

# 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](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

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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.*



Seeds in the Wind. Source unknown.

## Images of the Season for Summer

Summertime. Perhaps you can hardly say the word without hearing, somewhere in the back of your mind, an earthy soprano voice singing the words from George Gershwin's opera, *Porgy and Bess*, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." That's what summer is about—taking it easy. Schools close down, factories slow production, offices work with skeleton staffs. It's time for vacation, time to relax, ease up, sleep in, chill out. It is vacation time, whatever that may mean. For some it's travel—mountains or shore, down the road or over the sea. For some it's a hammock in the backyard. It may be catching up with the weeds in the garden or the novels you've been meaning to read. It may be swimming lessons or soccer camp or hot dogs on the grill or just sitting in the sun.

Most of all, summertime is about living. It's about having time, time for yourself, time to do what's important. Vacation doesn't require travel or equipment or expense. It only requires a sense of priorities. What's important to you? What makes you who you are? The answers

to those questions will tell you how to make yourself new, how to renew yourself. And another word for that is re-creation—recreation. Vacation is about renewal, whatever that means for you.

For the church summer often means vacation, too, in the traditional sense. It can be a time of low attendance, low activity, low energy. Often it means that summer is when nothing much happens. It is simply a holding pattern, waiting until September when the real business of living will resume. But if vacation is indeed about living, then the same should be true for the church. Summer is for re-creation here, too.

Summer worship should provide an opportunity for renewal, but that does not necessarily mean that it should be easy-going or unchallenging. Our theological understanding of Sunday is that it is not only a day of rest but also, and indeed primarily, a day of worship. During the summer as throughout the year we come to church not to escape from the world but to enter into relationship with it more fully. Our worship should be asking the same questions about priorities that shape what we do with our vacation time. What matters most to us as Christians? What makes us who we are? How do we live in a way that gives us joy and fulfillment?

All of us need re-creation. Summer worship is a chance to discover what that means. Traditionally the readings for the Sundays after Pentecost have focused on the nature of faith and the Christian life. While that might seem demanding for a summer Sunday, it is in fact exactly what summer is about: living.

Social scientists and economists tell us that the pattern of vacationing for U.S. workers has changed in recent years. The customary two weeks away in mid-summer is less and less common, replaced by more frequent but briefer breaks spread throughout the year. But whether we are on vacation or not, the longer days and warmer weather continue to make summer a season that is slower and more relaxed. The images of renewal and recreation remain appropriate for worship in these summer months, but those images also point to the need to carry them into the other seasons as well. One of the tasks of the church, carried out in worship and in learning, is to equip the saints for ministry. Just as vacation sends us back to our daily tasks reenergized, so worship sends us out to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, and speak God's word of love.

Summertime. It's about relaxing, growing, believing, serving. Mostly, it's about living.

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Celtic Triskelion: Sometimes used as a symbol of the Holy Trinity.

## June

- |          |                  |          |                 |
|----------|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| June 2:  | Ann Kasper       | June 20: | Jessica Barajas |
| June 5:  | Peyton Murray    |          | Clare Ruska     |
| June 6:  | Abby Tarbox      | June 21: | Lana Papadatos  |
| June 7:  | Paul Drahos      | June 22: | Jillian Collins |
|          | Mary Sordel      | June 24: | Johnathan Haase |
| 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 Gavac              |
| 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              |

### From the Parish Register

#### Passages:

Brian Bakalich, husband of Sandy, father of Alexandra and Rachel, son of Ruth and the late Larry, and brother of Bruce and Craig, passed from this life on May 5<sup>th</sup> and was buried from St. Louise DeMarillac Church on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Interment was at Queen of Heaven.

#### Marriage:

Ekatarina Melnyk and Nicholas Riha were united in marriage on May 28<sup>th</sup> at Sts. Peter and Paul. Ekatarina is the daughter of Robert Melnyk and Carol Melnyk. Nicholas is the son of Deanna and the late John Riha. Maid of Honor and Best Man were Mary Somerfield and Daniel Gaede.

### 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.

"Music" by Anne Porter from *Living Things: Collected Poems*.

## The Last Wishes of Alexander the Great

It is said that, as he was dying, Alexander the Great summoned his most trusted advisors, then he told them his three final wishes. First, he wanted the best doctors in the land to carry his coffin. Second, he requested that all of his accumulated wealth, including money, gold and precious stones should be scattered along the funeral procession to the cemetery. And third, he asked that his hands should be loose and hanging outside the coffin for everyone to see.

Alexander's advisors were stunned by his unusually strange requests and asked that he explain. He is supposed to have replied, "I want the best doctors to carry my coffin in order to show that in the face of death, even the finest doctors in the world have no power to heal. I want the road to be strewn with my wealth so that everyone sees that material wealth will be left behind. And finally, I want my hands to swing in the wind so that people understand that we come to this world empty-handed and we leave this world empty-handed after the most precious treasure of time is exhausted."



