

# 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

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Issue 9

*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.*



## Autumn Outdoor Worship

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and  
A Day of Remembrance: Patriot Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>  
and Grandparents’ Day with Potluck Meal.

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Blessing of Pets and Animals  
in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,  
renewer of the church, died 1226.



*Members of the Michalička Family, relatives of the late Steve Michael and the late Betty Mocek, were also welcomed on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from the Slovak Republic (Brezová pod Bradlom and Holíc), including Dušan and Vera and grandsons Matuš, Jakub and Erik. Shown with them are BettyAnn Mocek, Adrianna Kubova, Arnost and Anna Bulir, and Pastor Dennis. Photo credit: Adam Walker.*

## Summer Worship in the Church Gardens



*Worship in the church gardens on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. From left to right: Pastor Dennis, Carrie Watkiss and Pastor James Kuemmerle who was received as a newly registered member of the congregation. The assembly was joined by "deer friends" (upper center of photo) from the nearby Des Plaines River. Photo credit: Tom Myers.*



*Beverly Tarbox graced the worship service with her harp.*

## Congratulations, Graduates!



Our congratulations to the following individuals on their accomplishments and Godspeed to them.

*Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith.*

**William “Will” Bute** graduated from Bryan Middle School earlier this summer and will be attending York High School this fall. He and his brother Jack have been very active in league sports for many years. They are the sons of Matt and Julie Bute and the grandsons of Karyn Minarcin Bute.

Graduating from Riverside Brookfield High School on May 26<sup>th</sup> was **Bradley William Ruska**, son of Bill and Michelle Ruska and the grandson of Arnost and Anna Bulir. In the fall, Bradley will be attending St. Louis University, School of Aviation and Flight Science, in the pilot program and hoping to become a commercial airline pilot.

**Hudson Bohn Warnes**, son of Christopher and Kristine Warnes and grandson of John and Shirley Kostelny, graduated on May 21<sup>st</sup> from Naperville Central High School where he received the All Academic and All Conference Award in Volleyball. He will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe, majoring in architecture and minoring in film where he also plans to join a club volleyball team.

Also graduating on May 21<sup>st</sup> from Naperville Central High School was **Jack Christopher Warnes**, son of Christopher and Kristine Warnes and grandson of John and Shirley Kostelny. Jack is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Brian Churchill Memorial Scholarship and the David Hagen Memorial Scholarship. He also received the All Academic and All Conference Award in Track and Field as well as earning a variety of letters for track. Jack will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington, majoring in business and pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors.

## “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty...”



*The church doors continued to be refinished during the month of July. Thank you, Paul Watkiss!*

## Independence Day in Riverside



## Welcome Newly Registered Members!

On Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the congregation publicly welcomed the Rev. James Alan Kuemmerle as a newly registered member. Pastor James comes to Sts. Peter and Paul from Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago where he and his late wife Pastor Melissa served faithfully for many years. They are the parents of two adult children, Silas and Dortha. Pastor James enjoys bicycle riding, motor scooters, road trips and computer gaming.

Also recently welcomed by the congregation are Bettye Harden and Staci Harden who were previously members of Trinity Lutheran Church located at Laramie and Hirsch in Chicago. Bettye was born in Helena, Arkansas and later moved to Chicago, then to Forest Park, and presently resides in nearby North Riverside. Bettye worked for Garda Armor in Broadview for 13 years and prior to this she worked as a lab technician at General Foods for 16 years as well as a number of other local jobs. Bettye enjoys bowling! Staci was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago. She is also our neighbor with her mother Bettye in North Riverside. Both Bettye and Staci heard about Sts. Peter and Paul through a relative who frequently passes by the church. They both would enjoy serving as greeters on Sunday mornings, and Staci is also glad to help out in the church kitchen.

## Prayer of Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
It is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent  
enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete,  
Which is another way of saying that  
The Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that should be said.  
No prayer fully expressed our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.  
This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
Knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.  
We cannot do everything,  
And there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
A step along the way,  
An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results,  
But that is the difference  
Between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders,  
Ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

—Submitted by Pastor Dennis



*The lust for power is not rooted in strength but in weakness.*

— Erich Fromm

Many of us have felt so insecure, so poor, or so much the underdog that we made a fervent promise to ourselves that we'd come out on top later. We know how weak we felt, and that image continues to be our guiding force long after the weakness was overcome. We may have spiritual problems because we are blind to the reality of our present life. While grasping for more security, more love, more money, or trying to lose more weight or attract more friends, we fail to stop and realize the real rewards we already have today. We are driven by the memory of pain and insecurity, rather than rising above it and relating to the higher principles and people around us. Our spiritual problems are not solved by getting more control or more achievements, but by making peace with the fact that life is insecure.

