



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 41

January 2019

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.



**Mission and Meal
Sunday,
January 27th, 2019**

Liturgy of Holy Communion

10:15 a.m.

followed by the

Annual Congregational Meeting and Epiphany 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 6th.

God in the world in one form or another.

Notice that the church designates the Sundays that follow Epiphany as Sundays *after* the Epiphany. By contrast, the Sundays in Lent are identified as Sundays *in* Lent, and the Sundays following Easter are designated as the Sundays *of* Easter. Epiphany is not a season in the same way that Lent is. And Easter, the day of all days, is not so much a season as it is a day that lasts fifty days, Pentecost being the culmination of that day. These distinctions help the church to maintain the relative importance of these three liturgical periods.

In the churches of the West today, the Epiphany is the observance on January 6th of the manifestation of Christ to all the nations of the world, which the gospel represents in the persons of the magi who found Jesus in Bethlehem. In the Sundays that follow, we see his glory revealed at a river, a wedding, in a synagogue, beside a lake, on a plain, and on a mountain.

What these scriptural images and stories have to say to us, in the end, is that if we look with discerning eye and listen with discriminating ear, we can perceive God behind, above, within, around, and below the world all about us. We can contemplate an infant lying in a manger, for instance, and have a vision of God.

When we approach all of creation this way, we find it more difficult to abuse our environment, to treat it casually, to hoard it, or to use it in destructive ways. Living responsibly in the world then becomes less a question of merely doing good and avoiding evil, less a question of moral imperatives or obeying the Ten Commandments, and more an active partnership with God in transfiguring creation until it becomes a place increasingly fit for the kingdom.

For these reasons and many others, Epiphany and the Sundays that follow are critical occasions for the church to address the secularization of society and the world, giving answer to, or at least declaring solidarity with, those who struggle with lingering doubts about the reality of God in our troubled, violent world. Is God important in the world or not? Can we see any real evidence in the life of the average person around us that God really matters?

Certainly the average unchurched person is capable of living a completely secular life that is at once good, socially responsible, generous, and loving. At its most obvious, the world is truly a satisfying place to be. We can take it seriously and manage to live a life that appears rich and full, even without "interference" from God. What does the church have to say to those who dismiss the practice of religion as irrelevant to a life lived well in this modern, high-tech world of ours?

The church's answer is that behind the evidence of things seen, there lurks evidence of things unseen. A recovery of Epiphany would sharpen our eyesight, attune our ears, indeed develop all our senses,

Images of Epiphany

Along with Easter and Pentecost, the festival of the Epiphany was one of the early church's most important festivals. Its significance is surprising when we realize that today most North American congregations observe the festival of the Epiphany with little of the fanfare that we associate with Christmas, Easter, or even Pentecost. One of the reasons is that the feast of the Epiphany has a complex history. The season that follows it features biblical events and theological realities that are more subtle than the dramatic raising of a man from the dead, for instance, or an invasion by the Spirit through wind, flame, and tongues. Why was the Epiphany such an important festival in the early centuries of the church?

The festival originated in the East, where it was celebrated from the third century as a commemoration of the Lord's baptism. Later on it came to include an observance of the nativity as well. The festival was introduced into the West in the fourth century as an observance of the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the magi; it was not an observance of the Lord's baptism. No matter which of these three events from the life of Jesus was observed on the Epiphany, the common theme was the appearance of

so that we are receptive to the glimpses of God's glory all around us. Can we, even at our frantic pace, capture a craving for that glory, freshen our yearning for incomprehensible light and incomparable music? Or have commerce and entertainment so deadened us to the subtle reality of God hidden behind the appearance of things that the appearances themselves suffice?

This kind of sensual deadness has no place among a Eucharistic people who claim that words uttered, bread broken, and wine poured out have a meaning far beyond the mere words, the mere bread and wine. The word preached and the Eucharist shared are, after all, the church's greatest assurance that the material world holds more than our senses at first tell us. The words we hear, are they now the very Word of God made flesh? And the bread and wine we share, are they not a communion in the body and blood of Christ? These material things, are they not transfigured for us in faith when two or three of us gather in Jesus' name?

And what do we say we believe? In the Nicene Creed we describe Christ as light from light. In the evening we identify Christ as the light that dispels our darkness. The prayer for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany says, "Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear." When the prophet Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms, what he saw, at last, was his salvation revealed.

Physicists say that if you strike clay with a hammer and look at it with a low-level infrared camera, you will see that it emits light. Quantum physics has led some scientists to believe that one day, everything will exist in the form of light. Some of the world's great luminaries, spending solitary time in deserts or canyons, have beheld an illuminated earth. Who has not heard music when a crystal goblet is tapped?

As the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote:
 The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
 It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
 It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
 Crushed.

