

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 46

April 2024

Issue 4

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.

Holy Week 2024 March 24th—March 31st

Palm Sunday, March 24th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Festive Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

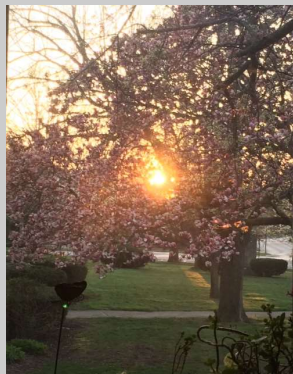
7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, March 29th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, March 31st

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Handbells and Choir



The Three Days

We use the term three-in-one to describe the Holy Trinity, but it is also an apt way to speak of the triduum, or the Three Days. At the center of the church year is our annual celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. One way of observing Holy Week is to walk with Jesus through the last days of his earthly life and to emotionally relive the darkness of Good Friday and the surprising resurrection of Easter Sunday. Yet the triduum is closer to the Gospel of John's interpretation, in which Jesus' death is seen as his glorification and cannot be separated from his resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit.

Which days are included in the paschal triduum? With a recent understanding of Holy Week, many would name Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, with Easter Sunday identified as a separate observance. However, a more ancient counting would include Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. A Jewish understanding of time begins the day at sundown. Hence, the triduum begins at sundown on Maundy Thursday as we enter the Three Days.

As many congregations are recovering the ancient observance of the Three Days, the designation of Holy Week with its tendency to historicize "events" in Jesus' last week of earthly life may need to be reconsidered. The concept of Holy Week often led to Easter Sunday as the climax, but to observe the Three Days is to find the heart of the church year in the celebration of the triduum itself.

The Three Days is our Christian Passover. We are not trying to recreate first-century Jerusalem; rather, we are participating in the mysteries at the core of our faith. Distinctions between past, present, and future disappear. Like Jews who observe the Passover in light of their current context, we mark the Three Days not as a way to go back in time but to let the spiritual power of death and resurrection be unleashed for us today. With Christ we "pass over" from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

With the preparations of Lent behind us, we enter the Three Days with great joy and anticipation. A traditional entrance antiphon for Maundy Thursday invites us to glory in the cross which is our life, salvation, and resurrection. Because death and resurrection are intertwined, the Maundy Thursday liturgy begins with a note of triumph. This moment is our Easter Passover. The cross is our resurrection. Death is the gate to new life. Surrender is the path to victory. On Good Friday the cross is acclaimed as the tree of life that brings healing and salvation to the world. We do not wait until Easter morning to proclaim the vindication of this apparent defeat, but we lift high the cross as the very sign that we find life in the midst of death.

For these three days we put everything else aside so that we may attend to the awesome mystery that defines our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! In a sense time stops and we enter eternity. We have waited a year to celebrate these powerful liturgies, and we savor every moment. We are not merely commemorating events from the past; we are participating in the very mystery at the center of our lives. Baptismal dying and rising with Christ is not only our baptismal vocation, it is our sure and certain hope.

The words of these days are the scriptures, hymns, and rites that mark our Christian identity. Yet the images of the liturgies may speak even more powerfully to our souls and bodies. A basin of water and the washing of feet are a sign of Jesus' self-offering and his ultimate sacrifice on the cross, even as the new commandment calls us to empty ourselves for the sake of others. A wooden cross carried among the assembly and honored with adoration is our wordless response to the great mystery before us. The blazing new fire on an early spring evening stirs in us yet another invitation to new beginnings. The paschal candle carried into a dark worship space starkly contrasts darkness with the radiant light of Christ's resurrection. New Christians bathed in water and anointed with oil are signs of the body of Christ taking on flesh and blood in our midst. The first Eucharist of Easter is none other than our eating and drinking the rich abundance of the promised land.

When the Three Days is observed with careful planning, joyful intentionality, and reverent celebration, it becomes the heartbeat of a parish's life together. The triduum is the center of the year; Lent flows to it and Easter flows from it. In these holy days we find both our identity and our mission—remembered in the past, made present through word and sacrament, and propelling us with invincible hope into the future.

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Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ indwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; feast on trust.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting, gift us with your presence, so we can be a gift to others in carrying out your work. Amen

Mardi Gras 2024



The congregation and friends celebrated Mardi Gras early on February 11th along with the birthdays of Bettye Harden and David Richards shown above with Bettye's son, Paul. John Broussard graced the event as the DJ. Photos by Emil Galdun.

Coming in Eastertide...
The Ramona A. Suffern Mission Dinner
to support local, domestic and global missions.



