

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 45

December 2023

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.

"Manifest Love" Coming Sunday, December 3rd



Lux Cantorum Chicago in concert at Sts. Peter and Paul in December 2022.

Lux Cantorum Chicago will present its holiday concert entitled "Manifest Love" at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd at 4 p.m. followed by a seasonal reception in the dining hall. For more information and ticket purchases, please visit luxcantorum.org. Performances will also be held on Friday, December 1st at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Lakeview, Chicago, and on Saturday, December 9th at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Sts. Peter and Paul members Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

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. 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.

—continued on the next page...

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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Passages

Baptism:

Ella Rose Miller was baptized on All Saints Sunday, November 5th. Ella is the daughter of Thomas and Alexandra. Her godparents are Curtis Kennedy and Grace Tapak.

Burials:

Annette Kozik, 88 years old, passed from this life on November 3rd in Willowbrook. She is the wife of the late John Kozik and mother of Susan Jones, James Kozik and the late John D. Kozik. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on November 8th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment will be private at Woodlawn Cemetery.

A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on November 10th at Sts. Peter and Paul for Katherine Gunderson who passed from this life on August 17th in Panama City, Florida. Interment will be private at Woodlawn Cemetery.

A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on November 29th for Milan G. Oklepek, 94 years old, who passed from this life on November 9th. Milan was the husband of the late Deanna Oklepek. Interment will be private.

All Saints Sunday and the Baptism of Ella Rose



The Terry Sullivan Quintet performed at Sts. Peter and Paul on Saturday evening, November 11th with Tom Muellner (piano), Scott Mason (bass), Jon Deitemyer (percussion), Bill Overton (reeds), and Terry Sullivan (vocals). Photo credit: Rafael Martinez.



Ella Rose Miller was baptized on All Saints Sunday, November 5th. Ella is the daughter of Thomas and Alexandra. Grace Tapak and Curtis Kennedy are the Godparents.

Advent and Christmas at Sts. Peter and Paul



“Manifest Love”
Lux Cantorum Choral Concert
December 3rd, 4:00 p.m.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas Eve**
10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion
7:15 p.m., Festival Liturgy of
Holy Communion with Candlelight

Christmas Day
at Ascension Lutheran Church
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion
(No liturgy here on Christmas Day)

Save the Date
Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 12 noon



Soup Swap!

For more details, contact
Shirley Kostelny at 630-968-5204

If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall. 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 Monday, December 18th.



“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 15th 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 1-708-447-2500.

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

In memory of +Katherine Sivak Brockmann+ by loving family. Thomas and Alexandra Miller, in celebration of their daughter Ella Rose’s baptism on November 5th.
Kathy Borsuk and Mark Borsuk, in memory of dear uncle and friend +Paul Kubecka+.
Carol and Ken Morydz, in memory of parents +Steve+ and +Irene H. Boor+.
In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by loving daughter Audrey Bucz and grandchildren Brian Bucz and Adrienne Gana.
Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and Family, in memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Michael Riban+ on the 28th anniversary of his death on November 6th, 1995.
Mildred Riban and Mike Riban, Jr. and Family, in memory of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother +Mary Riban+ on the 22nd anniversary of her death on December 19th, 2001.
Carol and Ken Morydz, in memory of cousin +Forrest E. Cerny+.
Joanne Wintermute, in memory of dear mother +Katherine Gunderson+.
Mary Ann Waychunas, in memory of +Kathy Gunderson+.
William Boor, in memory of +Kathy Gunderson+.
Karyn Bute, in memory of +Kathy Gunderson+.
Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Katherine Gunderson+.
Lois Michaels, in memory of +Katherine Gunderson+.
Debbie and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch and their families, in loving memory of +Shirley Wood+ for all the wonderful Christmas memories.

An electronic copy of this newsletter is posted
at our website
and can be accessed at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

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 28, 2002: Gerald and Beverly Tarbox

Memorial Flowers

- Oct. 29th:* In memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ on the 37th anniversary of her passing on October 27th by remembering family, Rocky, Tina, and grandchildren.
- Nov. 5th:* In loving memory of dear father and grandfather +John Kostelancik+ on the first anniversary of his passing on October 19th, 2022 by remembering children David Kostelancik, Kathi Zinsser, Ken Kostelancik and their families.
- Nov. 19th:* In loving memory of dear father and grandfather +William Boor+ on the 105th anniversary of his birth on November 22nd by remembering sons William R. and Richard T., daughter-in-law Debbie and their family.
- Nov. 26th:* In loving memory of beloved mother and grandmother +Anna Stastny+ on the anniversary of her death by loving daughter Audrey Bucz and grandchildren Brian Bucz, and Adrienne Gana.

Attention: If anyone has any vases from altar flower orders, please leave them in the kitchen. Our florist's supply is running low. Thank you!

