



# The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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*"Faith Active in Love"*

[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

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*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.*

## 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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### Riverside Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church  
Social Hall  
105 Herrick Road



### Graduate Recognition

The Third Sunday after  
Pentecost, June 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy  
Communion

### Open Air Liturgy of Holy Communion

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 4<sup>th</sup>  
with the Wilson Family  
ELCA Sponsored Missionaries in Tokyo



# The Friberg's Mission Update

## May 2024



...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

The HIV epidemic in Uganda in the 1980s was devastating. The middle-aged and most productive generation was lost over a decade while grandparents were left raising their grandchildren. Children had to work the family fields and gardens because there were so few adult laborers.

As you know, the HIV virus destroys the T4 lymphocyte helper cells which coordinate the entire immune system. Gradually, the inflammatory process of the body fighting the virus causes scarring of the lymphatic tissue which supports all immune cells. The immune system collapses over approximately ten years. Opportunistic fungal, viral, bacterial, and mycobacterial infections overwhelm. Beautiful bodies and vibrant lives of all ages are slowly destroyed.

Fortunately in Tanzania, around the year 2000, the US government started providing free anti-retroviral therapy (ARVs) to people living with HIV. This program has been hugely successful in keeping the prevalence of HIV to less than 5%. So that Tanzania did not lose a whole generation of its population to HIV as happened in Uganda. People using ARVs are living well for decades, can continue working their jobs, and are far less infectious to others. ARVs block the maternal transmission of HIV to infants. All pregnant women are tested for HIV in prenatal clinic and are started on ARVs immediately if positive.



Our eight small health centers on the Serengeti, in the Rift Valley, and on the South Maasai Steppe provide this essential care. Your regular support is increased exponentially through cooperation with large programs of the World Health Organization, Tanzania Ministry of Health, and the Tanzania Lutheran Church. The large

programs rely on motivated and competent staff on the ground.

Our doctors and nurses encourage drug compliance, treat underlying infections, educate on healthy nutrition, discourage addictions, encourage faithfulness in marriage, and listen to patients' economic and emotional struggles. Every patient has unique issues. Many of our staff are gifted and comfortable going beyond medical care. They can bridge people to holistic care available through the local church.

Thank you for partnering with us in Tanzania.  
Steve and Bethany Friberg



## Memorial Flowers

May 12<sup>th</sup>: In memory of dear mother +Betty Zittman+ on Mother's Day by remembering family Rocky, Tina and grandchildren



Lux Cantorum Chicago performing its spring concert "Sacred Classics" in concert at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Rafael Martinez.



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

## Anniversaries

June 6, 1983: BettyAnn Mocek and Adam Walker  
 June 7, 2014: Ashish and Kristina Patel  
 June 13, 1992: Paul and Carrie Watkiss  
 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



Sts. Peter and Paul at dusk on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Photo by Jane Lauritsen.

## JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

### June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
 Lector: John Broussard  
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
 Usher: Janet Broussard

### June 9<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen  
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

### June 16<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden  
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
 Lector: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: George Valek

### June 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Greeter: Ann Kmet  
 Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
 Lector: Fred Kuzel  
 Live Stream: John Broussard  
 Usher: John Kostelny

### June 30<sup>th</sup>:

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

**Sacristan and Altar Care:** Kristine Boike



## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

Adolph and Ellen Heimann, in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Legends of the Game (*facility usage*)

Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study (*facility usage*)

John and Joanne Slahor, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.

