

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 5

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 Easter

What image comes to mind when you think of Easter—Jesus getting up and walking out of the tomb? Actually, none of the resurrection stories gives a detailed description of what happened in the tomb, other than to say that the Crucified One was raised. We are not told that the hand of God reached into the tomb to jostle Jesus from his death sleep, or that the Holy Spirit came into the tomb to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. Whatever happened in that tomb was something beyond human understanding. So the primary image for Easter is a profound absence: just the empty tomb itself.

Matthew gives additional details about the entombment of Jesus that enhance our understanding of the resurrection. He relates how the Jewish religious authorities requested that the tomb be sealed and that guards be posted, so that the body could not be stolen and the claim made that Jesus had been raised. Jesus became a prisoner of the tomb. But it is death itself, not the guards, who is the jailer. Fittingly, in the Easter hymn "Come, you faithful, raise the strain" (LBW 132) we sing that "Christ has burst his prison" (st. 2).

Of course the rolling away of the stone did not release Jesus from the tomb, for he had already been raised and gone ahead of the disciples to Galilee. In the resurrection Jesus transcended time, space, and death—those things that limit human existence. So the stone was not rolled away for Jesus, but for the disciples and for us. We need to see the evidence that the "right hand of the Lord has triumphed" (Psalm 118:16) in raising Jesus so that we might believe, and through believing "have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Jesus' victory over death is but a foretaste of God's final victory over death in the age to come. Isaiah anticipates God's ultimate defeat of death (25:7) when he speaks of God destroying "the shroud that is cast over all peoples" and swallowing up death forever. Death having been defeated, the only thing left for God's people to do is to throw a big celebration, replete with the best food and wine. Each repetition of the Lord's Supper anticipates the new life of the end-time, and the risen Lord comes again to share with us the gifts of eternal life in the bread and wine, which are his own body and blood.

Other images for the Easter season remind us that Jesus' victory over death was not for his sake alone—a divine tour de force—but was for us and for our salvation. Jesus' resurrection is the precondition for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is also the precondition for our new birth as God's sons and daughters destined to receive a permanent inheritance (1 Peter 1:4), and for our being ransomed from the ways of sin and death with Christ's own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The good shepherd image of John 10 is also one that we associate with Easter, specifically, the fourth Sunday of Easter. Why Easter? The

reason is that Jesus can only be our good shepherd insofar as he himself has conquered death. He lays down his life (that is, sacrifices himself) for his sheep, but he takes it up again, and he can share the power of eternal life with the sheep who hear his voice (10:10, 28). Only the one who has conquered death can be the guardian of God's sheep.

Jesus' victory over the grave is completed in the Ascension and at the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus ascends not just to another place, but to another age, the future reign of God where sin and death have no power. As the one who conquered death, Jesus ascends to take his rightful place in the dominion where the power of eternal life has full sway. Jesus takes his place in the future reign of God for us. He pours out his Spirit on the church to empower it for mission in the world (Acts 1:8), and through the sacramental means of grace—proclamation of the word, the meal of thanksgiving, and the cleansing and renewing bath—Jesus comes in the power of the Holy Spirit to incorporate us into the reign of God. The risen Lord, death's conqueror, gives us a share in what will be our future glory with him.

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—submitted by Pastor Dennis



The blessing of palms at the Woodside entrance on Sunday, April 10th. Photo by Jane Lauritsen.

Baptism of Lilian Marie Sunday, March 30th



Lilian Marie, daughter of Gianna and Samuel Lauritsen, was baptized on March 30th. Godparents are Joseph Barone, brother of Gianna, and Olivia Lauritsen, sister of Sam. Photos by Amanda Dilulis.



Violin and piano students of Kristine Boike and Jane Lauritsen appeared in recital on Sunday, March 16th.

From the Worship and Music Committee

The members of the committee would like to thank everyone who was involved with preparing and serving the Wednesday evening soup suppers during Lent as well as those who served as cantors and music leaders during Evening Prayer services that followed the soup suppers.

Thanks also goes out to everyone who was a part of making the Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful this year. Special thanks to Linda Painter for coordinating the bell choir anthem which was offered on Easter.

We continue to ask God's blessings upon both Pastor Dennis Lauritsen and Parish Musician David Richards for their inspiring work in leading the Lenten and Holy Week services.

