

# The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 \* (708) 442-5250

“Faith Active in Love”

[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

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Issue 2

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.



Pharisee and the Publican,  
1886-1894, James Tissot, 1836-1902

## The Holy Season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Spoken Liturgy of the Word**  
with Imposition of Ashes  
at Noon

**Liturgy of Holy Communion**  
with Imposition of Ashes  
at 7 p.m.

**Lenten Vespers and Supper**  
every Wednesday in Lent,  
Vespers (Evening Prayer) is sung at 7:15,  
preceded by supper at 6:30.

## The Practices of Lent

**Almsgiving.** Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the hardships and needs of others our own—the young and the old, the sick and the suffering, next door neighbors and people in distant lands—people it would be easy to forget. Rather than simply looking out for ourselves, Jesus urges us to see those in need. And what shall we give? Some time, some of our talent, material resources. Whatever we give should be something that costs us, given in a spirit of gratitude to God for the life that fills us each day. What shall we give (up) in Lent? Maybe a visit to a homebound or hospitalized neighbor or friend or member of the congregation. Maybe some time after school helping a child with homework. Maybe an evening at a shelter for homeless men or women. Maybe a gift to Lutheran World Relief. Maybe a new niche for ministry in the congregation. After all, before us are the great alms Jesus gave—“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Ephesians 5:2, ESV).


**Prayer.** The Lenten season calls us to pray, but prayer, Jesus teaches, is much more than saying words. “Go into your room, and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret” (Matthew 6:6). Before we pray, we need to shut the door to the noise, the trivialities, the distractions, the countless cares grabbing for our attention. In the quiet place of our hearts, we speak and listen to God. We trust that God helps us pray in this season. For those who have stopped praying, or pray with little fervor, God gives graces for praying again. Usually the graces come as we turn to prayers and practices already there, including reflective reading of the Bible and devotional materials, the liturgies of the Lord’s Supper and other opportunities for public worship, simple grace-filled prayers, like the Lord’s Prayer or the psalms. “What a Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion,” Pope Leo told Christians of the 6<sup>th</sup> century who were beginning their Lenten observance.

**Fasting.** This discipline is likely the greatest challenge. Our society looks on fasting itself as peculiar, perhaps even abysmal. Urging everyone to eat, drink, and buy more and more, our world today has made fasting unfashionable and perhaps even un-American. Yet the gospel message warns us that more and more can ruin creation. An acquisitive spirit is a selfish spirit. The taste for too much can destroy. The good things of life can turn into our captors. In our society, fasting could be viewed as a gift to free us from those things to which

we have attached our lives. This Lent, recognizing the hold some things have on us, we can try with God's help to keep them in their right place. For many good reasons, not all of us are physically able to fast due to health problems, work situations, family responsibilities, etc. But some reasonable abstaining from something which obstructs our relationship to God can be a liberating experience. Some may find that they are able to do without food during a day of the week, perhaps Friday in remembrance of our Lord's passion, or Saturday evening before Communion on the Lord's Day. Others may find it helpful to set aside certain ways of spending time or money, addictive behaviors or manners of treating others. We need to develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life for the sake of all creation. Can the discipline of fasting lead us to a gentler style of living in communion with the earth and one another?

However you decide to practice the disciplines of Lent, let them be offered freely and generously, not unwillingly and begrudgingly, and in love for our Lord and in gratitude for the gift of life and redemption.—*djl*

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## Ash Wednesday and the Forty Days of Lent

The holy season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The service times are noon (spoken Liturgy of the Word) and 7:15 p.m. (spoken Liturgy of Holy Communion). Christians gather on this holy day to mark the beginning of Lent's baptismal preparation for Easter. On this day, we receive an ashen cross on the forehead—a gesture rooted in baptism—make extended confession, hear the solemn proclamation to keep a fast in preparation for Easter's feast, and contemplate anew the ongoing meaning of our baptism into the Lord's death and resurrection. While marked with the ashes of human mortality, the church hears God's promise of forgiveness and tastes God's mercy in the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Please mark this holy day on your calendars, along with every Wednesday evening during the forty days of Lent as we gather for Vespers (Evening Prayer, Holden Setting) at 7:15 p.m. preceded by a supper at 6:30.

