



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Road  
Riverside, Illinois 60546  
Telephone: (708) 442-5250

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

**Rev. Ken Johnson**  
**Interim Pastor**  
**708-442-8511**

**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence. You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.*

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164***

**GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

*Wondrous Love*

setting Howarth

**\*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live.

*(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

**Holy God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

\*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157  
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

**Amen**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

# WORD

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the Creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

### Lenten Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*  
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*Rev. Dave Peters*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Glory of These Forty Days*

ELW 320



## \*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated, especially... . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.*

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you, especially... . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**Amen.**

\*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

# MEAL

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*When We Are Tested*

arr. Robert Benson

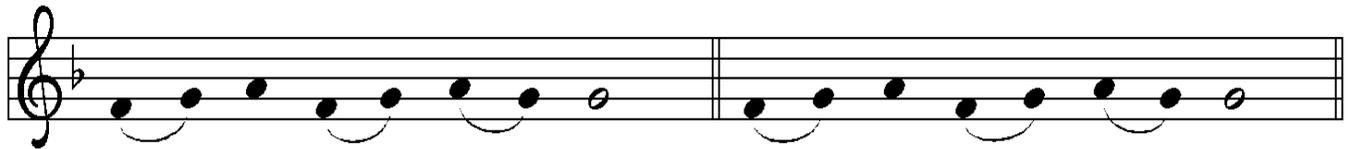
## OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

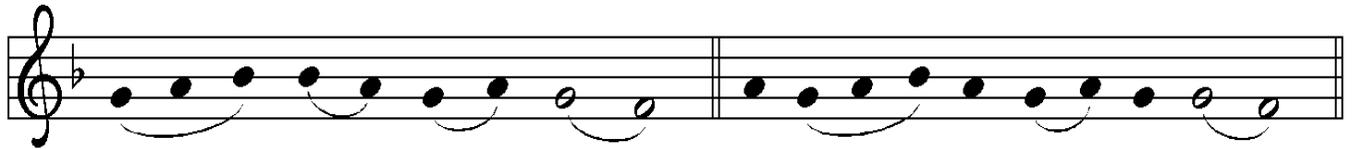
Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### \*DIALOGUE



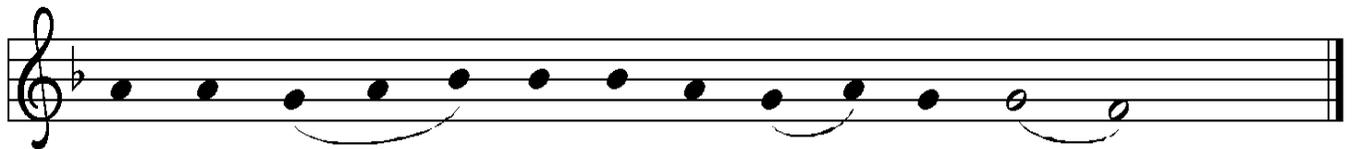
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

