

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

Volume 39

January 2017

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.

When the Time Was Fulfilled

Excerpts from a Sermon by Eberhard Arnold

Arnold was a Christian German writer, philosopher, theologian and communitarian. He left the Protestant church of Germany in 1908 because of its connections to the state and later became the founder of the Bruderhof in 1920. This “Place of Brothers” was a Christian community which sought to live together following Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.—djl



“When the time was fulfilled... .”

What a redeeming power there is in these words! We are concerned day in and day out with lesser or greater matters that are to serve God and his cause. We work sometimes until we are weary and yet we see so little fruit. Does everything remain as it was? Haven’t we gone forward at all? Have we really been able to help a little somewhere, or have we merely affected the surface of things? Where is there a trace or glimpse of the goal we long for? What are all our efforts

against the apparently indestructible powers of misery and evil?

It is well for us that at such hours the light is shining from the stable of Bethlehem and that we are able to sense what it means that the kingdom of God was born as a little child “when the time was fulfilled.”

Christmas did not come after a great mass of people had completed something good, or because of the successful result of any human effort. No, it came as a miracle, as the child that comes when his time is fulfilled, as a gift of the Father which he lays into those arms that are stretched out in longing. In this way did Christmas come; in this way it always comes anew, both to individuals and to the whole world.

You have perhaps waited for years to be freed from some need. For a long, long time you have looked out from the darkness in search of the light, and have had a difficult problem in life that you have not been able to solve in spite of great efforts. And then, when the time was fulfilled and God’s hour had come, did not a solution, light, and deliverance come quite unexpectedly, perhaps quite differently than you thought? Hasn’t this happened to you, just as the child comes at his own time, and no impatience or hurrying can compel it—but then

it comes with its blessing and full of the wonder of God? Hasn’t God’s help come to us sometimes in this way?

And so it shall be with our yearning for the redemption of humanity and for a new shining forth of the world of God. When we are discouraged by the apparently slow progress of all our honest efforts, by the failure of this or the other person, and by the ever new reappearance of enemy powers and their apparent victories, then we should know: the time shall be fulfilled. Because of the noise and activity of the struggle and the work, we often do not hear the hidden gentle sound and movement of the life that is coming into being. But here and there, at hours that are blessed, God lets us feel how he is everywhere at work and how his cause is growing and moving forward. The time is being fulfilled and the light shall shine, perhaps just when it seems to us that the darkness is impenetrable.

Is it true that God only laughs at our efforts and strivings and that all this cannot avail; that we are to receive everything only as a gift? How wonderful is the answer given to us by the mystery of the child! Just as the mother knows that her own surrender, care, and faithful readiness must be present along with God’s working and creating, and just as every life comes into being through a deep inward working together of God and [humanity], so it is also in the highest things, in the appearing and breaking through of divine life.

True, it is grace and a gift when our need is relieved and the darkness is illuminated, and it is true that what is best must be given to us and to the whole world, and that we could never produce it ourselves. But we and our efforts always belong to this, even though it were only to keep the manger prepared in which the Child of God wants to lie. Our efforts count, even though like Simeon we only stretch out our arms in the patience of faith and in loyal endurance so that we may receive the holy gift. Even though we only wait, poor and yearning in the darkness, in fervent longing for the proclamation, we are ready, and may help to bring about the fullness of time.

For the miracle of God comes not only from above; it also comes through us; it is also dwelling in us. It has been given to every person, and it lies in every soul as something divine, and it waits. Calling, it waits for the hour when the soul shall open itself, having found its God and its home. When this is so, the soul will not keep its wealth to itself, but will let it flow out into the world. Wherever love proceeds from us and becomes truth, the time is fulfilled. Then the divine life floods through our human relationships and all our works. Then everything that is lonely and scattered and seeking for the way of God shall be bound together by divine power. Then, of human effort and of the divine miracle, shall the world be born in which Christmas is fulfilled as reality.

