



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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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.

Blessing of Pets Sunday, October 2nd, in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1181 – 1226)



Images of the Season for November

November is a deeply evocative time of the year. Beginning with All Saints Day and continuing through the festival of Christ the King, we are led into a contemplation of last things. That reflection encompasses remembrances of past loved ones and our own inevitable death as well as the end of all things when the entire cosmos is reconciled through Christ to its creator. This season, with its religious and cultural observances relating to death and (in the Northern Hemisphere) its ever-shortening days, has the power to bring such thoughts of death to the fore.

It is a blessing, then, that in the church we have a framework for such musings, one that guides us in helpful ways past mere morbid sentiment to a more hopeful anticipation. Yes, there is melancholy in recalling the great spirits who have died and who are dearly missed. And many of us have a sense that our own lives are moving much too quickly toward their end. But we who follow Christ also possess the assurance that all of our lives are in the Lord's keeping. This does not remove the desire to contemplate last things, but rather puts them in perspective.

One of the collects for Prayer at the Close of the Day deals with just this sort of meditation:

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (LBW, p. 158)

Peace at the last—that is the reason for focusing on death and its attendant issues during this month. Yes, we could ignore the near certainty of death. (“Near” only because there is always the chance that our Lord will return before then!) We could simply barge full steam ahead with life until death forces us to stop. But what such an approach lacks is purpose and completion. We are not to live aimlessly but with direction—from God and toward God. Our learning, our work, our relationships—all of these potentially point beyond themselves and even beyond ourselves to the one by whose grace they are accomplished, God our creator and redeemer. That means that they have meaning beyond their significance for our transitory earthly life. These accomplishments, meager though they may seem, are celebrated around the heavenly banquet table.

Yet what about those things that often seem to outweigh our accomplishments—our shortcomings, faults, sins? Many people, nearing the end of their life, are haunted by thoughts of the wrongs they have committed. More than anything else, those thoughts rob them of longed-for peace. Even if they recognize that salvation comes only through the grace of God in Christ Jesus, still the regrets linger. Such is the insinuating power of sin.

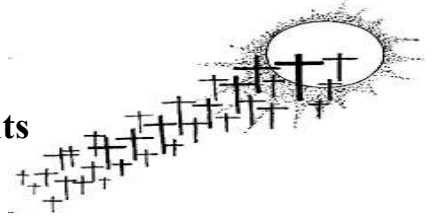
In some societies, the notion that ghosts haunt the living is, in part, a way of acknowledging how sin can block the path to peace at the last. It is important to bring the haunting of guilt and sin into the light, for in our modern society, we can easily delude ourselves into believing that we are too sophisticated to worry about sin and other spiritual intangibles. Once the truth of sin is acknowledged, however, the door is opened to the light of Christ shining from that safe lodging spoken of in the prayer. His life and death gained the victory over all the forces that torment us. Our sins are taken up with him on the cross and there put to death. Sin's power to condemn us, to haunt us, is ended. Now we who have been baptized into Christ's death are freed of all chains and are lifted up with him into the new resurrection life. “Peace at the last” is, indeed, attainable through our Savior.

So we, in the presence of all the departed faithful, move beyond mere remembrance. There is that, but there is also thanksgiving, and

supplication, and mission. And at the end, as our Lord reigns, so shall we. The feast of which we now have merely taste, the banquet of companionship, gladness, and participation in the fullness of God's presence, that banquet will envelop us completely, and we will be home.

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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, 2021 listed here in chronological order of their death dates:

+Walter Kessler+
+Donna Tuider+
+Dorothy Myers+
+Marie Kamp+
+Elizabeth Mocek+
+Olga Zavodny+
+Paul Gavac+
+John Kostelancik+

On the Sunday of the Festival of All Saints, November 6th, a small table will be placed at the front of the nave near the lectern. On that day, worshipers who wish to do so may light a votive candle in memory of a deceased loved one to commemorate their dwelling among the saints who have gone before us. This invitation is especially offered to those who have had a loved one(s) pass away during the last year.