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

December is filled with jingling bells, crafts, presents, and putting on a Winter Show. Have a joyous holiday season!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

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.

HOPE
PEACE
Love
Joy

TUCK-POINTING AND OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS CONGREGATION'S GOAL: \$60,000



Amount raised as of November 12th, 2023: \$3,217.00



Violin and piano students of Kristine Boike and Jane Lauritsen appeared in recital at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, November 19th.



Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

From a 1907 collection entitled "The Supreme Conquest and Other Sermons Preached in America" by William L. Watkinson.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 3rd:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

December 10th:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Emily Bittner
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: John Kostelny

December 17th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Emily Bittner
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

December 24th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

Christmas Eve

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

December 31st:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristans and Altar Care:

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

January 7th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

January 14th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

January 21st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

January 28th:

Greeters: John and Janet Broussard
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel

December Announcements

- ★ Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall on beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd. 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 28th 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 1-708-583-6900 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.

October 2023

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
10/1	\$1,070.00
10/8	\$2,145.00
10/15	\$1,045.00
10/22	\$2,070.00
10/29	\$2,680.00



One Oakbrook Terrace, #501
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
708-771-7180 | LCFS.org

October 24, 2023

Rev. Dennis Lauritsen
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Rd
Riverside, IL 60546-1900

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm reaching out to you - our cherished church partners - with an opportunity to change lives. For 150 years, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois has been a place of hope for children and families in crisis, thanks to your support.

You can change lives this Christmas by supporting the LCFS Family Support/Emergency Fund. It's a lifeline for those we serve when they need it most.

One child served by that fund who comes to mind is little Mia*. Mia came to us scared, tired and hungry after she was removed from her home due to neglect. Mia's foster parents really wanted to help make her transition into their family easier and less traumatic.

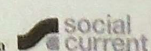
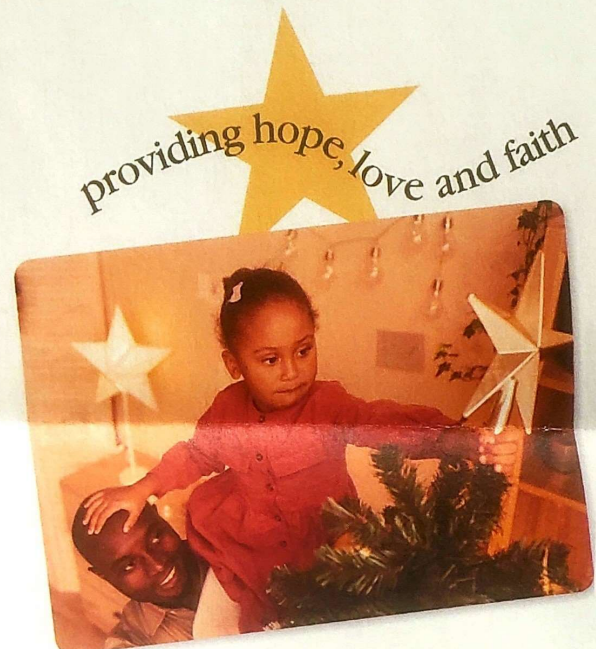
Thanks to contributions to the LCFS Family Support/Emergency Fund - from faithful supporters like you - we were able to provide Mia's foster parents with resources so they could get some furnishings for her room and specially decorate it in a princess theme after learning that's what she loved. That princess room helped make their home really feel like her home, too. Today Mia is thriving with her foster family!

I invite you to join other supporters in demonstrating God's love by making an end-of-year gift towards this special fund today! Your contribution will impact lives like Mia's - providing safety, comfort and hope.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season filled with peace and joy!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mike Bertrand
President & CEO



MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS PRESENTS



Photo Credit: Hubble & NASA

Saturday, December 2, 2023 • 7:30pm

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

Online tickets at www.MTSingers.org

\$22 Adult
\$17 Seniors / Students

Tickets at the door
\$25 Adult
\$20 Seniors / Students



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

Sts. Peter and Paul members David Richards and Beverly Tarbox perform with The Michael Teolis Singers.
Online ticket purchases may be made at www.MTSingers.org.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

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DATED MATERIAL

LUX CANTORUM

Chicago's premier sacred choral ensemble
Lux Cantorum Chicago presents:

Manifest Love

*A testament to the power of spiritual love.
Bringing solace, hope, and warmth to the season.*

Sunday, December 3, 2023
4:00pm

Saints Peter & Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Dr. Riverside IL

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

 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov

A reception will follow the performance. For more information and ticket purchases, please visit luxcantorum.org. Performances will also be held on Friday, December 1st at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Lakeview, Chicago, and on December 9th at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation sing with *Lux Cantorum*.