Dream

(Matthew 1: 18-25)

O Joseph, dream for us:

In this world of so much darkness,
dream God-with-us to be our light.

In this world of so much sorrow,
dream God-with-us to be our joy.

In this world of so much fearing,
dream God-with-us to be our courage.

In this world of so much selfishness,
dream God-with-us to teach compassion.

In this world of so much hating,
dream God-with-us to teach us love.

In this world of so much violence,
dream God-with-us to lead us to peace.

In this world of many, many voices
dream God-with-us to be God's Word.

In this world of so much confusion,
dream God-with-us to be our guide.

In this world of so much despairing,
dream God-with-us to be our hope.

In this world of so much emptiness,
dream God-with-us to bring fullness of life.

O Joseph, dream for us.

And may we awake
to discover the dream
has truly come into the world.

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The Journey of the Magi...

...observed liturgically on January 6th, the Epiphany of Our Lord, brings to mind geo-caching and other forms of high-tech recreational travel. Imagine the wise men traveling from "the East" and arriving at Jerusalem employing some form of celestial navigation—or astronavigation—to find the "child who has been born king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2). Celestial navigation would have used "sights," angular measurements between a celestial body (in this case a star) and the visible horizon, to arrive at a destination. Today, with satellites orbiting around the globe, many of us accomplish a similar task with GPS-enabled devices.

In a way, the search for the child Messiah was the mother of all geo-caching trips. The only thing wrong with this comparison—the magi used the star to help them know the time of the birth of the child but not the location. For the location, the wise men had available to them the same prophetic books as the Jews, and even Herod himself. They read the prophecy to Herod,

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:6)

Herod sends the wise men to Bethlehem. At this point in the story, the star does actually become a guide. "When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy" (Matthew 2:9-10). The magi are wise beyond wise. They use an ancient text (the Hebrew Scriptures) together with modern techniques (astronavigation—following a moving star) to make their way to Bethlehem.

Consider the ministry of Copper Mountain Community Church, in Summit County, Colorado. The church offers worship at the bottom of the mountain early Sunday mornings. The pastors then spend the morning distributing bags of homemade cookies to employees at the lifts, restaurants, and safety stations around the ski resort. Then, closer to noon, a mountaintop chapel service is held. At the beginning of worship church members joyfully describe their ministry, which is new to most of those who are vacationing at Copper Mountain.

Their ministry is inspiring. The pastors have discovered beautiful ways to do vibrant and faithful ministry with people who work as service staff at the resort. One way they do this is by organizing a free community meal once a month, strategically timed the day before paychecks are issued. By this time, many of the Copper Mountain employees are short on cash, even hungry. A few hundred folks come for the monthly meal.

What does all this have to do with the Epiphany story? The magi were far from home, out of place. Along their way they would have had occasion to pay for guest lodging, purchase food from vendors, perhaps employ translators to speak with border guards and politicians. Jesus, Joseph, and Mary are themselves soon to be displaced to Egypt, fleeing from Herod. Put a bit of realistic flesh on the story and it is easy to see ways that wealth, culture, class, and more are all juxtaposed and vivid in the visit of the wise men to the child King.

Perhaps in this time after Epiphany there are some simple lessons to be learned. First, be mindful toward and caring of those who serve you as you go about your day. Do not take your waiter, custodian, or ticket attendant for granted. They are real people. Second, when you travel you are both a guest and one bearing gifts. You bring something to give—new knowledge, a gentle smile, frankincense. Third, the strangers in our midst often understand us

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:15 a.m. Confirmation Instruction
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Class and Youth Drama
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

Choir Rehearsals

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

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, January 29th, 2017

Newsletter Deadline for February 2017

Sunday, January 1st

better than we understand ourselves. The great gift of hosting refugees, immigrants, and foreigners is both the opportunity to get to know them on their own terms and to learn more about ourselves in the encounter.

