

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

September 2021

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.

Who Am I? by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cell's confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
freely and friendly and clearly,
as though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing
My throat, yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
tossing in expectation of great events,
powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the Other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine,
Whoever I am, Thou Knowest, O God, I am thine.

The German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this poem in a Nazi prison, just weeks before he was executed for his opposition to the regime. His confinement puts ours in perspective. And yet his questions are as piercing as ever. Who Am I? Is our concealment in politeness, in humaneness, a violation of our integrity or a gentle tolerance of the

impossibility of the situations in which we find ourselves? The human spirit can breathe tremendous suffering and quiet compassion simultaneously. How can we, when we are "restless and longing and sick" still offer consolation, or just politeness, to others? And when we withhold our pain, are we somehow false to others who perhaps can bear no further grief? Who Am I? Bonhoeffer lays bare the contradictions of authenticity and concealment, the paradoxical triumph of love over truth. "Am I one person today and tomorrow another? / Am I both at once?" We are at once weak and strong, present and distant, and called to be honest, painfully honest, and painfully generous with ourselves.—Todd Breyfogle, Denver, Colorado

—Submitted by Pastor Dennis

Riverside Fourth of July Parade Entry from Sts. Peter and Paul



Shown above from left to right: Chuck Matthies, Bill Remiyas, Tim Forney and Fred Kuzel.

Join Us...

Sunday, September 12th
at 10:15 a.m.



Passages

Anne Otjepka, 97 years old, passed from this life on August 7th. Services for Anne were held on August 14th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was at Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago.

Miloslava “Milina” Blahut, 90 years old, passed from this life on August 7th. A service for Milina will be held at a later date.

Frank Kmet, 89 year old husband of Ann, passed from this life on July 5th and was buried from St. Odilo Catholic Church on July 12th. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.

Dominick Carl Ritacco, 62 year old husband of Diane, and father to Nickolas and Krystyna, passed from this life on July 11th. Services for Dominick were held at Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home on July 14th.

Arms Wide Open

A welcome on the occasion of the interment of Marvin Kenneth and Norma Jean Lauritsen on July 4th, 2021, at Ingemann Danish Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Moorhead, Iowa. Meditation based upon Luke 15:11-31.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

Whenever this place comes to mind, which, for me, has been quite often during these past many months—this place which is cradled here, nestled here, in the strong yet gentle arms of these ancient hills—whenever I think of Ingemann Church and Cemetery, I have imagined the wide open embrace of a mother or father welcoming her children at the door when they have been parted for a long time—children who have been away from home for so long.

She welcomes them. He embraces them.

Here, today, *we* again are embraced in the peace and serenity of these old, tired hills which have stood for so long, so patiently watching, watching, and waiting as generations—even tribes—have passed through their caress from one age to another.

So we, too, come to be welcomed home today, here in the luster of a summer morning; the dew still bathing the grass upon the graves; the clay soil soft and warm in the hand; and the sunbeams earlier this morning reaching, reaching across the wriggling waves of the ridges while beckoning each of us from our long journeys to “far countries”—here, to a final place of rest.

You probably know the story well, the story that Jesus told so long ago, about a family with two boys. It could be any family, yes, any family, maybe even our own family.

Both boys seemed to be rather “edgy” in their own way.

One brother could hardly wait to get what he had coming to him, that is, his portion of the inheritance so that he could get as far away from that farm as he possibly could get as fast as he could get there.

Of course, it’s the story of the Prodigal Son, which is really the story of the Prodigal Father with his prodigal, prodigious, big love for his family.

When Dad handed the money over to the boy, he went off to “a far country,” as the story tells it, where he soon lost everything that he had been given. And when he finally “came to his senses” and sobered up, with nothing to eat but the pods that were fed to the pigs, he decided that life would be a whole lot better if he would go back home and work as one of his dad’s hired hands.

You know how it goes.

Dad sees the boy coming up the road, throws open the front doors, and goes running, running to meet his son—running with wide open

arms, almost as wide as the arms of these old hills, to meet the boy and welcome him home.

Yes, both boys were “edgy” in their own way, that is, forever pushing the edges and pressing the limits.

The other son was “edgy” in a different way. He had stayed home close to Dad and Mom, and he thought of himself as the dutiful, obedient young man who was trying, always trying to do everything right in order to please his parents.

He considered himself to be a faithful, devoted and hardworking manager of the farm, a son of whom every parent would be proud, out there laboring in the fields everyday while the other son was out partying every night.

Listen to this, this son also had wandered off to “a far country” even though he was in his father’s fields every day. He, too, had wandered away from the love of his father and mother.

So Dad goes out to meet this son, too, way after dark, pleading, pleading for the boy to come into his open arms so that they all can be together as family again: “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” We don’t know whether or not this son ever falls into the embrace of his father.

We are one. Or we are the other. *And we are both.*

Today we are welcomed home with wide open arms—the open arms of this land and this cradle of love from whence we sprang with our forebears of long ago.

