

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 10

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.

Open Air Worship in the Church Gardens with the Blessing of Animals

Sunday, October 1st in Observance of the
Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,
Renewer of the Church, died 1226 (October 4th)



Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. In a public confrontation with his father, he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being “wedded to Lady Poverty.” Under his leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they took literally Jesus’ words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Their task in preaching was to “use words if necessary.” Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God’s creation. This commemoration has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. A prayer and a hymn attributed to St. Francis are included in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 87, #835).

The liturgy on October 1st will include a blessing of animals, so feel free to bring your pets to worship with us that day.

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

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Images of the Season: Autumn



A visit to an antique shop or second-hand store reveals the “in between” way in which objects are categorized. An old tattered quilt, an incomplete set of dishes, a refinished chest of drawers, faded paintings and pictures that are too good to throw away—all of these items remind us that times pass, yet has not concluded. Likewise, an item's worth can change: its value increases for some and it decreases for others. An in-between time, betwixt the beginnings and endings, the

feasts and the fasts—this is autumn liturgy.

In a way, autumn is an arbitrary and ambiguous time of the year. With the post-Pentecost season's length extending from early summer to early winter, the church often struggles with a focus at this midpoint. Of course, it is a time for continuing growth in faith, a time for building on the foundations that have been witnessed through the resurrection appearances. Yet the challenge of this time of year often overwhelms. Where is the church headed? It is like waiting for a train that can be heard in the distance, yet seems to take forever to arrive.

The biblical stories are familiar and well-worn. They have tinges of memories associated with them. They have been heard before. Once in a while, there is something new and fresh, vital and surprising about the stories; more usually, though, they are retold with a rehearsed expectation and familiarity. They are, after all, part of the celebrated canon. They are a given.

Yet, at the very same time, it is the richness found in the retelling that offers a breath for new life. That which is well-worn is revitalized through an intimacy in a deep and abiding recollection of what is true and good, honorable and pure. Autumn liturgy is a time for homecoming, a coming home to Christ.

Autumn itself always brings about a number of changes. The seasons are marked by cycles of reversals: the stars shift in the sky; the natural world finds new ways of living. Likewise, school's days begin or end, new calendar years are established, old patterns of living are undertaken. A cabin might be closed for the winter, new windows put up on the house, clothing styles changed—these are marks of a shifting and transitional time.

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Even though this change is apparent, it takes different ears and eyes to notice that the changes are not always dramatic or even recognizable. Conversion is much the same, seldom happening in an earth-shaking way. More often, transformation takes place in the ways that are hidden in the heart.

Perhaps it is the time of year to look for the subtle and simple nuances that contribute to a common faith. Perhaps it is the time of the year to revisit those aspects of faith that are considered understood and agreed upon. That would give an opportunity to interrogate and discover anew the richness of a life lived within the liturgy of the church.

To investigate the pattern of the liturgy might be a good place to start. To see the possibilities within the pattern of gathering, receiving, experiencing, and sending through the word and sacraments affords the chance of liturgical formation. This is not to say that everything ought to be explained in great detail. That kind of didactic teaching can rob the liturgy of its multiple meanings. Rather, to reflect briefly in a homily or in a Sunday bulletin about the pattern that shapes community life—that might be the way to look anew at what is given, to see afresh what is gift. Liturgical formation is reflecting on how an understanding of the liturgy can help to shape the Christian life.

Patterns of formation are abundantly present in the texts for this time of year: teachings and healings, parables and ponderings. This was the reason Jesus gathered people together, to shape both their understanding and their living—to form them as children of God. This is the task of any catechesis: to shape individuals as individuals and to shape them all into one community.

Likewise, to revisit the historic creeds and confessions provides another opportunity to eke out new and profound commitments to the oldest expressions of faith to which the church attests. It might be the right time to look at the Small Catechism. Or work more intentionally with the church year's lesser festivals and commemorations. Working in consultation with ecumenical partners, the lengthy Pentecost season provides ample chances to explore common convictions and unique gifts.