Today, I will let go of my grasping for more. I will let go of it again and again throughout the day so I am not ruled by this weakness.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at [www.hazeldenbettyford.org](http://www.hazeldenbettyford.org).

## News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We are delighted to be starting our tenth year of preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul. We hope all of you have had a great summer!

Preschool begins on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and our theme this year will be "Turtley Cool" with our mascot Myrtle the Turtle. We will be learning all about her and focusing on colors each month.

We're in store for a colorful school year!

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director



## Blessing of Teachers and Students

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Sept. 3	Martin Pennino	Sept. 17	Maycee Gillund
Sept. 5	Ezekiel Wilson		Benjamin Smith
Sept. 7	Nathan Byrne	Sept. 18	Isabella Myers
Sept. 9	Julie Barcik		Sebastian Myers
Sept. 10	John Jakubec	Sept. 22	Angeline Gomez
Sept. 11	Janice Decosola	Sept. 23	Devin Cathey
	Jon Hapgood		Ella Cathey
	Dennis Horacek	Sept. 24	Betty Bagel
	Alexandra Miller		John Broussard
Sept. 15	Deborah Jech	Sept. 27	James Gaydusek
Sept. 16	Linda McShane		Charles Matthias
		Sept. 30	Beverly Podzamsky

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 5, 1998: Thomas and Lavinia Myers  
September 6, 1997: Matthew and Janice Decosola  
September 9, 2009: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
September 12, 2020: Zachary and Jeanean Sawyer  
September 13, 2014: Susan and Robert Gillund  
September 14 2002: Michelle and William Ruska  
September 18, 2010: Peter and Gandy Drahos  
September 19, 2009: Christopher and Laura Teter  
September 24, 2000: James and Sandra Gaydusek  
September 30, 1995: Adriana and Branislav Kubo

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## DATED MATERIAL

*This is right on the nose. Read it slowly. I don't know who wrote it, but I am guessing it was a senior. I first started reading this and was reading fast until I reached the third sentence. I stopped and started reading it over slowly and thinking about every word. This is very thought provoking and makes you stop and think.—JK*

And then it was winter... You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like just yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way it seems like eons ago and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember it well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is my friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me. I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now I find that just getting a shower is a real choir for the day. Taking a nap is not a treat anymore it's mandatory! If I don't on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit!

So now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains, the loss of strength and the ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did. But at least I know that though the winter has come and not sure how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth, it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done. Things I should have done. But there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. Whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. Do what you can today. You can never be sure whether this is your winter or not. You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life. Live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember. Hope they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them over the years. Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Live it well! Enjoy today! Do something fun!  
Be happy! Have a great day!

## Senior Thoughts and Words of Wisdom

*"It is health that is the real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."*

*Today is the oldest you've ever been and the youngest you'll ever be. So enjoy this day while it lasts.*

*Your kids are becoming you.  
Going out is good but coming home is better!*

*You forget names. But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!*

*The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.*

*You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".*

*You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF".*

*You tend to use more 4 letter words. What? When? What?*

*Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.*

*What used to be freckles are now liver spots.*

*Do you notice? Everybody whispers.*

*You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.  
Two of which you will never wear.*

*But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old Movies,  
and best of all Old Friends!*

*It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.*

*—articles submitted by John Kostelny*



## Altar Flowers

*July 16<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of dear husband, father and grandfather +Richard Hurbanis+ on the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his birth on July 15<sup>th</sup> by remembering wife Ruth and children Kenneth Hurbanis, Kevin Hurbanis and Karen Morrissey and their families.

*July 23<sup>rd</sup>:* In loving memory of +Mildred Beausejour+ on the anniversary of her passing on July 26<sup>th</sup> by remembering nieces and nephews; and in loving memory of +Betty Mocek+ on the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of her passing on July 26<sup>th</sup> by remembering Mocek and Michalička Families.

*July 30<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of +Anne+ and +Jacob Drahos+ by their remembering family.

*Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>:* In loving memory of dear mother and grandmother +Irene Boor+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 16<sup>th</sup> by remembering sons William R. and Richard T., daughter-in-law Debbie and their family.

In celebration of Nicole Smith's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 18<sup>th</sup> by loving grandparents John and Shirley Kostelny.

In memory of +Ann Kostelny+ on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing on August 25<sup>th</sup> by remembering son John and his family.



### “The tremor of awe is the best in [humanity].”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

We have a spiritual experience in knowing and being touched by something much larger than us, something beyond what we understand, something of mysterious dimensions. It can happen as we stand on the banks of an ageless river, listen to beautiful music, read scripture, or say a prayer with a friend. When we set aside defiance, willfulness, and our demands to subdue whatever we meet, we become receptive to a larger reality. The experience of awe brings out the best in a [person] because it instills a spirit of respect and gratitude. It inspires humility and expands our minds into realms we can't express in words.

The sense of awe is a kind of reverence. After we learn where our personal awe is inspired, we can return to it again and again. As we feel it more, we become more open to it in the mundane parts of our daily lives. Today, we might feel the spirit in the visit of a wild bird on a branch, the spontaneous “Hi” from a small child, or the stillness before prayer at the dinner table.

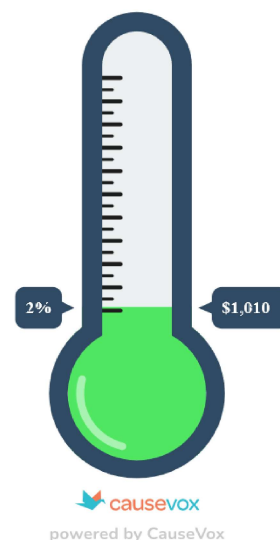
Today, I will look for moments of awe in my life.

*Quoted from the app Touchstones.*

*Find recovery resources at [www.hazeldenbettyford.org](http://www.hazeldenbettyford.org).*

## TUCK-POINTING AND OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS

CONGREGATION'S  
GOAL: \$60,000



Amount raised as of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

## Memorials and Honorariums

### ✙ For the Church ✙

- Esther Meksto, in memory of husband +Edward Meksto+ on the anniversary of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Dee Miko and Ivan Durkovic, in memory of dear mother +Darina Durkovic+ on the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Deb and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood, Mike and Tam Wood, Sue and Larry Kusch and their families.
- The Londak Family, in memory of +Maria Illo+ from Spring Hill, Florida.
- Diane and Ben McGee, in loving memory of dear father +Steve Podzamsky+ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his passing on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- William Boor, in memory of dear mother +Irene Boor+ on the anniversary of her birth on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

### ✙ Tuck Pointing Project ✙

- Betty Ann Mocek, in memory of dear mother +Betty Mocek+ on the first anniversary of her passing.
- Steve and Peggy Cuvala, in memory of +John+ and +Lillian Cuvala+, +Richard+ and +Frances Burian+, +Martin Sr. and +Betty Misik+, +Frank+ and +Anna Kase+, +Marty Misik+, +Michael Burian+, and +Edward+ and +Dianne Cerny+.

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An electronic copy of this newsletter is  
posted at our website  
and can be accessed at:  
[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

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## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

### September 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
 Assisting Minister: Emily Bittner  
 Lector: Jane Lauritsen  
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
 Usher: John Kostelny

### September 10<sup>th</sup>: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
 Lector: John Kostelny  
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
 Usher: Fred Kuzel

### September 17<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Ann Kmet  
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
 Lector: Emily Bittner  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

### September 24<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
 Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
 Lector: Kristine Boike  
 Live Stream: John Broussard  
 Usher: Janet Broussard

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
 To be determined.

**Happy Labor Day**



*Photo credit: Carolyn Lauritsen Sward, taken in early August at sunrise near Galesburg, Illinois.*

## OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

### Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: (Outdoor Worship)

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

### Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>:

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

### Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>:

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

### Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>:

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

### Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>:

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

<b>June 2023</b>	
<b>Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering</b>	
<i>Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00</i>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/4	\$2,517.00
6/11	\$2,172.00
6/18	\$1,014.00
6/25	\$1,707.00
<b>July 2023</b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
7/2	\$1,840.00
7/9	\$1,343.00
7/16	\$1,502.00
7/23	\$2,935.00