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## “Thank You” . . .

Thank you all for again remembering our family at Christmastime with your many cards and gifts. You are always so kind and thoughtful to think of us in this way at this time of year, and it makes for a brighter, warmer Christmas in our home. As always, we cherish your love, support and encouragement throughout our years with you. We pray that the light of Jesus' presence will shine in your lives and guide your steps throughout the coming year !

—*Pastor Dennis and Jane and Family*

## Got Talent?...

...to share with a live audience? Dale Hawes is currently booking performers for a Mardi Gras-theme talent show and fund-raiser to be held here on Saturday evening, February 10<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to host bands, musicians, singers, sketch-comedy groups, comedians, magicians and others. If you have a talent that you would like to share, or just need more information, contact Dale at (708) 204-9358. The show is planned as a fun showcase of local talent. All ages are encouraged to participate.

## Thin Places

*This sermon was preached on All Saints Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The texts were Revelation 7:9-17; I John 3:1-3; and Matthew 5:1-12.*

*We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who have gone before us and who now dwell with you always. We thank you for their witness among us, for their faithfulness to you, and for their courage to face adversity. We thank you that for them there is now no more crying or pain; no more heartbreak or injustice, but only the great joy and peace of worshiping and serving you with the hosts of heaven. On this day, lead us to those “thin places” where we may sense their presence anew; and then, prepare us for that great day when we will be united again with all the saints, giving blessing and honor and glory to you forevermore. Amen.*

You may know that on the western coasts of Scotland and Ireland there are certain locations that are called “thin places,” not because the altitude is unusually high, not because the air is any lighter, but rather, these places are called “thin” because local people believe that in these places the distance between heaven and earth—the spiritual and the temporal—shrinks. The veil between the two worlds is so thin that you can actually perceive something beyond the earthly.

The ancient Celts built many of their worship places on these sites, some still marked by circles of stone. Later, Christians built their churches, monasteries and cemeteries at these sites. People who visit these places today sometimes say that they lose all track of time and space, recognizing that they are standing on holy ground where there is no yesterday, today or tomorrow. There is only eternity stretching forth in timelessness.

This timelessness, as some of us have often tried to say in various ways, is the eternal nature of worship when there is no measurement of time—no watching the clock. For many people, a house of worship like this one can be a “thin place” in which the transcendent meets the immanent.

During the trinity of days known as Hallowe'en, the Feast of All Saints, and the Feast of All Souls, there is a thin place in the turning of the year called November, that seasonal space in the Northern Hemisphere between life and death, autumn and winter. For me, as I pull out the remains of the summer garden and walk away, these days are haunted with quiet remembrance and solitary reflection and deep gratitude for all that has been throughout the past summer and especially for the people who have gone before in the pilgrimage of faith—those who have given shape to our lives and direction to our paths by the way they have walked through life.

John the Seer, sometimes known as John the Divine, seems to have been someone who paused at the thin places of the ancient world. His writings are filled with the mystery and wonder that come from glimpsing things too holy to be expressed in words. John broadens his visions, saying that in heaven there will be people gathered from every single nation and tribe and language on earth, all giving praise to the Lamb who sits upon the throne. I'm guessing that such a chorus of praise includes a whole lot of people whom we doubt should be in the celestial choir; and yet, there they will be in white robes, signaling restoration and purity; thus, the prodigal son is given a “new robe” when he comes home to the father. They will be waving palm branches as signs of joy and victory often used in prayer during the Jewish autumn Feast of Succoth, recalling Israel's wilderness wanderings, as well as the victory of the Maccabees in the second century BC.

