

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

Volume 41

June 2019

Issue 6

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.

Podzamsky's Celebrate 70th Wedding Anniversary



Steve and Beverly Podzamsky affirm their marriage vows on the 70th Anniversary of their wedding, celebrated with the congregation on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 28th, 2019.

Easter Twins

This sermon was preached on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 28th, 2019, which was also the celebration of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Beverly Podzamsky. The assigned texts were Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; and John 20:19-31.

“I believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).

Easter is always somewhere between “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” Obviously, last Sunday morning was the “I believe” part. Believing is apparently no problem when everybody else is saying, “I believe.” But this morning, the Second Sunday of Easter, is so very often the “help my unbelief” part. Compared to Easter Day, on this Sunday we usually have very little help with the “I believe” part—no trumpet or timpani, no choirs or crowds, no breakfast or bunnies—not much of anything really except our swaggering, bellicose brother Thomas who speaks for some of us, “Unless I see the mark of the

nails in his hands, and jab my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I won’t believe” (John 20:25). You can’t fault Thomas for not speaking his mind.

This year, however, our Second Sunday of Easter is quite different: “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,” sings the psalmist, “his steadfast love endures forever! ...The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation” (Psalm 118:1,14).

So, I say again, “Alleluia! Christ is risen!”
And you say, “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”
I say, “Alleluia! Christ is risen!”
And you say, “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”
And we all say, “Amen.”

“His steadfast love endures forever.”

“Forever” may be no big deal for the LORD, but for us in human form—for us mortals—even 70 years of “forever” is a long, long time, especially 70 years in marriage with the same man and with the same woman. Extraordinary! It’s almost forever!

Mr. and Mrs. Beverly and Steve Podzamsky, together with their family and friends, have helped make this Second Sunday of Easter an extraordinary one for us this year because they have invited us to celebrate with them their 70th Wedding Anniversary. How blessed are we! And not just for this day but for all the years that we have been graced with each others’ presence.

I wonder, Bev and Steve, whether or not you are aware that you may be breaking some new ground here today. Even though I haven’t paged through all the parish registers for the past 118 years since the congregation was organized in 1901 (most of the entries being in the Slovak language), I think it’s accurate to claim that the two of you may be the first to celebrate a 70th Wedding Anniversary at Sts. Peter and Paul; if not the first, then you are among a very elite group of people.

I don’t suppose it all started out so promising. Maybe your parents, your family, members of the congregation, and even your beloved Pastor Body, all thought that you were, well, too young. I guess there were some doubting Thomases around the two of you.

I’m thinking that maybe the two of you were the “I believe” part—the Easter Day part—since every wedding may be a kind of Easter Day. And I’m also thinking that maybe there were some others who were the “help my unbelief” part. There is also a Second Sunday of Easter in every marriage.

I often like to remind brides and grooms that we try to make our weddings so perfect because marriage is filled with so much imperfection.

“Keep your eyes wide open before the wedding,” I advise the couple, “and then, you need to keep them half shut after the wedding.”

Lots of people these days have their doubts. They have their doubts about Easter, and they have their doubts about marriage and the family.

And we're probably not going to see much of an increase in 70th wedding anniversaries any time soon because, for one thing, you have to start early if you're going to see a 70th wedding anniversary. Maybe you've noticed that people are not starting early with marriage.

Marriage and family, we've been led to believe, is a matter of personal fulfillment, necessary for us as individual selves to become "whole and happy." The other person is there for me, we think, for my personal self-fulfillment. Then we assume that there is someone "just right" for me out there, and that if I just look hard enough via the on-line dating sites I'll find "just the right person."

What this perspective overlooks and fails to appreciate, as Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School has pointed out, is that we always marry the wrong person because the "right person" is going to keep on changing. We cannot know if someone is the "right person." We may just *think we know* if that someone is the "right person."

Marriage is always "a leap of faith." And I would wager that even after 70 years we still wake up to some surprises in the other person—and in ourselves—asking the question, "Who ever *is* this person living in *my* house?"

Even if, from the beginning, we do marry the "right person," just give it time and that "right person" will change. Then we'll decide that we actually married the wrong person which would be exactly right. We always marry the wrong person. So, the big, fearful challenge is how to love, care for, and befriend this stranger to whom you find yourself married and to whom you are called in the Christian faith to befriend.

Hauerwas claims that marriage is the strangest of friendships because, even though each person will change, the friendship is called upon to endure immense stress and strain, and to bear terrific pressures and weights, like no other friendships, most of which come and go. None of those friendships must endure what marriage must endure: living in the same space; managing daily challenges and chores; often raising children over the course of decades; trying to reconcile checking accounts and pay-off the other's credit card debts; and then, there's the other simply getting on our nerves because the other refuses to ring out the dish cloth, or hang the roll of toilet paper the "right" way, or put things back where *you* can find them.