Marv and Norma Jean, like the rest of us, have been away for a while, following one path or another. With them, we celebrate this homecoming today as we now rest in the arms of the Father’s love in Jesus and the Holy Spirit of the Father and Son whose strong, gentle arms, like the hills which now surround us, offer us peace and rest from our long journeys to “far countries.”

Here among the saints who have gone before us, and the saints who are with us still this day, and those who will follow us “just as we are”—we are here to be welcomed and to await the Easter feast of victory hosted by “the Lamb who was slain, who has begun his reign. Alleluia!”

Welcome home, Uncle Marv and Norma Jean. Welcome home!

As children, this was always our summer dream and mantra which began the day school was out for the summer: “When are they coming? When are they coming?” all summer long until we received an answer about when Marv and Norma Jean and Terry, Susan and Tami would be coming to visit us.

All summer long! ...Until they arrived.

And then it was: “How long they stayin’? How long they stayin’?”—*djl*



From Diakonia, a program of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic.

+The Rev. Franklyn Pekarek+ Son of the Congregation at St. Peter and Paul

Sunday, July 11th, 2021

Good Day, Pastor Lauritsen.

My name is Don Cillo. My family were long-time members of Sts. Peter and Paul for many years from 1910 through 1970 at both the 19th Street, Chicago and Riverside locations.

I am writing to inform you and the church that Pastor Franklyn Pekarek—a former member of Sts. Peter and Paul—passed away this morning in Salina, Kansas at the age of 79 where he was living as a retired pastor. Franklyn was my uncle.

He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul, being baptized by Rev. John Body in Chicago in 1942. He was confirmed at the 19th Street Church in 1955 after attending classes with Rev. Body at the encouragement of Franklyn's mother... It was a safer era when Franklyn, as a young boy, would ride trains from Cicero to Chicago by himself to attend catechism classes.

Rev. Pekarek was a graduate of Carthage College (then in Illinois) in 1964. He graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1968 and began his ministry later that year at a church in Western Kansas. He served as pastor at some other congregations in Kansas and one in Colorado over the years.

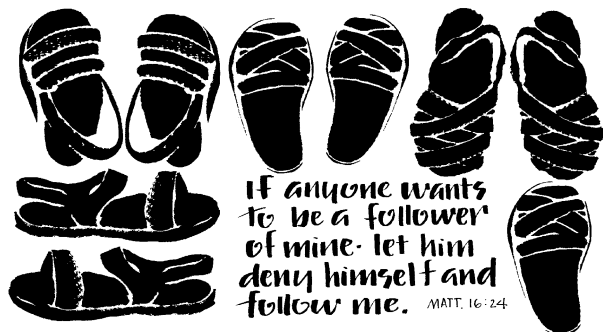
Rev. Pekarek was a remarkable man with a bright smile and positive spirit and strong faith. As a boy, he literally watched the construction of the Riverside church during the 1950s as he took trips to the location with other family members to observe the ongoing [building] of the church. His faith was kindled by the strong faith of his mother Mildred (who came to America as a young woman from Slovakia) and the thriving congregation of Sts. Peter and Paul that existed in the 1950s and 1960s when both Slovak and English services were regularly packed each Sunday. He taught Sunday School for many years and enjoyed sharing instruction with the young people of the church. His father Frank was also a remarkable man who set a great example as a role model for my uncle.

Franklyn leaves behind his loving wife Shirley, his devoted daughters and son, and several grandchildren.

Thank you for letting me share this information with you. If you have any questions please contact me by return email.

Don Cillo
Temple, Texas

Contribution statements for the first half of 2021 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.



News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We are delighted to be starting our eighth year of preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul and are hoping to put our second classroom in use this year. We hope all of you have had a great summer!

Preschool begins on Tuesday, September 7th and our theme this year will be "Easy as 1-2-3" with our mascot Penny the Penguin. We will be learning all about her and focusing on different numbers and math concepts each month.

We're in store for a HAPPY school year!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director



Blessing of Teachers and Students

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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An electronic copy of this newsletter is
posted at our website
and can be accessed at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.



Seasonal flowers outside the parsonage during the month of August.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

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Riverside, IL
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DATED MATERIAL

IT'S BACK!



RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, October 16th, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Rummage half-price between noon and 1 p.m.)

**Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
31st Street and Desplaines Avenue in Riverside**

**Home Baked Goods and Homemade Salsa,
Rummage Tables, Used Toys and Books,
Holiday Decorations**

**No food will be served.
Masks must be worn by all those in attendance.**

*Contributions of homemade bakery items would be greatly appreciated.
Please drop off your baked goods on Friday, October 15th between 1 and 3 p.m.*

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Anita Horak, in memory of +Sheryl Hallmann+.

Anita Horak, in memory of +Nick Sasuta+.

Lester and Anita Henley, in memory of grandparents +Stephen+ and +Christina Chlapecka+ and parents +John+ and +Ann Kapusta+.

Deb and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, and 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.

Ken and Carol Morydz, in memory of parents +Steve+ and +Irene H. Boor+.