When John the Seer lifts up that thin veil, allowing us to have a momentary glimpse into heaven, we see that it is a place where all the injustices of this world are finally made right, where the lowly will be lifted up; where the mighty will be brought low; and where God's vision of a community of justice, peace, and equality will finally be complete.

On All Saints, I suppose we often think of those faithful people who have done something extraordinary like St. Theresa, St. Catherine, St. Francis, St. Bonaventure and countless others. But beyond all these famous saints who have a day on the church calendar, we may also think of people who have inspired our faith, like a grandmother, a neighbor, a teacher or a co-worker.

In a 1961 essay, Joan Didion wrote that people with “self-respect have the courage of their mistakes. They know the price of things.” The piece went on to say, “In brief, people with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve; they display what was once called character.” Character, Didion wrote, is “the willingness to accept responsibility for one’s own life.”

The writer, the priest, the preacher, the alcoholic, the divorcee, and the self-proclaimed “ragamuffin” whose name was Brennan Manning will never be canonized by the Vatican. As a young man, Manning entered the seminary and was ordained to the Franciscan priesthood. He went on to become a theologian, a campus minister, a spiritual director, and the author of nearly two dozen books, including *Ragamuffin Gospel*.

As one who walked in the way of Jesus, Manning lived among the poor—as a mason’s assistant, a dishwasher, a voluntary prisoner, and a shrimper. He was well on his way to becoming a “saint,” but this is not where Manning’s life ends. His ministry and life eventually disintegrated into horrific alcoholism. He became homeless and broke, living on a quart of vodka a day when he finally entered treatment. It took Manning months to get sober only to relapse. When sober again, he began writing with a vengeance, left the priesthood, married Rosalyn, and, being an avid Saints fan, moved to New Orleans where his marriage would end in divorce and again he would relapse and end up in rehab.

Manning says that the greatest regret of his life was not his relapses into alcoholism but “the time I’ve wasted in shame, guilt, remorse, and self-condemnation... I’m not speaking about the appropriate guilt one ought to feel after committing a sin. I’m talking about wallowing in guilt, almost indulging in it, which is basically a kind of idolatry where I am the center of my focus and concern.” He went on to say, “I can waste no more time being shocked or horrified that I have failed. There’s nothing else I can do now but help sinners journey from self-hatred to God’s love, and to help people see that if God ceased to love, God would cease to be God.”

The saintly Thomas Merton reminded us that “a saint is not someone who is good. It is someone who has experienced the goodness of God.”

“Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” They are those ordinary people who have poured out their lives for Jesus’ sake, loving their enemies, doing good to those who hated them, blessing those who cursed them, praying for those who abused them, doing to others as they would have done to them.—*djl*

*For those  
who walked with us,  
this is a prayer.*

*For those  
who have gone ahead,  
this is a blessing.*

*For those  
who touched and tended us,  
who lingered with us  
while they lived,  
this is a thanksgiving.*

*For those  
who journey still with us  
in the shadows of awareness,  
in the crevices of memory,  
in the landscape of our dreams,  
this is a benediction.*

—Jan Richardson



## From the Parish Register

### Burials:

Ethel Tybitancl, 95 years old, passed from this life on Christmas Day. A private service for Ethel was held on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvia Marie Orzechowski, age 97, mother of Jocelyn Drahos, passed from this life on January 11<sup>th</sup>. A service for Sylvia was held at Hitzeman Funeral Home on January 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Ethel Body Shintay, age 98, passed from this life on December 28<sup>th</sup> in Clearwater, Florida where a memorial service was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthias Lutheran Church.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation and Sunday Kids’ Class
- 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 a.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal
- 10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
- 11:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Spoken Liturgy of the Word  
with Imposition of Ashes—12 Noon  
Liturgy of Holy Communion  
with Imposition of Ashes—7:15 p.m.

