

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

December 2019

Issue 12

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

Images for the Season of Advent

A vision from the prophet Isaiah places natural enemies of the animal world next to each other in a peaceable kingdom. This vision has been rendered by artists and proclaimed by preachers. Hurting and destroying others is forbidden. The weak and powerless, the poor and sorrowful will have God as their advocate and deliverer. For at least the four weeks of Advent, the church sets this hopeful vision and divine promise next to stories of war and conflict, demands for privilege, and muffled cries of the poor and powerless.

The prophetic readings from Isaiah during Advent speak strongly about peace to our world. Peace is not simply the absence of war, but the intentional act of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. God does not want us to learn the trade of war any more. Advent tunes our ears to God's dangerous call to serve as peacemakers. The psalmist's centuries-old prayer is still relevant today: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). We enlarge the psalmist's vision and pray for the peace of the whole world.

In the second readings proclaimed this season, God's alarm clock wakes us to the urgency of repentance. God's promised coming offers hope amidst all the alarming news of the world. Romans 15:13 serves as a type of benediction for the Sundays in Advent as we celebrate the hopes and fears of all the ages in the coming of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it seems as though God's coming is delayed or ineffective, but we are counseled to be patient and wait on God's promises in hopeful expectation. In this season we do not pretend that Jesus has not yet come. We already claim the promises that are ours in the power of Christ's death and resurrection. We watch in confidence for the one who came, who comes among us each time we gather around Word and Sacrament, and who draws us into God's final coming to make all things new.

In the gospel readings, hopeful people are urged to be ready for God's unexpected appearances according to God's own time. A surprising voice in the wilderness again calls all people to a new appraisal of their lives and openness to the Holy One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and a cleansing fire. John, the whistle-blower on unholy lives, is jailed for pointing to Jesus as the one who brings good news to all people. It is good news that will become the song of the angels and that will be on the lips and in the hearts of those forgiven and healed by this Savior. All of this points to the Christ who is Emmanuel, God with us. We know him as the promised one who came among us, who continues to be with us, and who opens up all of God's future as a promise in which we can hope.

—continued on next page



"Joy!"

Lux Cantorum Choral Concert

December 8th, 4:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd

10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m., Festival Liturgy of
Holy Communion
with Candlelight

Christmas Day

10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion

There are homes where fires burn and there is bread, lamps are lit and prayers are said. Though people falter through the dark and nations grope, with God Himself back of these little homes, we still can hope.—Grace Noll Crowell (American poet, October 31, 1877–March 31, 1969).

It is an eye-opening experience to be in Israel during Advent. There are no Christmas decorations or the pressure to buy presents. One has only the great promises of Advent. Perhaps this suggests that we should avoid muting the strong, sober messages of Advent with cultural Christmas decorations. The Advent readings talk about peace challenging our war-making. The Biblical message points us to the great needs of the poor, disadvantaged, and powerless who need more than once-a-year Christmas caroling or a few coins in the Salvation Army kettles. Advent points us to radical repentance and realistic hope that transform our expectations and the way we live in the world. Starting with the Advent readings, how might we express this season artistically? Advent might look very different from many of the commercial decorations that are commonplace during December. How might our visual images speak as surprising and challenging voices in the wilderness? How might we picture hope opening up a promising future?

All these readings stir up a new vision of a world in which God comes among us. Will we allow our imaginations to lead us toward a vision for what all this means for our congregation and our life in the community and world? During these December days, the world tries to define Christmas in a way that mutes the Advent message. The church has both the opportunity and the responsibility to proclaim that Advent is not a wet blanket on festivity, but rather a house-cleaning that prepares us to celebrate what God has given the world in Jesus Christ. That is what gives hope and joy to the world.

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Lux Cantorum Chicago Returns to Perform Christmas Concert: "Joy!"

Sunday afternoon, December 8th,
4 p.m.

Lux Cantorum Chicago will present its Christmas concert entitled "Joy!" at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 8th at 4 p.m. Chicago's premier sacred choral ensemble will be performing works by Forrest, Todd, Rutter, and many more. For more information, including three other concert opportunities, as well as advanced ticket sales, visit the website of the choir at luxcantorum.org. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.



We Give Thanks

Thank you to the members of the Mission Dinner Planning Group for hosting the meal and for the preparations for the Ramona A. Suffern Mission Dinner held on Sunday, November 10th. Special thanks is extended to those who prepared the meal, including Ann Kmet, Vera Borysek, Mildred Mendel, and others who assisted with set-up and clean-up. Thanks also to Sheryl Hallmann for helping to coordinate this event and for inviting Melissa Ehmann of Oak-Leyden Developmental Services in Oak Park to offer the mission presentation. The beneficiaries of the dinner this year are ELCA sponsored missionaries in Tanzania and Japan and children's programs at Oak-Leyden Developmental Services.