Something of this pride, this joy, this care is evoked each time we read of those magi who traveled so far to meet the Christ child. The local and the distant, the foreign and the familiar, the secular and the sacred—all are tied together somehow, in an arc of justice, joy, and peace.

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The Star Signal

(Matthew 2: 1-12)



Not every journey toward the Christ starts like the magi's in darkness, but there might come a time when, in the empty hours of an otherwise unremarkable night, you have happened to look up at the usual sky, and noticed, almost by accident, between passages of gray beasts of slow-moving cloud the bright bloom of a strange star flowering, and something begins to open a little somewhere beneath your skin, as if that new wedge of light in the sky had inserted itself into your soul, not enough to cause you any hurt, but just enough that you feel a pang, the twinge of something like longing, as if your eyes in the silence have become ears in the darkness, and you are hearing a holy summons, distant but ringing like a silver trumpet in the chambers of your listening heart, and you gaze at that star where it stands in the sky dropping dust on the night horizon, and you think it might be signaling a holy Presence in the world and a road you can take to meet it, and that such a road, lit with such promise, might lead to a great adventure, where life becomes challenged and changed and as new as the sky above a better world. And so you pack, and you leave on this journey, this journey where Christ is not only waiting but walking your road at your side, and you follow that light as it closes the distance, as it reaches deep within you, touching gifts you carry in your hand.

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Pastoral Rites

Burials:

Mildred Melka, 93 years old, passed from this life on December 6th. A Liturgy of the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for Millie's life was held on December 9th at the church. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Martin Skaritka, 91 years old, passed from this life on December 7th. On December 12th a Liturgy of the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for Martin's life was held at the church. Interment was at Bohemian National Cemetery.



**Sunday,
January 29th, 2017**

Liturgy of Holy Communion

followed by the

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Chairpersons of all committees and organizations of the congregation are reminded to submit your annual reports to the church office no later than Sunday, January 1st.

The World's Desire

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down

*A Christmas Carol Poem by G. K. Chesterton
Choral anthem by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley
Sung at Sts. Peter and Paul on December 11th, 2016*



January Happenings

Holy Communion in the Slovak Language
Sunday, January 1st, 11:30 a.m.

Myjavsky Group Meeting
Thursday, January 19th, 12 noon

Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul Open House
Thursday, January 19th, 5:30 until 7 p.m.

Congregation Council Meeting
Thursday, January 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Missions and Outreach Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 24th, 7 p.m.

Church Office Closed
December 26th, 27th, and January 2nd

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. in the Friendship Room

All groups meet in the Friendship Room.

“Legends of the Game” Volleyball meets every
Monday, 6:30-9:15 p.m. beginning
January 9th through April 24th.

Got Talent?

Dale Hawes is looking for individuals and groups to share their talents at the Annual Mardi Gras Talent Show scheduled for Saturday, February 25th. If interested, please contact Dale.

Worship and Music News

Thanks to everyone who attended or provided food and refreshments for the performance of “The Gift” by the Lutheran Choir of Chicago (LCC) on Sunday, December 11th. We hope everyone enjoyed the concert and the post-concert reception. Special thanks to Shirley Kostelny, Jane Lauritsen and Ramona Suffern for coordinating the reception. We thank the LCC for helping to prepare for us the Christmas season and look forward to additional performances in the future.

Thanks also to Tom Myers and Sheryl Hallmann for coordinating the Christmas Pageant held during the worship service on December 18th. We also thank our adult choir for the performance of the *Christmas Suite* cantata offered during the Christmas Eve service. We ask God to bless those who helped in the celebrations of our Savior’s birth. Finally, a special “thank you” goes out to Pastor Dennis and David Richards for coordinating the services and the music.

—Charles Matthies, Worship and Music Committee

We Give Thanks

Thanks again to members, relatives and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul who attended the Annual Mission Dinner on Sunday, November 13th. Your presence and loyalty made for a rewarding outreach event. Total proceeds from the dinner were \$1,403.00. Working together we all become partners in mission. With grateful thanks.