Increasingly, we just don't have the "grit" (that is, to recall Easter Day this year). We just don't have what it takes to get done what needs to get done. We need, not just grit, but True Grit.

So, I say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

And you say, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

I say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

And you say, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

And we all say, "Amen."

The miracle of God's love, revealed in the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus the Christ is that God can and does love each of us as "other" than himself without becoming less of a friend to any of us. The "faithful love" of God "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things," as Paul says in that Corinthian love poem (I Corinthians 13).

As we heard on Maundy Thursday, we are commanded to love "the other," but to love "the other" as those who are first loved by God (cf. I John 4:19). For God's love will stretch our souls like no other as he makes us his friends, freeing us from our occupation with self and then opening us to friendships of service to others (again Hauerwas). Genuine love does not attempt to shape "the other" in our image. Genuine love shapes "the other" in the image of God.

You don't live together for 70 years trying to control the other person or attempting to shape the other person into the "right person" just for your own self-fulfillment and gratification. You live together for 70 years recognizing, by God's grace in Jesus, "the other" as other than yourself, keeping your distance even while drawing near. Not seeking to absorb the other but desiring the other to be what he or she

is. Not trying to refashion him or her into a replica of yourself or make him or her a means to the advancement of yourself (Reinhold Niebuhr).

The gospel stories make it clear that the Risen Jesus is not readily recognizable to any of those who knew him best. Something about the resurrected Jesus has changed; he is different from the friend we once knew. And yet, the wounds of his love remain the same—his crushed hands and feet, and his torn side. These wounds remain in his risen body.

Now Jesus returns to his friends. He has forgiven them. He has offered his "peace" three times in order to counter Peter's thrice denial. He is allowing these friends to be other than who he is. And he is infusing them with his breath—his Spirit.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Can I get one more Easter Amen?—*djl*



Guests fill the dining hall on Sunday, April 28th to celebrate the Podzamsky's 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Palm Sunday 2019



Brandon Michaels introduces the Palm Sunday Liturgy on April 14th, 2019.

Easter Sunday 2019



The trumpet, played by Sam Lauritsen, announced the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on April 21st, 2019.

Father's Day Prayer

*God our Father,
in your wisdom and love you made all things.
Bless these men,
that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*



Beginning in June

Sunday Morning Summer Worship
beginning June 23rd through
September 1st

Holy Communion at 9:15 a.m.

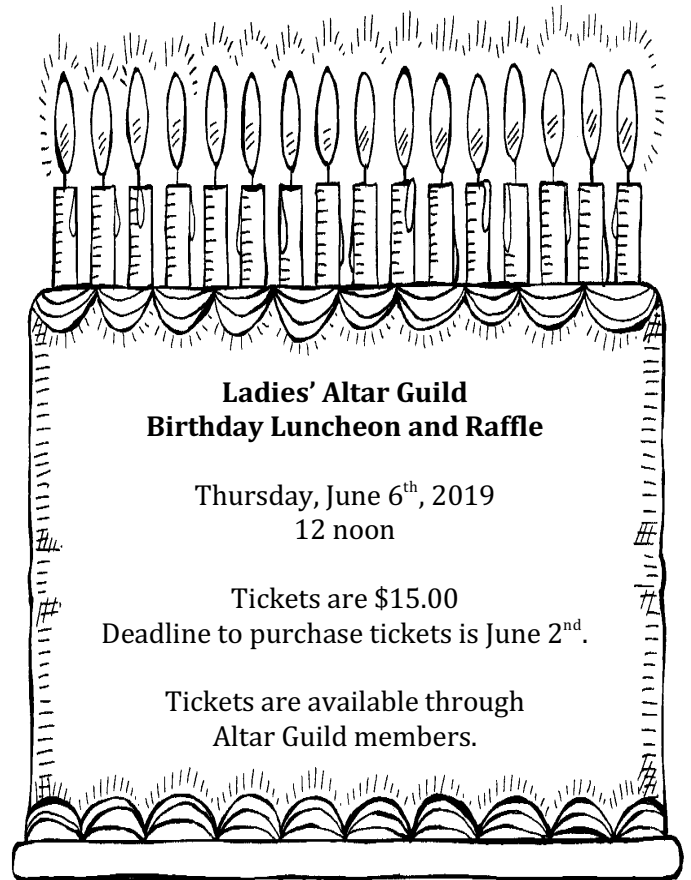
The regular Sunday morning worship,
education, and choir rehearsals schedule
will resume on Sunday, September 8th.

