



# 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 2

*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.*

## Voices from the Desert:

### New Year's Resolutions from our Monastic Mothers and Fathers

Compiled by Daniel B. Clendenin

Here are a dozen nuggets of wisdom... gleaned from the "sayings" (Greek, *Apophthegmata*) of the desert monastics...

**1. Never stop starting over:** "Abba Poeman said regarding Abba Prin that every day he made a new beginning." "My God, do not abandon me. I have done nothing good before Thee, but grant me, in Thy compassion, the power to make a start" (Arsenius, 5<sup>th</sup> century).

**2. Live intentionally, not aimlessly:** "Think nothing and do nothing without a purpose directed to God. For to journey without direction is wasted effort" (St. Mark the Ascetic, 5<sup>th</sup> century).

**3. Never, ever despair, no matter what:** "Let us eagerly draw near to Christ, and let us not despair of our salvation. For it is a trick of the devil to lead us to despair by reminding us of our past sins" (St. Makarios of Egypt, 5<sup>th</sup> century). "When someone is defeated after offering stiff resistance, he should not give up in despair. Let him take heart, encouraged by the words... God raises up all who are bowed down (Psalm 145:14). Do all in your power not to fall, for the strong athlete should not fall. But if you do fall, get up again at once and continue the contest. Even if you fall a thousand times... rise up again each time" (St. John of Karpathos, date unknown).

**4. Pray simply, not stupidly:** "Often when I have prayed I have asked for what I thought was good, and persisted in my petition, stupidly importuning the will of God, and not leaving it to Him to arrange things as He knows is best for me. But when I have obtained what I asked for, I have been very sorry that I did not ask for the will of God to be done; because the thing turned out not to be as I had thought" (Evagrius the Solitary, 4<sup>th</sup> century). Abba Macarius said, "It is enough to say, 'Lord, as you will, and as you know, have mercy.' And if the conflict grows fiercer, say: 'Lord, help!'"

**5. Renounce all self-justification:** According to John the Dwarf, "We have put aside the easy burden, which is self-accusation, and weighed ourselves down with the heavy one, self-justification."

**6. Stop judging others:** "The monk, says Moses, must never judge his neighbor at all in any way whatever." "They said of Abba Macarius that just as God protects the world, so Abba Macarius would cover the faults he saw, as though he did not see them, and those he heard, as though he did not hear them."

**7. Stay put:** Mother Synclitica (4<sup>th</sup> century), "If you find yourself in a monastery do not go to another place, for that will harm you a great deal. Just as the bird who abandons the eggs she was

sitting on prevents them from hatching, so the monk or the nun grows cold and their faith dies when they go from one place to another." "In Scetis a brother went to Moses to ask for advice. He said to him, 'Go and sit in your cell, and your cell will teach you everything.'"

**8. Celebrate theological modesty:** "St. John Chrysostom says that we do not know wholly even what is given in part, but know only a part of a part" (St. Peter of Damaskos, 12<sup>th</sup> century).

**9. Acknowledge my brokenness:** "The person who has come to know the weakness of human nature has gained experience of divine power. Such a person never belittles anyone... He knows that God is like a good and loving physician who heals with individual treatment each of those who are trying to make progress" (St. Maximos the Confessor, 7<sup>th</sup> century). "A brother said to Abba Theodore, 'Speak a word to me for I am perishing.' Sorrowfully, the old man said: 'I myself am in danger. So what can I say to you?'"

**10. Be ruthlessly realistic:** "Saint Anthony said to Poemen, 'expect trials and temptations until your last breath.'" "I am convinced that not even the apostles, although filled with the Holy Spirit, were therefore completely free from anxiety... Contrary to the... view expressed by some, the advent of grace does not mean the immediate deliverance from anxiety" (St. Makarios of Egypt, 5<sup>th</sup> century).

**11. Always think good of everyone:** "Show the greatest gentleness toward all people" (Evagrius the Solitary, 4<sup>th</sup> century).

**12. Read the obituaries:** "When the death of Arsenius drew near, the brothers saw him weeping and asked, 'Truly, Father, are you afraid?' 'Indeed,' he answered them, 'the fear which is mine this hour has been with me ever since I became a monk.'" "At the moment of our death we will all know for certain what is the outcome of our life" (St. Gregory of Sinai, 13<sup>th</sup> century).