—Ramona Suffern, Missions and Outreach Committee

Thank you to members of the Worship and Music Committee and to everyone who helped with hosting the Lutheran Choir of Chicago concert and reception Sunday afternoon, December 11th.

Again this year, the congregation has generously participated in the annual gift-giving program of Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS) which includes the purchase of gifts and gift certificates as well as monetary donations for needy children in the Chicagoland region. Approximately twenty-three children were “adopted” by the congregation. Thank you to everyone who participated in this annual Christmas mission, especially Lavinia Myers for coordinating the effort again this year.

A special thanks to the Sunday school children, confirmation class, high school youth group, their leaders and parents for the Christmas pageant which was presented Sunday, December 18th. We acknowledge especially Tom Myers, Sheryl Hallmann, Jane Lauritsen and others who coordinated the program. Thanks to all who are involved in the faith formation and nurture ministries of our congregation. May we all experience the joy and wonder of a child as we celebrate the coming of Immanuel, God-with-us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem.

Thanks also to the women of the Ladies Altar Guild for again hosting the annual *Štedry Večer* (the “Generous Eve”) on Thursday, December 7th. The annual event draws a very grateful crowd to enjoy the traditional Christmas foods, songs and fellowship. Special thanks to Vera Borysek, President of the Altar Guild, for coordinating this event along with our sisters in the Ladies Altar Guild. Thank you also to Ann Kmet and her company of *kuchári*. *Ďakujeme!*

If one gives food to others, one will improve one’s own lot, just as, for example, if one lights a fire for others, one will brighten one’s own way (Nichiren Daishonin, “The Three Virtues of Food,” ca. 1278).

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Happy New Year!

January will be filled with winter theme projects and activities. We will end the month with a “Crazy Daisy Day” turning everything preschool CRAZY! Sure to be fun.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

January Announcements

- ★ The 2017 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 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, 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.
- ★ Remember that 12-Step groups meet at the church weekly and are here for you to participate in. Co-Dependents Anonymous meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Overeaters Anonymous meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. Two AA groups meet weekly: a Big Book study group meets on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. and a group meeting is held on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. All meetings are held in the Friendship Room (second level entrance off the west parking lot near the gym).



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. 22:	Trevor Jech Kenneth Kostelancik
Jan. 8:	Samuel Lauritsen	Jan. 25:	Mildred Riban Emily Kostial
Jan. 9:	Olga Zavodny	Jan. 29:	Ethel Tybitanc
Jan. 10:	George Halas Joyce Hodul	Jan. 31:	Leslie Byrne Rachel Decosola
Jan. 14:	Thomas Michaels		
Jan. 15:	Sarah Gavac		
Jan. 18:	John Galdun Lenka Mezera		



January 18, 2015: James and Kathi Zinsser
January 19, 2014: Eric and Gretchen Kostelny

Altar Flowers

Nov. 27th: In memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

In memory of +William Boor+ on the ninety-eighth anniversary of his birth on November 22nd by remembering family William R., Richard T., Debbie, Brian and Michael Boor.

In loving memory of dear mother +Susan Jaso Waldman+ on the fourth anniversary of her death.

Dec. 4th: In celebration of the eighty-fifth birthday of Ludmilla Kovalsky on December 1st by loving children and grandchildren Linda and Philip 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—*Watch the stars that twinkle for love.*

In loving memory of mother and grandmother +Marie Vandlik+ on the tenth anniversary of her passing on December 5th by remembering children Mary Jo and Mark and their families.

Dec. 11th: In memory of mother +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the twenty-fifth anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Don and Shirley Babyar.

Dec. 18th: In loving memory of dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother +Mary Riban+ on the anniversary of her passing on December 18th, 2001 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and family.

In memory of +William Boor+ on the fourteenth anniversary of his passing by remembering family William R., Richard T., Debbie, Brian and Michael Boor.



