

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

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Issue 9

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.

Re-engaging in Public Worship Sunday, July 19th



Pastor Dennis welcomes the congregation after 18 weeks of closure due to the corona virus pandemic. Guidelines and expectations for public worship may be found at the Welcome Page of the congregational website. More photos of this worship service are also posted there. (Photo by Emil Galdun.)

promising some of you that we would have a great big Easter celebration even if it had to be in July. Well, here we are in July, and I think you'll agree that this is not the sort of great big Easter celebration that I had in mind. Instead, there are face coverings, physical distancing, temperature screening at the door, precautionary signs everywhere, hand sanitizing stations (front, back and sideways), Holy Communion distributed using a dispenser and eyedropper, no singing or full-voiced responses, touchless sharing of the peace, softly spoken prayers, consuming the bread and wine in your pew, and shorter sermons.

But the floors everywhere are newly polished. Restrooms are cleaned and redecorated. Windows have been repaired in the church kitchen, the preschool classroom, the stage and the lower level. There has been a complete washing and disinfecting of the sanctuary, pews, walls and furnishings. We now have the opportunity, at last, to use this elegant free-standing table. You have received some twenty-two segments of the "Bread for the Journey" series, complete with an extensive tour of the stained-glass windows in the facility. There have been YouTube video sermons and home-talent musical performances. You've heard some beautifully recorded music, poetry and prayers, and have also received orders for worship in the home. We have continued to be the church in the dispersion through home-worship, serving and caring for each other with a thousand acts of kindness, even though we have been away from this house of worship and separated from the fellowship of the congregation. And now, we are offering live-streaming of the Sunday liturgies.

We will hear today that the wheat grows with the weeds, the good with the evil. The world has changed since we last were together; and, yes, our ways of worship now have changed, too. We did not choose this, but we are choosing to live with it. We trust that God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit is among us with grace, mercy and compassion for his bewildered children and is gently raising us up when we fall and quietly approaching us with tender love and charity.

Sundays are always Easter celebrations, no matter when or how they fall, so let us enter again into the Easter feast that has no end—the victory feast of God's love and the defeat of death in all its forms.

"For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience" (Romans 8:24, 25).—*djl*

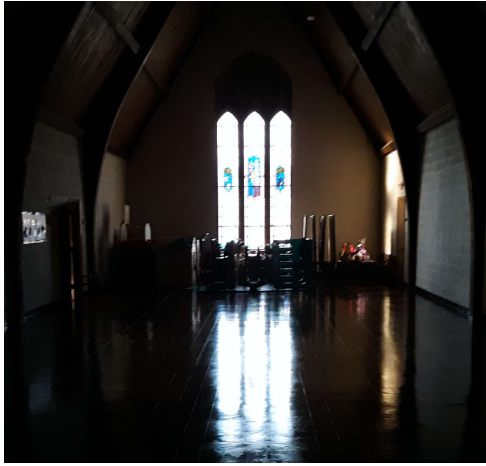
All 22 segments of the "Bread for the Journey" series, including the stain-glass tour, are posted at the congregational website: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org. Live-stream of the worship services and recordings may be accessed by way of the Welcome Page at the website.

Words of Welcome on Sunday, July 19th

This is not exactly the way I had envisioned our return to public worship after eighteen weeks since we were last together on Sunday, March 15th when the Council members were installed, just three weeks before Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Today, the season of Lent, with its vespers and suppers, is far gone; Holy Week and Easter Day were likely spent at home, perhaps in virtual conversation with family and friends. The Great Fifty Days of Easter were not spent in feasting and singing. Pentecost Day came and went, and now we are well underway into the Season of Pentecost and already a month into summer.

I've often thought of the past four months as a seemingly unending episode of *The Twilight Zone* series as time has been warped and twisted. As we were about to enter Holy Week this year, I remember

Welcome Back!



paint, vanity, fixtures, and light fixtures, etc.); repair of windows in the kitchen, preschool, stage, and basement (with more to be done); entire dining area, large hallway, and adjacent floors were stripped, washed and polished (with several coats!); gym floor was washed and polished; sanctuary and other areas, as well as worship books, pews, walls, fixtures, and furnishings were sanitized and disinfected; aquarium was cleaned, maintained and repaired; sanctuary fans were repaired and serviced; west parking lot door handle and lock were repaired; clean-up of storage areas and disposal of numerous unusable items was completed with more to come.

At the risk of missing some people who made contributions, we want to thank especially Rafael Martinez (who coordinated the work crews and contributed much of the floor labor), Vera Borysek, Paul Watkiss, John Broussard, John Kostelny, Eric Kostelny, Fred Kuzel, Carl Busch, Tom Michaels, and Bill Boor. Please let us know if we have missed anyone!