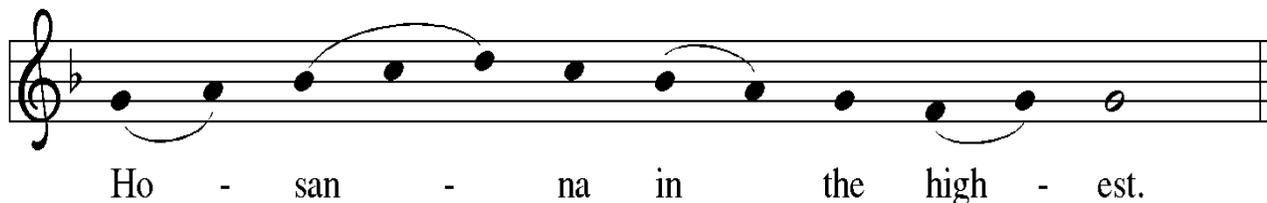
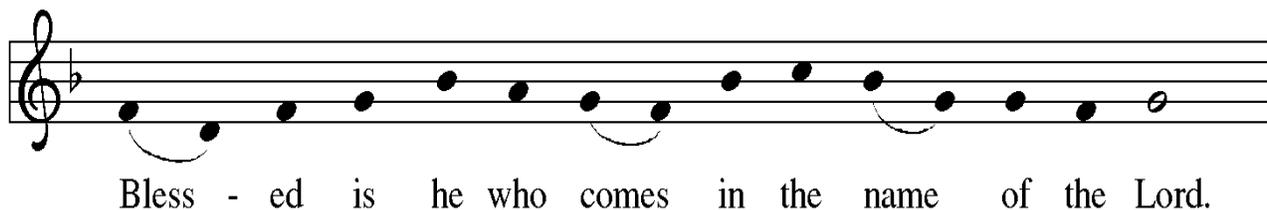
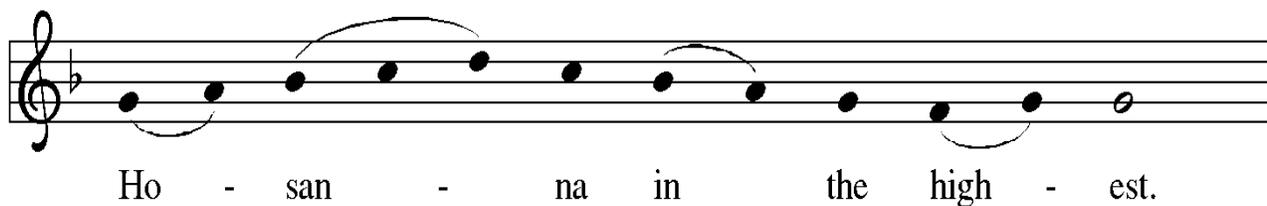
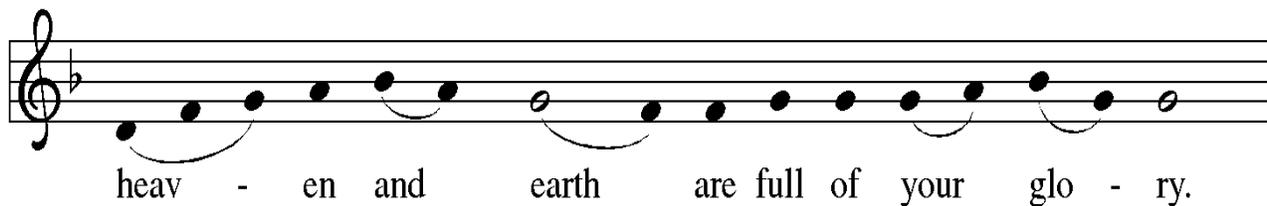
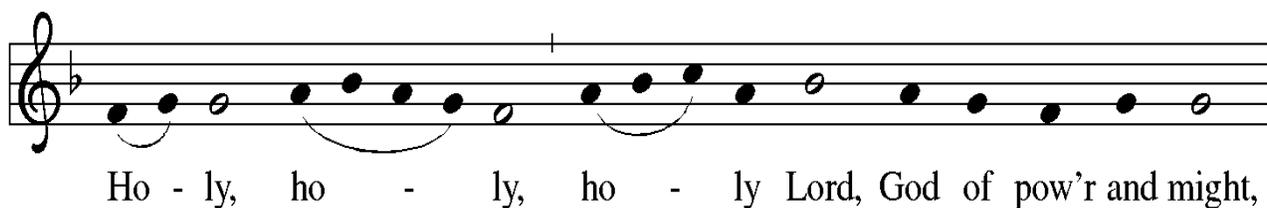


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel,  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

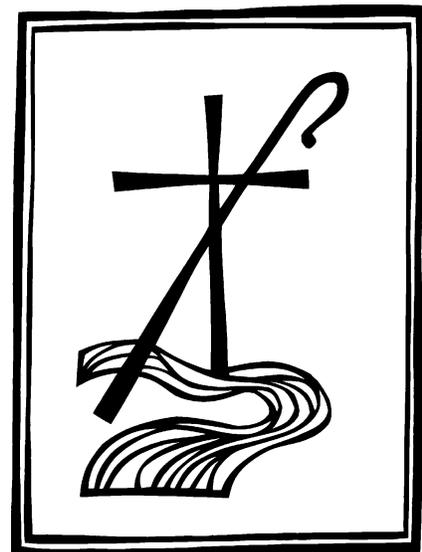
**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

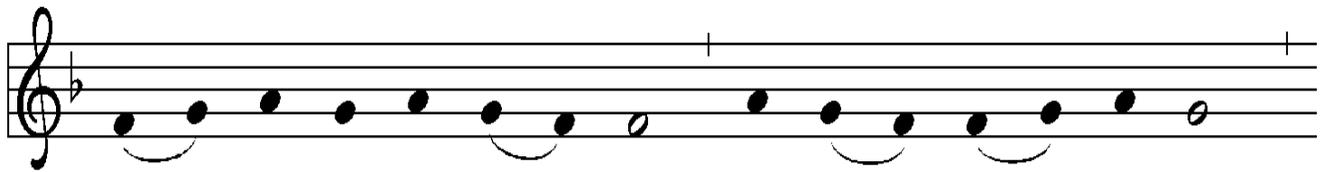
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.  
Amen**



