

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 44

December 2022

Issue 12

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.

"Holiday Diversity"

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



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

Lux Cantorum Chicago will present its Christmas concert entitled "Holiday Diversity," featuring bountiful choral contributions that people of color have made to our December holiday experience, at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 4th at 4 p.m. For more information, visit luxcantorum.org. or refer to the flyer on the back page of this newsletter. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

Interested in formally affiliating with Sts. Peter and Paul as your home congregation?

We would be delighted to welcome you to this community of faith in worship and ministry. Newly registered members will be welcomed on Sunday, December 11th. Please contact Pastor Dennis or another member of the congregation to let them know of your interest.

Images for the Season of Advent

A vision from the prophet Isaiah places natural enemies of the animal world next to each other in a peaceable kingdom. This vision has been rendered by artists and proclaimed by preachers. Hurting and destroying others is forbidden. The weak and powerless, the poor and sorrowful will have God as their advocate and deliverer. For at least the four weeks of Advent, the church sets this hopeful vision and divine promise next to stories of war and conflict, demands for privilege, and muffled cries of the poor and powerless.

The prophetic readings from Isaiah during Advent speak strongly about peace to our world. Peace is not simply the absence of war, but the intentional act of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. God does not want us to learn the trade of war any more. Advent tunes our ears to God's dangerous call to serve as peacemakers. The psalmist's centuries-old prayer is still relevant today: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). We enlarge the psalmist's vision and pray for the peace of the whole world.

In the second readings proclaimed this season, God's alarm clock wakes us to the urgency of repentance. God's promised coming offers hope amidst all the alarming news of the world. Romans 15:13 serves as a type of benediction for the Sundays in Advent as we celebrate the hopes and fears of all the ages in the coming of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it seems as though God's coming is delayed or ineffective, but we are counseled to be patient and wait on God's promises in hopeful expectation. In this season we do not pretend that Jesus has not yet come. We already claim the promises that are ours in the power of Christ's death and resurrection. We watch in confidence for the one who came, who comes among us each time we gather around Word and Sacrament, and who draws us into God's final coming to make all things new.

In the gospel readings, hopeful people are urged to be ready for God's unexpected appearances according to God's own time. A surprising voice in the wilderness again calls all people to a new appraisal of their lives and openness to the Holy One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and a cleansing fire. John, the whistle-blower on unholy lives, is jailed for pointing to Jesus as the one who brings good news to all people. It is good news that will become the song of the angels and that will be on the lips and in the hearts of those forgiven and healed by this Savior. All of this points to the Christ who is Emmanuel, God with us. We know him as the promised one who came among us, who continues to be with us, and who opens up all of God's future as a promise in which we can hope.

It is an eye-opening experience to be in Israel during Advent. There are no Christmas decorations or the pressure to buy presents.

—continued on the next page...

One has only the great promises of Advent. Perhaps this suggests that we should avoid muting the strong, sober messages of Advent with cultural Christmas decorations. The Advent readings talk about peace challenging our war-making. The Biblical message points us to the great needs of the poor, disadvantaged, and powerless who need more than once-a-year Christmas caroling or a few coins in the Salvation Army kettles. Advent points us to radical repentance and realistic hope that transform our expectations and the way we live in the world. Starting with the Advent readings, how might we express this season artistically? Advent might look very different from many of the commercial decorations that are commonplace during December. How might our visual images speak as surprising and challenging voices in the wilderness? How might we picture hope opening up a promising future?

All these readings stir up a new vision of a world in which God comes among us. Will we allow our imaginations to lead us toward a vision for what all this means for our congregation and our life in the community and world? During these December days, the world tries to define Christmas in a way that mutes the Advent message. The church has both the opportunity and the responsibility to proclaim that Advent is not a wet blanket on festivity, but rather a house-cleaning that prepares us to celebrate what God has given the world in Jesus Christ. That is what gives hope and joy to the world.

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Remember the Good Samaritan



But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where [the man] was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise" (Luke 10:33-37 ESV).

The Juan Cobrda Good Samaritan Fund was established 20 years ago by the congregation and named for Rev. Juan Cobrda at his retirement from ministry in 2002. The fund is intended to provide emergency assistance to individuals and households of the congregation and nearby communities who are in urgent need of groceries, medicine, rent, pharmacy, utilities and fuel. The Good Samaritan Fund is administered by John Broussard and Pastor Dennis as needs are made known and assessed. Please remember to make an offering to the Good Samaritan Fund especially at this time of year when needs are great. You may do so by indicating "Good Samaritan" in the box on your offering envelopes labeled "Other" or by sending a gift directly to the church office. Thank you for helping us show mercy and offer compassion to so many who feel alone and abandoned in circumstances of desperate need.—*djl*

Christmas Worship Schedule



"Holiday Diversity"
Lux Cantorum Choral Concert
 December 4th, 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
 7:15 p.m., Festival Liturgy of
 Holy Communion with Candlelight

Christmas Day
 10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion

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. 10: Edward Sefara	Mary Jo Meyers
Dec. 11: Kristian Kubo	Dec. 19: Martin Tornil
Claire Watkiss	Dec. 26: Shirley Kostelny
Dec. 12: Betty Force	Mary Sasuta
Dec. 13: Caden Blaha	Dec. 27: Steven Mendel
Vera Borysek	Dec. 29: Darina Miko
	Dec. 31: Grace Tapak

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 4, 2004: Lee and Emily Drahos
 December 19, 2016: Samuel and Kristi Alonzo
 December 28, 2002: Gerald and Beverly Tarbox

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

December is filled with ho-ho-ho's, making presents, crafts, and putting on a Winter Show. Have a joyous holiday season!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

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 27th. 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 Thursday, December 15th.



Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

John Brockmann, in memory of wife +Kathy Sivak Brockmann on the first anniversary of her passing.

Wayne Rauschenberg, in memory of +Betty Mocek+.

Milan Oklepek, in memory of +Betty Mocek+.

In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the 37th anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Marjorie Hudnall+.

Betty Jane Licko-Keel, in memory of mother +Marie Michalic Licko+ on the anniversary of her November passing, and husband +William Jerry Keel+ and father +Stephen Licko+ on the anniversaries of their birth in November.

Paul Kubecka, in memory of +Paul Gavac+.

Debbie and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch and their families, in memory of +Shirley Wood+ for all the wonderful Christmas memories.

❖ In memory of John Kostelancik ❖

James and Kathy Zinsser, in memory of dear father.

William Boor

John and Janet Broussard

Steve and Joyce Potucek

Ann Vana

Ann Kmet

Emil Kostel, Donna Kostel and Ariel O'Brien

Ann Kasper and Nancy Mathis, in memory of dear friend and Godfather.

Milan Oklepek

Mark Ream and Darcey Hanson

Pat Gavac

John and Shirley Kostelny

Adolf and Ellen Heimann

Marty and Ann Pennino

Karyn Bute

Jerry Przyzycki

Roy and Helen Husa

Don and Sylvia Hosek

Ruthann Stadler



Where have you been today, Bartimaeus?

"I've been in a world of hunger and fear and darkness.

I've been by the side of the road I name despair.

I've been cast off, like something beyond repair."

What have you heard today, Bartimaeus?

"I've heard the pain of those who cry for justice.

I've heard the pain of those who cry for peace.

I've heard someone is near who brings release."

What do you need today, Bartimaeus?

"I need to know that joy can rise from ashes.

I need to know that hope can rise from grief.

I need to see the sun touch the lifted leaf."

What did you do today, Bartimaeus?

"I called to the Son of David who comes to save us.

I called to the One who mercy freely gives.

I called to the One whose power opened my grave."

Where are you going today, Bartimaeus?

"To be with Christ as he brings new days to others.

To follow the One who's brought me this new sight.

To share with all God's people this new life."

—by Andrew King, lectionary poet



Memorial Flowers

Nov. 6th: In celebration of Celia Martinez's 100th birthday on November 3rd by loving son Rafael.

In memory of +Lupe Martinez+ on the anniversary of her birth on November 4th by remembering husband Rafael.

Nov. 20th: In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Nov. 27th: In loving memory of dear father and grandfather +William Boor+ on the 104th anniversary of his birth on November 22nd by remembering sons William R. and Richard T. Boor and his family.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 4th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lector: Carrie Watkiss
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

December 11th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Charles Matthies
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

December 18th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

December 24th, Christmas Eve:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: Fred Kuzel
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: John Kostelny

December 25th, Christmas Day

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies

Sacristans and Altar Care:
 Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

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.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

January 1st:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: J. T. Tarbox
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

January 8th:

Greeter:
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lector: Emily Bittner
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

January 15th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Tom Michaels
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

January 22nd:

Greeter: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: George Valek
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: George Valek

January 29th:

Greeter: John and Janet Broussard
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: John Kostelny
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Fred Kuzel



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

October 2022	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
<i>Budgeted Offering: \$2,527.00</i>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
10/2	\$ 965.00
10/9	\$2,146.00
10/16	\$2,491.00
10/23	\$3,136.00
10/30	\$1,021.00

December Announcements

- ★ Offering envelopes for 2023 will be available for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall beginning Sunday, December 4th. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so.
- ★ Financial donations made to the congregation must be received in the church office no later than Thursday, December 29th 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.



