

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

July/August 2023

Issue 7/8

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.



The Newly Confirmed



Outdoor Worship this Summer and Autumn

8th Sunday after Pentecost, July 23rd

Welcoming Newly Registered Members with Ice Cream Social

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 10th

A Day of Remembrance: Patriot Day, September 11th and Grandparents' Day with Potluck Meal

18th Sunday after Pentecost, October 1st

Blessing of Pets and Animals in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226.



Aidan and Sebastian affirmed the promises of Holy Baptism on the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, June 4th. The confirmands are shown in the top photo with instructors Charles Matthies and Fred Kuzel with Pastor Dennis. Photo credits: Keith Altavilla and Rafael Martinez.

The Newly Baptized



Holy Baptism for Lyla Antinette Yamamota, daughter of Benjamin Yamamota and Shawna Brooke Bocek and Skylar Anne Skudrna, daughter of Jason Skudrna and Shawna Brooke Bocek was celebrated on Sunday, April 30th. Lyla's sponsors are Joseph Struck and Laura Bocek. Skylar's sponsors are Joseph Smutny and Kristi Skudrna. Photo by Rafael Martinez.



Graduate write-ups will be included in the September Issue of the congregational newsletter. Until then we pray "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. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Amen"

Memorial Flowers

June 11th: In loving memory of beloved mother +Arlene Gana+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Adrienne Gana.

2023 Church Directory

After several years, we hope to publish a new hard-copy of the congregational directory this summer. There are still many households with outdated information, including household members, mailing addresses, and phone numbers. Please contact the church office to update your household information either by phone at 1.708.442.5250 or email at office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org no later than July 27th. Many households no longer use landlines, so mobile telephone numbers are welcome in the directory. Households need to have a contact number (land line or cell phone) along with a current mailing address in order to be included in the directory. Thank you!

—Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 1: Anne Gavac | July 14: Janet Broussard |
| July 4: Carl Busch III | July 17: John Kostelny |
| July 5: Joanne Sefara | July 18: Timothy Dlh
Megan Drahos |
| July 6: Karyn Bute | July 22: Elizabeth Cudecki |
| July 9: Lee Drahos
Robert Kubik | July 26: Bode Smith |
| July 11: Hannah Decosola | July 30: Keith Altavilla |
| July 13: Amanda Meyers | |

Anniversaries

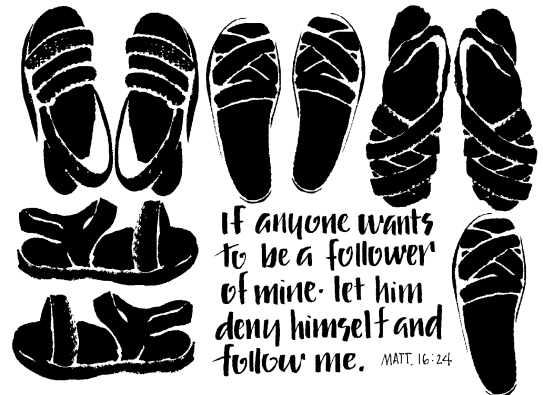
- July 7, 1979: John and Linda McShane
 July 11, 2015: Thomas and Kathryn Murray
 July 19, 1986: Dennis and Jane Lauritsen
 July 20, 2019: David and Jessica Barajas
 July 25, 1997: Timothy and Pamela Dlh

AUGUST

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aug. 1: James D'Alexander
Milton Podzamsky | Aug. 16: Adrienne Gana
Paul Kubecka
Daniel Tornil |
| Aug. 3: Milan Oklepek | Aug. 17: Annette Kozik |
| Aug. 5: Sofia Cobrda | Aug. 18: Nicole Smith |
| Aug. 7: Jenean Sawyer | Aug. 22: George Valek |
| Aug. 10: Kristine Boike
George Hodul
Bradley Ruska
Joseph Ruiz | Aug. 23: Garry Horak, Jr.
Aug. 24: Adrienne Mikulka
Aug. 25: Daniel Mikulka |
| Aug. 12: Larry Crachy | Aug. 26: Carole Pollitz |
| Aug. 13: Vlado Vercimak | Aug. 28: Matthew G. Decosola
Steven Deshazer
Brandon Michaels |
| | Aug. 29: Matthew J. Decosola |

Anniversaries

- August 13, 2022: Samuel and Gianna Lauritsen
 August 15, 1997: Donald and Elaine Haase
 August 25, 2018: Jacob and Aaliah Czerak
 August 27, 1994: Daniel and Adrienne Mikulka



If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him deny himself and follow me. MATT. 16:24

Tuck-Pointing Project 2023



Tuck-pointing began on the north face of the building in early June.



