eleven years.

Also graduating from RBHS this year was **Zachary Sawyer**, son of Susan (Cudecki) Sawyer, and the grandson of Walter and Judith (Gaydusek) Cudecki. Zach is planning to attend Triton College in the fall where he will study computer science and continue to play his trombone in a jazz ensemble at Triton.

Also graduating on June 1st was **Sara Jayne Watkiss**, daughter of Carrie and Paul Watkiss, sister to Claire, and granddaughter of Ramona Suffern. Sara graduated from Westview Hills Middle School where she has enjoyed participating in sports and theater events. She will attend Hinsdale Central High School in the fall where she looks forward to new challenges and opportunities as well as pursuing her horseback riding adventures with “Blue.”



Dorcas Society News...

Dear Friends,

Since this will be the only newsletter until September, I’d like to remind you that white elephant items will be accepted for six weeks from August 1st through September 11th only. Please abide by these dates to make it easier for our ladies. Items must be clean and electrical items workable.

Raffle tickets will be available to sell from Anne Otjepka or Dorcas ladies. Also, luncheon tickets will be available from Dorcas members. During the summer we will be working on Craft Fair projects. Come and join us.

Our next scheduled meetings are Tuesdays, September 13th and September 27th at 12 noon. We certainly can use your help.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Emily Kostelancik
President

**"Worship on the Lawn"
Outdoor Liturgy of Holy Communion**

Sunday, July 17th, 9:15 a.m.

followed by a

**Pot-Luck Luncheon
Celebrating the 10th Anniversary
of the Mutual Ministry
of the Congregation with its Pastor
Dennis J. Lauritsen
(since January 2001)**

Please use the sheet posted on the west bulletin-board in the dining hall to sign-up your contribution to the luncheon.

We gratefully acknowledge that chicken and beverages are being generously provided by Michael M. Antonovits in memory of his wife Arlene who passed from this life on May 28th.

Help is needed for the set-up for this service on the preceding Saturday, July 16th at 10 a.m. and also for take-down on Sunday following the luncheon. Please let Charles Matthies, Worship and Music Committee Chairperson, know if you are available to assist with this.



Time is running out... Here is a schedule of the remaining games of the season for the men's softball team. All games are on Friday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the home field of Robinhood Park, 31st Street and Robinhood Lane (4-5 blocks east of LaGrange Road) in LaGrange Park. Show your support by coming out to watch the games and cheering for our home team!

July 8th: Sts. Peter and Paul vs. Good Shepherd of Downers Grove
July 15th: Sts. Peter and Paul vs. Immanuel of Downers Grove (#2)

The deadline for articles for the September, 2011 issue of the congregational newsletter is Sunday, July 31st. Thank you for being prompt!

Official Pastoral Rites. . .

Funeral:

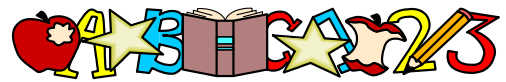
A funeral service was held on June 3rd at Woodlawn Funeral Home for Arlene Antonovits, wife of Michael, who passed from this life on May 28th.

Fall 2011 Preschool Registration in Progress!

Openings Available

**3 Year Old Class
Tuesday and Thursday, 9-11:30 a.m.**

Contact Donna Tuider, Preschool Director or the church office for more information at 708-442-5250.



July and August Happenings

Prayers for Peace

Wednesdays, July 6th and August 3rd, 12 noon in Guthrie Park

Community Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 19th, 6:30 p.m.

Church Council Meeting

Thursday, July 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Meetings

Tuesdays, July 26th and August 30th

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.

*For more information, news, photos and sermons, visit us on the web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.*

JULY

July 1	Anna Gavac	July 12	Emily Kostelancik
July 5	Joanne Sefara	July 13	Amanda Meyers
July 6	Madison Arthur	July 14	Janet Broussard
	Tyler Arthur	July 15	Richard Hurbanis
	Karyn Bute	July 17	John Kostelny
July 8	Catherine Dabrowski		Daniel Mezera
	Paul Gavac	July 18	Timothy Dlh
July 9	Lee Drahos	July 19	Danielle Kovack
	Robert Kubik	July 22	Elizabeth Cudecki
July 11	Hannah Decosola	July 26	Bode Smith
		July 27	Thaddeus Dabrowski
		July 30	Jacqueline Boyanchek

We receive thanks. . .