Memorial Flowers

May 5th: In memory of +Paul Predny+ on the anniversary of his death on April 15th.

May 12th: In memory of +Ramona Suffern+ on Mother's Day and the first anniversary of her passing on May 10th by remembering children Carla, Brian, and Carrie and their families.

In loving memory of brother +John Illo+ on the 90th anniversary of his birth by Helen Galdun and her family.



Ladies' Altar Guild Birthday Luncheon and Raffle

Thursday, June 6th, 2019
12 noon

Tickets are \$15.00
Deadline to purchase tickets is June 2nd.

Tickets are available through
Altar Guild members.

Congratulations, Graduates!

On Sunday, June 16th the congregation will remember in prayer and recognize those related to the congregation who are completing courses of study and graduating this spring from middle school, high school, trade school, college, graduate and professional schools. We would like to have a complete list of the names of our graduates, the schools from which they are graduating, and a little about their future plans—all of which could be included in the Sunday bulletins and the summer issue of the newsletter. Please contact Pastor Dennis or Karen Rouleau if you know of graduates and can provide some information about them. We also would hope that as many of our graduates as possible could be present at worship that Sunday.



Birthdays

June 2: Ann Kasper	June 20: Jessica Byrne
June 5: Peyton Murray	June 21: Lana Papadatos
June 6: Abby Tarbox	June 22: Jillian Collins
June 7: Paul Drahos	June 24: Johnathan Haase
Mary Sordel	Leo Quest
June 8: Linda Painter	June 25: Judith Cudecki
June 10: Betty Buffa	June 30: Rowan Smith
David McShane	
June 18: Krystyna Ritacco	

Anniversaries

June 6, 1983: Betty Ann Mocek and Adam Walker
 June 7, 2014: Ashish and Kristina Patel
 June 13, 1992: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
 June 16, 1984: Paul and Pat Gava
 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
 June 28, 1958: Ann and Frank Kmet

Happenings

Ladies Altar Guild Birthday Luncheon
 Thursday, June 6th, 12 noon

Voice and Piano Recital and Reception
 Sunday, June 9th, 2 p.m.

Appalachia Service Project Trip to Kentucky
 June 8th through June 15th

Congregation Council Meeting
 Thursday, June 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Students of Kevin McOlga Recital
 Sunday, June 30th, 1 p.m.

Overeaters Anonymous meets weekly on
 Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.
Co-Dependents Anonymous meets weekly on
 Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.
AA Big Book Study Group meets weekly on
 Saturday mornings at 11 a.m.
AA Group meets weekly on
 Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.

*All groups meet in the large classroom on the lower level
 (first classroom on the right off the dining hall).*

A Birthday Blessing

Blessed be the mind that dreamed the day
 The blueprint of your life
 Would begin to glow on earth,
 Illuminating all the faces and voices
 That would arrive to invite
 Your soul to growth.

Praised be your father and mother,
 Who loved you before you were,
 And trusted to call you here
 With no idea who you would be.

Blessed be those who have loved you
 Into becoming who you were meant to be,
 Blessed be those who have crossed your life
 With dark gifts of hurt and loss
 That have helped to school your mind
 In the art of disappointment.

When desolation surrounded you,
 Blessed be those who looked for you
 And found you, their kind hands
 Urgent to open a blue window
 In the gray wall formed around you.

Blessed be the gifts you never notice,
 Your health, eyes to behold the world,
 Thoughts to countenance the unknown,
 Memory to harvest vanished days,
 Your heart to feel the world's waves,
 Your breath to breathe the nourishment
 Of distance made intimate by earth.

On this echoing-day of your birth,
 May you open the gift of solitude
 In order to receive your soul;
 Enter the generosity of silence
 To hear your hidden heart;
 Know the serenity of stillness
 To be enfolded anew
 By the miracle of your being.

—John O'Donohue



Directory Changes. . .

Tom and Lavinia Myers
Dot Myers
1529 Robinhood Lane
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

David and Jenny McShane and Family
3218 Town Avenue
New Port Richey, FL 34655-2165

Memorials and Honorariums

✠ For the Church ✠

Jim and Iveta Boyanchek
Betty Jane Licko-Keel, in memory of husband +William Jerry Keel+, mother, +Marie Ličko+, friend +Shirley Traznik Forsberg+, and friend's cousin +Dorothy Studnička Erickson+.
“Legends of the Game” Volleyball Group
Joe and Carol Ruiz, in memory of parents +Dr. Paul+ and +Vera Kubala+ and +Carlos+ and +Edith Caribe Ruiz+, and godparents +John+ and +Molly Holub+.

