

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 43

November 2021

Issue 11

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.

Reflections on November

At this closing of the liturgical year, endings are revealed as beginnings, and we find that as the Christian community we live simultaneously in past, present, and future. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. What seemed dead lives on, and what seemed purely memory is present, what was longed for is actually at hand. Time and its distinctions stretch and blur at this closing of the year, and the church finds itself living in the future for which it so earnestly petitions. The day of the Lord is at hand. The new age has begun.

The shadows are approaching. The night is lengthened. The grasses fade. Then from the shadows emerges light. From the night comes hope and the memory of saints. From the chaff comes new beginnings and the constant, sure presence of the risen Christ, transforming these days into a new beginning, a new day. The implications are startling! The reign of God is at hand. Newness has already dawned. A new day arises that is gloriously present.

Albert Einstein once set himself this thought experiment: if I were to sit astride a beam of light, traveling at the speed of light, how would time appear? Einstein concluded from his imaginative vigil that past and future would gradually thin until one existed in an ever-widening, ever-expanding present now. C. G. Jung said that communion is the opening of a window into eternity, the fuller reality. For Orthodox Christians, the Eucharist is nothing less than heaven on earth, the light of God breaking in and making of the past, present, and future one ever-expanding moment. At this transition time in the church's year, we are reminded of the breaking in of God's reign into this earth.

So we remember in these waning days the saints, those whose stories and lives have shaped our lives and the collective life of the church: human moments of an expanding now who have lived the future of God's reign; who bore the harvest of the Spirit's talents as willing and open participants and who are eternally present in memory and expanding time by the pervading light of God through Christ and the Spirit. “To those unwise they seem to have died, but, lo, they shine like stars . . .” (Wis. 3:2a, 7; paraphrase).

The lives of the saints are a part of the church's inheritance, and their gifts of hymns, writings, windows, and quiet acts of mercy shape the present in which we live. They are a link of rich memory to the holy story that shapes the church's life and our individual lives here, now. They are rays of light, the *lux aeterna* (eternal light) breaking into our days. “Look to [God], and be radiant” sings the psalmist (Ps. 34:5). Like the saints we are cajoled to live as children of light,

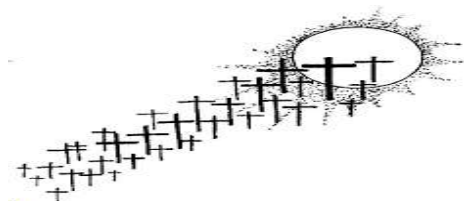
radiant with God's presence in an ever-greater melding and blurring of past, present, and future. When we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we remember the Lord's death until he comes.

Surrounding the memory of the saints in these days are what seem to be dark and worrisome texts of scripture, full of clouds and thick darkness. God declares to us: You are redeemed. Live as redeemed people! You are loved. Live as beloved people! The day of the Lord has already dawned with the radiant face of the risen Christ, and as baptized people, that is the day in which we live.

So the gospel writer Matthew reminds the church to live out the fruits of the Spirit, to use the rich talents and inheritance of the new dawn, and not to cower in fear and hoarding. We are to live lives of compassion, lovingkindness, truth, creativity, wisdom, mercy, and justice. To live without compassion, to live in fear, to live hoarding away gifts and the steadfast love of God is to live as if the eternal day of the risen Christ had never dawned. It is to live outside the dawning of God's day, in the place of darkness and gloom, in the day of clouds and thick darkness. These days of ending are a beginning, and what seems past is present, and the longed-for future is at hand. Redeemed and radiant and beloved, how shall we live in these ending days that are a beginning? We are beckoned to live as children of the light, radiant in the dawn of the risen Christ, whose festival closes out these days of the church: the Sunday of fulfillment or Christ the King.

“I will seek out my sheep,” says God. “I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Ezek. 34:12). God is always calling us to be radiant and fearless, coaxing us out of darkness into the new day, bidding us into the glorious dawn of the day of the risen Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come. This is the day that God has made, the eternal, ever-widening present of life in God, radiant with Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit poured out into our hearts. What seems past is here, and what seems yet to come is at hand, in the eternal, gloriously redeemed moment of the day of God.