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
and Good Shepherd Sunday, April 21st, at 12 noon.



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

**Reserve the date on your calendars and look for
information to come.**

Seed money for this event will be provided by



Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$10.00

Children: \$5.00

(ages 6-14)

Children 5 and under: Free

Tickets are available from Jane Lauritsen or Fred Kuzel following Sunday services.

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DATED MATERIAL

Lux Cantorum Chicago Spring Concert

“SACRED CLASSICS”

These extraordinary compositions,
crafted by the greatest masters of the genre,
have stood the test of time as they transport
listeners to a realm where the sacred and the sublime converge.



In concert here on Sunday afternoon, May 5th, 4 p.m.
Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation sing with Lux Cantorum Chicago.
Ticket information will appear in the May newsletter,
emailings, and the LCC website at
luxcantorum.org .

Palm Sunday Coffee Hour!

Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional Palm Sunday Coffee Hour on March 24th. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

New Council Officers and Members...

The following individuals were installed as our new council officers and members on Sunday, March 17th. Thank you to these elected leaders for the service they offer.

Officers

Carrie Watkiss, President
Charles Matthies, Vice President-Financial Secretary
Fred Kuzel, Secretary-Treasurer

Members

Janet Broussard
Larry Crachy
Kathy Ganschow
John Kostelny
Linda Painter
Philip Painter



Birthdays

Apr. 3: Betty Licko-Keel	Apr. 15: Susan Jones
Rafael Martinez	Apr. 20: Anna Bulir
Michelle Ruska	Apr. 21: Gregg Valek
Apr. 4: Anne Marie D'Alexander	Apr. 22: Hannah Boike
John McShane	Apr. 24: Paul Watkiss
Apr. 6: Krystina Gomez	Apr. 26: Susan Gillund
Kathi Zinsser	Carol Triska
Apr. 7: Benjamin Myers	Apr. 27: John Hassel
Brayden Murray	Apr. 29: Arden Kurhayez
Apr. 11: Arnost Bulir	Courtney Kurhayez
Joshua Czerak	Laura Teter
Diane Ritacco	

Anniversaries

April 9, 1982: Joseph and Carol Ruiz
April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Dear Friends,
Happy Spring! We will be doing crafts about weather, bugs and gardens.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

Memorial Flowers

February 25th: In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his passing on February 19th, in memory of parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky, Sr.+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

March 10th: In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his birth on March 6th and in memory of parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

In loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +Robert Skudrna+ on the anniversary of his birth on February 9th and the 3rd anniversary of his passing on March 15th by remembering wife Sue and children Kristin Skudrna and Jason Skudrna and his family Brooke, Lyla and granddaughter Skylar.



Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or, if attending worship, please sign-up on the sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall. *The final day for ordering is Thursday, March 21st.* You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.

Memorials and Honorariums

✠ For the Church ✠

Mark and Elizabeth Rouck, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.
Mark and Elizabeth Rouck, in memory of +Milan Oklepek+.
John and Shirley Kostelny, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.
Vera Borysek, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.
Saundra and Peter Spilotro, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.
Martin and Ann Pennino, in memory of +Anna Gavac+.
Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Gertrude Tarbox+.
John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Gertrude Tarbox+.

✠ In memory of Mary Sordel ✠

Edward and Joanne Sefara
Fred Kuzel
John and Janet Broussard
Karyn Bute

February 2024
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/4	\$1,530.00
2/11	\$2,155.00
2/18	\$2,580.00
2/25	\$1,825.00

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

April 7th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: George Valek

April 14th:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Rafael Martinez

April 21st:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

April 28th:

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

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 5th:

Greeter: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

May 12th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

May 19st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

May 26th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Carole Pollitz and Jane Lauritsen

For more information, news, photos,
worship videos and sermons, visit us on the
web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.



**The Terry Sullivan Jazz Ensemble
returns in concert
Saturday, April 27th, 7:30 p.m., here,
featuring works by
Leonard Bernstein.**

Worship Servers Please Note...

...that if you are unable to keep your scheduled date, please arrange for a replacement and call the church office with the change. Thank you.



Passages

Mary R. Sordel, 97 years old, mother of Lynn and Kay, passed from this life on February 15th. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on February 21st at Ivins/Moravecsek Funeral Home in Riverside. Interment will be held in Westby, Wisconsin by the family in July.

Gertrude C. Tarbox, 100 year old mother of Gerald "J.T." Tarbox, passed from this life on February 25th. A funeral mass was held at St. Bruno Church in Chicago on March 1st. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery.