

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 6

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.



Seeds in the Wind. *Source unknown.*

Images of the Season for Summer

Summertime. Perhaps you can hardly say the word without hearing, somewhere in the back of your mind, an earthy soprano voice singing the words from George Gershwin's opera, *Porgy and Bess*, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." That's what summer is about—taking it easy. Schools close down, factories slow production, offices work with skeleton staffs. It's time for vacation, time to relax, ease up, sleep in, chill out. It is vacation time, whatever that may mean. For some it's travel—mountains or shore, down the road or over the sea. For some it's a hammock in the backyard. It may be catching up with the weeds in the garden or the novels you've been meaning to read. It may be swimming lessons or soccer camp or hot dogs on the grill or just sitting in the sun.

Most of all, summertime is about living. It's about having time, time for yourself, time to do what's important. Vacation doesn't require travel or equipment or expense. It only requires a sense of priorities. What's important to you? What makes you who you are? The answers

to those questions will tell you how to make yourself new, how to renew yourself. And another word for that is re-creation—recreation. Vacation is about renewal, whatever that means for you.

For the church summer often means vacation, too, in the traditional sense. It can be a time of low attendance, low activity, low energy. Often it means that summer is when nothing much happens. It is simply a holding pattern, waiting until September when the real business of living will resume. But if vacation is indeed about living, then the same should be true for the church. Summer is for re-creation here, too.

Summer worship should provide an opportunity for renewal, but that does not necessarily mean that it should be easy-going or unchallenging. Our theological understanding of Sunday is that it is not only a day of rest but also, and indeed primarily, a day of worship. During the summer as throughout the year we come to church not to escape from the world but to enter into relationship with it more fully. Our worship should be asking the same questions about priorities that shape what we do with our vacation time. What matters most to us as Christians? What makes us who we are? How do we live in a way that gives us joy and fulfillment?

All of us need re-creation. Summer worship is a chance to discover what that means. Traditionally the readings for the Sundays after Pentecost have focused on the nature of faith and the Christian life. While that might seem demanding for a summer Sunday, it is in fact exactly what summer is about: living.

Social scientists and economists tell us that the pattern of vacationing for U.S. workers has changed in recent years. The customary two weeks away in mid-summer is less and less common, replaced by more frequent but briefer breaks spread throughout the year. But whether we are on vacation or not, the longer days and warmer weather continue to make summer a season that is slower and more relaxed. The images of renewal and recreation remain appropriate for worship in these summer months, but those images also point to the need to carry them into the other seasons as well. One of the tasks of the church, carried out in worship and in learning, is to equip the saints for ministry. Just as vacation sends us back to our daily tasks reenergized, so worship sends us out to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, and speak God's word of love.

Summertime. It's about relaxing, growing, believing, serving. Mostly, it's about living.

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Celtic Triskelion: Sometimes used as a symbol of the Holy Trinity.



June 2:	Ann Kasper	June 20:	Jessica Barajas
June 5:	Peyton Murray		Clare Ruska
June 6:	Abby Tarbox	June 21:	Lana Papadatos
June 7:	Paul Drahos	June 22:	Jillian Collins
	Mary Sordel	June 24:	Johnathan Haase
June 8:	Linda Painter	June 25:	Judith Cudecki
June 10:	Betty Buffa	June 30:	Rowan Smith
	David McShane		
June 18:	Krystyna Ritacco		

Anniversaries

June 6, 1983:	Betty Ann Mocek and Adam Walker
June 7, 2014:	Ashish and Kristina Patel
June 13, 1992:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
June 16, 1984:	Paul and Pat Gavac
June 20, 1987:	Martin and Ann Pennino
June 21, 1980:	Philip and Linda Painter
June 24, 1973:	Anita and Lester Henley
June 25, 1988:	Thomas and Vicki Michaels
June 28, 1958:	Ann and Frank Kmet

From the Parish Register

Passages:

Brian Bakalich, husband of Sandy, father of Alexandra and Rachel, son of Ruth and the late Larry, and brother of Bruce and Craig, passed from this life on May 5th and was buried from St. Louise DeMarillac Church on May 11th. Interment was at Queen of Heaven.

Marriage:

Ekatarina Melnyk and Nicholas Riha were united in marriage on May 28th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Ekatarina is the daughter of Robert Melnyk and Carol Melnyk. Nicholas is the son of Deanna and the late John Riha. Maid of Honor and Best Man were Mary Somerfield and Daniel Gaede.

Music

by Anne Porter

When I was a child
I once sat sobbing on the floor
Beside my mother's piano
As she played and sang
For there was in her singing
A shy yet solemn glory
My smallness could not hold

And when I was asked
Why I was crying
I had no words for it
I only shook my head
And went on crying

Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country

I've never understood
Why this is so

But there's an ancient legend
From the other side of the world
That gives away the secret
Of this mysterious sorrow

For centuries on centuries
We have been wandering
But we were made for Paradise
As deer for the forest

And when music comes to us
With its heavenly beauty
It brings us desolation
For when we hear it
We half remember
That lost native country

We dimly remember the fields
Their fragrant windswept clover
The birdsongs in the orchards
The wild white violets in the moss
By the transparent streams

And shining at the heart of it
Is the longed-for beauty
Of the One who waits for us
Who will always wait for us
In those radiant meadows

Yet also came to live with us
And wanders where we wander.