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2004 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.



Festival of All Saints November 1st

The Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul remembers the following persons who passed to their eternal rest since All Saints Sunday, 2020 listed here in chronological order of their death dates:

+Emily Kostial+
+Sheryl Hallmann+
+Robert Skudrna+
+Richard Hurbanis+
+Dominick Ritacco+
+Miloslava Blahut+
+Anne Otjepka+
+Steve Podzamsky+
+Marguerite Boike+

Memorial Flowers

Oct. 3rd: In memory of loving husband +Larry Bakalich+ on the 67th anniversary of our wedding on October 2nd by loving wife Ruth.

In memory of +John Kozik+ on the 91st anniversary of his birth on September 1st by remembering family.

Oct. 10th: In memory of +Mildred Kessler+ on the anniversary of her birth on October 12th.

Oct. 17th: In loving memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the 40th anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Oct. 24th: In loving memory of dear father +Steve Podzamsky+ on the 92nd anniversary of his birth on October 21st by remembering daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Dennis McGee.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5: Jessica Drahos Collin Sender	Nov. 15: Kelly Jones
Nov. 7: Ashley Mazur	Nov. 18: Vincent Smith
Nov. 8: Philip Painter	Nov. 19: Abby Collins
Nov. 9: Jennifer Smith	Nov. 21: Joseph Decosola, Jr.
Nov. 10: John Vercimak	Nov. 23: Kristi Alonzo
Nov. 13: Ivan Durkovic	Nov. 29: Mildred Londak Ty Smith
Mary Ann Waychunas	Nov. 30: Jacob Czerak
Nov. 14: Gino Decosola Dale Hawes	

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 7, 1992: Vlado and Agnes Vercimak
November 10, 2012: James and Anne Marie D'Alexander
November 10, 2018: Thomas and Alexandra Miller
November 23, 1984: Gary and Annette Tapak

Happenings

Congregation Council Meeting
Thursday, November 18th, 7:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Liturgy, November 25th, 10:15 a.m.

Fall Festival, October 16th



Photos by BettyAnn Mocek

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and family, in memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Michael Riban+ on the 26th anniversary of his death on November 6th, 1995.

Anne Gavac, in memory of +Anne Otjepka+.

Anne Gavac, in memory of +Frank Kmet+.

Paul and Pat Gavac, in memory of +Anne Otjepka+.

Thomas and Kathryn Murray, in celebration of son Brayden Thomas' baptism on September 18th.

Dennis and Diane McGee, in memory of father +Steve Podzamsky+ on the 92nd anniversary of his birth on October 21st.

Betty Cillo, Donald Cillo and Patricia Cillo Mitchell, in memory of brother and uncle +The Rev. Franklyn Pekarek+.

Anne Gavac, in memory of +Steve Podzamsky+.

Paul and Pat Gavac, in memory of +Steve Podzamsky+.

In loving memory of father and grandfather +William Stastny+ by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Luddy Kovalsky, in memory of +Steve Podzamsky+.

Luddy Kovalsky, in memory of +Milina Blahut+.

Luddy Kovalsky, in memory of +Anne Otjepka+.

Luddy Kovalsky, in memory of +Frank Kmet+.

Luddy Kovalsky, in celebration of great-grandson Brayden Thomas' baptism on September 18th.

Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Marge Boike+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Marge Boike+.

Beverly Podzamsky, in memory of dear husband +Steve+ on the 92nd anniversary of his birth.

Charles and Remegia Burda, in memory of +Anne Otjepka+.

Arnost and Anna Bulir, in memory of +Milina Blahut+.

How Worship Practices Form Us for Ministry in Daily Life!

A Life of Faith Initiative Resource

Craig L. Nesson, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Third in a series.