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The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6th

We Offer What We Have

We bring what we can. We offer what we have. We give our time, our skills, our resources. We give not out of a sense of duty or obligation but in response to the immeasurable gift we have received.

Together, the church is the body of Christ, a ragtag community of believers following a hunch and a star. Together, we offer what we have. We offer our songs, words, hopes, fears, and failings. We offer our prayers. We offer our ability to comfort and mourn, our willingness to be vulnerable. We give our gifts, whatever they are, and we give them joyfully. Some shiny and new, some worn and mended, some cracked but beloved. Gifts more precious than gold, rarer than frankincense or myrrh.

We journey down a long road, sometimes through the dark. Together, we face danger. We face uncertainty. We face temptation. When we come finally, joyfully to celebrate the arrival of the baby Jesus, the king in the humble manger, we rejoice. We pay homage. We offer our gifts in response to the God who has given us all that we see and know. We offer what we have because of what we have received. We bring what we can because the gift that God gives us in Christ is a gift beyond our ability to measure.

We can't always offer as much as we wish we could, but we offer what we have in the spirit that we can and find that together, our broken gifts make a beautiful whole. The gift we have received is the sure and certain truth that our gifts are enough. That we are enough. That we are created with care and redeemed to be love and light in the world.

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Thank You from *Lux Cantorum!*



Lux Cantorum Chicago (formerly the Lutheran Choir of Chicago) performing its Christmas concert at Sts. Peter and Paul in 2016.

Thank you for your support of *Lux Cantorum Chicago* during its "Light of the World" concert season. Thank you for attending the concerts, for hosting the performance and reception at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 9th, and for allowing the songs of the season to fill your hearts and bodies with the mystery of "the Light of the world." A special thank you to members of the Worship and Music Committee and many others for providing and serving food at the reception following the concert.—*djl*

November 2018	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
<i>Budgeted Offering: \$2,683.00</i>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
11/4	\$3,566.00
11/11	\$1,408.00
11/18	\$3,013.00
11/25	\$1,996.16

We Give Thanks

Thank you to members of the Worship and Music Committee and to everyone who helped with hosting the *Lux Cantorum Chicago* Christmas concert and reception on Sunday afternoon, December 9th.

Again this year the congregation generously participated in the annual gift-giving program of Lutheran Child and Family Services which includes the purchase of gifts and gift certificates as well as monetary donations for children in need throughout 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 Confirmation and high school students, the Youth Choir, and their leaders and parents for the Christmas pageant which was presented Sunday, December 23rd. We acknowledge especially Tom Myers, Sheryl Hallmann, Dale Hawes, 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 *Štedry Večer* on Thursday, December 13th. The annual event draws a 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!*



Worship and Music News

Thanks to everyone who attended or provided food and refreshments for the performance of “Light of the World” by *Lux Cantorum Chicago* on Sunday, December 9th. We hope everyone enjoyed the concert and reception. Special thanks to Shirley Kostelny, Jane Lauritsen, Carrie Watkiss, and Sheryl Hallmann for coordinating the reception. We thank *Lux Cantorum* for helping us to prepare for the Christmas season, and we look forward to future performances.

Thanks also to Tom Myers, Jane Lauritsen, Dale Hawes, and Sheryl Hallmann for coordinating the Christmas pageant held during the worship service on December 23rd. We also thank our adult choir for the performance of *Christmas Suite* 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



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).



Jan. 1: Steve Michael	Jan. 18: John Galdun
Jan. 3: Gerald “J.T.” Tarbox	Jan. 19: Sheryl Hallmann
Jan. 4: Suzanna Skudrna	Jan. 20: William Boor
Jan. 6: Esther Meksto	Jan. 22: Trevor Jech
Jan. 8: Samuel Lauritsen	Kenneth Kostelancik
Jan. 9: Olga Zavodny	Mildred Riban
Jan. 10: Joyce Hodul	Jan. 25: Emily Kostial
Jan. 14: Thomas Michaels	Jan. 31: Leslie Byrne
Jan. 15: Sarah Gavac	Rachel Decosola

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 18, 2015: James and Kathi Zinsser
January 19, 2014: Eric and Gretchen Kostelny
January 21, 1996: Leslie and Matthew Byrne

Happenings

Church Office Closed

Monday, December 31st through Wednesday, January 2nd

Congregation Council Meeting

Thursday, January 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. 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

Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th
at 7:30 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday, January 27th, 2019

Got Talent?

Dale Hawes is looking for individuals and groups to share their talents at the Annual Mardi Gras Talent Show scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd. If interested, please contact Dale at (708) 204-9358.



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DATED MATERIAL

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 signalling
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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Light of the World

Our Sponsored Missionaries in Japan and Tanzania



Dr. Stephen and Bethany Friberg

Bethany works in empowering women through the Maasai Bead and Education Project. Steve has developed rural clinics serving the Maasai people.



**Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson
and Dr. Andrew L. Wilson.**

Sarah serves as pastor to the English- language congregation at Tokyo Lutheran Church and Andrew teaches at Japan Lutheran College and Seminary. Shown with their son Zeke.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

January 6th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Acolyte: Claire Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: Tom Michaels
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Ushers: Walter Cudecki and Gregg Valek

January 13th:

Greeters: John, Juanita and Kristine Jakubec
Acolyte: George Valek
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Kristine Boike and Matt Decosola
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Gregg Valek

January 20th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte: Isabella Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: Joanne Sefara and Keith Altavilla
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

January 27th:

Greeters: Sandy Garvey and Karyn Bute
Acolyte: Bryan Galdun
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
Lectors: Dale Hawes and Charles Matthies
Ushers: Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel

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 communion ministers and nursery attendants. If interested, please speak with Pastor Dennis or a member of the Worship and Music Committee.



Congregational Directory Change

Thomas and Alexandra Miller
5614 S. Elm Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521-5011

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

February 3rd:

Greeters: Ann Kmet and Annette Kozik
Acolyte: Matt Decosola
Assisting Minister: Tom Micheals
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: John Broussard and Philip Painter
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Walter Cudecki

February 10th:

Greeters: Bob Melnyk and Katie Melnyk
Acolyte: Ben Myers
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Paul Watkiss

February 17th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: Kathy Ganschow
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

February 24th:

Greeters: Ed and Joanne Sefara
Acolyte: Sebastian Myers
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: Tom Myers
Lectors: George Valek and Matt Decosola
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Dale Hawes

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

Memorial Flowers

Dec. 2nd: In memory of dear husband +David Patula+ on the “anniversary of our wedding” on December 5th by remembering wife Charlene—Every journey always leads me back to you.

Dec. 9th: In memory of +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the twenty-seventh anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Donald and Shirley Babyar.

Dec. 16th: 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.

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Happy New Year!

We will be starting off the year with songs, and crafts all about winter and our cold weather friends. We will end the month with “Crazy Dazy Day” where anything crazy goes!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

January Announcements

- ★ The 2019 offering envelopes are ready for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to 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 28th 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 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.

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.

“Legends of the Game” Volleyball meets every
Monday, 6:30-9:45 p.m. beginning

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

- Audrey Ducay and family, in memory of dear cousin +Kathy Swensen+.
- Liz, Mark, John and Lauren Rouck, in celebration of mother and grandmother Betty Kany’s 90th birthday.
- Wayne and Ann Boor, in memory of +Irene Jonas+.
- Gary and Annett Tapak and family, in memory of +Irene Jonas+.
- John and Cindy Kehl, in memory of +Irene Jonas+.
- Co-workers and Friends at MB Financial Bank, in memory of +Irene Jonas+.
- John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Judith Kozik+.
- Vera Borysek, in memory of +Judith Kozik+.
- Sandra and Peter Spilotro, in memory of +Judith Kozik+.
- Charlene Patula, in memory of husband +David+.
- B. J. Licko-Keel, in memory of husband +William Jerry Keel+ and father +Stephen Licko+ on their birthdays, and in memory of mother +Marie Licko+.
- Thomas and Kathryn Murray, in celebration of daughter Peyton Elizabeth’s baptism.
- Philip and Linda Painter, in celebration of granddaughter Peyton Elizabeth’s baptism on November 18th.

❖ For the Church ❖

(continued)

- Mildred Londak, in celebration of Betty Kany’s 90th birthday.
- The Bandura-Doeing Family, in loving memory of +Cristina Balas+, +Andrew+ and +Anna Bandura+, and +Ann Beckius+.
- The Families of Ken Wood, Mike Wood, Deb Bark, and Sue Kusch, in loving memory of mother and grandmother +Shirley Wood+.
- Adolf and Ellen Heimann
- Ann Neimes, in memory of parents +George+ and +Elizabeth Palencar+, and relatives of the Pagurko Family.



We Receive Thanks

November 29, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$545.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). We are grateful to your congregation for investing in the well-being of all Illinois citizens, offering people the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Your generosity helps bring health, healing and wholeness to thousands of people across the state. More than 85% of LSSI’s clients have an annual income under \$15,000 per year. The faithfulness of congregations like Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is critically important in this work.

Last October LSSI celebrated our 150th anniversary. 150 years of service and ministry! We could not have served this long without dear friends like you. Please know how much we value your support and partnership in this work.

Peace and prayers,

David P. Novak, JD
Vice President, Advancement

Twice a month we send out “Good Works”, a short-email update on what’s happening at LSSI. Your members can subscribe for free by sending a note to info@lssi.org with “Subscribe to Good Works” in the subject line. We want everyone to know how your gifts are being put to work in response to the Gospel!

