

# 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.*

## Prayer for a Pandemic World

By Rev. Dr. Robert D. Nicholson

God of these days of pandemic, isolation and anxiety, and God of my heart and my life. So much has happened to me in these last few months, these last few weeks, these last few hours, a kind of whirlwind of change, challenge, love expressed, and the pain of isolation felt.

I've known death and birth. I've been brave and scared. I've been hurt and helped. I have been socially distant with people and I have been lonely. I have decided, I have waffled. I have laughed and I have cried. You have searched me and known me. You know my heart and my past.

Now it is time to look to a new day, a new chapter.

Help me, help us, as a community of faith, to believe in new beginnings of peace for the frightened and comfort and peace for victims and their families of our fellow country folk who are dying daily... [Be near] our hearts and minds, and hands and voices as we pray for:

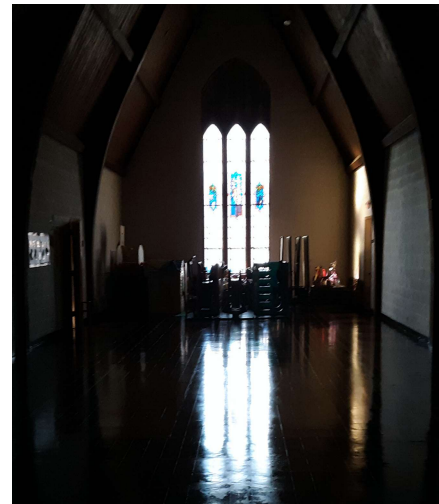
- For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.
- For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.
- For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.
- For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or safety at work or school. We pray for policies that recognize their plight.
- For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
- For public officials and decision makers, from the White House to the County Court House.

O Loving Father, your grace is sufficient in every need, in every place and every time. Your power has seen me and seen our beloved community through challenging circumstances before. Be with me and be with us now. May our days ahead, be rooted in a faith we hold and a faith that holds us, in the joy of believing, thinking, imagining, serving, visioning and loving. Your love will not let us go, and nothing can separate us from that love.

We pray for wisdom and guidance during this time. May our Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

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

## Facility Improvements During Closure



Thank you to so many people who have continued to maintain and make improvements to the church facility during the building closure, including the following upgrades: Replacement of broken and worn floor tiles on the lower level; remodeling and refurbishing of the women's and men's restrooms on the lower level near the dining hall (including new paint, vanity, fixtures, and light fixtures, etc.); repair of windows in the kitchen, preschool, stage and basement (with more to be done); the entire dining area, large hallway, and adjacent floors were stripped, washed and polished (with several coats!); the gym floor was washed and polished; the sanctuary and other areas, as well as worship books, pews, walls, fixtures, and furnishings were sanitized and disinfected; the exterior ground and statue lights have been and are being repaired; the aquarium was cleaned and maintained; the sanctuary fans were repaired and serviced; the west parking lot door handle and lock were repaired; a clean-up of storage areas and disposal of numerous unusable items was completed with more to come.

We want to thank especially Rafael Martinez (who coordinated the work crews and contributed much of the floor labor), Vera Borysek, Paul Watkiss, John Broussard, John Kostelny, Eric Kostelny, Carole Pollitz, Fred Kuzel, Carl Busch, Tom Michaels, and Bill Boor. Please let us know if we have missed anyone!