Dear Pastor Lauritsen,

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to perform at Sts. Peter and Paul. Everyone was wonderfully helpful and generous with their support, and we look forward to performing there again very soon.

Maybe with more advance planning we could really “pack the place” and fill it with glorious music.

Please convey our appreciation to everyone involved in making May 15th a success.

Jesse Tapia

We give thanks. . .

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the congregation for its tremendous response to the special appeal for the air vent check valve to improve the facility heating system. Through your generous support, the congregation currently has raised \$5,951.00 for this special project. As stated in the appeal letter, the monies received over the cost of purchase and installation of the valve will go to the general fund of the congregation. The Council voted at its May meeting to have the valve installed by the end of the summer. Thanks again for your generous support. May God continue to bless this congregation!

—Tom Michaels, Stewardship Committee

Thank you to the members of Sts. Peter and Paul, relatives and friends who attended the Annual Mission Dinner on Sunday, May 22nd; your presence and loyalty made for a rewarding event. We thank Ralph Gebes of Operation Support Our Troops for his inspiring talk on the need for providing our support for the military, and Ann Kmet and Company for volunteering and preparing the wonderful meal. Thank you to John Kostelny for providing the table prayer, Larry Bakalich, our camera man, and Carol Melnyk for the colorful banner. The big job of clean up was made easier by all who assisted. Through your generous support, we raised \$2,140.00 for our beneficiaries of the dinner. With grateful thanks.

—Ramona Suffern, Missions and Outreach.

From the Community Life Committee. . .

The Community Life Committee would like to thank everyone who came out to our Bunco Night on Saturday evening, June 11th. We had a lot of fun rolling the dice in hopes of getting a BUNCO and we enjoyed the delicious sloppy joe sandwiches. The CLC would also like to thank those church members who gave us monetary donations. We are delighted to say that with everyone’s support, the CLC has made a donation of \$500 to the general fund of the congregation. The CLC would like to wish everyone a blessed and safe summer.

—Ann and Marty Pennino, CLC Co-Chairpersons

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 3, 1954: Miro and Viola Mikulka
 July 7, 1979: Linda and John McShane
 July 16, 1955: John and Annette Kozik
 July 19, 1986: Dennis and Jane Lauritsen
 July 20, 1996: Daniel and Tracy Babiar
 July 25, 1997: Timothy and Pamela Dlh



AUGUST

Aug 1	Milton Podzamsky	Aug 17	Joan Halas
Aug 2	Darina Durkovic		Annette Kozik
Aug 3	Milan Oklepek	Aug 18	Nicole Smith
Aug 5	Sofia Cobrda	Aug 19	Susan Martinek
Aug 9	Viola Mikulka	Aug 21	Miro Mikulka
Aug 10	Kristine Boike	Aug 22	Ann Skaritka
	George Hodul	Aug 25	Daniel Mikulka
	Bradley Ruska	Aug 28	Little Matt Decosola
Aug 11	Jonathan Mezera		Steven Deshazer
	Shirley Wood		Brandon Michaels
Aug 12	Donna Tuider	Aug 29	Matthew Decosola
Aug 13	Vlado Vercimak		Adeline Murray
	Steven Yezo, Sr.	Aug 31	Christine Kasper
Aug 15	Kimberly Shrofe.		
Aug 16	Irene Boor		
	Adrienne Gana		
	Paul Kubecka		
	Daniel Tornil		

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 1, 1998: Lori and Martin Trekas
 August 2, 1975: Donna and Robert Tuider
 August 15, 1997: Donald and Elaine Haase
 August 15, 1970: Milan and Olga Viskup
 August 22, 1987: Dominick and Diane Ritacco
 August 27, 1994: Daniel and Adrienne Mikulka



JULY WORSHIP LEADERS

July 3rd:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel and Ramona Suffern
 Acolytes: Nina Ritacco and Sara Watkiss
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Comm. Minister: Shirley Wood
 Lectors: Martin and Ann Pennino
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

July 10th:

Greeters: Larry and Ruth Bakalich
 Acolytes: Charles Haase and Johnathan Haase
 Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
 Comm. Minister: Joan Triska
 Lectors: Robert Melnyk and Katie Melnyk
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Carol Melnyk

July 17th: (Outdoor Worship)

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
 Acolytes: Sarah Michaels and Rachel Michaels
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Comm. Minister: Tom Myers and Shirley Wood
 Lectors: Brandon Michaels and Sarah Michaels
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Paul Watkiss

July 24th:

Greeters: John and Janet Broussard
 Acolytes: Jonathon Meyers and Amanda Meyers
 Assisting Minister: Jan Hapgood
 Comm. Minister: Sandi Spilotro
 Lectors: Jan and Janice Hapgood
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and John Broussard

July 31st:

Greeters: John and Annette Kozik
 Acolytes: Charles Haase and Jacob Czerak
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Comm. Minister: Anne Otjepka
 Lectors: Kristine Boike and Carrie Boike
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

Sacristan: Anne Otjepka

Altar Care: John and Janet Broussard

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.