Reading of the Word: As we rehearse the Psalms inherited from the Jewish people, making them our own songs and prayers, and as we listen to God's Word in the readings for a given week, the Spirit transforms these ancient words into a Living Word addressed to our own lives and context. Through the reading of Scripture, God promises to meet us as the Living One who makes effective God's promises in Christ as Good News for our lives and who forms us through these stories to be people of the Word. In all the sea of words that compete for our attention in our daily lives, at worship we claim that this is the Word of eternal life. This is the Word that provides orientation amidst all the other worldly words that pommel us and try to persuade us. By this Word Jesus Christ makes us his own not only on the day of worship but for the rest of the week and the rest of our days.

Sermon: The preacher serves as God's messenger for proclaiming God's Word, making connections between what this Word has meant to people of faith in previous generations and what this Word means for us today. Preaching is an awesome task. The preacher shares a message with the hearers that functions both as Law and Gospel. The sermon as Law forces the hearers of the Word to examine their lives and recognize their need for God and God's gifts. The sermon as Gospel announces the Good News in Jesus Christ to deliver to hearers the very gifts Christ desires us to receive: mercy, love, forgiveness, grace, peace, hope, and eternal life. The sermon as Living Word of God sets hearers free from every form of bondage that prevents us from being the persons God created us to be. At the same time the sermon as Living Word of God sets hearers free for lives of service to the neighbors God gives us in each of the arenas of our daily lives—in our families, workplace, school, local community and world. Because we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, our eternal salvation already has been secured and we need not be preoccupied with our eternal destiny. Thereby we are free fully to engage the needs in the world around us as we live out our Christian baptismal calling for the sake of others.

Creed: "I/We believe..." The words of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed are confessed at worship in communion with Christians who have lived and died for these convictions in past generations and in solidarity with all Christians throughout the world today. The creeds serve as our pledge of allegiance. These are the things for which I stand as a Christian. These are the beliefs according to which I intend to live and, if necessary, these are convictions for which I would be willing to die, as did the martyrs of old and as do Christians yet today under difficult circumstances. Confessing the Creed grounds us in the core convictions for which we stand and challenges us to live according to these commitments every day of our lives. We are called to be a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, practice the forgiveness of sins, and trust in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting through all the challenging circumstances of our daily lives. The threefold form of these Creeds deeply connect us to our shared faith in the Triune God. Of particular importance: each time we confess the Apostles' Creed we are reconnected directly to the confession of faith made at the time of your own baptism, our shared point of departure for living out our baptismal vocation in service to others in all ministry in daily life.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 7th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 14th:

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

November 21st:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Thanksgiving Day, November 25th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: George Valek
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 28th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care: TBD

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 5th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Usher: Janet Broussard

December 12th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Usher: John Kostelny

December 19th:

Greeter: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Christmas Eve:

Greeter: Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

December 26th:

Greeter: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Tom Michaels
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Happy Turkey Day! This month we will be learning all about Pilgrims, Native Americans, and fun facts about the first Thanksgiving.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

Thanksgiving Day
November 25th at 10:15 a.m.

A Service of the Word and Prayers of Thanksgiving

*The monetary offering will benefit
the Chicago Food Depository.*

November Announcements

- ★ The 2022 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28th, in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives. If you would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.
- ★ 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.
- ★ A reminder to the congregation, especially during the months of winter weather, that complimentary cab service is available on Sunday morning 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.

“Holiday Blessings”

Sunday afternoon, December 5th, 4 p.m.



Lux Cantorum Chicago in concert at Sts. Peter and Paul during the Advent season of 2015.

Lux Cantorum Chicago will present its Christmas concert entitled “Holiday Blessings,” featuring favorite choral music of the season, at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 5th at 4 p.m. For more information, visit luxcantorum.org. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels, Jane Lauritsen and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

Dr. Bob's Humility Prayer

Humility is perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and about is seeming trouble.



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 28th. 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 15th.

**To all who helped make the Fall Fest, held on Saturday, October 16th, a day of fun and excitement—thank you!
We profited just a little over \$4,000.00!! We couldn't have done it without all of your help.—Vera Borysek
And thank you Vera for your months and months of preparation for this event!—Pastor Dennis and Congregation**