

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 44

June 2022

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.



Sunrise through clouds during the month of May. Photo by Carolyn Sward, Galesburg, Illinois.

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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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

April 2022

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,527.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4/3	\$1,780.00
4/10	\$2,266.00
4/17	\$1,385.00
4/24	\$1,261.00

Memorial Flowers

May 8th: In memory of dear mother +Betty Zittman+ on Mother's Day by remembering family Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.



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), Janet Broussard, John Kostelny, Linda McShane, and Beverly Tarbox. Thanks to these elected leaders for the service they offer to our congregation.

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

Bur 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 rosebud tree at the patio entrance on Maplewood Road blossoming at sunset in May.

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

June 5th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: J. T. Tarbox
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

June 12th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Emily Bittner
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

June 19th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Brandon Michaels
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

June 26th:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lector: Joanne Sefara
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristans and Altar Care:
 Kristine Boike and Esther Meksto

JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

July 3rd:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: George Valek
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

July 10th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: John Kostelny
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

July 17th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: John Kostelny

July 24th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Emily Bittner
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

July 31st:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: John Broussard
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

Sacristans and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Robert Tuider, Ashish and Kristina Patel and Family, in celebration of the birth of Mila Jean Patel on February 22nd, 2022.

Robert Tuider, Ashish and Kristina Patel and Family, in loving memory of beloved wife, mother and grandmother +Donna Tuider+.

Adolph and Ellen Heimann, in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of mother +Darlene Roubal+.

Paul Kubecka, in memory of brother-in-law +Edward Borsuk+.

Steven and Susan Wente, in celebration of Betty Ann Mocek's retirement from Concordia University.

❖ In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Myers ❖

Richard Myers, Thomas Myers, and their families, in memory of dear mother and grandmother.

Saundra and Peter Spilotro

John and Janet Broussard

Charles Matthies

Edward and Joanne Sefara

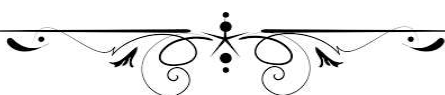
William Boor

John and Shirley Kostelny

Ann Vana

Suzanne Skudrna

Ann Kmet



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DATED MATERIAL

Lux Cantorum Chicago **in Concert on Sunday, May 15th**



The congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul hosted *Lux Cantorum Chicago* on May 15th for its spring concert entitled “Comfort and Renewal” which featured Gabriel Faure’s *Requiem* and John Rutter’s *Feel the Spirit* as well as *A Ukrainian Prayer* recently composed by Rutter.

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*

A Birthday Blessing

Blessed be the mind that dreamed the day
The blueprint of your life
Would begin to glow on earth,
Illuminating all the faces and voices
That would arrive to invite
Your soul to growth.

Praised be your father and mother,
Who loved you before you were,
And trusted to call you here
With no idea who you would be.

Blessed be those who have loved you
Into becoming who you were meant to be,
Blessed be those who have crossed your life
With dark gifts of hurt and loss
That have helped to school your mind
In the art of disappointment.

When desolation surrounded you,
Blessed be those who looked for you
And found you, their kind hands
Urgent to open a blue window
In the gray wall formed around you.

Blessed be the gifts you never notice,
Your health, eyes to behold the world,
Thoughts to countenance the unknown,
Memory to harvest vanished days,
Your heart to feel the world's waves,
Your breath to breathe the nourishment
Of distance made intimate by earth.

On this echoing-day of your birth,
May you open the gift of solitude
In order to receive your soul;
Enter the generosity of silence
To hear your hidden heart;
Know the serenity of stillness
To be enfolded anew
By the miracle of your being.

—John O’Donohue