Please plan to join us for this special service of commemoration which will include special music, guest musicians, as well as tenor soloist Brandon Michaels.

Thanksgiving Day

November 24th at 10:15 a.m.

A Service of the Word and Prayers of Thanksgiving

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

Passages

John P. Kostelancik, 89 year old husband of the late Emily, and father of David, Kathi and Kenneth, passed from this life on October 19th. Services for John were held on October 25th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was at Mt. Auburn.

Thank You!

To all who helped make the Fall Fest, held on Saturday, October 15th, a day of fun and excitement—thank you!

We profited just a little over \$5,600.00!! We couldn't have done it without all of your help.

—Vera Borysek

Thank You, Vera!

Thank you Vera for the months and months of preparation and hard work for this event! A job well done.

—Pastor Dennis and the Congregation



Fall Festival Thank You

Several years ago, the following letter was received from a neighbor expressing his gratitude for the Fall Festival which is hosted annually by the congregation.

Hello,

I wanted to say that I really enjoyed coming to your church this past Saturday for the Fall Festival. This was the first time for me coming to the Festival as well as the first time in the church. It was nice to see the church coming together to make this happen as well as all the members working the various areas of this festival. I enjoyed looking at all the delicious bakery that was for sale, enjoyed tasting the salsa that was for sale, and looking at all the tables of items that were for sale. I really enjoyed the potato pancakes though! They were my favorite and were delicious!

I look forward to coming to this festival every year now! Will have to make it a point to attend this again, [but] just wanted to say great job and glad I made it a point to stop by. Please tell the others that I sent this email to you. I've known in the past you had some outdoor movies in the summer. Hope that you will do that again when the weather gets warmer and also I hope you do some more bunco events as well or game nights. I've known you have done the bunco in the past too. Hope to continue to come to your events and support the church.

Just wanted to send this email out to you and the congregation of Sts. Peter and Paul in Riverside. It was nice to see so many people that came out to your Fall Fest this past Saturday, and Kudos to all!!

God Bless You All!!!!

*Sincerely,
Jeremy Hill*

Lutheran World Relief Ukrainian Update: September 2022

Our congregation has shown up for our neighbors who are suffering in abundant and overwhelming ways. We saw our Ukrainian neighbors fleeing in the harsh winter cold, children and belongings in tow, and our love welcomed them with quilts and kits. We saw refugees separated from loved ones, in strange new countries, and our generosity provided them with emergency supplies and support to rebuild their lives after destruction.

Through your generosity, our congregation has become a part of something much bigger than ourselves.

Our gifts shared through Lutheran World Relief have meant that families fleeing war have:

- LWR Quilts and Care Kits. We've helped ship nearly \$1 million worth of LWR Quilts and Care Kits to provide comfort to neighbors in Ukraine and Poland.
- Shelter and community. More than 15,000 of the most vulnerable people who fled for safety within Ukraine have a safe place to stay because of our support.
- Access to cash to support their children. Ukrainians who have fled to Poland have received emergency cash vouchers to help with rent, health care and other necessities.
- Life-saving medical care and supplies. In addition to providing desperately needed care and supplies, our congregation is helping to send medical teams to areas where there is a critical shortage of health care.
- Mental health resources. War and conflict can have devastating impacts on not only the physical health of those in the crossfire but can also have long lasting mental health impacts. Our congregation is helping to provide resources to support these often-hidden wounds of war.

And most importantly, because of our congregation, families fleeing war have hope. Our love is making a powerful difference around the world in the lives of our Ukrainian neighbors. Thank you for sharing God's love when it was needed most. To learn more about the work of Lutheran World Relief, visit lwr.org (prepared by LWR staff members).

A Still, Small Voice

"We do not have to look about us very far or for very long to realize the disastrous effects produced on the inner life of [humanity] by this age of noise. Spun about in the whirl of busyness, enslaved to countless technical inventions, [humanity] is severed from God and from the world of the spirit. *Non in commotione Deus*: God does not dwell in turbulence. To find [God], there must be calm within; certain senses must be hushed. Tossed around as we are, if God wishes to speak to us, [God's] voice, small and still, will be lost in the hubbub of our daily lives; the rackets and noise drowning our minds will prevent [God's] penetration into that seclusion we call 'heart'—the living witness of that life in us which is most sacred and most true: the life we call 'inner' or 'spiritual'" (Benedictine Jean Dechanet in his volume entitled *Christian Yoga*).