Riverside Suzuki Strings

Winter Concert

Sunday, January 22nd, 2017
1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Reception to follow in the Friendship Room.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

Jan. 1st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte: Ben Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
Ushers: Dale Hawes and Walter Cudecki

Jan. 8th:

Greeters: Ivan Durkovic and Steve Michael
Acolyte: Matt Decosola
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Ivan Durkovic

Jan. 15th:

Greeters: John and Janet Broussard
Acolyte: Claire Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: Lois Mika
Lectors: Philip Painter and John Broussard
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike
Ushers: Paul Watkiss and Jerry Gaydusek

Jan. 22nd:

Greeters: Ramona Suffern and Carrie Watkiss
Acolyte: Brian Galdun
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Ed Sefara

Jan. 29th:

Greeters: Mildred Mendel and Annette Kozik
Acolyte: Joe Decosola
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike
Ushers: Philip Painter and John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care

Edward and Joanne Sefara

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

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 so much for your service and assistance.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

February 5th:

Greeters: Karyn Bute and Ann Kmet
Acolyte: Isabella Myers
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Comm. Minister: Tom Myers
Lectors: Charles Matthies and Joanne Sefara
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Greg Valek

February 12th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Tom and Lavinia Myers
Nursery Attendant: Kristine Boike
Ushers: Walter Cudecki and Paul Watkiss

February 19th:

Greeters: Bob Melnyk and Katie Melnyk
Acolyte: Hannah Decosola
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: Kristine Boike and Keith Altavilla
Nursery Attendant: Isabelle Boike
Ushers: Ivan Durkovic and John Kostelny

February 26th:

Greeters: Matt and Janice Decosola
Acolyte: Matt Decosola
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Dale Hawes and Robert Melnyk
Nursery Attendant: Hannah Boike
Ushers: Greg Valek and Donald Haase

Sacristan and Altar Care

Ruth Bakalich

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

Address Changes

Mrs. Betty Proksa
1308 Van Buren Street
Streator, IL 61364-1462

Jonathan and Lenka Mezera
1321 Upland Drive, #5243
Houston, TX 77043-4718

Ann Head
5921 Wolf Road
LaGrange Highlands, IL 60525
(630) 452-6423

“What shall I render to the Lord...”

... for all his benefits to me?

Annual Household Income, Gross or Net X
 A Percentage Signifying a Prayer of Gratitude =
 Annual Household Financial Offering to the Congregation /
 Fifty-two Weeks in the Year =
 Weekly Offering as an Act of Worship

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord (Psalm 116:12ff).

Memorials and Honorariums

For the church...

Betty Bagel, in memory of husband +John Bagel, parents +John and +Ann Kucan+, and aunt +Susan Hrusik+
 Ken and Carol Morydz, in memory of mother +Irene H. Boor+
 Steve and Beverly Podzamsky, in memory of +Robert Dlhy+
 John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Robert Dlhy+
 John and Shirley Kostelny, in memory of +Lynn Gregor+
 The Deinser Family, in memory of +Ann Kurhayez+
 Daniel and Raeann Dlhy, for the Good Samaritan Fund
 Larry and Sue Kusch, in memory of mother +Shirley Wood+
 Joe and Carol Ruiz, in memory of parents +Dr. Paul and +Vera Kubala+ and godparents +John and +Molly Holub+
 Wally Kessler, in memory of wife +Mildred Kessler+ on the anniversary of her passing and +Paul and Katherine Predny+ on the anniversary of their birthdays
 Tom and Vicki Michaels, in memory of +Robert Dlhy+
 Mark Vandlik and Family, in memory of mother +Marie Vandlik+
 Charlene Patula, in memory of husband +David Patula+
 Paul, Pat and Sarah Gavac, in memory of +Lynn Gregor+
 Anne Gavac, in memory of +Lynn Gregor+
 Anne Gavac, in memory of +Bessie Ludik+

Reflections on a Parish Visitation

The winter sun was still high in the southern sky when I arrived at your home yesterday, and the night had settled in when I left your front door, which suggests to me that I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation, coffee, and Communion at your table.