You are invited to
join us for the

Ladies Altar Guild

Annual Štedry Večer Traditional Christmas Luncheon

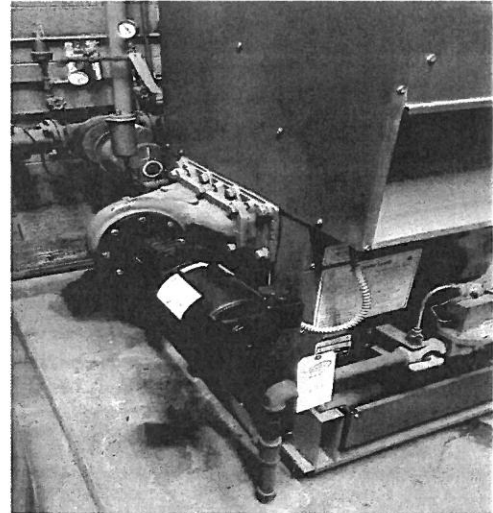
Thursday, December 12th, 2019
12 noon

Please make your reservations
on or before Sunday, December 8th.

Tickets are \$15.00
and may be purchased from
any member of the Ladies Altar Guild.

For more information please contact
Vera Borysek.

Boiler Repair Completed



A pump and motor were replaced on one of the church boiler units on October 28th with funds from the summer repair and replacement appeal.

Riverside Holiday Stroll

Friday, December 6th, 5-9 p.m.

Get into the spirit of the season by attending the 43rd Annual Riverside Holiday Stroll. Stop by the second floor of the Village Hall where Kristine Boike and her string students will be performing at 6 p.m. Pictures with Santa, horse drawn rides, and caroling are among the activities planned that evening.

Memorial Flowers

Nov. 3rd: In loving memory of beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Michael Riban+ on the twenty-fourth anniversary of his death on November 6th, 1995 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and family.

Nov. 24th: In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the dining hall beginning Sunday, November 24th. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17. The deadline for payment and sign-up is Sunday, December 15th.



News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

December is a busy month in the Preschool. We will be making gifts and projects as well as getting ready for our winter show, "Holiday Countdown," on December 19th. We're thrilled to be singing again for the *Štedry Večer* Christmas luncheon.

Also, we are pleased to announce the opening of our second classroom in January 2020. If you know anyone looking for a fabulous preschool, tell them to give us a call.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Judith Votruba Borchart and Family.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Nick Sasuta+ on All Saints Day (*Special Appeal*).

In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother +Mary Riban+ on the 18th anniversary of her death on December 19th, 2001 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and Family.

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

❖ Special Appeal for Replacements and Repairs ❖

Total donations received as of November 18th:
\$9,090.00

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:15 a.m. Confirmation Class
9:30 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
11:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsals

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

December Announcements

- ★ Due to a printing delay the 2020 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up on or around Sunday, December 15th 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 27th 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 "undeliver-able" 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 lower level classroom adjacent to the dining hall.

October 2019

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00

Date	Offering
10/6	\$1,640.00
10/13	\$3,526.00
10/20	\$ 863.00
10/27	\$3,238.00

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 1st:

Greeters: Tom and Vicki Michaels
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: Keith Altavilla and Charles Matthies
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Walter Cudecki

December 8th:

Greeters: Ed and Joanne Sefara
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: Paul Watkiss
Lectors: J. T. and Beverly Tarbox
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

December 15th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte: Ben Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: John Broussard and Joanne Sefara
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Janet Broussard

December 22nd:

Greeters: Carole Pollitz and Carl Busch
Acolyte: Bryan Galdun
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Tom Michaels
Lectors: TBD
Ushers: Walter Cudecki and Gregg Valek

Christmas Eve:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Acolyte: Sebastian Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Ministers: Martin Pennino, Vicki Michaels,
Tom Myers and Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Brandon Michaels and George Valek
Ushers: Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

Christmas Day:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel and Keith Altavilla
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
Usher: Fred Kuzel

December 29th:

Greeters: Matthew and Janice Decosola
Acolyte: Matt Decosola
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: Paul Watkiss
Lectors: Robert Melnyk and Kristine Boike
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Jane Lauritsen

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

January 5th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: Charles Matthies and Katie Melnyk
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Walter Cudecki

January 12th:

Greeters: John, Juanita and Kristine jakubec
Acolyte: Ben Myers
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Tom and Lavinia Myers
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Gregg Valek

January 19th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte: Sebastian Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

January 26th:

Greeters: Sandy Garvey and Karyn Bute
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: J. T. and Beverly Tarbox
Ushers: Donald and Johnathan Haase

Sacristan and Altar Care: Fred Kuzel

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.

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.

Pastor Dennis, Karen Rouleau, David Richards and the members of the Congregation Council of Sts. Peter and Paul wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a joyous and peaceful New Year.



