



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 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.

Images of the Season: Autumn

A visit to an antique shop or second-hand store reveals the “in between” way in which objects are categorized. An old tattered quilt, an incomplete set of dishes, a refinished chest of drawers, faded paintings and pictures that are too good to throw away—all of these items remind us that times passes, yet has not concluded. Likewise, an item's worth can change: its value increases for some and it decreases for others. An in-between time, betwixt the beginnings and endings, the feasts and the fasts—this is autumn liturgy.

In a way, autumn is an arbitrary and ambiguous time of the year. With the post-Pentecost season's length extending from early summer to early winter, the church often struggles with a focus at this midpoint. Of course, it is a time for continuing growth in faith, a time for building on the foundations that have been witnessed through the resurrection appearances. Yet the challenge of this time of year often overwhelms. Where is the church headed? It is like waiting for a train that can be heard in the distance, yet seems to take forever to arrive.

The biblical stories are familiar and well-worn. They have tinges of memories associated with them. They have been heard before. Once in a while, there is something new and fresh, vital and surprising about the stories; more usually, though, they are retold with a rehearsed expectation and familiarity. They are, after all, part of the celebrated canon. They are a given.

Yet, at the very same time, it is the richness found in the retelling that offers a breath for new life. That which is well-worn is revitalized through an intimacy in a deep and abiding recollection of what is true and good, honorable and pure. Autumn liturgy is a time for homecoming, a coming home to Christ.

Autumn itself always brings about a number of changes. The seasons are marked by cycles of reversals: the stars shift in the sky; the natural world finds new ways of living. Likewise, school's days begin or end, new calendar years are established, old patterns of living are undertaken. A cabin might be closed for the winter, new windows put up on the house, clothing styles changed—these are marks of a shifting and transitional time.

Even though this change is apparent, it takes different ears and eyes to notice that the changes are not always dramatic or even recognizable. Conversion is much the same, seldom happening in an earth-shaking way. More often, transformation takes place in the ways that are hidden in the heart.

Perhaps it is the time of year to look for the subtle and simple nuances that contribute to a common faith. Perhaps it is the time of the year to revisit those aspects of faith that are considered

understood and agreed upon. That would give an opportunity to interrogate and discover anew the richness of a life lived within the liturgy of the church.

To investigate the pattern of the liturgy might be a good place to start. To see the possibilities within the pattern of gathering, receiving, experiencing, and sending through the word and sacraments affords the chance of liturgical formation. This is not to say that everything ought to be explained in great detail. That kind of didactic teaching can rob the liturgy of its multiple meanings. Rather, to reflect briefly in a homily or in a Sunday bulletin about the pattern that shapes community life—that might be the way to look anew at what is given, to see afresh what is gift. Liturgical formation is reflecting on how an understanding of the liturgy can help to shape the Christian life.

Patterns of formation are abundantly present in the texts for this time of year: teachings and healings, parables and ponderings. This was the reason Jesus gathered people together, to shape both their understanding and their living—to form them as children of God. This is the task of any catechesis: to shape individuals as individuals and to shape them all into one community.

Likewise, to revisit the historic creeds and confessions provides another opportunity to eke out new and profound commitments to the oldest expressions of faith to which the church attests. It might be the right time to look at the Small Catechism. Or work more intentionally with the church year's lesser festivals and commemorations. Working in consultation with ecumenical partners, the lengthy Pentecost season provides ample chances to explore common convictions and unique gifts.

It could also be the time of year to consider exploring hymnody at a greater depth. Telling the stories of composers or poets or bringing a practicing composer or poet to the congregation would add layers of meaning to all of the hymns. Calling upon musicians and artists in the community to share their talents and understandings could be a way to enhance appreciation for the old but new story.

In Christ, what is old can become new. That is why the liturgical year has a lengthy time of reflecting on the saving and redemptive work of the Christ who lives in the daily-ness of existence. Using the ordinary to usher in the extraordinary, drawing attention to the commonplace to bring to light the uncommon truth, pointing beyond the seen to the unseen, these are the tasks during autumn liturgy. When, for instance, the community gathers around a paten with some bread on it and a chalice with some wine in it, mystery across time speaks. The servers hold the real presence of Christ's body and blood which time itself cannot hold.

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Antiques have value not only for how they function, but for how they form a frame of reference for our experience. They have stood the test of time with generations of hands cleaning them faithfully, wiping dust from them. Old beds have been wrapped in blankets of prayers providing rest and refreshment to generations. An antique clock speaks about the confirmation or the wedding that was the occasion of its giving. The sideboard recounts the sustenance that has been prepared by generations. Through the subtle changes that are seen in the common and ordinary, a deepening and abiding faith is nurtured and sustained.

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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).

Passages

Ann Vana, 94 years old, passed from this life on June 23rd. A celebration of Ann's life was held at Sts. Peter and Paul on July 25th. Burial was private.

Ann Head, 86 years old, passed from this life on June 30th. A service for Ann was held on July 12th at Hallowell and James Funeral Home. Ann will be buried in Owensboro, KY.

Altar Flowers

July 26th: In memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ from their loving family.