*Redbud Spire, April, 2016.  
Photo by Jane Lauritsen*

## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

Vera Borysek, in memory of dear parents +Samko+ and +Jolana Babiar+ (*for the west parking lot door*).  
Ladies Altar Guild (*for the west parking lot door*).  
Mildred Mendel, in memory of +Sheryl Hallmann+.  
Robert and Donna Tuider, in memory of +Sheryl Hallmann+.  
Steve and Beverly Podzamsky, in celebration of their 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Dale and Sue Renville, in celebration of parents Steve and Beverly Podzamsky's 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.  
Dennis and Diana McGee, in celebration of parents Steve and Beverly Podzamsky's 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

## Memorial and Honorariums (continued)

### ❖ In Memory of Richard J. Hurbanis ❖

Ruth Hurbanis, in memory of dear husband.  
Kenneth and Joyce Hurbanis, in memory of father.  
Kevin and Julie Hurbanis, in memory of father.

Paula Hurbanis Leaf, in memory of cousin.

Tom and Vicki Michaels  
John and Shirley Kostelný  
Susan Hassel and Family  
Suzanna Skudrna  
Ron and Carmen Silva  
Matt Chadesh  
Ken and Gemma Wisz  
Mel Lozen and Dee Gozdiak  
Diane Para and Arthur Cruasdale  
Lino and Michelle Cozzzone  
Maria Sowa  
Paul and Sue Baunstank  
Chuck Zdenovec  
Nino and Judy Gentile  
Fred and Harriet Stock  
Ralph and Sue Householder  
The Rinehart Family  
Joe and Chris McDowell  
Alexander Schuman, Jr.  
The Setlak Family  
Larry and Sandi Gworek  
Bob and Cathy Kmoch  
Ted and Gladys Adams  
Bonnie Bottini and Brian  
Gary and Jen Strzelczyk  
The Rosso Family and Grandma Jean  
Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Czechoslovak Geneological Society  
Ronald and Patricia Kaley  
Robert and Donna Tuider  
Robert and Ann Hurbanis  
Saundra and Peter Spilotro  
Anne Gavac  
William Boor  
Martin and Ann Pennino  
George and Joy Hodul  
John and Janet Broussard  
Ann Vana  
Charles Matthies

### ❖ In Memory of Brian Bakalich ❖

Mildred Mendel  
Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Steve and Beverly Podzamsky  
John and Janet Broussard  
Saundra and Peter Spilotro



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DATED MATERIAL

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**New Book on Slovakia**  
by One of Our Members

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

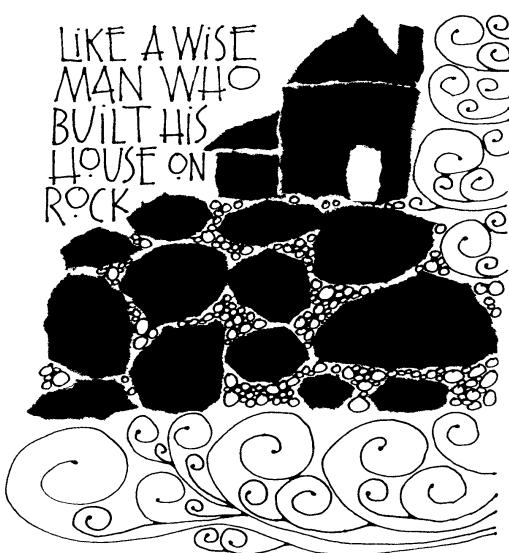
Dear Jane and Dennis,

Very warm greetings from very far-off Tokyo! I hope you've been as well as can be unexpected, given what this past year has dumped on us. I have to say, Japan is a good place to sit out a pandemic... everyone wears a mask, but the regulations are pretty relaxed (as long as you don't count the closed borders, that is). Zeke has been in school this whole year and my church has been closed for only four months total since March 2020.

