



# 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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*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.*

## "A Shoot Shall Come Out from the Stump..."



For our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in the summer of 2011, Jane gave us this Japanese maple tree which had a rather troubled beginning on the parsonage grounds. After digging a few inches into the soil where it was to be planted, I realized that the area near the south parking lot, like much of the church grounds, is filled with construction debris left 63 years ago when the church facility was completed—not a great location to plant a tree, I supposed, but where

else, I wondered?

With lots of watering during that first summer, the little maple began to take root. However, early that autumn, a deer evidently came sauntering by in the middle of the night from the nearby DesPlaines River and, apparently just for the fun of it (because he didn't eat any of the tree), sheared off the sapling about a foot above the ground, leaving the entire top of the tree drooping on the Maplewood Road parkway.

I made a clean, angled cut just below the splintered trunk and inches above the ground, then waited for the following spring, hoping to see new shoots sprouting from the stump. But there was nothing well into the summer of 2012 which, you may remember, was extremely hot and dry throughout June and July (three weeks with highs above 100 degrees after July 4<sup>th</sup>). Finally, after giving up hope for any possible sign of life, Jane and I agreed to cut the stump to the ground so that the mowers would not have to go around it.

Then came the August rains and cooler temperatures. One cloudy afternoon, Jane noticed something in the bluegrass that she took to be a dandelion; but no, to our joy and delight, the scrappy, little maple tree still had life in its roots well beneath the surface of the ground, gnarled around the debris, and now was beginning to

sprout a year after it was planted in the rubble and left in ruins.

Here is a photo of the tree today, over 9 years later. This was the first autumn that the Japanese maple has shown it's brilliant colors. I take it to be a parable of the times. When it seems that history, as we have experienced a brief span of it, is being sheared off in the middle, there is promise for something alive and new just beneath the surface of the present moment.

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his root (Isaiah 11:1). —djl*



*For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water...  
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).*

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.  
for live streaming of the liturgy  
accessed through the website at  
[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org) .  
Recordings of the services are uploaded to  
the same site for viewing at a later date.  
E-worship folders are also available  
at the website.**



**Christmas Worship**  
 schedule to be announced  
 contingent upon the current and future  
 virus suppression efforts.



Please watch for email notices  
 and regularly visit the  
 congregational website at  
[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
 for these announcements.

## Parking Lot Reconstruction Project Completed in November



*Replacement of the west and south parking lots at St. Peter and Paul began on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Here the old asphalt has been removed and the limestone bed has been put in place for the new asphalt. Other repairs were also made to the lot with seal-coating and striping of all three lots scheduled to happen in the spring.*



*Thank you so very much to everyone who has given and continues to contribute special offerings for this and other major improvements to the facilities and grounds of the congregation. —djl*

## News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We will be busy in December making gifts and projects. It is a busy but joyful month in the Preschool.

Merry Christmas!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

## DECEMBER

Dec. 1: Ludmilla Kovalsky	Dec. 14: Ruth Bakalich
Dec. 2: Elaine Haase	Audrey Bucz
Dec. 3: Lavinia Myers	Ann Pennino
Dec. 4: Eric Kostelny	Dec. 15: Steven Waldman
Dec. 5: Carrie Boike	Dec. 16: Robert Barcik
Walter Cudecki	Steven Melka
Ann Head	Nickolas Ritacco
Dec. 6: Fred Kuzel	Dec. 17: Ann Kmet
Dec. 8: Miloslava Blahut	Mary Jo Meyers
Dec. 10: Edward Sefara	Dec. 19: Martin Tornil
Dec. 11: Kristian Kubo	Dec. 26: Shirley Kostelny
Claire Watkiss	Mary Sasuta
Dec. 12: Betty Force	Dec. 27: Steven Mendel
Dec. 13: Caden Blaha	Dec. 28: Walter Kessler
Vera Borysek	Dec. 29: Darina Miko
	Dec. 31: Grace Tapak

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 4, 2004: Lee and Emily Drahos  
 December 28, 2002: Gerald and Beverly Tarbox

## Happenings

**Congregation Council Meeting**  
 Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

## Memorial Flowers

*Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ on the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing by remembering children and grandchildren.