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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DATED MATERIAL

“Holiday Diversity”

Lux Cantorum Chicago in Concert on Sunday afternoon, December 4th, 4 p.m.



HOLIDAY
DIVERSITY
CONCERT

LUX CANTORUM

DEC. 2ND 7:30 PM	DEC. 4TH 4:00 PM	DEC. 10TH 7:30 PM
LINCOLN PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 600 FULLERTON PRKWAY CHICAGO, IL	ST PETER & PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 250 WOODSIDE RD RIVERSIDE, IL	PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 460 LAKE ST OAK PARK, IL
WILBERT O. WATKINS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PHILIPS KENDALL, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR JOAN HUTCHINSON, ACCOMPANIST		



\$20 ENTRY

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. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 6th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Emily Bittner
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

November 13th:

Greeter: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Janet Broussard

November 20th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: George Valek
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

Thanksgiving Day, November 24th

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Tom Michaels
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 27th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: John Kostelny
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
 Beverly Tarbox



DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 4th:

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

December 11th:

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

December 18th:

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

December 24th, Christmas Eve:

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

December 25th, Christmas Day

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

Sacristans and Altar Care:
 Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel



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.

Memorial Flowers

- Oct. 16th:* In loving memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Audrey Bucz and her family, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.
- Oct. 23rd:* In memory of dear mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ on the 36th anniversary of her passing on October 27th by remembering family, Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.

September 2022

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,527.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
9/4	\$2,247.00
9/11	\$1,090.00
9/18	\$1,350.00
9/25	\$2,280.00

Memorials and Honorariums

NOVEMBER

❖ For the Church ❖

Pat and Sarah Gavac, in loving memory of dear husband and father
+Paul Gavac+.

Sue Skudrna, in memory of +Paul Gavac+.

Ann Vana, in memory of +Paul Gavac+.

Ann Kmet, in memory of +Paul Gavac+.

Bulir and Ruska Families, in memory of +Barbara Ruska+.

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

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

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director



November Announcements

- ★ The 2023 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27th, 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.

Interested in registering your membership 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 Christ the King Sunday, November 20th. Please contact Pastor Dennis or another member of the congregation to let them know of your interest.

Nov. 5: Jessica Drahos
Collin Sender
Nov. 7: Ashley Mazur
Nov. 8: Philip Painter
Nov. 9: Jennifer Smith
Nov. 10: John Vercimak
Nov. 13: Ivan Durkovic
Mary Ann Waychunas
Nov. 14: Gino Decosola
Dale Hawes

Nov. 15: Kelly Jones
Nov. 18: Vincent Smith
Nov. 19: Abby Collins
Nov. 21: Joseph Decosola, Jr.
Nov. 23: Kristi Alonzo
Nov. 29: Mildred Londak
Ty Smith
Nov. 30: Jacob Czerak

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



All of Grace

Matthew 20:1-16

*Like sun that shines the same on every face,
both vineyard and the work, the owner’s gift.
We learn at end of day it’s all of grace.*

*Upon the earth each person has their place
as surely as each star its nightly shift,
and sunlight falls the same on every face.*

*By mercy we’re all winners of the race;
by mercy every lowly gets a lift;
by mercy do we learn it’s all of grace.*

*God’s vineyard spans the globe; there’s lots of space
for all who hear God’s call to heal its rifts
like sunlight chasing pain from every face.*

*Let none begrudge the width of God’s embrace
which reaches from the safe to those adrift.
We learn at end of day it’s all of grace.*

*Until our human love can keep apace
with God’s, may labour be a sharing of the gift
that shines like sun the same on every face.
At end of day, we praise: it’s all of grace.*

—by lectionary poet Andrew King