Esther Meksto, in memory of husband +Edward+ on the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his birth on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

## JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

### July 7<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss  
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
 Lector: J. T. Tarbox  
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

### July 14<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
 Lector: Kristine Boike  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: John Kostelny

### July 21<sup>st</sup>:

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
 Lector: Tom Myers  
 Live Stream: John Broussard  
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

### July 28<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden  
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox  
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
 Usher: George Valek

### **Sacristan and Altar Care:**

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

### A Prayer for Fathers

*Heavenly Father,  
 you entrusted your Son Jesus,  
 the child of Mary,  
 to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
 Bless all fathers  
 as they care for their families.  
 Give them strength and wisdom,  
 tenderness and patience;  
 support them in the work they have to do,  
 protecting those who look to them,  
 as we look to you for love and salvation,  
 through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.  
 Amen*





## DATED MATERIAL

### Thresholds

John O'Donohue

Within the grip of winter, it is almost impossible to imagine the spring. The gray perished landscape is shorn of color. Only bleakness meets the eye; everything seems severe and edged. Winter is the oldest season; it has some quality of the absolute. Yet beneath the surface of winter, the miracle of spring is already in preparation; the cold is relenting; seeds are waking up. Colors are beginning to imagine how they will return. Then, imperceptibly, somewhere one bud opens and the symphony of renewal is no longer reversible. From the black heart of winter a miraculous, breathing plenitude of color emerges.

The beauty of nature insists on taking its time. Everything is prepared. Nothing is rushed. The rhythm of emergence is a gradual slow beat always inching its way forward; change remains faithful to itself until the new unfolds in the full confidence of true arrival. Because nothing is abrupt, the beginning of spring nearly always catches us unawares. It is there before we see it; and then we can look nowhere without seeing it.

Change arrives in nature when time has ripened. There are no jagged transitions or crude discontinuities. This accounts for the sureness with which one season succeeds another. It is as though they were moving forward in a rhythm set from within a continuum.

To change is one of the great dreams of every heart—to change the limitations, the sameness, the banality, or the pain. So often we look back on patterns of behavior, the kind of decisions we make repeatedly and that have failed to serve us well, and we aim for a new and more successful path or way of living. But change is difficult for us. So often we opt to continue the old pattern, rather than risking the danger of difference. We are also often surprised by change that seems to arrive out of nowhere. We find ourselves crossing some new threshold we had never anticipated. Like spring secretly at work within the heart of winter, below the surface of our lives huge changes are in fermentation. We never suspect a thing. Then when the grip of some long-enduring winter mentality begins to loosen, we find ourselves vulnerable to a flourish of possibility and we are suddenly negotiating the challenge of a threshold.

At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing? At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter? What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold? What gift would enable me to do it? A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies toward the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up. At this threshold a great complexity of emotion comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. This is one of the reasons such vital crossings were always clothed in ritual. It is wise in your own life to

be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds: to take your time; to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there; to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward. The time has come to cross.

To acknowledge and cross a new threshold is always a challenge. It demands courage and also a sense of trust in whatever is emerging. This becomes essential when a threshold opens suddenly in front of you, one for which you had no preparation. This could be illness, suffering, or loss. Because we are so engaged with the world, we usually forget how fragile life can be and how vulnerable we always are. It takes only a couple of seconds for a life to change irreversibly. Suddenly you stand on completely strange ground and a new course of life has to be embraced. Especially at such times we desperately need blessing and protection. You look back at the life you have lived up to a few hours before, and it suddenly seems so far away. Think for a moment how, across the world, someone's life has just changed—irrevocably, permanently, and not necessarily for the better—and everything that was once so steady, so reliable, must now find a new way of unfolding.

Though we know one another's names and recognize one another's faces, we never know what destiny shapes each life. The script of individual destiny is secret; it is hidden behind and beneath the sequence of happenings that is continually unfolding for us. Each life is a mystery that is never finally available to the mind's light or questions. That we are here is a huge affirmation; somehow life needed us and wanted us to be. To sense and trust this primeval acceptance can open a vast spring of trust within the heart. It can free us into a natural courage that casts out fear and opens up our lives to become voyages of discovery, creativity, and compassion. No threshold need be a threat, but rather an invitation and a promise. Whatever comes, the great sacrament of life will remain faithful to us, blessing us always with visible signs of invisible grace. We merely need to trust.

Excerpt from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O'Donohue, Irish teacher and poet who draws on Celtic spiritual traditions to create words of inspiration and wisdom for today.