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 3	Martin Pennino	Sept. 17	Maycee Gillund
Sept. 5	Ezekiel Wilson		Benjamin Smith
Sept. 7	Nathan Byrne	Sept. 18	Isabella Myers
Sept. 9	Julie Barcik		Sebastian Myers
Sept. 10	John Jakubec	Sept. 22	Angeline Gomez
Sept. 11	Janice Decosola	Sept. 23	Devin Cathey
	Jon Hapgood		Ella Cathey
	Dennis Horacek	Sept. 24	Betty Bagel
	Alexandra Miller		John Broussard
Sept. 15	Deborah Jech	Sept. 27	James Gaydusek
Sept. 16	Linda McShane		Charles Matthies
		Sept. 30	Beverly Podzamsky

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 5, 1998: Thomas and Lavinia Myers
September 6, 1997: Matthew and Janice Decosola
September 8, 1990: Mary Jo and Scott Meyers
September 9, 2009: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
September 13, 2014: Susan and Robert Gillund
September 14 2002: Michelle and William Ruska
September 18, 2010: Peter and Gandy Drahos
September 19, 2009: Christopher and Laura Teter
September 24, 2000: James and Sandra Gaydusek
September 30, 1995: Adriana and Branislav Kubo

Uncertainty in Our Uncertainty

By Amy White and Professor Dr. Carol Bechtel, from the Ministerial Certification Agency of the Reformed Church in America. Submitted by Pastor Marge Vander Wagen of St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Blue Island.

Lament—Second Week of May, 2020

The storm surges around us, but what is the storm? **Almighty God, have mercy.**

We fear the unknown; we allow paranoia to steal our peace. **Almighty God, have mercy.**

We disagree, squabble; ears attuned to what we wish to criticize, hearing what we want. **Have mercy.**

We disagree, squabble; our ears filtering out beneficial and encouraging words. **Have mercy.**

We disagree, squabble; our mouths spout “better ways” and our language reeks of critique. Frustration, fear, anger and anxiety shove our friends’ “reason and trust” out the door. **Have mercy.**

Lord God Almighty, we are a stubborn, hard-headed and fearful people. **Have mercy on us and do not abandon us to our foolishness.**

We hurt, we cry, we wonder and lament. Some family and friends are gone. No talking, no laughing, no reaching out, no hugging, no mourning with others. **Only grieving... alone.**

We hurt, we cry, we wonder and lament. Some have lost resources, finances, jobs, housing, stability and futures. Some have lost hope. We grieve, but with whom do we grieve? Fear pushes against our walls of trust—the walls start to weaken. **Worry becomes our friend... reason becomes unfamiliar.**

Yet... we lift our eyes to the mountains; from whom comes our help? Our help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. **We need Your help.**

We want everything to be over. **We await you.**

We need wisdom. **True wisdom comes only from the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.**

We feel anxious, and sometimes angry. **Our help comes from the One who is compassionate and slow to anger.**

We grieve alone. **We are Your image bearers, bearing Your character. You grieve with us.**

Yet... we feel abandoned; **where are You, God of the universe?**

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the flowers that stand tall, and proud. They don’t fear, and their differences and colored clothing must reflect Your glory and creativity. **To God be the glory.**

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the springtime birth of birdlets who cry out for food. They patiently await provision. **To God be the glory.**

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the singing and joyful song of assorted birds who rest in the rhythm of one day at a time. **To God be the glory.**

Oh, there You are, speaking to us through the little plant that thrives after breaking through the concrete surrounding it. **To God be the glory.**

Oh, there You are speaking to us through the births of newborns who have come into this world knowing nothing of this disjointed atmosphere. They are human reflections and images of your beauty, glory and compassion. **To God be the glory. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Because of Your great love, Lord God, we are not consumed, for Your compassion never fail (Lamentations 3:22).

Altar Flowers

July 19th: In celebration of Pastor Dennis and Jane's 34th wedding anniversary today.

July 26th: In memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ from their loving family.

In memory of +Jean Wilson+, dear friend of the late +Betty Kany+ at Monarch Landing, who passed away on July 15th from the Kany and Rouck Family.

Aug. 2nd: In honor of the 93rd birthday of Darina Durkovic by son, Ivan, and daughter and son-in-law, Dee and Jim.

Aug. 9th: In memory of dear mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother +Shirley Wood+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 11th by her loving family Deb and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch, and their families.

Aug. 16th: In memory of loving mother and grandmother +Irene Boor+ on the 100th anniversary of her birth today, by remembering sons William R., and Richard T., Deborah, Brian and Hope, and Michael Boor.