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

August 7th:

Greeters: Milan and Anita Horak
 Acolytes: Katie Melnyk and Hannah Boike
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
 Lectors: Tom and Lavinia Myers
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

August 14th:

Greeters: Rose Tornil and Joan Triska
 Acolytes: Abby Collins and Jake Collins
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Comm. Minister: Joan Triska
 Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

August 21st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Acolytes: Isabelle Boike and Carrie Boike
 Assisting Minister: Lois Mika
 Comm. Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and John Broussard

August 28th:

Greeters: John and Emily Kostelancik
 Acolytes: Nina Ritacco and Sarah Watkiss
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Comm. Minister: Anne Otjepka
 Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
 Nursery Attendant: No coverage during summer months
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Paul Watkiss

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Richard and Ruth Hurbanis

May, 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>
5/1	50	\$4 314.00
5/8	111	\$3,206.00
5/15	80	\$2,694.00
5/22	83	\$2,203.00
5/29	60	\$1,111.50

May, 2011 average attendance: 77

May, 2010 average attendance: 96

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Altar Flowers

September 4th:

Greeters: Ramona Suffern and Fred Kuzel
 Acolytes: Sarah Michaels and Rachel Michaels
 Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
 Comm. Minister: Sandi Spilotro
 Lectors: Jane Lauritsen and Olivia Lauritsen
 Nursery Attendant: Carrie Boike
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

September 11th: (Outdoor Worship)

Greeters: Larry and Ruth Bakalich
 Acolytes: Charles Haase and Johnathan Haase
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Comm. Minister: John Broussard and Martin Pennino
 Lectors: Phil Painter and Karyn Bute
 Nursery Attendant: No nursery coverage
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

September 18th:

Greeters: John and Janet Broussard
 Acolytes: Jonathon Meyers and Amanda Meyers
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lectors: Sheryl Hallmann and Emily Kostelancik
 Nursery Attendant: Olivia Lauritsen
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and John Broussard

September 25th:

Greeters: William Boor and Irene Boor
 Acolytes: Charles Haase and Jacob Czerak
 Assisting Minister: Jan Hapgood
 Comm. Minister: Shirley Wood
 Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
 Ushers: Wally Kessler and Joan Triska

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Jan Hapgood

May 8th: In loving memory of mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers +Susan Wareyko+ and +Anna Fako+ from Steve and Beverly Podzamsky and Family.

In loving memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ by remembering children Ray, Tina and Rocky.

May 29th: In loving memory of +Joseph Kompanik+ on the first anniversary of his passing by remembering wife Elsie and children.

In remembrance of the birthday of +Matt Minarcin, Jr.+ on May 24th with grateful appreciation for his life and service to others and the church by Karyn Minarcin Bute.

June 5th: In loving memory of +Clarence Triska+ on the eighth anniversary of his passing by remembering wife Joan and children.

In memory of loving mother +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the 90th anniversary of her birth by remembering son Charles.

June 19th: In celebration of the 57th Wedding Anniversary of Milan and Anita Horak

In memory of +Stephen Michalicka+ on the anniversary of his birth and in honor of Father's Day by remembering daughter Betty Bosh.

In loving memory of beloved mother +Arlene Gana+ on the fifth anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Adrienne.


June 26th: In loving memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Henry Sordel+ on the fifth anniversary of his passing on June 30th.

July 3rd: In memory of +Robert L. Kany+ on the 13th anniversary of his passing by remembering wife Betty and Family.



Day of Pentecost
 Sunday, June 12th, 2011

—Photo taken by Jane Lauritsen



Remember to patronize J. C. Georges Restaurant in Countryside and 10% of our congregation's dining bill will be given back to Sts. Peter and Paul each month. Extra discount dining cards can be obtained in the dining hall or from Karen in the church office.

Just a Reminder... Thank you.

