

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 43

April 2021

Issue 4

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.

Holy Week 2021 March 28th—April 4th

Palm Sunday, March 28th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms,
Passion Narrative according to St. Mark
In person and live stream worship options available.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

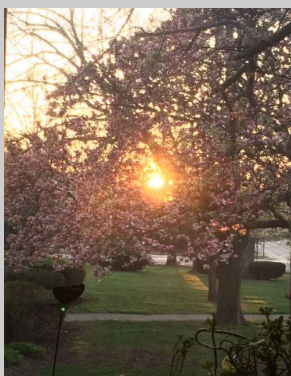
*Household prayers and devotions provided
via email and website.*

Good Friday, April 2nd

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John
In person and live stream worship options available.

Easter Sunday, April 4th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Trumpet
*In person and live stream worship options available.
Registration for in person worship via email.*



www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org



*Sunrise on the Soldier River Valley in February
Photo by Daryle Martin Lauritsen*



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

What Keeps Us Going?

By Jacob W. Owensby

Sometimes it may seem like we're fighting a losing battle. I know I feel that way from time to time.

Maybe you've been climbing steadily out of debt or saving for a down payment or finally gotten to where you can make ends meet each week, and then the car breaks down, your employer lays you off, or unexpected medical bills wipe you out.

Maybe your sibling or your child, or your spouse has been doing great in recovery. Perhaps it's you. Either way, you've dared to get your hopes up. And then they relapse, or you relapse. Again.

Maybe you've put your heart and soul into fighting poverty and racism and violence. And then the news tells you that today looks pretty much like yesterday. Over and over again.

Maybe those old hurts just don't seem to be healing no matter how much you pray, that relationship keeps unraveling despite your best efforts, or your daily routines have begun to feel like a pointless, thankless grind.

It can be hard to keep going when the odds just don't seem to be in our favor.

Hope is what we Christians call the felt sense that the fight is worth it despite all these setbacks and adversities. And I experience that hope when I remember why I have engaged in this fight in the first place. I'm in the battle, and I stay with it because of love.

I talk about love a lot. Maybe only Presiding Bishop Michael Curry—you know, the Royal Wedding preacher—talks about love more than I do. And I spend all that time and energy talking about love because, like him, I think that love is the only power that can save this world. And everybody and everything in it.

The love that I'm talking about is far more than sentimental affection. It's a world- and soul-transforming power. Love, you see, is God being God in our midst and in our hearts. That love brought all things into being. And that love is healing and restoring our aching world.

God is love. And God chooses to live out the divine life through the likes of you and me. And we are our most authentic selves when we embody that love in our ordinary, daily lives. Not necessarily in grand, world-historical gestures. But in simple acts of respect and decency. Kindness and generosity. Tenderness and compassion.

Jesus explained it this way. The greatest law is the law of love. Love God with every fiber of your being. And the way you do that is to love whoever God put on this planet with you as if your own well-being depended upon it. Because, well, it does.

As we go out into this world to do whatever we do—mow lawns, teach students, argue court cases, make sandwiches in a deli—we will have a sense that it's worth doing when we remember that it's all about love.

Before Jesus began his public ministry, he spent forty days wandering in the desert. Matthew and Luke outline three separate temptations he faced. But Mark is sparer. He simply says that Satan tempted Jesus and that the angels waited on him. (Mark 1:9-15)

Mark's brief treatment invites me to ask, "Why did Jesus spend that time in the wilderness?" I sense that he was getting clear about why he was doing what he was about to do. He would face setbacks and adversity: sorrow, betrayal, and even failure in the world's eyes.

Jesus understood that his ministry was all about love: the love that mends the world. The teaching, healing, dining with outcasts, confronting the powerful and the elite — even dying on a cross — was about restoring the world with love.

And he taught us that to follow him means to bear that same love into our beautiful, shattered, breathtaking, horrifying world. Take up your cross and follow me, he said.

Feed the hungry, visit the prisoner, shelter the homeless. Welcome the stranger, give the shirt off your back, and turn the other

cheek. Love your neighbor as yourself. This is how God is mending the world.

Sometimes, it looks as if we're not making a difference. Despite all the good work we do this day, tomorrow, there will still be people with empty bellies, in detention, and facing eviction.

And it's in those moments that I remind myself why we do what we do. We don't just do it for love. We do it with love, with the divine love that flows into us and out from us into the world. Participating in that love gives us hope. It keeps us going.

*Reprinted with permission by The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of The Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana*

Passages

Robert Skudrna, 71 years old, husband of Suzanna and father of Kristi and Jason, passed from this life on March 15th and was buried from the church on March 22nd.

Sheryl Hallmann, 65 years old, mother of Timothy Sender and Collin Sender, passed from this life on March 5th. A Liturgy of the Resurrection and Service of Thanksgiving will be planned with the family and congregation to be held here at a future date which will be announced.

Emily Kostial, 96 years old, passed from this life on March 1st. Services for Emily were private. Interment was at Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago.

Memorial Flowers

March 7th: In loving memory of dear mother and grandmother +Betty Kany+ on the first anniversary of her passing on March 8th by remembering children Dr. Robert Kany and Liz Rouck, son-in-law Mark, and grandchildren Dr. John and Lauren.

