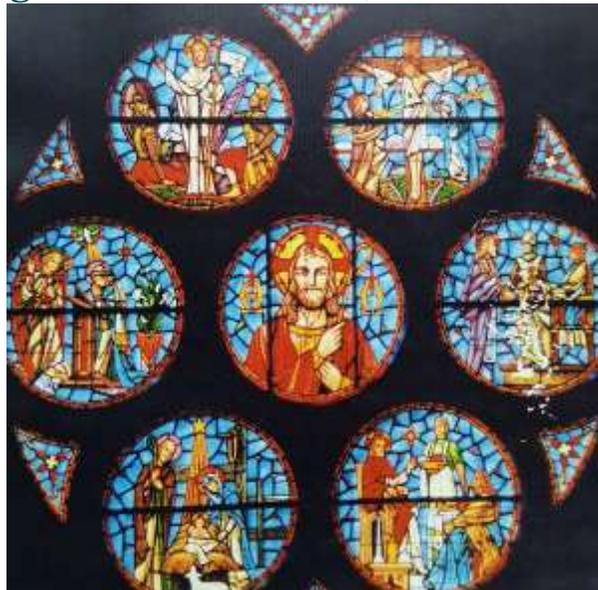


In this Place: The Fullness of Time



Please click on the following link at 10:15 a.m on Sunday mornings for live streaming of the liturgies and then later for recordings of these services:
[The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19th, 2020](#)

In this Place... A Virtual Tour of the Stained Glass at Sts. Peter and Paul (final segment in the series).



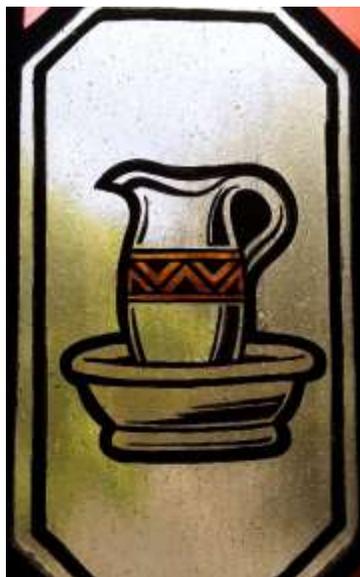
In this Place... The Fullness of Time By Dennis J. Lauritsen, pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, Riverside, Illinois. Be sure to click on the link above for an audio recording.

In this Place: The Fullness of Time

Reformation Window in the Pastor's Study



Martin Luther or his colleague Philipp Melancthon (center); the Tree of Life (left); and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (right).



Baptismal basin and pitcher.

In this Place: The Fullness of Time



Pastor's surplice and stole.



Stork feeding her young.

(The stork is a Christian symbol representing holiness and vigilance and sometimes is symbolic of the Annunciation to Mary that she would bear the Christ child.)

In this Place: The Fullness of Time



*The Great Seal of the State of Pennsylvania.
Can you guess why this seal is included in the pastor's study?
(Answer below.)*

Welcome Back!



In this Place: The Fullness of Time

Words of Welcome on Sunday, July 19th...

So, this is not exactly the way I had envisioned our return to public worship after eighteen weeks since we were last together on Sunday, March 15th when the Council members were installed, just three weeks before Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Today, the season of Lent, with its vespers and suppers, is far gone; Holy Week and Easter Day were spent at home, perhaps in virtual conversation with family and friends. The Great Fifty Days of Easter were not spent in feasting and singing. Pentecost Day came and went, and now we are well underway into the Season of Pentecost and already a month into summer.

I've often thought of the past four months as an unending episode of The Twilight Zone series as time has been warped and twisted. As we were about to enter Holy Week this year, I remember promising some of you that we would have a great big Easter celebration even if it had to be in July. Well, here we are in July, and I think you'll agree that this is not the sort of great big Easter celebration that I had in mind. Instead, there are face coverings, physical distancing, temperature screening at the door, precautionary signs everywhere, hand sanitizing stations (front, back and sideways), Holy Communion distributed using tongs and an eyedropper (the wafer dispenser is on its way), no singing or full-voiced responses, touchless sharing of the peace, softly spoken prayers, consuming the bread and wine in your pew, and short sermons (hold me to it)!

But! The floors everywhere are newly polished. Restrooms are cleaned and redecorated. Windows have been repaired in the kitchen, the preschool classroom, the stage and the lower level. There has been a complete washing and disinfecting of the sanctuary, pews, walls and furnishings. We now have the opportunity, at last, to use this elegant free-standing table. You have received some twenty-two segments of the "Bread for the

In this Place: The Fullness of Time

Journey” series, complete with an extensive tour of the stained-glass windows in the facility (there may be a pop-quiz one of these Sundays, so study up!). There have been YouTube video sermons and home-talent musical performances. You’ve heard some beautifully recorded music, poetry and prayers, and have also received orders for worship in the home. We have continued to be the church in the dispersion through home-worship, serving and caring for each other with a thousand acts of kindness, even though we have been away from this house of worship and separated from the fellowship of the congregation. And now, we are even offering live-streaming of the Sunday liturgies.

We will hear today that the wheat grows with the weeds, the good with the evil. The world has changed since we last were together; and, yes, our ways of worship now have changed, too. We did not choose this, but we are choosing to live with it. I hope and pray that you will not be too occupied with caution about “what to do next,” or whether or not you're doing it right or wrong. Please don't worry about making mistakes; I expect I'll make lots of them. Expect that this is going to be strange and clumsy for a while. And that's just fine with all of us.

We trust that God: Father, + Son and Holy Spirit is among us with grace, mercy and compassion for his lost children and is gently raising us up when we fall and quietly approaching us with tender love and charity through each other.

Sundays are always Easter celebrations, no matter when or how they fall, so let us enter again into the Easter feast that has no end—the victory feast of God's love and the defeat of death in all its forms.---djl

Answer to the above question: The Rev. John M. Kalny, who was pastor of the congregation during the transition from Pilsen in Chicago to Riverside, and the construction of the facility in Riverside, was born and raised at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansford, Pennsylvania.

In this Place: The Fullness of Time

[Resources for Daily Prayer in the Home](#)

["Worship in the Home"](#)

[Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life during a Pandemic](#)



All 22 segments of the "Bread for the Journey" Series are posted at the congregational website. Access these by clicking [HERE](#).



A Ray of Light in Our Darkness:
[Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)
for sermons, worship folders, recent news, newsletters, videos and more.