

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

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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.

"Hidden with Christ" **Outdoor Worship on Sunday, July 31st**



Outdoor worship was held on Sunday, July 31st when the congregation welcomed its ELCA sponsored missionaries in Tokyo, Dr. Andrew L. Wilson and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, together with their son "Zeke." The Wilsons work alongside the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tokyo. Andrew serves as Professor of Church History at Japan Lutheran College and Seminary and Sarah is Associate Pastor at Tokyo Lutheran Church. Pastor Sarah and Pastor Dennis are shown above.

The following sermon was preached by Pastor Sarah Hinlicky Wilson on the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 31st, when the congregation worshiped in the church gardens. The text was Colossians 3:3.

Grace to you and peace with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Your life is hidden with Christ in God."

I don't know where or how this little half-verse from Colossians chapter 3 got lodged in my mind. Surely I've heard it in church plenty of times, but I don't recall ever making a special study of the Epistle to the Colossians, or pulling it out as my "favorite Bible verse" so that my choice would be more original than John 3:16. But I think this is exactly why we are exhorted to read and study and hear Scripture over and over again. It gets lodged in our minds, waiting to spring to life when we really need it. And Japan is a place where we really need this verse. Maybe the Holy Spirit even planted it in Colossians, a seed long lying dormant, especially for the church in Japan all these millennia later.

The church got a particularly rough start in Japan. The Christian faith arrived with Portuguese Jesuit missionaries in the sixteenth century. And while Christians back in Europe spent a great deal of that century fighting each other, the handful of Japanese Christians spent the same century being first marginalized, then threatened, then martyred. If you've read the book *Silence* by Shusaku Endo, or seen the extremely faithful movie adaptation of it by Martin Scorsese, you'll know what I mean.

The ancient Romans were famous for torturing early Christians, but I don't know of any persecution as cruel as what was visited upon the early Japanese believers. Those few who survived and held onto faith went into hiding. Quite literally into hiding—and for over three hundred years. Many of them retreated to islands off the west coast of Japan, but even there they were subject to periodic searches by a suspicious and jealous government, so the hidden Christians had to get creative.

One of the most extraordinary artifacts I've ever seen is a so-called "magic mirror." To all appearances it's just an ordinary mirror, but when a strong light is shined through it, it projects an image onto the wall behind. The hidden Christians of Japan used these mirrors to project images of the crucified Christ for their worship and devotion, unnoticed by government inspectors. Sometimes the hidden Christians went so far as to mask their Christian items as Buddhist ones—for instance, making images of what outsiders thought to be the goddess Kannon, but to them was the Virgin Mary.

This faithful remnant hid their faith under another religion. They passed down what they could remember of prayers and baptism. They were the most isolated and lonely church in all of history. Their life was hidden with Christ in God.

Of course, it is very different nowadays. For more than a century and a half, Japan has been open to the outside world again. After a few

internal convulsions, it has permitted freedom of religion to everyone. There were definitely some dark days for Christians, and Buddhists, and human beings generally in the middle of the last century. But nothing like that early persecution has ever been repeated. And yet, for all that, the religious landscape of Japan is, if anything, more perplexing than ever—and the church is still hidden, though in entirely different ways.

Tokyo is the largest metropolis in the world. If you've seen pictures, you know that it is a bristling forest of skyscrapers and apartment buildings, endless miles of gray buildings without much green, super modern and super urban and absolutely flooded with advertising. After a couple years of observing and puzzling, I came to a strange realization: Japan accepted absolutely everything America had to offer after World War II ended: a democratic constitution, industrial development, consumer culture, civil and human rights, and even the language—Japanese has absorbed possibly up to a hundred thousand English words that are used just as regularly and normally as old Japanese words. The good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly, all that America had to offer... except the religion.

You might feel a bit uncomfortable associating America closely with any one religion, Christianity in particular. After all, we too guarantee freedom of religion to everyone. But nothing has taught me how deep the Christian faith is in the bones of America as living in Japan these four years. It is still a matter of great puzzlement to me: why all those other cultural offerings, but not the faith? It's not like missionaries didn't try. They did, valiantly, with great creativity. So did the Japanese Christians, who have had to endure much suspicion that they aren't "real" Japanese because of their affiliation with the church, yet have continued to proclaim the good news.