It could also be the time of year to consider exploring hymnody at a greater depth. Telling the stories of composers or poets or bringing a practicing composer or poet to the congregation would add layers of meaning to all of the hymns. Calling upon musicians and artists in the community to share their talents and understandings could be a way to enhance appreciation for the old but new story.

In Christ, what is old can become new. That is why the liturgical year has a lengthy time of reflecting on the saving and redemptive work of the Christ who lives in the daily-ness of existence. Using the ordinary to usher in the extraordinary, drawing attention to the commonplace to bring to light the uncommon truth, pointing beyond the seen to the unseen, these are the tasks during autumn liturgy. When, for instance, the community gathers around a paten with some bread on it and a chalice with some wine in it, mystery across time speaks. The servers hold the real presence of Christ's body and blood which time itself cannot hold.

Antiques have value not only for how they function, but for how they form a frame of reference for our experience. They have stood the test of time with generations of hands cleaning them faithfully, wiping dust from them. Old beds have been wrapped in blankets of prayers providing rest and refreshment to generations. An antique clock speaks about the confirmation or the wedding that was the occasion of its giving. The sideboard recounts the sustenance that has been prepared by generations. Through the subtle changes that are seen in the common and ordinary, a deepening and abiding faith is nurtured and sustained.

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Congregation Celebrates 40th Anniversary of Ordination for “Pastor Dennis” on Sunday, August 27th



*Photos from top to bottom:
a. John Broussard, President of the Congregation Council, presents Pastor Dennis with a certificate of recognition.
b. The Lauritsen family.
c. A reception in the dining hall following worship.
d. A beautifully decorated, homemade cake by Kathi and Jim Zinsser. Photos by Emil Galdun.*

**Worship in the Church Gardens
Sunday, September 10th**



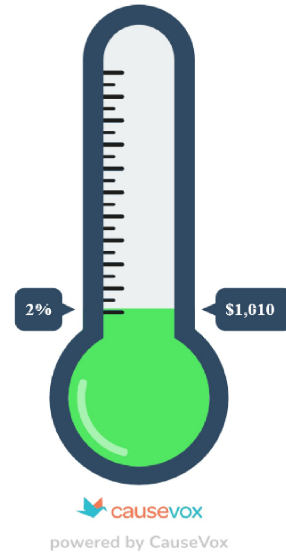
The congregation welcomed grandparents, parents and children at the outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 10th. Photo credit: Rafael Martinez.

**News from Riverside Preschool
at Sts. Peter and Paul**

October will be filled with Fall and Halloween projects as we celebrate the month along with a visit from the Fire Department. It's sure to be a ghostly month!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

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



Amount raised as of September 18th, 2023: \$1,260.00

Memorial Flowers

August 27th: In celebration of Pastor Dennis Lauritsen's 40th Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, August 28th, 1983 by the Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church.

August 2023	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
<i>Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00</i>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
8/6	\$4,760.00
8/13	\$1,181.00
8/20	\$ 600.00
8/27	\$1,840.00



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250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

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DATED MATERIAL



A new rose of Sharon blooming in late August this year in front of the parsonage on Maplewood Road. Photo credit: Jane Lauritsen

I feel the winds of God today:
Today my sail I lift,
Though heavy oft with drenching spray,
And torn with many a rift:
If hope but light the waters' crest,
And Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at His behest
And brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries
My vain, regretful tears,
Until with braver thoughts shall rise
The purer brighter years:
If cast on shores of selfish ease
Or pleasure I should be,
Lord, let me feel Thy freshening breeze
And I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget Thy love
And how that love was shown,
Lift high the blood-red flag above:
It bears Thy name alone.
Great Pilot of my onward way,
Thou wilt not let me drift:
I feel the winds of God today,
Today my soul I lift. Amen

By Jessie Adams (19th century)

—submitted by Pastor Dennis

Vulnerability

A poem by David Whyte

“Vulnerability is not a weakness, a passing indisposition, or something we can arrange to do without, vulnerability is not a choice, vulnerability is the underlying, ever present and abiding undercurrent of our natural state. To run from vulnerability is to run from the essence of our nature, the attempt to be invulnerable is the vain attempt to become something we are not and most especially, to close off our understanding of the grief of others. More seriously, in refusing our vulnerability we refuse the help needed at every turn of our existence and immobilize the essential, tidal and conversational foundations of our identity.