The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of September 11th.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 6th:

Greeter:	Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	George Valek
Live Stream:	Paul Watkiss
Usher:	George Valek

September 13th:

Greeter:	Staci Harden
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Joanne Sefara
Live Stream:	John Broussard
Usher:	Janet Broussard

September 20th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Tom Myers
Lectors:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream:	Fred Kuzel
Usher:	John Kostelny

September 27th:

Greeter:	Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Lector:	Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care: Fred Kuzel

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 4th:

Greeters:	Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister:	Beverly Tarbox
Lectors:	Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream:	Paul Watkiss
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

October 11th:

Greeters:	Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	John Kostelny
Live Stream:	John Broussard
Usher:	Janet Broussard

October 18th:

Greeter:	Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	Tom Myers
Live Stream:	Fred Kuzel
Usher:	George Valek

October 25th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Kristine Boike
Live Stream:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care: Kristine Boike

Donations made easy

Donations to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church can be made using the Zelle service from your bank. For some, this may provide a more convenient way to donate on a regular weekly basis as well as before or after an event or for a special occasion. This service should not charge you or the church a service fee, avoids the need for a paper check, and gets your donation to the church as quickly as possible. Other ways of donating continue to be gratefully received. Here are some easy steps to follow: Zelle is supported by most banking applications, rather than being a standalone app. You simply go to your online banking website or phone app, go to the Zelle interface, and add Sts. Peter and Paul as a recipient via our e-mail address: donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org. From there, you may send any amount of money with a note as to what it is for. The money will automatically be accepted into our account. We will get a notification at that e-mail address that you have done so. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.—*Tom Myers*

Memorials and Honorariums

✦ For the Church ✦

Betty Ann Mocek and Adam Walker, in memory of +Mary Sasuta+.
Ann Kmet, in memory of +Mariam Hinlicky+.
Mark and Liz Rouck, in memory of +Mary Sasuta+.
Mark and Liz Rouck, in memory of +Mariam Hinlicky+.
John and Shirley Kostelny, in memory of +Mariam Hinlicky+.
Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study
Cornerstone Montessori
Soda Sales
Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Jeri Basek+, mother of
Karen Rouleau.
John and Shirley Kostelny, in memory of +Jeri Basek+.
Karyn Bute, in memory of +Jeri Basek+.

✦ In memory of Ann Vana ✦

Ann Kmet
John and Janet Broussard
Fred Kuzel
Lois Michaels
William Boor
Susan Hassel and Family
John and Shirley Kostelny
Adrienne Gana

✦ In memory of Ann Head ✦

John and Janet Broussard
William Boor
Fred Kuzel



Sept. 3	Martin Pennino	Sept. 16	Linda McShane
Sept. 7	Nathan Byrne	Sept. 17	Maycee Gillund
Sept. 9	Julie Barcik		Benjamin Smith
Sept. 10	John Jakubec	Sept. 18	Isabella Myers
Sept. 11	Janice Decosola		Sebastian Myers
	Jon Hapgood	Sept. 24	John Broussard
	Dennis Horacek	Sept. 27	James Gaydusek
	Alexandra Miller		Charles Matthies
Sept. 15	Deborah Jech	Sept. 30	Beverly Podzamsky

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 5, 1998: Thomas and Lavinia Myers
September 6, 1997: Matthew and Janice Decosola
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



June 2026

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$1,815.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/7	\$1,125.00
6/14	\$3,075.00
6/21	\$ 860.00
6/28	\$ 635.00

July 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
7/5	\$1,885.00
7/12	\$1,889.00
7/19	\$ 713.00
7/26	\$ 785.00

DATED MATERIAL

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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posted at our website and can be accessed by
clicking on the limestone church:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.



Dear Loving Father,

We pause to remember the great losses and courageous acts of September 11th. We lift up those who are still affected—families of the victims, police officers, firefighters, first responders, and all who were involved. We pray for the light of Christ to flood the hearts of people everywhere. We believe You desire to redeem Your creation, and we trust that beauty will continue to come from the ashes of those dark days. Surround us with Your mighty angels of protection, give us compassion for one another in all of life's circumstances, and instill in us the courage to answer Your call. Amen

Five Tips for Predicting Frost

Consider these factors when the radio and TV reports say “frost tonight”:

1. **How warm was it during the day?** It may sound simple, but one of the best ways of determining if a frost is due overnight is to gauge the temperature. If the temperature reached 75°F (in the East or North) or 80°F (in the desert Southwest), the chance of the mercury falling below 32°F at night is slim.
2. **Is it windy?** A windy night may reduce the likelihood of a frost. A still night allows cold air to pool near the ground; a light breeze stirs things up; a heavy, cold wind sweeps away warm air near the ground.
3. **Is it cloudy?** Observe the sky. If the Sun sets through a layer of thickening clouds, the clouds will slow radiational cooling and help starve off a frost. With clouds, the risk of frost is reduced.
4. **How is your garden landscaped?** Gardens on slopes or high ground often survive. However, cold air sinks and will puddle down into valleys and hollows. If your home and garden are at the bottom of a slope or in a valley, and there is no wind, then there is higher risk of frost. A landscape with trees can assist in preventing frost. Trees transpire a lot of moisture through their leaves.
5. **What is the dew point?** As a rule of thumb, don't worry about a frost if the dew point (the temperature at which the air is no longer able to hold all the moisture with it) is above 45°F on the evening weather report. The more moisture in the air, the less likely a frost. A light watering of the garden a day or two before a frost is predicted can help stop it from settling.

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Puzzle of the Month:

Name a bird whose name contains the name of another bird.

(*Answer at bottom right)



*Puzzle Answer: Meadowlark