Ruth Bakalich, in memory of +Dale Renville+.

Paul Kubecka, in loving memory of beloved mother and father +Zuzanna+ and +John Kubecka+.

Sue Renville, in memory of husband +Dale+.

Robert and Karen Ramage, in memory of son +Michael Ramage+.

❖ In memory of Frank Kmet❖

Edward and Joanne Sefara

Mildred Mendel and Family

Saundra and Peter Spilotro

John and Janet Broussard

Suzanna Skudrna

William R. Boor

Ruth Bakalich

Vera Borysek

Annette Kozik and Family

❖ In memory of Dominick Ritacco❖

Dianne Ritacco and Family, in memory of husband and father.

Annette Kozik and Family

John and Janet Broussard

June 2021

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,500.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/6	\$1,098.00
6/13	\$2,148.00
6/20	\$1,521.00
6/27	\$5,232.00

July 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
7/4	\$2,542.00
7/11	\$1,147.00
7/18	\$2,202.00
7/25	\$1,146.00

How Worship Practices Form Us for Ministry in Daily Life!

A Life of Faith Initiative Resource

Craig L. Nesson, Wartburg Theological Seminary

The first in a series.

How are the things we do at worship related to ministry in daily life? Often people have a difficult time making connections between the things we do in the worship service and the things we are called to do when we leave the church building after worship. In fact, however, everything we do at worship is directly related to forming us for a way of life as Christian people in the world. As we participate in liturgy we not only are worshipping God but also engaging in rituals that immerse us in the person and way of Jesus Christ himself, who makes us members of the body of Christ and engraves upon us Christ's very own character.

In order to grasp how worship practices are truly also life practices, we need to begin with a very basic conviction: ***God in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is the Primary Actor when we gather for worship.*** When we define liturgy as "the work of the people" it is easy for us to lose sight of the most important Lutheran conviction informing our theology of worship. "We" are not the primary actors when we gather for worship; instead God in Christ is the Primary Actor at worship who is doing something "to us." Worship is less about what we are doing for God and far more about what God in Christ is seeking to do to us. As we immerse ourselves in each of the worship practices in the liturgy we are formed distinctively for Christian life practices in the world.

What is God trying to do to us? God is actively forming us in a pattern of life that corresponds to the way of Jesus Christ. As we participate week after week in each element of the worship service, God etches upon us the character of Jesus Christ, which we are sent to live out in our relationships with others in our daily lives. Repetition of the distinctive parts of the liturgy imprints upon us both a way of being and a way of serving the neighbors God gives us in the arenas of our daily lives: family, work, school, local community, and world.

In order to see what God is up to at worship, it is useful to think carefully about each element of the worship service and make explicit how each of these worship practices is formation for life practices.

Invocation: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The naming of the Trinity at the start of the liturgy reminds us that everything we do in the worship service involves the activity of this Triune God, who promises to be present among us, meet us, and transform us according to the things we do at worship. Both the naming of the Holy Trinity and the practice of making the sign of the cross link us inextricably to our baptismal identity in Christ, the source of our Christian vocation for service to neighbors in our ministries in daily life.

Confession and Forgiveness: Certainly, confession of sin and receiving forgiveness involves admitting our fault and responsibility for sinning, even as we receive God's actual forgiveness and pardon from God for Christ's sake. This worship practice, however, also instructs us in a life practice. We learn that admitting our mistakes, asking for forgiveness, and practicing reconciliation is a way of life for Christian people every day. We confess our sins and receive forgiveness from God in Christ at worship, and thereby we learn to practice confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation in our relationships with other people in our daily lives. We confess our sin and receive forgiveness, "so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name" and "live and serve you in newness of life."

Happy Labor Day

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 5th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard

September 12th: (*Outdoor Worship*)

Greeters: (No greeters scheduled.)
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Usher: Fred Kuzel

September 19th:

Greeter: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: George Valek
Usher: John Kostelny

September 26th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara



OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 3rd:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel and Charles Matthies
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Usher: Fred Kuzel

October 10th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Tom Michaels
Usher: Janet Broussard

October 17th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Usher: Edward Sefara

October 24th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Usher: Walter Cudecki

October 31st:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: John Kostelny
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care: Janice Hapgood

Altar Flowers

July 11th: In memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +John Kozik+ on the 8th anniversary of his death on July 11th, by remembering wife Annette, children, and grandchildren.

July 18th: In honor of our 2021 graduates for the blessings of dedication, hard work and accomplishments during their school years by the Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul.

July 25th: In loving memory of +Mildred+ and +Raymond Beausejour+ on the anniversary of Mildred's death on July 26th by remembering nieces and nephews.

Aug. 1st: In loving memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ from their remembering family.

Aug. 8th: 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 David Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch, and their families.

Aug. 15th: In memory of loving mother +Irene Boor+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 16th by remembering sons William R. and Richard T. Boor.

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

Address change...

Donald and Elaine and Johnathan Haase
708 Half East Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450