To have a temporary, isolated sense of power over all events and circumstances, is a lovely illusionary privilege and perhaps the prime and most beautifully constructed conceit of being human and especially of being youthfully human, but it is a privilege that must be surrendered with that same youth, with ill health, with accident, with the loss of loved ones who do not share our untouchable powers; powers eventually and most emphatically given up, as we approach our last breath.

The only choice we have as we mature is how we inhabit our vulnerability, how we become larger and more courageous and more compassionate through our intimacy with disappearance, our choice is to inhabit vulnerability as generous citizens of loss, robustly and fully, or conversely, as misers and complainers, reluctant and fearful, always at the gates of existence, but never bravely and completely attempting to enter, never wanting to risk ourselves, never walking fully through the door.”

—submitted by Pastor Dennis



*Photo credit:
Eliot Pontius*

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 1st: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

October 8th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

October 15th:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

October 22nd:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

October 29th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Emily Bittner
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Wayne Rauschenberg, Linda Epich and Family, and Norbert Demaine, in memory of +Richard Epich+.
The Galdun and Illo Families, in memory of +Maria Illo+.
Jane Lauritsen and Kristine Boike for utility expenses.

Directory Changes

Zip code changes:

James Kuemmerle - 60646
Jason Skudrna - 60440

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 5th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Gary Drahos
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

November 12th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

November 19th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 26th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Beverly Tarbox



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening.

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

Places In The Heart

by Alexander Shaumyan

There are places in the heart,
that are still unmarred by
understanding -
those places that we have
kept hidden for so long
from all those prying eyes,
prowling in the darkness -

There are places in the heart,
filled with childhood memories
of laughter and joy,
hope and new beginnings,
those places that we revisit
secretly and tenderly,
those places that make us
feel alive again -

There are places in the heart
that know no boundaries,
no limitations, but unrestrained
happiness of a smiling child,
filled with wonder and love
for the world, feeling both
godlike and tiny, overtaken
by the invisible presence
that permeates the moon
and the countless stars -

There are places in the heart,
where life is filled with miracles
and questions lead to more
questions, prompted by infinite
curiosity and the desire to know
the essence of things,
there are places that only
you and I know,
those places that remind us
who we really are -

For we are the essence
of life's joy and discovery,
truth and beauty, love and
tenderness, that penetrates
the cracks of a fractured world,
we are those places in the heart
that know no end and no beginning,
but love and only love,
that sings through us like
warm summer rain.



Oct. 1	Ekaterina Riha	Oct. 18	Jonathon Meyers
Oct. 2	Jason Skudrna	Oct. 19	Michael Vercimak
Oct. 3	Karen Kubik		Janina Yezo
Oct. 5	William Bute	Oct. 22	Saundra Spilotro
Oct. 8	Janice Hapgood	Oct. 23	Helena Galdun
Oct. 9	Matthew Bute		Tanya Jech
Oct. 11	Charles Langsett	Oct. 24	Kathy Ganschow
	Olivia Lauritsen	Oct. 28	George Pagurko
Oct. 16	Robert Melnyk	Oct. 29	Helen Gaydusek
	Mildred Mendel	Oct. 30	Donald Haase
	Earl Mika, Jr.	Oct. 31	BettyAnn Mocek
Oct. 17	Aidan Altavilla		
	Bryan Galdun		

Birthdays and Anniversaries

October 1, 1988: Kenneth and Joyce Hurbanis
October 6, 2001: Janet and John Broussard
October 6, 1962: Edward and Joanne Sefara
October 10, 1964: Robert and Julie Barcik
October 15, 1988: John and Juanita Jakubec



A late summer crossing of Willow Creek in western Iowa. Photo credit: Daryle Lauritsen.