It's not like the problem lies in the difference between East and West. Korea, for example, has seen a tremendous growth in Christianity. China is more filled with Christians than certain countries in Europe! Even the nations in Asia that persecute Christianity outright see steady growth in the church year after year. Japan is the one and only country in all of Asia that sees decline in the church year after year. Part of that is the overall demographic decline in Japan: the whole society is shrinking. The most peaceable, safe, and economically stable country in Asia is also the one whose lifeblood is running out. And so the church barely maintains its 1% of the entire population. Congregations wither away, and they can't recruit enough people to be pastors. Other missionaries have told me to expect an eight-year period before any given Japanese person will come to faith and baptism. And that's assuming they come to faith at all.

Now if I were you, at about this point I'd be thinking, This is the worst and most depressing missionary sermon I've ever heard! Let me assure you it's about to get better, though probably not quite the way you're expecting.

I once heard another missionary in Japan give a talk about how hard it was for her to read the newsletters from her fellow missionaries who went to work, in say, West Africa, who would report, "we had 300 baptisms in the river last Sunday!" And she would think, I've had only one baptism this whole past year. I'll tell you my own statistics: in four years at Tokyo Lutheran Church, I have baptized exactly three people: one American, one Tanzanian, and one Latvian. As you immediately notice—not one Japanese. That is in part because I serve in the specific ministry of the English-language congregation at Tokyo Lutheran; unbaptized Japanese people are obviously more likely to attend the Japanese service. Yet, the single largest demographic in the English congregation is nevertheless Japanese Christians who, for a whole variety of reasons, prefer to worship in English. They are our anchor amidst the fluctuations of international community. The rest of our people are drawn from literally all over the earth, people who have found themselves in Tokyo for one reason or another, some by positive choice or through marriage, some because it's the only place they found work, while some of them just kind of seem to be shipwrecked in Japan.

Amazingly enough, our congregation has grown in the past couple years. Locals find us, for idiosyncratic reasons of their own. If they like our catechetical teaching and preaching, they tend to stick around long enough to find a genuinely kind group of Christians who are also sort of shipwrecked, even if they are indigenous denizens of Tokyo.

Most of our people are single and live alone; almost none are married, and of those most are either separated or their spouse isn't Christian and isn't at all interested in becoming one. We have just a few children, and exactly one teenager—Andrew's and my son Zeke. For a long time the three of us were the only family in church at all.

I've thought a lot about how American churches strive to be family-friendly, and with good reason; home is a blessed and vital outpost of the church, and family is good for children, and faith is good for family. But I also have come to realize, a bit ruefully, that families are a great way to grow your church faster. It goes much slower if you only get one person at a time, not four or more for the price of one!

But this now is bringing me to my point, and my hope for Japan, and my hope for you here in the church in America. The blessed gift we have in the English congregation of Tokyo Lutheran Church is what we lack: namely, we lack a common culture. We do have a common language, English, but most people do not speak it as a native tongue. It is more like a crossroads or trading floor than an expression of a culture or nation of origin. We have a lot of Japanese people in the congregation, but not enough to form a ruling majority, and I've already mentioned, to be a Japanese Christian at all is to be regarded as not quite fully Japanese in the eyes of the wider culture. You check some part of your Japaneseness at the door in being Christian. The rest of us are too scattered, from too many different places, and even from too many different Christian backgrounds, to add up to one clear thing. And you know what? This is the most amazing gift that can fall upon a church.

It is the easiest thing in the world to confuse church with culture. As an American living away for so long, I see it more than ever: the churches line up for whichever subsection of American culture best fits their own image—and then the American people voluntarily segregate themselves, or go through awful schisms within the church, fighting over matters of culture. It's heartbreaking to watch, but I understand the temptation. It's so much easier to do a church of the like-minded. It's so much easier to have church premised on a common culture. But it's so much harder to stay a church under those circumstances. The church always struggles to keep Jesus Christ, and the good news of his salvation, as the center and purpose of everything it does. It is so easy to drift off course and chase after all the other good, urgent, and worthy causes that capture our attention. We are certainly allowed and encouraged to work on those things in our vocation as Christians in the world. But only the church cares about the gospel. Only the church thinks the gospel is actually the single most important thing for anybody in the world to know about and care about.

Japan has solved all the basic problems of living—food and safety and shelter and a more or less functional government. What is hasn't solved is the utter spiritual devastation that haunts the place. And nothing can heal that but the very presence of God. This is not a fake religious answer to a practical problem; it's the real gospel answer to the deepest problem of human life.

The sheer tiny insignificance of the church in Japan is its strange gift: the freedom to concentrate on the one and only thing that matters. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. So I, like any eager missionary, went to Japan hoping I'd crack the code of reluctance to convert; that I could figure out how to say just the right thing to break through the fog of misunderstanding; that I could show suffering souls the way to gospel hope; that maybe, at last, we'd turn this ship around and Japan would start sailing in the right direction like all the rest of Asia.