—Charles Matthies, Worship and Music Chair



Birthdays

May 1:	Dennis Lauritsen	May 18:	Brian Bucz
May 5:	Skylar Skudrna		Colin McShane
May 6:	Jonathan Drahos	May 19:	Sean Jones
May 7:	Charlene Patula	May 27:	Kristina Patel
May 11:	Jake Collins	May 28:	Timothy Sender
	Karole Gaydusek		Sarah Wilson
	Jane Lauritsen	May 29:	Thomas Myers
May 12:	Caitlin McShane	May 30:	Ella Rose Miller
May 13:	Joseph Hassel	May 31:	Thomas Murray
	Kenneth Hurbanis		

Anniversaries

May 8, 1971: Walter and Judith Cudecki
May 15, 2010: George and Catherine Pagurko
May 16, 2009: Jeffrey and Lisa Triska
May 20, 2006: Paul and Jessica Drahos
May 23, 1993: Earl, Jr. and Rita Mika
May 25, 1968: John and Shirley Kostelny
May 28, 2017: John and Valerie Borysek
May 28, 2021: Ekatarina and Nick Riha
May 28, 1995: Jennifer and Benjamin Smith
May 29, 1994: Jillian and James Collins



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

Memorials and Honorariums

✠ For the Church ✠

Esther Meksto, in memory of husband +Edward Meksto+ on the 6th anniversary of his passing on March 20th.
Suzanna Skudrna, in memory of husband +Robert+.
Vera Borysek, in honor of Lilian Marie Lauritsen's baptism.
St. Paul VI Parish Sports Club (*facility usage*).
Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study (*facility usage*).
Jan Small, in memory of mother +Suzanne Janovic Bartizal+ on the anniversary of her birth on April 10th and grandmother +Zuzanna Janovic Pribula+.
Edward and Joyce Svancara (*The Churchman*).



A Mother's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, to you I pray...
On this day called, "Mother's Day."
Let all mother's on earth give praise,
To you... for the children that you gave.

For you have blessed them from above,
with little souls to nourish and love.
Let them mold each one with care...
And teach them to be kind and share.

Forgiveness is the special key...
Start early on, to help them see.
Their fragile minds are easily impressed.
Please teach them ways, so they'll be blessed.

Sow godly seeds into their minds.
With careful pruning, you will find...
Young adults with such strong roots,
all through life, will bear rich fruit.

And then have faith for God to show...
Them all the rest they have to know.
Remember they're His children too.
For they were only lent to you.

—author unknown



*Today where sun rises on hills of fresh sorrow
tomorrow where stars set upon fields of old pain
we will do the day's work to bring comfort and healing
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where souls suffer, despairing and fearful
tomorrow where whole lives are crushed under strain
we will do the day's work to bring peace, to bring courage
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the parched and scarred earth yields no bounty
tomorrow where war-weary ground gives no grain
we will do the day's work to bring hope to the hungry
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the foxes of evil still threaten
tomorrow where tenderness so often is maimed
we will do the day's work to bring love and compassion
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the forces of greed rule the kingdoms
tomorrow where powers of death hold their sway
we will do the day's work to bring justice and caring
for we are Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

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News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Dear Friends,

The year is just about over. We have had an "a-peeling" year!

The month of May will be filled with a celebration for the preschool moms and fun crafts. We will end the year with a program filled with colorful songs and a graduation ceremony for our graduates.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