FOR THE CHURCH

Anne Gavac and Family, in loving memory of dear husband, father and grandfather +Samuel Gavac+ on the 90th anniversary of his birth and the 24th anniversary of his passing.

Elsie Kompanik and Children, in memory of +Joseph Kompanik+ on the first anniversary of his passing.

Tom and Vicki Michaels, with joy and gratitude to God for Rachel's Graduation from Jr. High and Sarah's Graduation from High School.

Adrienne Gana, in memory of beloved mother +Arlene Gana+ on the fifth anniversary of her death.

Joan Triska and Family, in memory of husband and father +Clarence Triska+ on the eighth anniversary of his passing.

In celebration of granddaughter's graduations by Lois Michaels.

Betty Kany, in memory of dear husband +Robert L. Kany+ on the 13th anniversary of his passing.

Milan and Anita Horak, in celebration of their 57th Wedding Anniversary.

Dr. Robert Kany, Elizabeth and Mark Rouck and Family, in memory of dear father and grandfather +Robert L. Kany+ on the 13th anniversary of his passing.

Emil and Mildred Mendel, in memory of +Arlene Antonovits+.

The Bandura Family, in memory of +Cristina Balas and +Andrew Bandura.

Michael Antonovits, in memory of wife Arlene.

George Duczman, in celebration of Milan and Anita Horak's wedding anniversary.

Community Life Committee

We give laughs. . .

A Dutchwoman explains her nation's flag to an American friend. "It symbolizes our taxes" she jokes. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our bill, and blue after we pay." "Same with us," says the American. "Only we see stars too."

Dear God,

So far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper. I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish. But in a few minutes God, I'm going to get out of bed, and that is when I'm going to need a lot of help. Amen.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small. The girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A man is admitted to a Catholic hospital, in need of expensive surgery. The hospital administrator, noting he has no insurance, asks if he has any family. "Only one person - my sister." he says. "Well, then" says the administrator, "can she pay for the operation?" "No," says the man. "She's a nun. She's married to the church and took a vow of poverty." "Oh," says the administrator. "I'm not sure we can help you." "This is a Catholic hospital?" says the man. "Yes." "Well, send the bill to my brother-in-law."

1. Psalm 145:8-14 - Whom can we trust?
2. Romans 7:15-25a - The devil made me do it
3. **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 - Third Sunday after Pentecost**
4. Ephesians 4:11-16 - Thomas, Apostle
5. Jeremiah 28:10-17 - What am I to do?
6. Jeremiah 13:1-11 - Remember
7. Isaiah 55:10-13 - Good news
8. Psalm 65:1-13 - Water for all
9. Romans 8:1-11 - Live to love
10. **Matthew 18:1-9, 18-23 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
11. 1Thessalonians 4:1-8 - A way of life
12. Ephesians 4:17—5:2 - Forgive one another
13. Matthew 13:10-17 - Now I get it!
14. Isaiah 44:6-8 - Who is in control?
15. Psalm 86:11-17 - Show me the way
16. Romans 8:12-25 - The waiting room
17. **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
18. Revelation 14:12-20 - Her wisdom follows
19. Galatians 4:21—5:1 - Children of promise
20. 1 Kings 3:5-12 - The final decision
21. Psalm 119:129-136 - Illuminating the path
22. John 20:1-2, 11-18 - Mary Magdelene, Apostle
23. Romans 8:26-39 - The power of wordless prayer
24. **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**
25. Mark 10:35-45 - James, Apostle
26. Ephesians 6:10-18 - Choosing shoes
27. Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33 - Start at the beginning
28. Isaiah 55:1-5 - Nourishment
29. Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 - Looking sideways
30. Romans 9:1-5 - Speak the truth
31. **Matthew 14:13-21 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