"Music" by Anne Porter from *Living Things: Collected Poems*.

The Last Wishes of Alexander the Great

It is said that, as he was dying, Alexander the Great summoned his most trusted advisors, then he told them his three final wishes. First, he wanted the best doctors in the land to carry his coffin. Second, he requested that all of his accumulated wealth, including money, gold and precious stones should be scattered along the funeral procession to the cemetery. And third, he asked that his hands should be loose and hanging outside the coffin for everyone to see.

Alexander's advisors were stunned by his unusually strange requests and asked that he explain. He is supposed to have replied, "I want the best doctors to carry my coffin in order to show that in the face of death, even the finest doctors in the world have no power to heal. I want the road to be strewn with my wealth so that everyone sees that material wealth will be left behind. And finally, I want my hands to swing in the wind so that people understand that we come to this world empty-handed and we leave this world empty-handed after the most precious treasure of time is exhausted."



*Redbud Spire, April, 2016.
Photo by Jane Lauritsen*

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Vera Borysek, in memory of dear parents +Samko+ and +Jolana Babiar+ (*for the west parking lot door*).

Ladies Altar Guild (*for the west parking lot door*).

Mildred Mendel, in memory of +Sheryl Hallmann+.

Robert and Donna Tuider, in memory of +Sheryl Hallmann+.

Steve and Beverly Podzamsky, in celebration of their 72nd wedding anniversary on April 23rd.

Dale and Sue Renville, in celebration of parents Steve and Beverly Podzamsky's 72nd wedding anniversary.

Dennis and Diana McGee, in celebration of parents Steve and Beverly Podzamsky's 72nd wedding anniversary.

Memorial and Honorariums (continued)

❖ In Memory of Richard J. Hurbanis ❖

Ruth Hurbanis, in memory of dear husband.

Kenneth and Joyce Hurbanis, in memory of father.

Kevin and Julie Hurbanis, in memory of father.

Paula Hurbanis Leaf, in memory of cousin.

Tom and Vicki Michaels

John and Shirley Kostelny

Susan Hassel and Family

Suzanna Skudrna

Ron and Carmen Silva

Matt Chadesh

Ken and Gemma Wisz

Mel Lozen and Dee Gozdiak

Diane Para and Arthur Cruasdale

Lino and Michelle Cozzone

Maria Sowa

Paul and Sue Baunstank

Chuck Zdenovec

Nino and Judy Gentile

Fred and Harriet Stock

Ralph and Sue Householder

The Rinehart Family

Joe and Chris McDowell

Alexander Schuman, Jr.

The Setlak Family

Larry and Sandi Gworek

Bob and Cathy Kmoch

Ted and Gladys Adams

Bonnie Bottini and Brian

Gary and Jen Strzelczyk

The Rosso Family and Grandma Jean

Edward and Joanne Sefara

Czechoslovak Geneological Society

Ronald and Patricia Kaley

Robert and Donna Tuider

Robert and Ann Hurbanis

Saundra and Peter Spilotro

Anne Gavac

William Boor

Martin and Ann Pennino

George and Joy Hodul

John and Janet Broussard

Ann Vana

Charles Matthies

❖ In Memory of Brian Bakalich ❖

Mildred Mendel

Edward and Joanne Sefara

Steve and Beverly Podzamsky

John and Janet Broussard

Saundra and Peter Spilotro



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DATED MATERIAL

New Book on Slovakia by One of Our Members

April 21st, 2021

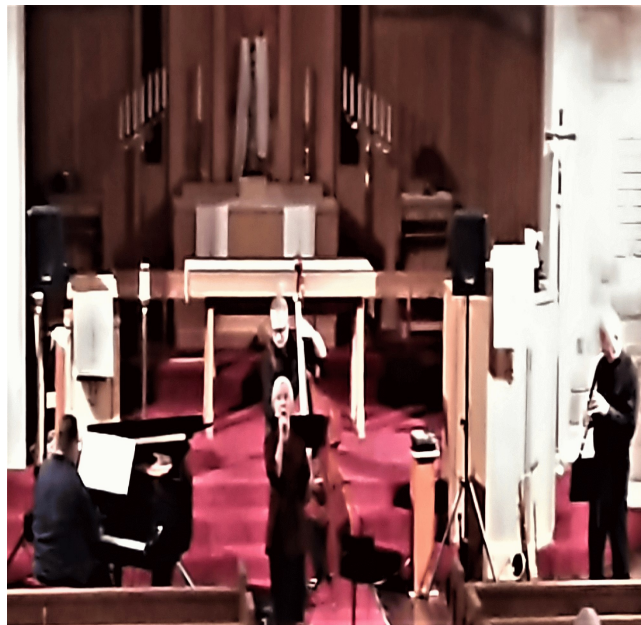
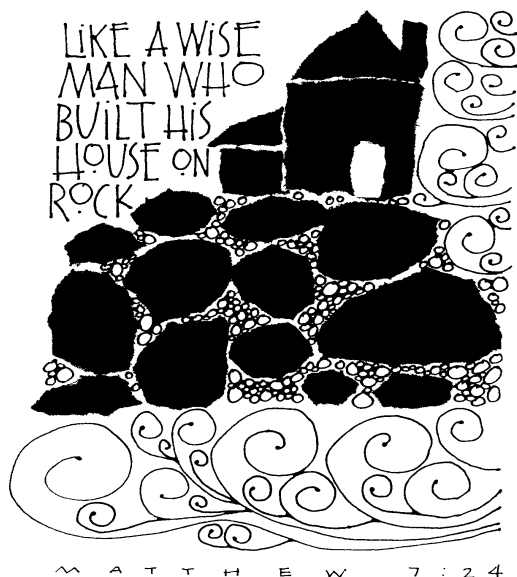
Dear Jane and Dennis,