In memory of +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the 77th anniversary of their marriage by remembering son Charles.

Memorials and Honorariums

♣ For the Church ♣

Shirley Babyar and family, in memory of +Donald Paul Babyar+. Happy 100th Birthday to our dear mother and grandmother Anne Gavac from your loving daughter Susan and grandchildren Joe, John and Sheryl.

Deb and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch and their families, in memory of dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother +Shirley Wood+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 11th.

Ladies Altar Guild in Praise to God for Anne Gavac's 100th birthday. Anne Gavac, in celebration of her 100th birthday and granddaughter Sarah's graduation from the University of Wisconsin with a Doctoral Degree.

Dolores Krc, in memory of husband +John Krc+ on the 24th anniversary of his death.

American Legion Pilsen Post 825, in memory of +Steve Michael+. "Legends of the Game" Volleyball.

John Kozik, in honor of the 65th wedding anniversary of Annette and the late +John+ Kozik.

Contribution statements for the first half of 2020 will be mailed from the church office **upon request**. Call Karen at (708) 442-5250 or send an e-mail to office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. til noon.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 6th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lector:	Joanne Sefara
Usher:	Rafael Martinez

September 13th:

Greeters:	Phillip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Lector:	Beverly Tarbox
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

September 20th:

Greeters:	Donald and Elaine Haase
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Kristine Boike
Usher:	Johnathan Haase

September 27th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	John Kostelny
Usher:	Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care: Edward and Joanne Sefara

If you cannot participate on your assigned date, please contact one of the other participants to switch dates and/or replace you. In addition, please contact the church office with the update so the bulletin is correct.

Also, if you are not planning to attend worship services for the time being due to COVID-19 virus concerns, please find a replacement as noted above and contact the church office so the bulletin is correct and your name can be removed from the scheduling list during this time.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 4th:

Greeters:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	Brandon Michaels
Usher:	Janet Broussard

October 11th:

Greeters:	Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	John Broussard
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

October 18th:

Greeters:	Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lector:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	John Kostelny

October 25th:

Greeters:	Fred Kuzel and Charles Matthies
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Matt Decosola
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

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DATED MATERIAL

Song of the Wanderer

*By Dan Forrest, quoting Old Hundredth; text by Johanna Anderson;
Thomas Ken Music from Beckenhorst Press.*

The barren land around me lies,
My flame is burning low;
Cold and pale the winter skies,
And I am far from home.

With my light that burns so dim,
Am I visible to Him?
Does He hear the fragile song
Of creatures here below?

He wakes the lark and bids her fly
To greet the coming spring,
Wakes our hearts and bids us rise,
Then gives our spirits wing.

He speaks and winter melts away,
Hears us when we come to pray,
Turns our nighttime into day –
Our Light, our Life, our King.

Glorious joy of summer sun,
The gentle healing rain,
Banishing our tears and sighs,
With beauty for our pain.

Earth and sky, lay glory by—
Christ, the Lord, is drawing nigh!
All creation bow to Him
From whom all blessings flow!

Blows the wind, and soon will come
The autumn of the year,
With its golden light of love
Still shining ever clear.

From the rising of the sun,
To the place where day is done,
Peace on earth has now begun
To cast away our fear;
To cast away our fear.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,



Parsonage flower gardens, summer 2020.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Beckenhorst Press Publication BP2178
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“How can I tell of the rest of creation, with all its beauty and utility, which the divine goodness has given to man to please his eye and serve his purposes, condemned though he is, and hurled into these labors and miseries? Shall I speak of the manifold and various loveliness of sky, and earth, and sea; of the plentiful supply and wonderful qualities of the light; of sun, moon, and stars; of the shade of trees; of the colors and perfume of flowers; of the multitude of birds, all differing in plumage and in song; of the variety of animals, of which the smallest in size are often the most wonderful—the works of ants and bees astonishing us more than the huge bodies of whales? Shall I speak of the sea, which itself is so grand a spectacle...” (From St. Augustine, *City of God*, Book XXII).

A Still, Small Voice

“We do not have to look about us very far or for very long to realize the disastrous effects produced on the inner life of [humanity] by this age of noise. Spun about in the whirl of busyness, enslaved to countless technical inventions, [humanity] is severed from God and from the world of the spirit. *Non in commotione Deus*: God does not dwell in turbulence. To find [God], there must be calm within; certain senses must be hushed. Tossed around as we are, if God wishes to speak to us, [God's] voice, small and still, will be lost in the hubbub of our daily lives; the rackets and noise drowning our minds will prevent [God's]