My maternal grandmother, who was a tiny native American-Irish woman, and whose body in later years was riddled with arthritis so debilitating that she was almost entirely bent over, lived to be 100 years old. The eldest of four children, she had to quit school in the sixth grade so that she could help her father run the family farm. She could barely read or write, so she cleaned hotel rooms, did people's laundries, raised a large garden, and kept about 150 chickens behind her little house in town to sell the eggs and later butcher them. (She played the radio for her chickens so they would lay more eggs!) She suffered the shame of divorce at a time when “those things didn't happen,” and she buried her two adult children before her own death.

Grandma Gladys, as she was known to her grandchildren, never stopped being fully engaged in life. She was alert, smart, outspoken, quick with her emotions and passionately interested in other people and world events on both the political and religious horizons. She adamantly followed the daily news and listened intently to her Evangelical Free Church preacher, never hesitating to call out a lie when she heard one. Like Mary, Mother of our Lord, my grandmother sang at the “fall of the mighty”—when they deserved it—and at the “lifting up of the lowly”—even when they did not deserve it.

I deeply honor the memory of my grandmother along with so many of the saints with whom I had the blessing of growing up. I reverence them more fervently everyday; and I see their love and passion for living in the two of you and so many others in our congregation.—*djl*

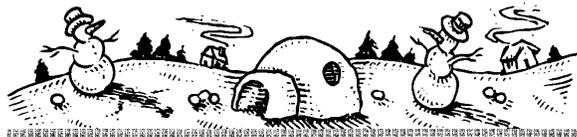


November, 2016	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$3,179.00	
Date	Offering
11/6	\$2,265.00
11/13	\$4,552.00
11/20	\$1,706.00
11/27	\$3,661.00



E P H E S I A N S 3 : 8

TO BRING TO ALL
 the NEWS OF THE
 BOUNDLESS RICHES
 of C·H·R·I·S·T



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DATED MATERIAL



The Lutheran Choir of Chicago performing its Christmas concert at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, December 11th.

Thank you for your support of the Lutheran Choir of Chicago during its Christmas concert season! Thank you for attending the concerts, even though the weather outside was (somewhat) frightful; for hosting the performance and reception at Sts. Peter and Paul; for your financial support on Giving Tuesday and your donations to LCC; for allowing an hour or two on a Sunday afternoon for the songs of the angels to fill your hearts and bodies with the breathful mystery of the Word made flesh at Christmas!

From the LCC Board of Directors—

“Dear Dennis, thank you for hosting LCC once again. Saints Peter and Paul has come to feel like a holiday home for us, and we appreciate all you do to make us feel so welcome. With deep appreciation from LCC’s Board of Directors—Lauren, Emily, Heidi, Leo, Philip and Mary.”



Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
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Council Members and Officers

John Broussard, President	Robert Barcik
William Boor, Treasurer	Donald Haase
Ann Head	John Kostelny
Fred Kuzel, Secretary	Charles Matthies, Fin. Sec.
Robert Melnyk, Vice President	Tom Michaels
Linda Painter	Carrie Watkiss
Gregg Valek	

Organizations and Committee Chairpersons

Finance Committee	John Kostelny
Ladies’ Altar Guild	Vera Borysek
Long Range Planning	Jan Hapgood
Maintenance	Donald Haase and Dale Hawes
Missions and Outreach	Dan Tornil and Ramona Suffern
Nominating Committee	John Broussard
Social Ministry	Nick Sasuta and Joanne Sefara
Stewardship	Thomas Michaels and Thomas Myers
Sunday School Coordinator	Sheryl Hallmann
Worship and Music	Charles Matthies

Staff

Administrative Assistant	Karen Rouleau
Parish Musician	David Richards