Lenten Vespers and Supper  
every Wednesday in Lent, beginning February 21<sup>st</sup>  
thru March 21<sup>st</sup>. Holden Evening Prayer is  
sung at 7:15 p.m., preceded by supper at 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> following Lenten Vespers.  
February 14<sup>th</sup> following Ash Wednesday Liturgy.

### December 2017

#### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

*Budgeted Offering: \$3,150.00*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
12/3	\$4,154.00
12/10	\$1,612.00
12/17	\$2,737.00
12/24	\$4,107.00
12/31	\$ 921.00





## News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

February is going to be a “sweet” month. We will be busy making crafts and celebrating Valentine’s Day. We will also have a visit from Riverside’s own Dr. Coffey, aka the “Tooth Fairy”.

Also, we will be enjoying our annual Pajama Day—eating popcorn with our favorite stuffed animal. FUN!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 1: Daniel Babiar  | February 18: William Londak    |
| February 4: Isabelle Boike | February 19: Gretchen Kostelny |
| Lois Mika                  | February 21: Peter Drahos      |
| Susan Waldman              | Adriana Kubo                   |
| February 6: John Borysek   | Sarah Michaels                 |
| February 7: David Richards | February 22: Robert Kany       |
| Ann Vana                   | February 23: John Kostelancik  |
| February 9: Robert Skudrna | February 25: Gary Drahos       |
| February 12: Jack Bute     | James Triska                   |
| Susan Hassel               | February 28: John Dundek, Jr.  |
| February 13: Valerie Smith | February 29: Marie Kamp.       |

## Memorial Flowers

*Thank you to the following individuals and families who purchased poinsettias to decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for our Christmas services:*

Annette Kozik, Martin and Ann Pennino, Fred Kuzel, Bob and Sue Skudrna, Ladies Altar Guild, the Slahor and Babyar Families, Steve Michael, Olga Zavodny and Betty Mocek

*Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:* In memory of +Katherine Predny+ on the anniversary of her birth.

In memory of +Mildred Predny Kessler+ on the anniversary of her death.

*Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of dear husband, father and grandfather +Alfred Kovalsky+ on the fifth anniversary of his passing by remembering wife Ludmilla and family.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- February 5, 1972: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
- February 14, 2008: Vincent and Valerie Smith
- February 27, 1965: George and Joyce Hodul

## Happenings

### Mardi Gras and Talent Night

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Dinner is served 6-7:30 p.m.  
Talent Show begins at 8 p.m.

### Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

### Congregation Council Meeting

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

## February Announcements

A reminder to the congregation, especially during the months of winter weather, that complimentary cab service is available on Sunday mornings for rides to and from worship services. Please contact Blue Village Cab Company at (708) 583-6900 as early as possible to make arrangements for pick up. When arranging your pick-up, please remind the dispatcher that the ride is to be billed to account number #101755.

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.



*Severe me from myself... that I may be grateful to you;  
may I perish to myself that I may be safe in you;  
may I die to myself that I may live in you;  
may I wither to myself that I may blossom in you;  
may I be emptied of myself that I may abound in you;  
may I be nothing to myself that I may be all to you.*

—Desiderius Erasmus

**Overeaters Anonymous** meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

**Co-Dependents Anonymous** meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

**AA Big Book Study Group** meets weekly on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m.

**AA Group** meets weekly on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.

*All groups meet in the Friendship Room (second level adjacent to the gym).*

**“Legends of the Game” Volleyball** meets every Monday, 6:30-9:45 p.m. beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

*We must work unceasingly to uplift this nation that we love to a higher destiny, to a higher plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness.*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## From the Email Bag

submitted by Vlado "Fred" Tornil



## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

David and Deborah Bark, in memory of mother +Shirley Wood+.  
Larry and Susan Kusch, in memory of mother +Shirley Wood+.  
John and Nancy Phelan, in memory of mother +Mildred Melka+.  
In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt  
+LaVerne Hanzel+ on the eighth anniversary of her death by  
remembering children Karen Cox, Wayne, Kevin and David  
Hanzel and their families, sister Audrey Bucz and her family, and  
niece Adrienne Gana.