✠ In Honor of Steve and Beverly Podzamsky's 70th Wedding Anniversary ✠

Alan and Audrey Brandys, in honor of parents
Lois Michaels
Vera Borysek
Annette Kozik
Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
John and Janet Broussard
Mildred Mendel
Frank and Ann Kmet



We receive thanks. . .

Dear Members of Sts. Peter and Paul Congregation,

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the service for my husband, Fred Tornil, and also for the cards and memorial gifts.

In Jesus' Name.

Love,
Rose

April 2019
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4/7	\$3,675.00
4/14	\$3,214.00
4/21	\$1,779.00
4/28	\$2,287.00

Stewardship Is. . .

by Lawrence G. Piper

Many of us probably think that church stewardship only means financial support of the church. This is unfortunate because that is only one aspect of God's call to us to be faithful stewards. When God created us to be stewards over creation, that is, caretakers of all that God had created, surely more was intended than this.

Most Christians would say that the essence of Christianity is summed up in the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:26-28). Both of these commandments are, in essence, calls to stewardship. Love of God and love of neighbor requires loving all creation, including other people, that is, your neighbors.

How can you say you love creation unless you are concerned for its welfare? Similarly, how can you say you love your neighbor if you are unconcerned about the welfare of other people? Being concerned about the welfare of creation (i.e., plants, animals, rivers, trees, air, etc.) and the welfare of other people requires active stewardship. In order to call ourselves Christians, therefore, we must embrace stewardship. It is the only way we can remain faithful to our calling.

Active stewardship has many facets, but only three fundamental components, the three Ts: time, talent and treasure. We must integrate all three components into our actions to be effective. Take away just one component and we become as useless as a three-legged stool which has one leg broken.

Each of us has our individual set of gifts (talents), and it is appropriate for us to use these gifts (i.e., contribute our time) where they are of greatest service. Stewardship, or taking care of creation, is after all, a form of service. Within the family of believers, whatever we do can and should become an act of stewardship. For some, it will be involvement in mission projects abroad; for others, missions at home. Some choose to nurture the continuity of believers through Christian education. Some lift people's spirits and facilitate their connection with our Creator through music and prayer. Even the simple act of gathering with other believers for social activities, a form of support for one's community, is an act of stewardship. Thus, stewardship is both local and global outreach; stewardship is education and worship; stewardship is visiting, caring and sharing. Whatever we do in the church should be undertaken intentionally as an act of stewardship.

While good stewardship necessarily involves our liberal offerings of time and talent, it must also necessarily involve our liberal financial support for the institution of the church and its missions. No one can be a faithful steward in a vacuum. Without the church (i.e., the fellowship of believers) to provide spiritual support for our efforts and to multiply our individual contributions to a greater whole, all our individual efforts become vain. The church cannot be sustained by only our time and talents, our treasures are also required. Think once more about the utility of a three-legged stool with only two good legs. Stewardship lacking in one of the three primary ingredients is similarly useless. Every one of us must necessarily participate in all three facets of good stewardship. Doing so is, after all, the great commandment from God as passed to us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—submitted by Charles Matthies

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS



A Poem for Good Shepherd Sunday The Fourth Sunday of Easter

There is a place we can find, a good place
like quiet meadows where flowers spread,
like green grasses by gentle streams;
a place where the heart feels nourished,
where the mind is hopeful, unhurried,
where the spirit is glad and at peace.
We'll name this place fulfillment,
we'll name it healing and thankfulness,
we'll name this good place pasture
for there we seek to feed.

And there is a voice we can hear that calls us,
a gentle voice, melodious,
a voice like songbirds and laughter,
like a mother comforting her children,
like a shepherd calling his sheep.
We'll name this voice acceptance,
we'll name it mercy and forgiveness,
we'll name it the voice of God's love,
inviting us gently to feed.

It invites us to enter pasture
when we think we're too hurting to listen,
too angry or grieving or fearful
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It invites us to enter pasture
when we're sure we're too busy to listen,
too burdened or worried or pressured
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It says: Come in and go out and find pasture.
It says: We are safe with the shepherd of all sheep.
It says: Meadows await us, in this moment.
It says: Rest in love. Where you are. Joyfully feed.