August Scripture Readings

1. Deuteronomy 8:1-10 - God's word—essential diet
2. Deuteronomy 25:1-15 - Giving—a result of blessing
3. Exodus 16:2-25, 31-35 - The Lord provides
4. 1 Kings 19:9-18 - God is with you
5. Psalm 85:8-13 - Completeness in God's embrace
6. Romans 10:5-15 - The inclusive gospel
7. **Matthew 14:22-33 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
8. 2 Peter 2:4-10 - Rescue party of one
9. Romans 9:14-29 - God is sovereign
10. Matthew 8:23-27 - Calming life's storms
11. Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 - Welcoming people of all nations
12. Psalm 67 - People praise, God blesses
13. Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 - Freedom in Christ
14. **Matthew 15:10-28 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
15. Galatians 4:4-7 - Mary, Mother of Our Lord
16. Isaiah 43:8-13 - God's witnesses
17. Acts 15:1-21 - Scriptural debate
18. Isaiah 51:1-6 - No fear
19. Psalm 138 - God answers prayer
20. Romans 12:1-8 - Spiritual worship
21. **Matthew 16:13-20 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
22. Romans 2:1-11 - Valuing each other
23. 1 Samuel 7:3-13 - Monthly resolutions
24. John 1:43-51 - Bartholomew, Apostle
25. Jeremiah 15:15-21 - Serving in the church
26. Psalm 26:1-8 - God within us
27. Romans 12:9-21 - Overcoming evil
28. **Matthew 16:21-28 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
29. Revelation 3:1-6 - Actions from love
30. Revelation 3:7-13 - The power of love
31. Matthew 12:22-32 - Gather or scatter?

WHAT ABOUT FUNERALS?

Some thoughts on commonly asked questions by the ELCA Worship Staff

The death of a baptized Christian, one who has lived in the communion of the church, is an occasion for thanksgiving and the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Every activity surrounding such a death and burial should point to the good news of the gospel.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has no formally approved teaching document regarding funeral practices. Specific material intended to guide the way this church approaches the Burial of the Dead, however, can be found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship in the form of liturgical texts, rubrics (directions) and "Notes on the Liturgy" found in the Leaders' Edition. These notes guide the church's practice in a variety of circumstances. Although the most common form of the Burial of the Dead involves worship in church with the body of the deceased Christian present, the notes make it clear that adaptations are possible if the body cannot be present.

The notes also guide the conduct of the service and the committal, whether a body is to be buried in the ground, entombed above ground, commended to the sea, cremated, or donated for medical research or organ donation. The church regards all of these methods of disposition of

the body as acceptable for the Christian. Some congregations provide space for the interment of cremated remains in a columbarium (where individual urns holding ashes are interred in niches) in or near the church building, or in memorial gardens near the building (where ashes may be buried or scattered and a list of names preserved on a memorial tablet or in some other suitable way).

For pastoral care and to help in planning, the pastor should be notified immediately upon the death of a member of the congregation. No plans for the funeral should be made apart from consultation with the pastor and appropriate parish staff. When possible, it is a good idea to plan the funeral liturgy well before the death of a Christian to avoid planning during a time of grieving. Such planning offers an occasion for the pastor to talk seriously about the Christian hope of the resurrection of the dead through Jesus Christ.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship provides for the celebration of Holy Communion at funerals. At such celebrations, the invitation to commune is extended to communicants present at the service—not only to the family and immediate circle of mourners. The book also encourages the use of a funeral pall to cover the casket of baptized Christians from the time it is brought into the church until it is carried out. A pall is a large white cloth, sometimes marked with a cross, that completely covers the casket. The use of a pall treats every Christian exactly the same, whether buried in the costliest casket or the simplest wooden box. As well, the pall "echoes" the white garment of Holy Baptism. The casket is always closed for the liturgy, whether it is celebrated in church or in some other setting. The cremated ashes, with suitable adaptations, can be treated the same way when

they are present for the liturgy. Lighting of the paschal candle and placing it near the head of the casket as it rests in the church also points the assembly to the promises of dying and rising with Christ that God makes at the time of baptism.

Christians will strive to keep the gospel hope of the resurrection at the center of all observances associated with the death of a Christian. Because the church understands the Burial of the Dead to be a service of worship to God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, it does not allow social or fraternal societies to introduce rites or ceremonies into its liturgy. These ceremonies should not be mingled with the church's worship of God either in the church building or in any other setting (such as a funeral home, mortuary, or at the graveside). . . Practices associated with the mortuary or funeral home or the family home, such as viewing the body of the deceased or watching with the family, are not within the purview of this review of church practices.

Pastors and congregations may choose to extend their care to unchurched people and their families at the time of death and bereavement. Modifications in the burial rite for Christians as detailed in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, must then be made, whether the rite is used in a funeral home or church setting.

Although actual practices in congregations may vary, the resources provided for use by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are an important place to look for the established patterns of the church's practice. Lutheran Book of Worship Leaders' Edition (or the Leaders' Desk Edition) describes the church's practice in some detail. Additional materials are available in Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship: The Christian Life.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Division for Congregational and Synodical Mission

Mark your Calendars. . .