Disturb Us

Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

—ascribed to Sir Francis Drake (1577)

“Operation Stockings for Soldiers”

Send our troops and local soldiers a little taste of home for the holidays. Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home, 2447 South Desplaines Avenue in North Riverside is proud to sponsor “Operation Stockings for Veterans.” From now through December 16th between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., stop into the funeral home and pick-up a free Christmas stocking to take home, decorate, and stuff with Christmas cheer. You will receive a list of recommended items along with the free stocking. Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home will either ship or deliver the stockings at their expense to troops abroad and veterans here at home in time for Christmas. For more information please contact the home at (708) 447-2500.



Christ the King Sunday, November 20th and the Recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Service by Parish Musician David Richards



The Sts. Peter and Paul Choir is joined by tenor soloist Brandon Michaels and instrumentalists in singing Charles Francois Gounod's "Sanctus" with Parish Musician David Richards on piano and conducting.



David Richards is joined by family, friends and congregation to celebrate his 25th Anniversary with the congregation.

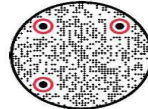
Santa's HELPERS NEEDED LCFS CHRISTMAS DRIVE



YOU CAN MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Your donation will put gifts under the tree for the children in our care. Foster parents will receive money specifically to buy Christmas gifts for each child—assuring they receive what they want and need. This is a real blessing to the families we serve!

Donate at [LCFS.org/ChristmasDrive](https://www.lcfs.org/ChristmasDrive) or scan the QR code.



Questions? Contact Mandy_Widtfeldt@lcfs.org or 630-470-3853

Mail donations to:

Attn: LCFS Christmas Drive | 1 Oakbrook Terrace, #501 | Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

BEDS HOLIDAY ADOPT A FAMILY 2022

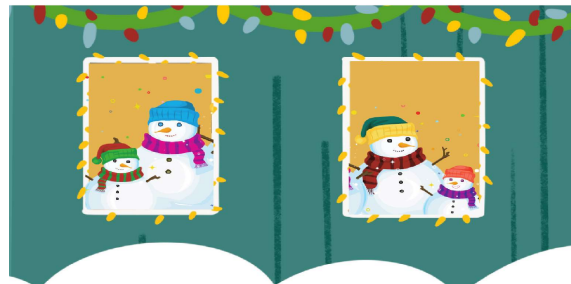
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

PURCHASE HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR BEDS FAMILIES

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR 3 MONTHS TO A YEAR

PURCHASE GIFT SETS FOR BEDS CLIENTS

ASSIST A FAMILY IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME.

USE QR CODES OR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP

ADOPT A FAMILY QR CODE



GIFT SETS QR CODE



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BEDS RESOURCES OR TO DONATE GO TO WWW.BEDS-PLUS.ORG

MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS
PRESENT

Sing! Shout! Tell the Story!

Saturday,
December 3, 2022
7:30pm

First United Methodist Church
324 N. Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

Handicap Accessible

For current COVID safety protocol,
see <http://www.firstumcoakpark.org>.



THIS PROGRAM IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED
BY A GRANT FROM
THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY



THE MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS IS PARTIALLY
FUNDED BY THE OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL,
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK,
FOREST PARK, AND RIVER FOREST
AND THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY

Online tickets at www.MTSingers.org

\$22 Adult • \$17 Seniors / Students

Tickets at the door

\$25 Adult • \$20 Seniors / Students

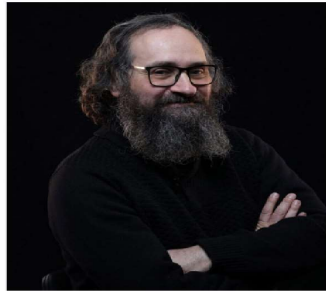


Beverly Tarbox of our congregation will be performing with The Michael Teolis Singers.

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

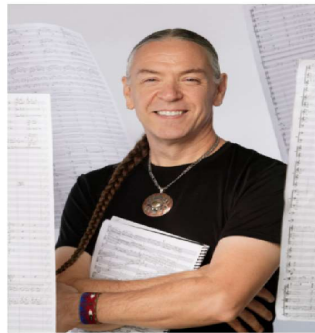
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Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL



LUX CANTORUM

**HOLIDAY
DIVERSITY
CONCERT**



<p>DEC. 2ND * 7:30 PM LINCOLN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 600 FULLERTON PRKWY CHICAGO, IL</p> <p>*LIVESTREAM TICKETING AVAILABLE</p> <p>\$20 ENTRY</p>	<p>DEC. 4TH 4:00 PM ST PETER & PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 250 WOODSIDE RD RIVERSIDE, IL</p>	<p>DEC. 10TH 7:30 PM PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 460 LAKE ST OAK PARK, IL</p>
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WILBERT O. WATKINS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PHILIP KENDALL, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR
JOAN HUTCHINSON, ACCOMPANIST



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

A reception will follow the performance here on Sunday afternoon, December 4th. Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation sing with Lux Cantorum.