Remember the Good Samaritan



But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where [the man] was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more

you spend, I will repay you when I come back." Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise" (Luke 10:33-37 ESV).

The Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund was established over 20 years ago by the congregation and named for Rev. Juan Cobrda at his retirement from ministry in 2002. The fund is intended to provide emergency assistance to individuals and households of the congregation and nearby communities who are in urgent need of groceries, medicine, rent, pharmacy, utilities and fuel. The Good Samaritan Fund is administered by John Broussard and Pastor Dennis as needs are made known and assessed. Please remember to make an offering to the Good Samaritan Fund especially at this time of year when needs are great. You may do so by indicating "Good Samaritan" in the box on your offering envelopes labeled "Other" or by sending a gift directly to the church office. Thank you for helping us show mercy and offer compassion to so many who feel alone and abandoned in circumstances of desperate need.—*djl*

Our Christmas Giving Tree

For many years, the congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul has been generously purchasing gifts and donating funds for gift certificates in order to make Christmas a happier occasion for many needy local children. Again this year the congregation will "adopt" approximately twenty children through Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS). A tree with ornaments containing a child's gender, age and suggested gift is set up in the dining hall. Gifts should be returned unwrapped and labeled with the information provided on the ornament, then placed in a box near the tree. Gift cards, certificates, and cash donations are also welcome. The deadline for gifts drop-off is Sunday, December 1st for delivery to LCFS before December 6th.



"Operation Stockings for Veterans"

Send our troops and local veterans a little taste of home for the holidays. Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home, 2447 South Desplaines Avenue in North Riverside is proud to sponsor "Operation Stockings for Veterans." From November 4th through December 7th between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., stop into the funeral home and pick-up a free Christmas stocking to take home, decorate, and stuff with Christmas cheer. You will receive a list of recommended items along with the free stocking. Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home will either ship or deliver the stockings at their expense to troops abroad and veterans here at home in time for Christmas. For more information please contact the home at (708) 442-2500.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1: Ludmilla Kovalsky	Dec. 14: Ruth Bakalich
Dec. 2: Elaine Haase	Audrey Bucz
Dec. 3: Lavinia Myers	Ann Pennino
Dec. 4: Eric Kostelny	Dec. 15: Steven Waldman
Dec. 5: Carrie Boike	Dec. 16: Robert Barcik
Walter Cudecki	Steven Melka
Ann Head	Nickolas Ritacco
Dec. 6: Fred Kuzel	Dec. 17: Ann Kmet
Dec. 7: Lawrence Bakalich	Mary Jo Meyers
Dec. 8: Miloslava Blahut	Dec. 19: Martin Tornil
Dec. 10: Edward Sefara	Dec. 24: Jan Hapgood
Dec. 11: Betty Kany	Dec. 26: Shirley Kostelny
Kristian Kubo	Mary Sasuta
Claire Watkiss	Dec. 27: Steven Mendel
Dec. 12: Betty Force	Dec. 28: Walter Kessler
Dec. 13: Caden Blaha	Dec. 29: Darina Miko
Vera Borysek	Dec. 31: Grace Tapak

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 4, 2004: Lee and Emily Drahos
December 28, 2002: Gerald and Beverly Tarbox

Happenings

Lux Cantorum "Joy!" Concert
Sunday, December 8th, 4 p.m.

Ladies Altar Guild Štedry Večer
Thursday, December 12th, 12 noon

Riverside Preschool Winter Program
Thursday, December 19th, 11 a.m.

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

Church Office Closed
December 26th, 31st and January 2nd

"Legends of the Game" Volleyball meets
each Monday at 6:30 p.m. beginning
January 6th through April 27th.

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 lower level classroom
adjacent to the dining hall.*



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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250 Woodside Road
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DATED MATERIAL

Chicago's Premier Sacred Choral Ensemble

Lux Cantorum presents

LUX CANTORUM

Joy!

Featuring works by Forrest, Todd & Rutter, arrangements by Paulus, Stepford, Clausen & more....

Wilbert O. Watkins, Artistic Director & Conductor

Philip Kendall, Asst. Conductor

Joan Hutchinson, Accompanist

Consider the lasting joy that can be experienced in music that focuses on the spiritual values of love, hope, and peace - the impetus of our joy-filled celebration!

For tickets and information go to:
LuxCantorum.org

Dates

- December 6: Augustana Lutheran Church
7:30pm 5500 S. Woodlawn Ave Chicago IL
- December 8: Sts Peter & Paul Lutheran Church
4:00 pm 250 Woodside Rd. Riverside IL
- December 12: St. Luke Lutheran Church
7:30 pm 1500 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago IL
- December 14: Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC
7:30 pm 460 Lake St. Oak Park IL.