Taste of Riverside Churches

Sunday, September 25th, 2011
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Join Riverside and North Riverside residents
in a Trolley Car Tour of four of the
community's churches:
Ascension Lutheran - Christ Community
Presbyterian - Riverside United Methodist -
St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sponsored by the Riverside/North Riverside
Covenant of Churches
(The other four churches will be included in a
similar tour next year.)

Leaders of the four churches will be available to
talk about their churches and answer questions.

Tickets for the Trolley Car will be \$10.00 and
should be reserved ahead of time by contacting
Marjorie Lewe at 708-447-0064.

★ SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★

The Missions and Outreach Committee is collecting items for the men and women serving our country. We feel there is a need to support the troops for all they have given us. Below is a complete list of items needed. We ask that donations brought in during the summer months be left on the table at the east end of the hallway. We gratefully appreciate your support.

★ SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★

Wish List

Non-Food Items

- Body Wash (personal size)
- Individual Packets: Clothes Washing Soap
- Individual Packets: Clothes Liquid Softener
- White Socks
- Ziploc Freezer Bags
- Sandwich Size Bags/Plastic Spoons
- Neosporin/Antibiotic Cream
- Ibuprofen/Tylenol
- Hand Sanitizer (travel size)
- Wet Ones & Moist Wipes (travel size pkgs.)
- Razors
- Shaving Gel (no aerosol)
- Deodorant (no aerosol)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Foot Powder (travel size)
- Sunscreen/Sun Block (personal size)
- Moisturizing Lotion (personal size)
- Lip Balm (Chapstick)
- Tooth Paste (travel size)
- Mouth Wash (travel size)
- Toothbrushes
- Q-tips and Kleenex (travel/purse size)
- AA, AAA Batteries
- Bug Spray (no aerosol)
- Pens, Highlighters
- Envelopes (letter size)
- Note Cards (everyday)
- Season Greeting Cards
- Crossword, Jigsaw, Word Search Books
- Car/Hunting/News Magazines
- Paper Backs: mystery, sci-fi, military, fiction

Food Items

- Individual Serving Size Coffee Packets
- Sugar and Creamer Individual Packets
- Granola, Protein and Snack Bars
- Power Bars
- Rice Krispie Treat Bars
- Ramen Noodles (no cups) Cello Packaged
- Chex Mix Snack Size Bags
- Pringles (travel well)
- Mento's - Altoids - Tums
- Individually Wrapped Hard Candy: Suckers,
Lolly Pops, Life Savers, Jolly Ranchers, Starbright Mints
- Licorice (individually packaged)

Fun Stuff

- Flash Drives
- Hand Held Computer Games
- Board/Card Games (travel size)
- DVD Movies (new only)



Thanks be to God! And congratulations to George and Catherine Pagurko and their families on the birth of Madelyn Elaine born Wednesday, June 1st at 1:21a.m. (8 lbs., 14 oz., 20.5"). Greetings and well-wishes may be sent to the Pagurko Family at 6426 W.



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



Rev. Thomas

Dr. John, Dr. John, Dr. John
Dr. John, Dr. John, Dr. John



Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Mission Dinner 2011

"Serving Others"

Hosted by the Missions and Outreach Committee
of the Congregation.

Sunday, May 22nd, 2011
at 12:00 noon
following the 10:15 a.m. Service
(no 8:30 a.m. service)

Ticket Prices
Adults: \$10.00

Children (ages 6-14 years old): \$4.00
Children (age 5 and under): Free

Tickets are available from a member of
Missions and Outreach

Beneficiaries of the Dinner include

- Operation Support Our Troops
- Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund
- Missionaries Arden and Jana Haug in Bratislava



Christian One Liners

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited
until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a
purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
middle of the road, and back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once,
but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

Quit griping about your church;
if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If a church want a better pastor,
it only needs to pray for the one it has.

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man
until he is dead. So why should you?

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches.
What difference does it make which one you
stay home from?

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Stop, drop, and roll won't work in Hell.



Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church

invites you to join us on

Sunday, September 11th, 2011, 10:15 a.m.

for the Annual
Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic

along with the

First Day of Sunday School

Liturgy of Holy Communion
at 10:15 a.m., followed by the Picnic

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy . . .

Food Games
Fellowship



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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DATED MATERIAL