Very warm greetings from very far-off Tokyo! I hope you've been as well as can be unexpected, given what this past year has dumped on us. I have to say, Japan is a good place to sit out a pandemic... everyone wears a mask, but the regulations are pretty relaxed (as long as you don't count the closed borders, that is). Zeke has been in school this whole year and my church has been closed for only four months total since March 2020.

Anyway, in other news, tomorrow (St. George's Day!) my new book is coming out, *I Am a Brave Bridge: An American Girl's Hilarious and Heartbreaking Year in the Fledgling Republic of Slovakia*. It tells the tale of the family's first year in Slovakia in 1993-94, with a lot of overt romantic silliness and a lot of subtle theological and spiritual learning... so maybe the congregation of Sts. Peter and Paul would enjoy it...!

Also, as you've no doubt figured out by now, our trip home to visit sponsor congregations has once again been nixed, so we won't be dropping in this summer... maybe next year?! I think we all have learned how little we know about the future...

Lots of love to you both,
Sarah



Jazz vocalist Terry Sullivan performs with musicians at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, May 16th. From left to right: Tom Muellner, piano; Rob Kassinger, bass; Terry Sullivan; and Bill Overton, reeds.

Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,
in your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless these men,
that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Memorial Flowers

April 25th: In celebration of the 72nd Wedding Anniversary of Steve and Beverly Podzamsky on April 23rd by their loving family.

May 9th: In celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Walter and Judith Cudecki on May 8th.

In memory of dear mother +Betty Zittman+ on Mother's Day by remembering family Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.

June 6th: In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Ladies Altar Guild of Sts. Peter and Paul which was founded on June 3rd, 1921.

In celebration of Mary Sordel's 95th birthday on June 7th.

In loving memory of dear father +Clarence Triska+ on the 18th anniversary of his passing by remembering children Jim, Carol, and Jeff and Lisa Triska.



Our New Council Members and Officers

The officers and members of the Congregation Council for this year are as follows: Brandon Michaels (President), John Broussard (Vice-President), Fred Kuzel (Secretary), William Boor (Treasurer), Charles Matthies (Financial Secretary), Juanita Jakubec, Linda McShane, Beverly Tarbox and Carrie Watkiss. Thanks to these elected leaders for the service they offer to our congregation.

Directory Changes...

Robert and Julie Barcik
(708) 638-9315

Tom and Vicki Michaels
221 Timber Lane
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Rafael Martinez
474 N. Elm Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126-2331
(630) 923-3344

For more information, news, photos, videos,
sermons, and live stream of the worship services
visit us on the web at
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

June 6th:

Greeter:	Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	John Broussard
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

June 13th:

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

June 20th:

Greeter:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lector:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	John Kostelny

June 27th:

Greeters:	Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	Carrie Watkiss
Usher:	Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Kristine Boike and Esther Meksto



JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

July 4th:

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

July 11th:

Greeter:	Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	George Valek
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

July 18th:

Greeter:	Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Tom Michaels
Usher:	John Kostelny

July 25th:

Greeters:	Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lector:	Joanne Sefara
Usher:	Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

Fox Family Visit in May



*O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.*

Thomas Merton, *Pax Christi*, Benet Press, Erie, Pennsylvania

That All May Be One

May your people be one
as the seas are one
though salting a thousand shores.

May your people be one
as the wind is one
though whisper, though rush, though roar.

May your people be one
as the birds are one
though they sing a thousand songs.

May your people be one
as our prayers are one
though voiced in a thousand tongues.

May your people be one
as the light is one
though made of the colours of the rainbow.

May your people be one
as your love is one—
your love for all people, we know.

May your people be one
as you are one:
you in Christ, and Christ in you.

May your people be one
as the Spirit is one,
moving in us, moving through.

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A fox family of six pups and their mother visited the parish in May while residing in the residential den below the church patio. Photos by Jane Lauritsen.

April 2021	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4/4	\$2,641.00
4/11	\$2,176.00
4/18	\$1,435.00
4/25	\$ 913.00