## From the Diocese of Sioux City Catholic Schools

*Back to school this year is ideal for NO ONE.*

*Not for teachers.*

*Not for parents.*

*Not for students.*

*Hybrid is not ideal.*

*Virtual is not ideal.*

*Face-to-face in the midst of a pandemic is not ideal.*

*For every student who is anxious to get back to the classroom there is another who has anxiety about returning.*

*For every parent who wonders,*

*“How am I going to manage this?”*

*There is a teacher wondering,*

*“How am I going to manage this?”*

*Often, a person wears both titles.*

*For every kindergarten parent who is sad that this is how their child will begin their education, there is a parent of a senior who is bummed that this is how their child will end theirs.*

*For every person angry about their child having to wear a mask, there is a person who is petrified their immune compromised family member will get ill.*

*Life has thrown us a huge curve ball.*

*A plot twist if you will.*

*It will not be easy.*

*We will be challenged.*

*We will get frustrated.*

*Let's hope we rise to the occasion.*

*Let's hope we help one another.*

*We will all need help.*

*Let's hope we treat each other with grace.*

*We will all need grace.*

*Let's hope we realize that at the end of the day, our kids need us to be the light.*

*Set the tone.*

*See the good.*

*Take a really unfortunate situation and do our best to make it okay.*

*For them.*

*For us.*

*God bless our families, students and teachers!!!*



Oct. 1	Katherine Melnyk	Oct. 18	Jonathon Meyers
Oct. 2	Jason Skudrna	Oct. 19	Michael Vercimak
Oct. 3	Karen Kubik		Janina Yezo
Oct. 5	William Bute	Oct. 21	Steve Podzamsky
Oct. 8	Janice Hapgood	Oct. 22	Saundra Spilotro
Oct. 9	Matthew Bute	Oct. 23	Helena Galdun
Oct. 11	Charles Langsett		Tanya Jech
	Olivia Lauritsen	Oct. 24	Kathy Ganschow
Oct. 13	Robert Nowak	Oct. 28	George Pagurko
Oct. 16	Robert Melnyk	Oct. 29	Helen Gaydusek
	Mildred Mendel	Oct. 30	Donald Haase
	Earl Mika, Jr.	Oct. 31	Betty Ann Mocek
Oct. 17	Aidan Altavilla		
	Bryan Galdun		

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

October 1, 1988: Kenneth and Joyce Hurbanis

October 6, 2001: Janet and John Broussard

October 6, 1962: Edward and Joanne Sefara

October 10, 1964: Robert and Julie Barcik

October 15, 1988: John and Juanita Jakubec

### Happenings

#### Congregation Council Meeting

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.



### Congregational Directory Additions and Changes

Ann Head

2521 Mayfair Drive

Owensboro, KY 42301

### From Lutheran World Relief

Dear Dennis,

Over the past three years, whether thru a one-time gift or whether thru regular giving, your congregation has been one of the top giving congregations in serving the poor through Lutheran World Relief. As I said in my note which I hope you received, I would love to hear more about you and to learn more about the mission of your congregation... Thank you for all that you do in your ministry setting to bring God's love into the world.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dave Wangaard

Lutheran World Relief



### St. Francis of Assisi, October 4<sup>th</sup>

*It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching. ...As for me, I desire this privilege from the Lord, that never may I have any privilege from man, except to do reverence to all, and to convert the world by obedience to the Holy Rule rather by example than by word. Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words.—St. Francis*

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

October will be filled with Fall and Halloween projects as we celebrate the month. Sure to be a ghost of a time!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

## Vulnerability

*A poem by David Whyte*

“Vulnerability is not a weakness, a passing indisposition, or something we can arrange to do without, vulnerability is not a choice, vulnerability is the underlying, ever present and abiding undercurrent of our natural state. To run from vulnerability is to run from the essence of our nature, the attempt to be invulnerable is the vain attempt to become something we are not and most especially, to close off our understanding of the grief of others. More seriously, in refusing our vulnerability we refuse the help needed at every turn of our existence and immobilize the essential, tidal and conversational foundations of our identity.

“To have a temporary, isolated sense of power over all events and circumstances, is a lovely illusionary privilege and perhaps the prime and most beautifully constructed conceit of being human and especially of being youthfully human, but it is a privilege that must be surrendered with that same youth, with ill health, with accident, with the loss of loved ones who do not share our untouchable powers; powers eventually and most emphatically given up, as we approach our last breath.