Well, I don't think I'm going to be the one to change things after all. But I don't regret that. I see what a gift it is to be part of something small, something faithful, something that has to be centered on Christ

alone because nothing else can hold such disparate people together. And I know that God blesses tiny, hidden things out of proportion to the ordinary mathematics of everyday life.

God's name is praised in Japan by his tiny, hidden church. Jesus Christ is proclaimed in Japan by his tiny, hidden church. The Holy Spirit moves in Japan through his tiny, hidden church. You can barely see it. You can't measure it. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. But it turns out—that is enough. That is all that ever really mattered anyway. Your life, too, is hidden with Christ in God. That is the most important truth about your life, and your church. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Thank You from the Family of Pastor Franklyn Pekarek

Dear Pastor Lauritsen,

On behalf of my entire family and the memory of our dear loved one Rev. Franklyn Pekarek, formerly of Sts. Peter and Paul Church who passed away in Kansas in 2021, I want to thank you and all the church members who were so gracious to members of our family who traveled from Kansas recently to visit with you in Riverside. You made them feel at home and they appreciate the many courtesies you all extended to them.

Even though our family has lived away from the Chicago area for many years now, the church holds many precious memories for us. And Sts. Peter and Paul was the church where Rev. Pekarek first felt the call to the ministry and was a place that he always held dear to his heart even as he moved on with his own ministry.

Thank you for showing us once again the warm heart and generous spirit of the people of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Best wishes to you and the Congregation in the coming days and years.



Good day Pastor Lauritsen,

...It is quite a unique experience that our family is having with our Riverside church even now. As I mentioned to you previously, my great-grandmother goes back to the founding time of the congregation on 19th Street. She and her family lived in that neighborhood which was

a thriving Slovak community in the early years of the 20th Century.

I have vague memories of being at Christmas Eve service at the 19th Street [church] when I was three or four years old. The church was packed in the cold and dark of that Southside evening with only candles to light our way during part of the service. The congregation was in the process of moving to Riverside around that time.

As a young person, and then after my Confirmation year, our family was heavily involved in church activities in the then-new Riverside location. My uncle Rev. Pekarek was confirmed at the old church location and graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1968 and he began his ministry away from Chicago later that year.

My sister was confirmed in Riverside in 1969 and my immediate family moved shortly after that. We no longer had any family members in the [congregation] after 1970. And yet, here we are in 2022 and a new generation of our family that lives... [several] hundred miles from Riverside has wanted to learn about Sts. Peter and Paul and about the place and times that helped form Rev. Pekarek. All of this is happening more than fifty years since we sat in those pews as members and shared fellowship with the large congregation that existed at that time.

Rev. Pekarek would be so gratified to know that his family received such a warm reception from Sts. Peter and Paul. We know how challenging it is in these times to maintain a church both from a financial and spiritual perspective. Rev. Pekarek experienced that in his years before retirement. But we greatly appreciate how you and the current members of Sts. Peter and Paul are carrying on the rich spiritual tradition upon which the church was founded well over one-hundred years ago.

Times may change but it's good to know that some things survive regardless of the age we live in. All the best to you and the people of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Sincerely,
Don Cillo
Temple, Texas

Passages

Elizabeth "Betty" Mocek, 93 years old, mother of John and BettyAnn, passed from this life on July 26th. Services for Betty were held on July 29th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.

Olga Zavodny, 93 years old, passed from this life on August 1st. Services for Olga were held on August 9th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.

Paul John Gavac, 73 year old husband of Pat, father of Sarah, son of Anne and the late Samuel, and brother of Susan, passed from this life on August 12th. A memorial visitation with prayers was held on August 18th at Hitzeman Funeral Home. Inurnment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

Good Soil

Every moment and every event of every person's life on earth plants something in her or his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men and women. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity and love.—Thomas Merton

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We are delighted to be starting our ninth 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 6th and our theme this year will be "Standing Tall" with our mascot Frances the Flamingo. We will be learning all about her and focusing on opposites 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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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

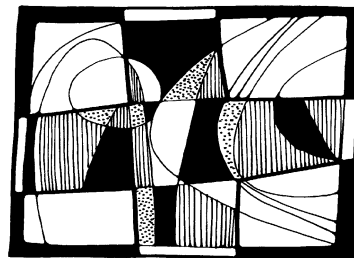
September 5, 1998: Thomas and Lavinia Myers
 September 6, 1997: Matthew and Janice Decosola
 September 8, 1990: Mary Jo and Scott Meyers
 September 9, 2009: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 September 12, 2020: Zachary and Jeanean Sawyer
 September 13, 2014: Susan and Robert Gillund
 September 14 2002: Michelle 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