Vladimir and Rose Tornil, in honor and glory to God on the  
anniversary of their fifty years of marriage.

Betty Jane Licko-Keel, in memory of husband +William Jerry Keel+  
and father +Stephen Licko+ on the anniversaries of their birth,  
and in memory of mother +Marie Licko+.

Vaclav Tybitancil, in memory of mother +Ethel+.

John and Barbara Foltin, in memory of parents +John+ and  
+Suzanna Foltin+.

Mildred Mendel, in memory of +Paul Koruna+.

Jeri Basek, in memory of +Paul Koruna+.



## How Do People Come to Church? Missional Evangelism

Missional evangelism is indirect, authentic and real. It arises out of relationship in the family, the neighborhood, the workplace and social situations. It does not depend totally upon the person giving witness. It connects with the support system provided by the community that lives under the reign of God.

The Christian brings the unchurched to a healthy vibrant community of faith and, through association with an embodied community, faith is discussed and caught as the gospel is overheard. This form of personal contact is the primary means of bringing people to Christ and the church.

According to the research of the of the American Growth Institute, people who come to church do so because they have been influenced by:

**Friend or Relative: 79%**

Pastor: 6%

Sunday School: 3%

Walk-In Visit: 3%

Program: 3%

Special Need: 2%

Door-to-Door Visitation: 1%

Evangelism Crusade: .5%

Clearly, the statistics show that personal contact within social networks is the point of most fruitful contact.



## Help Us Reach Our Goal

60 for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Building Appeal for tuck-pointing, stain-glass window glazing, and other special building repair and restoration projects: **\$50,150.05** as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

For more information, news, photos, videos

and sermons, visit us on the web at:

[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

### February 4<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Karyn Bute and Ann Kmet  
Acolyte: Isabella Myers  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Comm. Minister: Lois Mika  
Lectors: Tom Myers and Charles Matthies  
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike  
Ushers: Jerry Gaydusek and John Kostelny

### February 11<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Acolyte: Claire Watkiss  
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino  
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss  
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike  
Ushers: Walter Cudecki and Paul Watkiss

### Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Tom Myers and John Kostelny  
Acolyte: Ben Myers  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Comm. Minister: Kathy Ganschow  
Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels  
Nursery Attendant: (No nursery coverage.)  
Usher: Dale Hawes

### February 18<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Bob Melnyk and Katie Melnyk  
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox  
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels  
Comm. Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos  
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike  
Ushers: Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

### February 25<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Karen Kubik and Larry Crachy  
Acolyte: Bryan Galdun  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Comm. Minister: John Broussard  
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike  
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Ivan Durkovic

### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

### Worship Servers Please Note...

...that 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 and friends to serve as acolytes, ushers and nursery attendants. If interested, please speak with Pastor Dennis or a member of the Worship and Music Committee.

## MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

### March 4<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter  
Acolyte: Ben Myers  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
Lectors: Robert Melnyk and Philip Painter  
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike  
Ushers: Jerry Gaydusek and Walter Cudecki

### March 11<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Sandy Garvey and Ramona Suffern  
Acolyte: George Valek  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Comm. Minister: Lois Mika  
Lectors: Jane Lauritsen and Kristine Boike  
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike  
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Jerry Gaydusek

### March 18<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Ann Kmet and Annette Kozik  
Acolyte: Claire Watkiss  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lectors: John Broussard and Dale Hawes  
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike  
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Janet Broussard

### Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Acolyte: Matt Decosola  
Crucifer: Johnathan Haase  
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
Comm. Ministers: Martin Pennino  
Lectors: Paul Watkiss and Carrie Watkiss  
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike  
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Donald Haase

### Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Tom and Vicki Michaels  
Acolyte: Isabelle Myers  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lectors: Tom and Lavinia Myers  
Nursery Attendant: No nursery coverage.  
Ushers: John Kostelny and Gregg Valek

### Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: (No greeters scheduled.)  
Acolytes: Abby Tarbox and Bryan Galdun  
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels  
Lectors: J. T. and Beverly Tarbox  
Passion Readers: Brandon Michaels, Keith Altavilla, Jane Lauritsen, John Broussard, Charles Matthies and Philip Painter  
Nursery Attendant: (No nursery coverage.)  
Ushers: (No ushers scheduled.)

### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Ruth Bakalich

## Forward to the Forty Days

*Please consider filling out this commitment page and placing it in the offering plate at Sunday worship or return it to the church office (c/o Pastor Lauritsen) before the beginning of the forty days of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Please do not include your name since this is a personal offering and commitment which you are making with our Lord and his church. Please place a checkmark (✓) in the box next to each practice you intend to observe during Lent.*

“During the forty days of Lent, I plan to observe the following practices of the season...”

### Prayer

- Weekly attendance at a Sunday liturgy with regular use of “the means of grace” (Word and Sacraments).
- Attendance at midweek Vespers (Evening Prayer) here on Wednesdays.
- Attendance at a weekday service with another parish.
- Offer daily personal prayers.
- Read Scripture daily with a devotional resource.
- Participate in a weekly Bible study and prayer group here on Wednesdays:
  - mornings     evenings*(schedule to be determined based upon responses)*
- Partner with someone to pray regularly together.
- Offer individual confession with a pastor or brother or sister in Christ at least once during the forty days.
- Sing and rehearse with one of the choirs or offer a musical selection during worship.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Fasting

- Observe a fast from food:
  - one day a week (from morning until evening);
  - one day a week (a full day and night);
  - one meal daily;
  - one meal weekly;
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Observe a seasonal fast from a kind of food, beverage, or habit; or a fast from using certain words or thoughts; or a fast from some usage of the internet, television, electronic text, driving, etc. (any form of self-denial including all that interferes with my relationship to God and others).
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Almsgiving

- Offer time and gifts for the well-being of others and creation:
  - spend more time in conversation and prayers, as well as mealtimes and playtime with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers;
  - allow more time daily or weekly for leisure, music, artistic expression, or anything that “makes my heart sing”;
  - develop a new ministry or strengthen a ministry in the congregation;
  - offer time daily or weekly visiting with at least one person I know to be in need;
  - offer time and gifts with ministries, organizations, schools or agencies which provide services to others, for example, hospitals, nursing homes, emergency shelters, food pantries, elder care agencies, etc.).
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pray and think about my daily life as the primary arena for the expression of my ministry at home, the workplace, among my family members and friends, in the neighborhood and community.
- Offer tangible gifts and possessions (food, clothing, money, etc.) for the benefit of those in special need:
  - globally through the congregation’s support of Lutheran World Relief or another agency which provides domestic or global relief;
  - locally through the congregation’s various benevolence giving or one or more charities of your own choosing.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other expressions of the disciplines of Lent—prayer, fasting and almsgiving—which may not be listed above but you intend to observe during the forthcoming forty days:

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*O Lord, throughout these forty days / you prayed and kept the fast; / inspire repentance for our sin, / and free us from our past. / Be with us through this season, Lord, / and all our earthly days, / that when the final Easter dawns, / we join in heaven’s praise (ELW 319).*

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

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# Mardi Gras and Talent Night



Missions and Outreach Committee's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund-Raiser  
Benefitting Summer Youth Service Projects

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:00-7:30 p.m. Food Served  
8:00 p.m. Talent Show

If interested in sharing your talents, please contact  
Dale Hawes at (708) 204-9358 or the church office at (708) 442-5250.

Entertainment provided by talent and bands from local communities.  
Piñata for the children!

Tickets: Adults \$10.00;  
Children 10 and under \$5.00  
Includes dinner and dessert.  
Beverages available for purchase.

Tickets are available now from a member of the Missions and Outreach Committee.