In loving memory of dear husband +Edward Meksto+ on the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our marriage on October 23<sup>rd</sup> by remembering wife Esther.

*Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>:* In memory of father, grandfather and great-grandfather +Michael Riban+ on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Michael Riban, Jr. and family.

*Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>:* In memory of loving father and grandfather +William Boor+ on the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his birth today by remembering sons William R. and Richard T. and his family.

In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

### December 6<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### December 13<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Tom Michaels  
Usher: John Kostelny

### December 20<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Carole Pollitz and Carl Bush  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Joanne Sefara  
Usher: Edward Sefara

### Christmas Eve:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Beverly Tarbox  
Usher: Fred Kuzel and John Kostelny

### Christmas Day:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### December 27<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Karyn Bute  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: Jane Lauritsen  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

#### A Reminder...

If you cannot participate as a worship leader on your assigned date, please contact one of the other leaders to switch dates and/or replace you. In addition, please contact the church office with the update so the bulletin is correct.

Also, if you are not planning to attend worship services for the time being due to COVID-19 virus concerns, please find a replacement as noted above and contact the church office so the bulletin is correct and your name can be removed from the scheduling list during this time.

*Pastor Dennis, Karen Rouleau, David Richards and the members of the Congregation Council of Sts. Peter and Paul wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a joyous, peaceful, and healthy New Year.*



## JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

### January 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Brandon Michaels  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### January 10<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Joanne Sefara  
Usher: John Kostelny

### January 17<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Carrie Watkiss  
Usher: John Kostelny

### January 24<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: George Valek  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### January 31<sup>st</sup>:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz and Carl Busch  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: John Kostelny  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel

## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother +Mary Riban+ on the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and family.

### October 2020

#### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00

Date	Offering
10/4	\$1,073.00
10/11	\$1,443.00
10/18	\$2,741.00
10/25	\$1,277.00

*Pastor Dennis, Karen Rouleau, David Richards and the members of the Congregation Council of Sts. Peter and Paul wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a joyous, peaceful, and healthy New Year.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Road  
Riverside, IL 60546

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## DATED MATERIAL

### Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

*Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator  
Presbyterian Church of Canada*

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

—submitted by Pastor Marge Vander Wagen  
of St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Blue Island

### December Announcements

- ★ Offering envelopes for 2021 will be ready for pick up on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup> in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall for those attending in-person worship. Envelopes will also be delivered directly to your home before the new year since most our households will not be able to pick up the envelopes due to virus restrictions. If you or your relatives would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.
- ★ Financial donations made to the congregation must be received in the church office no later than December 30<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement.
- ★ A reminder to the congregation, especially during the months of winter weather, that complimentary cab service is available on Sunday mornings for rides to and from worship services. Please contact Blue Village Cab Company at (708) 583-6900 as early as possible to make arrangements for pick up. When arranging your pick-up, please remind the dispatcher that the ride is to be billed to account number #101755.
- ★ If you will be leaving the Chicago area during the winter months for warmer climates, please notify the church office before then so the monthly newsletter can be forwarded to your temporary residence or cancelled until you return. The congregation incurs a fee for each newsletter that is undeliverable; stopped mail delivery to your permanent residence is considered “undeliverable” and returned to the church for a fee. Thank you for your assistance.

If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the dining hall beginning Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17. The deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.



*Burning bush and cleared vegetable gardens adorn the church grounds in early November.*

*Give us courage, O God, to face the fears and insecurities with which we build walls between ourselves and others. Give us the wisdom and patience to work at better understanding the people whom you surround us with. Let our words and actions incarnate your love.*



*Glory to God in the Highest by He Qi.*