Psalm of Creation

It is the first psalm I ever wrote, being struck by the attitude of prayer by turning east, and thinking first of the natural world and its wonders—the earth in all its beauty. But there is as much to wonder at in the world of human creation, and the various jobs that people do, for creativity is also seen in the way we live our lives.—John Hammersley

As I look to the east I praise you, my God:
 from the rising of the sun you uphold my life;
 when the sun goes down again I give you thanks:
 you are my strength from beginning to end.
 The whole created universe shares in our praise and gratitude:
 for you have made all that is, whether seen or unseen—
 hill and valley, tree and flower:
 the earth in all its beauty is yours;
 earthquake and storm, wind and flood, keep us in awe of you:
 the power of the lightning is also your creation.
 The workman labours with the sweat of his brow:
 he shares in your redemptive work;
 the secretary and teacher work for you:
 those who use their mind and imagination—
 the executive making important decisions:
 those who care for others and serve our needs.
 All whose work is hard, toil with your blessing:
 those who find fulfilment in work can see it as part of your purpose.
 So can we all in more humble activities:
 as cleaner, sweeper, gardener or child.
 Those whom society rejects are in your special care:
 and those who have no place in a world of work;
 without them your creation would be incomplete:
 your plan includes our work and our unemployment.
 Jesus was friend of the poor and outcast:
 he was also a carpenter working for his living.
 We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your gift of enterprise:
 the spark of your creative power.
 For your love builds us all together:
 and shows us how to make one another great.

"Psalms of Life" is a collection of modern psalms written by John Hammersley. It is a resource for Christian worship, or private prayer and inspiration.



WHOEVER
 DOES NOT
 CARRY THE
 CROSS AND
 FOLLOW ME
 CANNOT BE
 MY DISCIPLE.

L U K E 1 4 : 2 7

Marriage

At the heart of every marriage, there dawns an elemental shock of realization, that we have made vows to a stranger whom we must get to know; both in ourselves and in the other. Marriage is where we learn self-knowledge; where we realize that parts of our own makeup are stranger even than the stranger we have married and equally difficult for another person to live with. Marriage is where we realize how much effort we put into preserving our own sense of space and our own sense of self. Marriage is where we realize how much we want to be right and seen to be right. Marriage is where all of these difficult revelations can consign us to a sense of imprisonment or help us become larger, kinder, more generous, more amusing, more animated participants in the human drama.

—David Whyte

Congratulations, Sam and Gianna Lauritsen!



Gianna Barone and Samuel Lauritsen were united in marriage at Sts. Peter and Paul on Saturday, August 13th. Thank you to the congregation for the floral arrangements and the reception in the church gardens.



The Travelers Give Their Side of the Story

The Priest:

The sun was cruelly hot that day,
it lay like weight on the skin;
and yes, I saw where the body lay,
naked and bloody and thin.
But my robes are long, I might have tripped
if I had bent to lend a hand,
and so I passed by. But I said a prayer –
I'm sure God had a plan.

The Levite:

You know how rough the road is there;
the robbers could have been near.
His condition for certain delivered a scare –
there's a lot of crime around here.
I lead an upright life, you know; it's why
God has blessed me with being rich.
So I hurried past, giving thanks to God
that it's not me in that ditch.

The Priest:

I'm a busy man, I've many tasks
that occupy my mind.
My day is full from first to last,
there's never enough of time.
I might have stopped, but my schedule
has to keep me rushing on.
Since it's God's work that I do, you know,
I don't think I was wrong.

The Levite:

Perhaps we should question why this man
was chosen for being robbed –
could it be that he was a sinner, and
that this was the will of God?
And if it was indeed the man
himself who was to blame,
then I do not think by passing by
I've cause to be ashamed.

The Samaritan:

The sun was cruelly hot that day,
lying like weight on the skin,
and yes, I saw where the body lay,
naked and bloody and thin.
My heart was moved within me;
I felt pity for his pain.
So I stopped on the road to help him,
what more need I explain?

I don't think I was being heroic
when I offered merciful aid.
And I'm not just being stoic
when I say I've been repaid.
The humble thanks he's given
for having his life restored
is the blessing of God's own heaven.
And kindness is its own reward.

Altar Flowers

July 3rd: In loving memory of dear father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Henry Sordel, Jr.+ of Riverside on the 16th anniversary of his passing on June 30th, 2006 by remembering children Lynn Sordel and Kay Sordel and their families.