“The only choice we have as we mature is how we inhabit our vulnerability, how we become larger and more courageous and more compassionate through our intimacy with disappearance, our choice is to inhabit vulnerability as generous citizens of loss, robustly and fully, or conversely, as misers and complainers, reluctant and fearful, always at the gates of existence, but never bravely and completely attempting to enter, never wanting to risk ourselves, never walking fully through the door.”

## Memorial Flowers

*Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>:* In loving memory of beloved parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents +John+ and +Zuzanna Kubecka+ by remembering son Paul and daughter Ann Borsuk and her family.

*Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>:* In loving memory of husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Alfred Kovalsky+ on the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on September 3<sup>rd</sup> by remembering wife Luddy, son Bill, daughter Linda, and their families.

*Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of +Katherine Predny+ on the anniversary of her death on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

Charles Matthies, in memory of parents +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies’ anniversary (*Special Appeal*).

George, Joy and Pamela Hodul, in honor of Anne Gavac’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Wayne Rauschenberg, in memory of Richard, Marie and Allen Rasuchenberg.

Mark and Liz Rouck

In memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, granddaughter Adrienna Gana

## OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

### October 4<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: Brandon Michaels  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### October 11<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: John Broussard  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### October 18<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: No greeters assigned.  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Charles Matthies  
Usher: John Kostelny

### October 25<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel and Charles Matthies  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Matt Decosola  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

**Sacristan and Altar Care:** Janice Hapgood

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

### November 1<sup>st</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Jane Lauritsen  
Usher: John Kostelny

### November 8<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Sandy Garvey and Ann Kmet  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: George Valek  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### November 15<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Carrie Watkiss  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### November 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Greeters: Carole Pollitz and Carl Busch  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: John Broussard  
Usher: Matt Decosola

### Thanksgiving Day, November 26<sup>th</sup>:

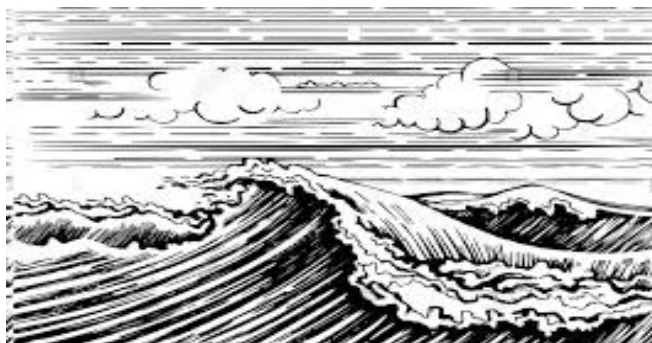
Greeter: Fred Kuzel  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: John Kostelny  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

### November 29<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Robert Melnyk  
Usher: John Kostelny

**Sacristan and Altar Care:** Matt Decosola

DATED MATERIAL



Some of the mystics have compared humans beings to waves upon an ocean which is God. Sometimes, when we hit bottom, when we quit thrashing about and let down, that is precisely where we learn to “fear no evil,” where we discover, maybe for the first time in our lives, the ocean which is God.—*djl*



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening.

**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.



**The Lesson**

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathering them around him, he taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are the meek.  
Blessed are they who mourn.  
Blessed are they who thirst for justice.  
Blessed are you when persecuted.  
Blessed are you when you suffer.  
Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great.

Then Simon Peter said,  
“Do we have to write this down?”  
and Andrew said,  
“Do we have to turn it in?”  
and James said,  
“Does spelling count?”  
and Phillip said,  
“Will this be on the test?”  
and Bartholomew said,  
“What if we don't know it?”  
and John said,  
“The other disciples didn't have to learn this!”  
and Matthew said,  
“When do we get out of here?”  
and Judas said,  
“What does this have to do with real life?”

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan and inquired of Jesus his terminal objectives in the cognitive domain.

And Jesus wept.