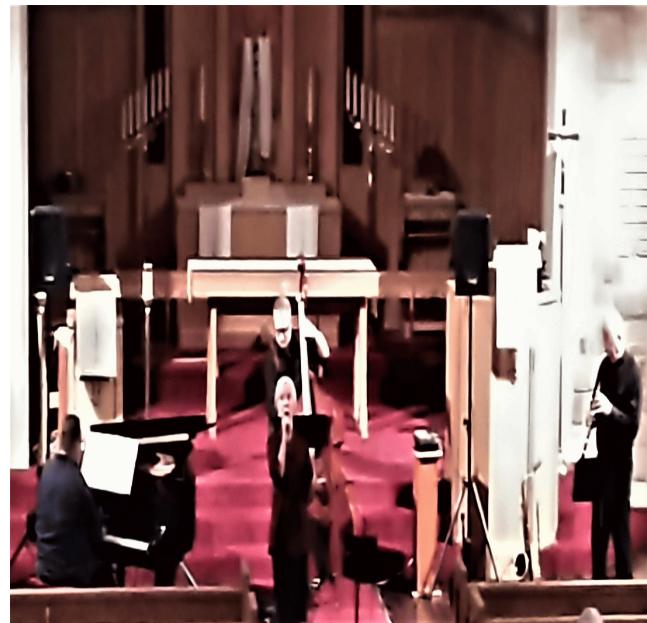
Anyway, in other news, tomorrow (St. George's Day!) my new book is coming out, *I Am a Brave Bridge: An American Girl's Hilarious and Heartbreaking Year in the Fledgling Republic of Slovakia*. It tells the tale of the family's first year in Slovakia in 1993-94, with a lot of overt romantic silliness and a lot of subtle theological and spiritual learning... so maybe the congregation of Sts. Peter and Paul would enjoy it...!

Also, as you've no doubt figured out by now, our trip home to visit sponsor congregations has once again been nixed, so we won't be dropping in this summer... maybe next year?! I think we all have learned how little we know about the future...

Lots of love to you both,  
Sarah



MATTHEW 7:24



Jazz vocalist Terry Sullivan performs with musicians at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. From left to right: Tom Muellner, piano; Rob Kassinger, bass; Terry Sullivan; and Bill Overton, reeds.

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**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*

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## Memorial Flowers

April 25<sup>th</sup>: In celebration of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Steve and Beverly Podzamsky on April 23<sup>rd</sup> by their loving family.

May 9<sup>th</sup>: In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Walter and Judith Cudecki on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

In memory of dear mother +Betty Zittman+ on Mother's Day by remembering family Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.

June 6<sup>th</sup>: In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ladies Altar Guild of Sts. Peter and Paul which was founded on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1921.

In celebration of Mary Sordel's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

In loving memory of dear father +Clarence Triska+ on the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing by remembering children Jim, Carol, and Jeff and Lisa Triska.



## Our New Council Members and Officers

The officers and members of the Congregation Council for this year are as follows: Brandon Michaels (President), John Broussard (Vice-President), Fred Kuzel (Secretary), William Boor (Treasurer), Charles Matthies (Financial Secretary), Juanita Jakubec, Linda McShane, Beverly Tarbox and Carrie Watkiss. Thanks to these elected leaders for the service they offer to our congregation.

## Directory Changes...

Robert and Julie Barcik  
(708) 638-9315

Tom and Vicki Michaels  
221 Timber Lane  
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Rafael Martinez  
474 N. Elm Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126-2331  
(630) 923-3344

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For more information, news, photos, videos, sermons, and live stream of the worship services visit us on the web at [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

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## JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

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

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: John Broussard  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

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

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

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

Greeter: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Charles Matthies  
Usher: John Kostelny

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

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: Carrie Watkiss  
Usher: Janet Broussard

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Kristine Boike and Esther Meksto



## JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

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

Greeter: Jane Lauritsen  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Jane Lauritsen  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

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

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: George Valek  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

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

Greeter: Sandy Garvey  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Tom Michaels  
Usher: John Kostelny

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

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Joanne Sefara  
Usher: Janet Broussard

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

## Fox Family Visit in May



A fox family of six pups and their mother visited the parish in May while residing in the residential den below the church patio. Photos by Jane Lauritsen.

**April 2021**  
**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**  
*Budgeted Offering: \$2,597.00*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4/4	\$2,641.00
4/11	\$2,176.00
4/18	\$1,435.00
4/25	\$ 913.00

*O Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going,  
I do not see the road ahead of me,  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
And that fact that I think  
I am following Your will  
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe  
That the desire to please You  
Does in fact please You.  
And I hope I have that desire  
In all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything  
Apart from that desire to please You.  
And I know that if I do this  
You will lead me by the right road,  
Though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore I will trust You always  
Though I may seem to be lost  
And in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear,  
For You are ever with me,  
And You will never leave me  
To make my journey alone.*

Thomas Merton, *Pax Christi*, Benet Press, Erie, Pennsylvania

### That All May Be One

May your people be one  
as the seas are one  
though salting a thousand shores.

May your people be one  
as the wind is one  
though whisper, though rush, though roar.

May your people be one  
as the birds are one  
though they sing a thousand songs.

May your people be one  
as our prayers are one  
though voiced in a thousand tongues.

May your people be one  
as the light is one  
though made of the colours of the rainbow.

May your people be one  
as your love is one—  
your love for all people, we know.

May your people be one  
as you are one:  
you in Christ, and Christ in you.

May your people be one  
as the Spirit is one,  
moving in us, moving through.