In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his birth on March 6th and in memory of parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

March 21st: In memory of parents +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the anniversary of their wedding on March 20th by remembering son Charles.

In loving memory of dear aunt +Ruth Pavlini+ by remembering Drahos Family.

In loving memory of dear husband +Edward Meksto+ on the anniversary of his passing on March 20th by remembering wife Esther.

Easter Lilies and Flowers

Easter Lilies will be available for \$17.00 for those who wish to place a lily in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or, if attending in-person worship, sign-up on the sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall. *The final day for ordering is Friday, March 26th*. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.



Birthdays

Apr. 1: Betty Mocek	Apr. 15: Susan Jones
Apr. 3: Betty Licko-Keel	Apr. 19: Dorothy Myers
Michelle Ruska	Apr. 20: Anna Bulir
Apr. 4: Anne Marie D'Alexander	Apr. 21: Anne Otjepka
John McShane	Gregg Valek
Apr. 6: Krystina Gomez	Apr. 22: Hannah Boike
Kathi Zinsser	Apr. 24: Paul Watkiss
Apr. 7: Benjamin Myers	Apr. 26: Susan Gillund
Apr. 9: Rafael Martinez	Carol Triska
Apr. 11: Arnost Bulir	Apr. 27: John Hassel
Joshua Czerak	Apr. 29: Arden Kurhayez
Diane Ritacco	Courtney Kurhayez
Apr. 13: Robert Kavicky	Laura Teter

Anniversaries

April 9, 1982: Joseph and Carol Ruiz
 April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones
 April 23, 1949: Steve and Beverly Podzamsky

Happenings

Congregation Council Meeting
 Thursday, April 15th, 7:30 p.m.



Memorials and Honorariums

✧ For the Church ✧

Robert Kany, in memory of mother +Betty Kany+ on the first anniversary of her passing on March 8th.
 Mark and Liz Rouck and family, in memory of dear mother and grandmother +Betty Kany+ on the first anniversary of her passing.
 Lois Mika, in memory of sister-in-law +Ruth Pavlini+.
 Earl and Rita Mika, Jr., in memory of aunt +Ruth Pavlini+.
 Milan Oklepek, in loving memory of wife +Deanna+, who passed away on Easter Sunday, April 1st, 2010, by remembering husband.
 Gerry Zemla, in memory of cousin +Emily Kostial+, who passed away on March 1st, 2021.

February 2021

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/7	\$ 312.00
2/14	\$2,890.00
2/21	\$2,095.00
2/28	\$1,635.00

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! We will be "springing" into April with crafts, songs and activities about Easter, spring, and weather.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director



"The Wind Moves the Trees"

The great G. K. Chesterton said that, "The great human dogma is that the wind moves the trees. The great human heresy is that the trees move the wind."

Chesterton here speaks of the modern world as a kind of heresy. We attempt to think about and to live in a world in which there is no fundamental cause of anything. We are the animators of the reality. It is up to us to do something in the world or nothing will be done. We are the sole actors in history. We move the world.

It is strange that after history's bloodiest century we should still think so highly of ourselves. This is part of human hubris.

We so want to be gods unto ourselves and the modern world promised to give us the capacity to do just that. To paraphrase Voltaire, one of the fathers of modernity, we have removed the possibility that the "God hypothesis" might be true. This left us free to attempt to run the world as we pleased.

The sad results of such unbridled hubris are all around us. (Quote from G. K. Chesterton is found in his collection, *Tremendous Trifles*, Darwen Finlayson, 1968, p. 92).

On Prayer

by Ole Hallesby

Norwegian Lutheran Theologian and Writer (1879-1961)

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me (Revelation 3:20).

To pray is nothing more involved than to let Jesus into our needs. To pray is to give Jesus permission to employ His powers in the alleviation of our distress. To pray is to let Jesus glorify His name in the midst of our needs.

The results of prayers are, therefore, not dependent upon the powers of the one who prays. His intense will, his fervent emotions, or his clear comprehension of what he is praying for are not the reasons why his prayers will be heard and answered. No, God be praised, the results of prayer are not dependent upon these things!

To pray is nothing more involved than to open the door, giving Jesus access to our needs and permitting Him to exercise His own power in dealing with them.

He who gave us the privilege of prayer knows us very well. He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

That is why He designed prayer in such a way that the [weakest] can make use of it. For to pray is to open the door unto Jesus. And that requires no strength. It is only a question of our wills. Will we give Jesus access to our needs? That is the one great and fundamental question in connection with prayer.

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DATED MATERIAL

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

Good Friday, April 2nd

Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	Tom Michaels
Passion Reader:	John Broussard
Usher:	John Kostelny

Easter Sunday, April 4th:

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

April 11th:

Greeters:	Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Fred Kuzel
Ushers:	Walter Cudecki

April 18th:

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

April 25th:

Greeter:	Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Lector:	Jane Lauritsen
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

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.

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 2nd:

Greeter:	Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	George Valek
Usher:	John Kostelny

May 9th:

Greeter:	Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Carrie Watkiss
Usher:	Janet Broussard

May 16th:

Greeters:	Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lector:	Joanne Sefara
Usher:	John Kostelny

May 23rd:

Greeter:	Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	Brandon Michaels
Usher:	Janet Broussard

May 30th:

Greeter:	Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Lector:	Tom Michaels
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Carole Pollitz and Kristine Boike