Double your offerings!

... to The Capital Appeal for Tuck-Pointing and Other Building and Grounds Improvements.

Donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Kessler Memorial Fund.



The tuck-pointing project was completed on Monday, June 19th. Offerings which are given to fund this significant improvement to the sixty-six year old facility will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Walter E. Kessler Memorial Fund. Double your giving by donating to the Capital Appeal for Tuck-Pointing and Other Building and Grounds Improvements. Special thanks to John Kostelny and the Congregation Council for overseeing this major project.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
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U.S. Postage
Riverside, IL
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DATED MATERIAL



Wind, Wind: A Reflection on the Spirit

by William Loader

Wind, wind,
you come from nothingness and go to nothingness,
and when you are still,
there is nothing we see, nothing we hear,
and you surround us in our not seeing and not knowing.

Wild, wild wind,
you whip the seas, whirling great water spouts and fountains,
crashing on the foamed edges of the shore,
sweeping the unsuspecting fisherman from the slippery rocks,
terrifying force, uncontrollable, beyond our power.

O wind, piercing wind,
driving the blizzard, the sleet, the rain,
trampling earth with wild tempests and tantrums
that uproot trees, unroof houses and wreak devastation in your path.

Wind, wind, wondrous wind,
hovering at the birth of creation,
whisking secretly among the wonders of new life,
bearing the seed, lifting high the heads of mighty trees,
swirling among the grasses, celebrating life.

Wind, wind, we know your ways,
we trace your web on the map of highs and lows,
today's weather, tomorrow's predictions,
depressions and sea breezes,
we harness your power,
our weather cocks point to you,
a cross shows where you have been
and we do not know.

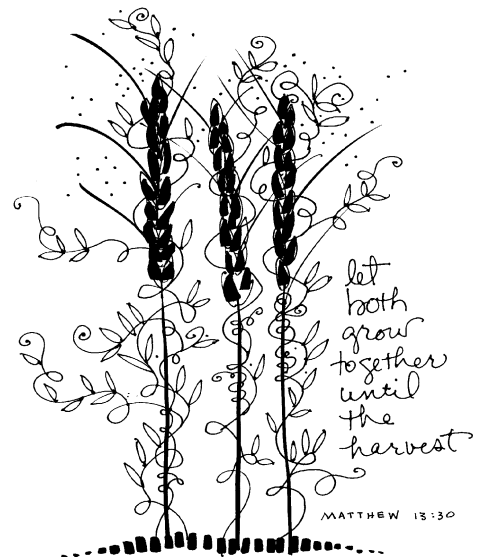
O wind, O silent wind,
where do you go?
Do you go away and play,
in outback gorges or bare mountains of the desert,
stirring small clouds of red dust among the bushes,
kissing the rippled smile of the billabong,
running down the slopes, exulting at the rock face,
passing by the mountain with none to see
and none to know your trail.

Wind, gentle wind,
wind of our breathing, our life, our hope,
renewing, refreshing,
sighing in our stress,
moaning in our pain,
still in our dying.

O wind, wind,
you breathed upon the clay and there was life,
you danced down to the forehead of a Galilean
and there was hope,
you shook the foundations of community
and there was Pentecost.

Wind of nothingness and awe,
wind of knowing and unknowing,
wind of bearing and begetting,
wind of secrets and mystery,
O wise, wise wind,
whisper to us your grace.

—submitted by Pastor Dennis



Who Am I?

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cells confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
freely and friendly and clearly,
as through it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing
My throat, yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,
tossing in expectation of great events,
powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine,
Whoever I am, Thou Knowest, O God, I am thine.