—lectionary poet Andrew King

June 2nd:

Greeters:	Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Acolyte:	Bryan Galdun
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Comm. Minister:	Brandon Michaels
Lectors:	Tom and Vicki Michaels
Ushers:	Janet Broussard and Gregg Valek

June 9th:

Greeters:	John and Janet Broussard
Acolyte:	George Valek
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister:	Martin Pennino
Lectors:	Claire Watkiss and Isabella Myers
Ushers:	Fred Kuzel and Gregg Valek

June 16th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte:	Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister:	Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister:	Tom Myers
Lectors:	Keith Altavilla and Dale Hawes
Ushers:	John Kostelny and Walter Cudecki

June 23th:

Greeters:	Carl Busch and Carole Polliltz
Acolyte:	Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister:	Kathy Ganschow
Lectors:	J. T. and Beverly Tarbox
Ushers:	Gregg Valek and Paul Watkiss

June 30th:

Greeters:	Donald and Elaine Haase
Acolyte:	Ben Myers
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister:	Beverly Tarbox
Lectors:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Ushers:	Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

Sacristan and Altar Care

Ruth Bakalich on June 2nd, 23rd and 30th
(Volunteers needed for remaining June dates.)
and Esther Meksto



JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

July 7th:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel and Charles Matthies
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Walter Cudecki

July 14th:

Greeters: Karyn Bute and Sandy Garvey
Acolyte: Sebastian Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Comm. Minister: Tom Michaels
Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
Ushers: Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

July 21st:

Greeters: John and Juanita and Cristina Jakubec
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Comm. Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Kristine Boike and Charles Matthies
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Paul Watkiss

July 28th:

Acolyte: Bryan Galdun
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Comm. Minister: Martin Pennino
Lectors: Tom and Vicki Michaels
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Dale Hawes

Sacristan and Altar Care

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

Worship Servers Please Note...

...that if you are unable to keep your scheduled date, please arrange for a replacement and call the church office with the change. Thank you!



Coffee Hour Hosts are
Welcome!



A sign-up page is now available at the west entrance to the dining hall for hosting Sunday morning coffee hours. Hands-on orientation for hosting these events will be provided by Janet Broussard, Ann Head or Sue Skudrna. Please speak with any of the three for further information.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVERS

August 4th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Acolyte: Sebastian Myers
Assisting Minister: Tom Michaels
Comm. Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Joanne Sefara and Jane Lauritsen
Ushers: Janet Broussard and Edward Sefara

August 11th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Acolyte: Ben Myers
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Comm. Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Robert Melnyk and Katie Melnyk
Ushers: Gregg Valek and Walter Cudecki

August 18th:

Greeters: Karen Kubik and Larry Crachy
Acolyte: Aidan Altavilla
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Comm. Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: George Valek and John Broussard
Ushers: Donald Haase and Johnathan Haase

August 25th:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Acolyte: Abby Tarbox
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Comm. Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: Claire Watkiss and Isabella Myers
Ushers: Gregg Valek and John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care

Ruth Bakalich



We are in need of congregation members and friends to serve as acolytes, ushers and Communion ministers. If interested, please speak with Pastor Dennis or a member of the Worship and Music Committee.



Coming Soon...

Outdoor Worship
on a Sunday in July!

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DATED MATERIAL

Music

by Anne Porter

When I was a child
I once sat sobbing on the floor
Beside my mother's piano
As she played and sang
For there was in her singing
A shy yet solemn glory
My smallness could not hold

And when I was asked
Why I was crying
I had no words for it
I only shook my head
And went on crying

Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country

I've never understood
Why this is so

But there's an ancient legend
From the other side of the world
That gives away the secret
Of this mysterious sorrow

For centuries on centuries
We have been wandering
But we were made for Paradise
As deer for the forest

And when music comes to us
With its heavenly beauty
It brings us desolation
For when we hear it
We half remember
That lost native country

We dimly remember the fields
Their fragrant windswept clover
The birdsongs in the orchards
The wild white violets in the moss
By the transparent streams

And shining at the heart of it
Is the longed-for beauty
Of the One who waits for us
Who will always wait for us
In those radiant meadows

Yet also came to live with us
And wanders where we wander.

—by Anne Porter, from *Living Things: Collected Poems*

An electronic copy of this newsletter is
posted at our website and can be accessed
by clicking on the limestone church:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.



Voice and Piano Recital and Reception

Students of Jane Hinlicky Lauritsen will present
a Spring Recital on Sunday, June 9th
in the sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

A reception will follow in the dining hall.

Fall Fest Rummage and Bake Sale October 12th, 2019

Donations are being accepted for the Annual Fall Fest Rummage and Bake Sale. These items need to be clean and in good working condition; and we kindly ask that no clothing, computers, TVs, or software be donated. Items may be brought to the church on Sunday mornings or during the week when the church office is open. A classroom in the lower hallway is posted for donations. For more information, or if you have questions, please contact Vera Borysek at (708) 562-2307.