March 2025

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$1,962.00

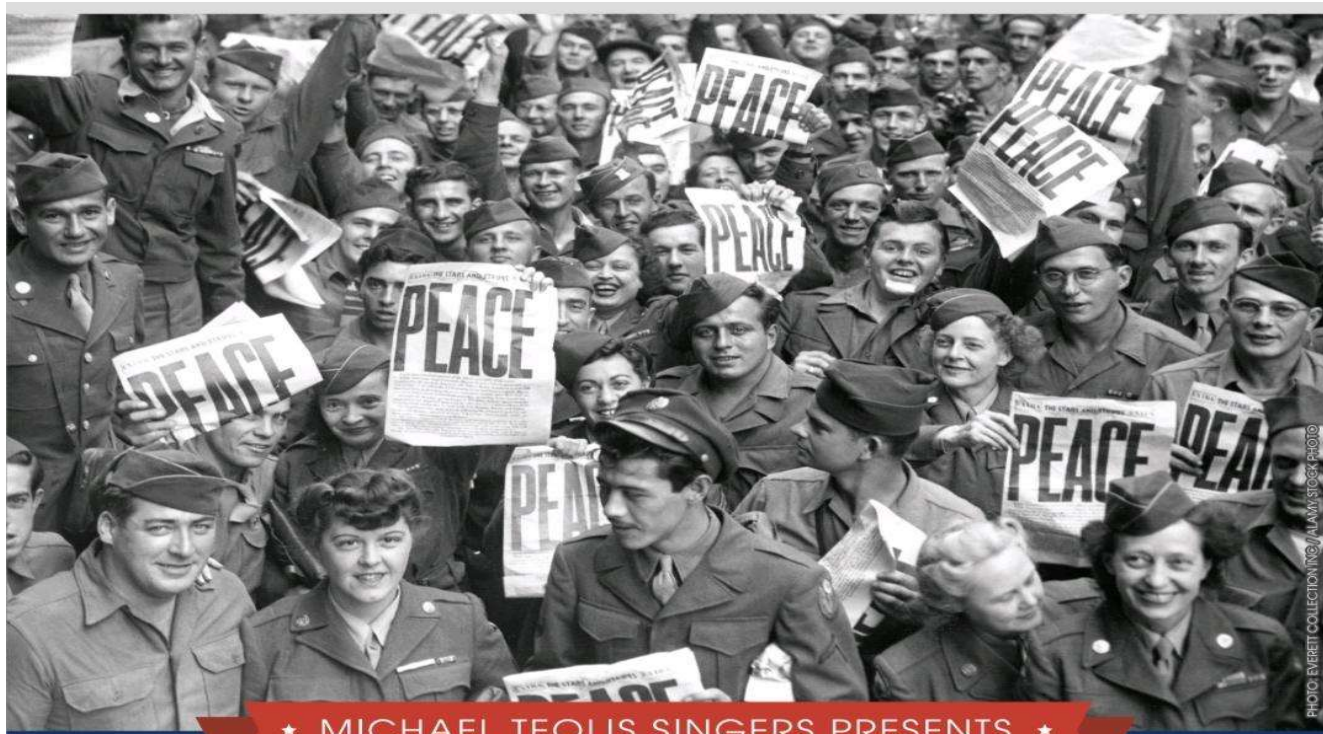
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
3/2	\$1,468.00
3/9	\$1,035.00
3/16	\$2,325.00
3/23	\$1,435.00
3/30	\$2,180.00

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DATED MATERIAL



★ MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS PRESENTS ★

Peace Triumphant: ★ ★ ★ 1945 ★ ★ ★

Saturday • May 10, 2025 • 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church • 324 N. Oak Park Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302 • Handicap Accessible

Online tickets at
www.MTSingers.org
• \$25 Adult
• \$20 Seniors / Students

All tickets at the door
• \$30



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THE MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS IS PARTIALLY FUNDED
BY THE OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY
AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Beverly Tarbox and David Richards of our congregation perform with the Michael Teolis Singers.

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 4th:

Greeter: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

May 11th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

May 18th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

May 25th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Aidan Altavilla
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Jane Lauritsen and Carole Pollitz

Man is in love

Man is in love
And loves what vanishes;
What more is there to say?
— W. B. Yeats

Throughout our lives we repeatedly make attachments and lose them. We are taken with the rich color of leaves in the fall, but we know that this beauty will soon be replaced with stark, empty branches. We give ourselves to caring for a baby, knowing someday this person will say good-bye to make his or her own life. We lie close to our lover in a special moment, yet we know that this, too, will be limited by the years of our lives.

We want to defiantly say, “No! If I can’t have permanence, I’ll take nothing at all!” Most of us have wished we could outmaneuver life with such a power play. The loss feels so painful we might think holding back our love will save us pain. But holding back brings a greater unhappiness. When we submit to it, life is generous in its kaleidoscope of forms. Each attachment, each loss, is followed by more rewards and attachments. Loss and death itself are part of life. There is peace in accepting and living fully in the cycle of seasons.

God, help me to engage with life fully and to accept change.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

June 1st:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: George Valek

June 8th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

June 15th:

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

June 22nd:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

June 29th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Kristine Boike

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following persons who donated Easter lilies for the chancel and Lord’s Table.

Ruth Bakalich	Martin and Ann Pennino
The Boike Family	The Mocek Family
Britta Bolin	The Tapak Family
John and Shirley Kostelny	The Watkiss Family
Fred Kuzel	



Lux Cantorum Chicago
presents:

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA!

Celebrating the rich heritage of Gospel Music.

Experience a wide range of gospel music styles with universal themes of love, hope, and perseverance!

May 2, 2025 7:30 pm

Buchanan Chapel of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

May 4, 2025 4:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL

May 10, 2025 7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Oak Park IL

May 14 - 24, 2025

Streamed Live Performance Recording

Info Detail at: www.LuxCantorum.org

Wilbert O. Watkins Conductor & Artistic Director

Philip Kendall: Assistant Conductor

Kyle Stephens Accompanist

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

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