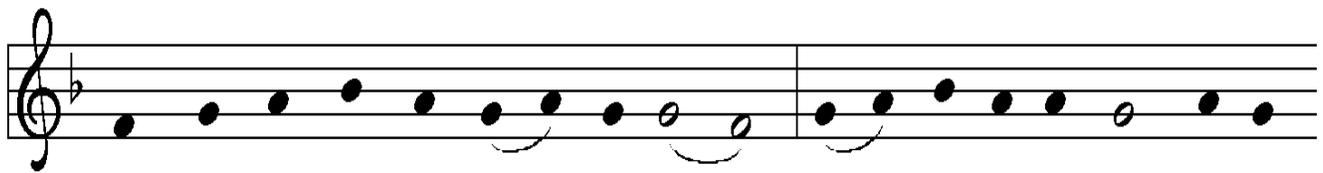
# \*LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



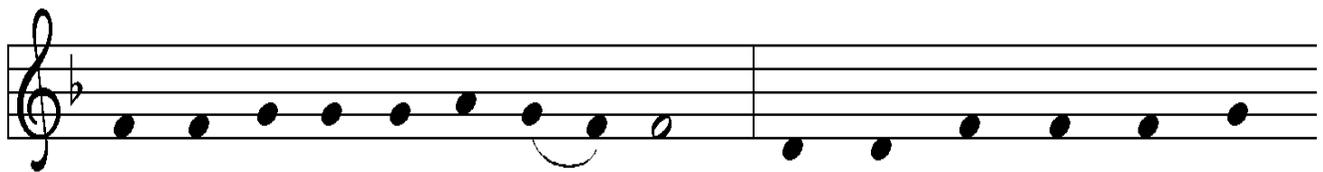
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



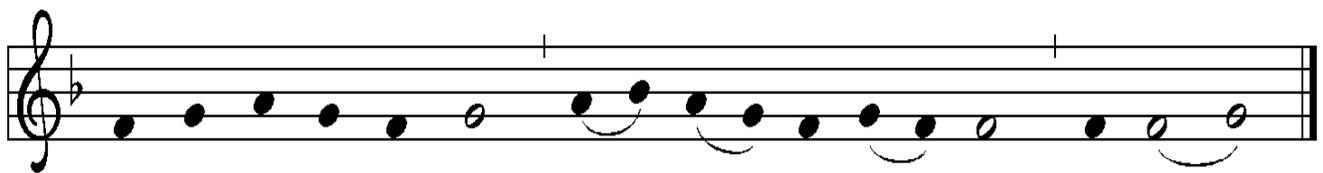
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

*Air*

Händel

\*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

\*BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

*Praise and Thanks and Adoration*

ELW 783

\*DISMISSAL

God in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Passepied*

Delibes



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Dave Peters

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

John Broussard

GREETERS

Walter and Judith Cudecki

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Fred Kuzel

## PRAYER LIST

***Members of the Congregation:*** Elaine Haase, Staci Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara, and Gregg Valek.

***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Ann Boor, Rich Caliendo, Dan Costello, Becky Dice, Tom Doran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, John Harris, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Jeff Kubik, Lisa Martin, Artem Molovkina, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of dear aunt **+Mildred Beausejour+** on the anniversary of her birth on February 20<sup>th</sup> by remembering nieces and nephews; and also in loving memory of beloved father **+Eugene Gana+** on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Adrienne Gana, dear sister-in-law Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz. *Attention: Our supply of altar vases is running low at the florist. Please return any vases that may have to the kitchen. Thank you.*

Welcome back and thank you to **Rev. Dave Peters** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition.

Homebound members wishing a visit from **Interim Pastor Ken Johnson** can use the contact information below to arrange an in-person or phone visit. Pastor Johnson will serve as the presiding minister at our services on the second Sunday of the month. In the event of a pastoral emergency Pastor Johnson can be reached via e-mail or mobile phone at [Ken6168@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ken6168@sbcglobal.net) of 773-947-4488, or his home at 708-442-8511.



## 21ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY FAMILY TACO DINNER



**February 28, 2026, 4-7 pm**

**Ascension Lutheran Church  
400 Nuttall, Riverside, IL**

**Co-hosted with Riverside Presbyterian Church**

\$15/Adult (\$20 at the door)

\$5/child, under 12

Includes beef & chicken tacos, beans, rice, & the fixings

Kids will be able to enjoy a Pinata

Preorder tickets: [ascensionriverside@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionriverside@gmail.com)



Proceeds assist  
**refugeeONE**



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156*

*Monday, February 23, 2026*

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

*Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921*

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i>	\$1,827.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$2,219.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ 412.00

Benevolence is our commitment to SZS and ELCA missionary support.

The budget's current need will be adjusted when a  
new pastor accepts our call.

Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?