July 17th: In memory of +Richard Hurbanis+ on the 80th anniversary of his birth on July 15th by remembering wife Ruth.

In memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ by their remembering family.

Aug. 14th: In celebration of the marriage of Samuel Lauritsen and Gianna Barone on August 13th by their loving family.

Aug. 21st: In memory of +Steve Podzamsky+ on the first anniversary of his passing on August 19th by remembering friends Rich and Roseanne Para.

In loving memory of dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother +Shirley Wood+ on the anniversary of her birth by remembering children Deb and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch, and their families.

In memory of +Ann Skaritka+ on the 100th anniversary of her birth on August 22nd by remembering daughter Betty Mitchell and son-in-law Curtis.

Aug. 28th: In loving memory of beloved parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents +John+ and +Zuzanna Kubecka+ by remembering son Paul and daughter Ann Borsuk and her family.

Memorials and Honorariums

✦ For the Church ✦

The Family of +Olga Zavodny+.

The Family of +Betty Mocek+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Vito Altavilla+.

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

Beverly Podzamsky, in memory of +James Havlin+.

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

Betty and Curtis Mitchell, in memory of mother +Ann Skaritka+.

Robert and Priscilla Unruh

Ben and Diane McGee, in memory of father +Steve Podzamsky+ on the first anniversary of his passing.

Sue Renville, in memory of a wonderful dad +Steve Podzamsky+.

Beverly Podzamsky, in memory of dear husband +Steve Podzamsky+ on the first anniversary of his passing.

✦ In memory of Elizabeth “Betty” Mocek ✦

The Mocek Family

Jim and Ruth Lubawy, in memory of aunt.

Steve and Susan Wentz

Debbie Frogameni

Edward and Joanne Sefara

✦ In memory of Elizabeth “Betty” Mocek ✦ *(continued)*

Douglas and Karen Zavodny

Donna Katz

John and Sandy Pianetto and Family

Olga Zavodny and Family

Tom and Barbara Kopp

Beth Shadur and Bruce Manzer

William Boor

Martin and Ann Pennino

Karyn Bute

John and Janet Broussard

Ann Kmet

Larry Roth and Mary Lynch

Charles Matthies

Lois Michaels

John Slahor and Family

Anna Vana

Nadine Oleksy

Gary and Marilyn Wenzel

Sue Skudrna

Mark and Elizabeth Rouck

Pamela and Andy Tolve

Jim and Nancy Baty

James and Jeanne LoVerde

Marion Lo Verde

Jim and Marcy Baty

Beverly Podzamsky

✦ In memory of Olga Zavodny ✦

John and Sandy Pianetto, in memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Douglas and Karen Zavodny and Family, in memory of mother and grandmother.

Mark Zavodny, in memory of grandmother.

Gus and Daphne Alexander

Deyuan Huang

Michael and Patricia Rich

Tony and Kathy Guerico

Lois Michaels

Brian and Linda Sinclair

Ted and Jackie Self and Edith Adamski

Mike and Rose Oregan

Milan D. Zavodny

Rebecca Day

Karyn Byrnes and Daniel Pianetto

The Mocek Family

Seasonal Open Air Worship in the Church Gardens

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, September 11th

*A Day of Remembrance: Patriot Day
and Grandparents Day*

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 2nd

*Commemoration of St. Francis, October 4th
with Blessing of Animals*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

Sept. 4th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Emily Bittner
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: John Kostelny

Sept. 11th: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Rafael Martinez



Sept. 18th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lector: George Valek
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

Sept. 25th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: John Kostelny
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Edward and Joanne Sefara

Happy Labor Day

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



Photo by Daryle M. Lauritsen, summer 2022.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

Oct. 2nd: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: Tom Michaels
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Fred Kuzel



Oct. 9th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

Oct. 16th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: Fred Kuzel
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

Oct. 23rd:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: J. T. Tarbox
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

Oct. 30th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lector: Tom Myers
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Janice Hapgood

June 2022

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$2,500.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/5	\$4,334.00
6/12	\$1,111.00
6/19	\$1,175.00
6/26	\$1,710.00

July 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
7/3	\$1,525.00
7/10	\$1,095.00
7/17	\$1,935.00
7/24	\$5,607.00
7/31	\$1,300.00

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL



RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, October 15th, 2022

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**

Lunch will be available for purchase.

*Contributions of homemade bakery items would be greatly appreciated.
Please drop off your baked goods on Friday, October 14th between 1 and 3 p.m.*