The German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this poem in a Nazi prison, just weeks before he was executed for his opposition to the regime. His confinement puts ours in perspective. And yet his questions are as piercing as ever. Who Am I? Is our concealment in politeness, in humaneness, a violation of our integrity or a gentle tolerance of the impossibility of the situations in which we find ourselves? The human spirit can breathe tremendous suffering and quiet compassion simultaneously. How can we, when we are "restless and longing and sick," still offer consolation, or just politeness, to others? And when we withhold our pain, are we somehow false to others who perhaps can bear no further grief? Who Am I? Bonhoeffer lays bare the contradictions of authenticity and concealment, the paradoxical triumph of love over truth. "Am I one person today and tomorrow another? / Am I both at once?" We are at once weak and strong, present and distant, and called to be honest, painfully honest, and painfully generous with ourselves.

—Todd Breyfogle, Denver, Colorado
—submitted by Pastor Dennis



Church Building Key Returns

Members and friends of the congregation who may have exterior keys to the church facility and are no longer in positions which require access to the building during non-office or program hours are kindly asked to return these keys to the church office. At present, a number of keys are unnecessarily on loan, resulting in expensive replacement costs. Thank you in advance for assisting with the return of these keys.

It is the Lord's Day

New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell, in his volume entitled *Loving Jesus*, has a chapter called "Sunday Morning" in which he relates the following story:

"I remember talking to a Christian rock fan down in Austin, Texas," Powell recalls. "He was a Jesus freak, just like I used to be and still want to be, and I envied him. He was just living in the joy of the Lord, reading his bible every day, praying to Jesus and speaking in tongues, playing Christian rock..."

"When I asked him about church, he didn't write it off but he did say that he hadn't been able to find a congregation where he felt like he fit in.

"The church where I'm a member," he said, "it's like something out of an old black-and-white TV show. Everybody dresses up in suits, they play this music that doesn't sound like anything on the radio, the preacher talks about things that have nothing to do with my life, and, I don't know, I guess it's just boring!"

"Well, this time," writes Powell, "I did give advice. I don't know if it was good advice or not, but I thought about it overnight and then got back to him.

"Do you love Jesus?" I asked the man.

"Yes, I do. I love him with all my heart."

"Would you die for him?" Powell asked.

"Yes, I would. I would die for Jesus."

"So you would die for him, but you won't be bored for him? Is that right?"

"And so I said, 'this is what I think the Lord wants you do. I think that Jesus wants you to get out of bed every Sunday morning, go to that Ozzie and Harriet church, and just sit there for one hour, one hour being bored. Do it for the Lord. Call it 'bearing your cross' if you like. Just do it.'"

Part of the reason Powell said this was because as a young pastor he had visited a number of "inactive members" of his parish and concluded that "everyone was saying in some way, 'I quit coming to church because I wasn't getting out of it what I thought I should get out of it.'"

A little later in the chapter Powell asks, "Where do we get the idea that what happens in church is about us? It is the Lord's day. We go to worship the Lord."

—submitted by Pastor Dennis

"Where do we get the idea that what happens in church is about us? It is the Lord's day. We go to worship the Lord."

JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

July 2nd:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: George Valek

July 9th:

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

July 16th:

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

July 23rd:

Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Emily Bittner
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

July 30th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

Memorials and Honorariums

+ For the Church +

Mildred Londak, in memory of +John Kozik+.

Tracy and Beth Jones, in memory of +John Kozik+.

Charles and Karen Maloney, in memory of +John Kozik+.

Patricia Kozik, in memory of +John Kozik+.

Sandra and Peter Spilotro, in celebration of their
50th wedding anniversary.

Adrienne Gana, in memory of dear mother +Arlene Gana+.

Kevin and Julie Hurbanis, in memory of
father +Richard Hurbanis+.

Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Legends of the Game Volleyball.

May 2023

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offerings

Budgeted Offering: \$2,527.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
5/7	\$1,774.00
5/14	\$3,300.00
5/21	\$1,160.00
5/28	\$ 848.00

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVERS

August 6th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

August 13th:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

August 20th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

August 27th:

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

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Esther Meksto

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 3rd:

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

September 10th:

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

September 17th:

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

September 24th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care: Edward and Joanne Sefara