## Ash Wednesday and the Forty Days of Lent

The holy season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The service time is 7:15 p.m. with a spoken Liturgy of Holy Communion. Christians gather on this holy day to mark the beginning of Lent's baptismal preparation for Easter. On this day, we receive an ashen cross on the forehead—a gesture rooted in baptism—make extended confession, hear the solemn proclamation to keep a fast in preparation for Easter's feast, and contemplate anew the ongoing meaning of our baptism into the Lord's death and resurrection. While marked with the ashes of human mortality, the church hears God's promise of forgiveness and tastes God's mercy in the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

## The Disciplines of the Season of Lent

**Almsgiving:** Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the hardships and needs of others our own: the young and the old, the sick and the suffering, next door neighbors and people in distant lands—people it would be easy to forget. Rather than simply looking out for ourselves, Jesus urges us to see those in need. And what shall we give? Some time, some of our talent, material resources. Whatever we give should be something that costs us, given in a spirit of gratitude to God for the life that fills us each day. What shall we give (up) in Lent? Maybe a visit to a homebound or hospitalized neighbor or friend or member of the congregation; maybe some time after school helping a child with homework; maybe an evening at a shelter for homeless men or women; maybe a gift to Lutheran World Relief. Maybe a new niche for ministry in the congregation. After all, before us are the great alms Jesus gave: “He loved us, and gave himself up for us.”

**Prayer:** The Lenten season calls us to pray, but prayer, Jesus teaches, is much more than saying words. “Go into your room, and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.” Before we pray, we need to shut the door to the noise, the trivialities, the distractions, the countless cares grabbing for our attention. In the quiet place of our hearts, we speak and listen to God. We trust that God helps us pray in this season. For those who have stopped praying, or pray with little fervor, God gives graces for praying again. Usually the graces come as we turn to prayers and practices already there: reflective reading of the Bible and devotional materials, the liturgies of the Lord’s Supper and other opportunities for public worship, simple grace-filled prayers, like the Lord’s Prayer or the psalms. “What a Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion,” Pope Leo told Christians of the 6<sup>th</sup> century who were beginning their Lenten observance. Lenten devotional materials will be available in the sanctuary or by request, including various sets of *CareNotes* for Lent and devotional booklets entitled *Not By Bread Alone 2024*.

**Fasting:** This discipline is likely the greatest challenge. Our society looks on fasting itself as peculiar, perhaps even abysmal. Urging everyone to eat, drink, and buy more and more, our world today has made fasting unfashionable and perhaps even un-American. Yet the gospel message warns us that more and more can ruin creation. An acquisitive spirit is a selfish spirit. The taste for too much can destroy. The good things of life can turn into our captors. In our society, fasting could be viewed as a gift to free us from those things to which we have attached our lives. This Lent, recognizing the hold some things have on us, we can try with God’s help to keep them in their right place. For many good reasons, not all of us are physically able to fast due to health problems, work situations, family responsibilities, etc. But some reasonable abstaining from something which obstructs our relationship to God can be a liberating experience. Some may find that they are able to do without food during a day of the week, perhaps Friday in remembrance of our Lord’s suffering and death, or Saturday evening before Communion on the Lord’s Day. Others may find it helpful to set aside certain ways of spending time or money, addictive behaviors or manners of treating others. We need to develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life for the sake of all creation. Can the discipline of fasting lead us to a gentler style of living in communion with the earth and one another?

However you decide to practice the disciplines of Lent, let them be offered freely and generously, not unwillingly and begrudgingly, and in love for our Lord and in gratitude for the gift of life and redemption.—*djl*

## Lord, do not let us do more...

*...If in doing less we might do it better.  
Do not let us acquire more  
If in living with less  
We might know Thee better.  
We are easily swayed by size,  
Equating quantity with quality,  
Wealth with security,  
And applause with popularity.  
Forgive us for spreading ourselves thin  
For the sake of appearances.  
Permit us to amend our ways  
Lest we miss the Baby in the stable,  
The Lad in the carpenter's shop,  
The Teacher on the hillside,  
And the Christ on the Cross. Amen*  
—E. Lee Phillips

## Passages

Robert Kavicky, age 74, passed from this life on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Missoula, Montana where he had relocated from Berwyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in 2011 to be closer to family. Services for Robert were held on December 28<sup>th</sup> at Garden City Funeral Home in Missoula with interment at the Missoula Veterans Cemetery.



*The Baroque String Ensemble from Lincolnshire High School performed at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Rafael Martinez.*

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

February is going to be a sweetheart of a month. We will be busy making crafts, celebrating Valentine’s Day, and having a visit from the dentist.

On our annual pajama day we will be watching a movie and eating popcorn.

—*Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director*



## Memorials and Honorariums

### ❖ For the Church ❖

Ann Neimes, in memory of parents +George+ and +Elizabeth Palencar+.

Ben and Diane McGee

John and Janet Broussard, in honor of Mary Sasuta on her birthday and in memory of +Nick Sasuta+ on the anniversary of his birth (*matching funds*).

Scott Michalec, in memory of father +Edward Michalec+.

Donna Colson and Family, in memory of +Annette Kozik+.

Kris Racek, in memory of husband +John+, in-laws +John+ and +Anne+, and brother-in-law +Rick Racek+.

Fred Kuzel, in memory of +Milan Oklepek+.

The Londak Family, in memory of +Annette Kozik+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Robert Kavicky+.

Karen Cox, Kevin Hanzel and Family, David Hanzel and Family, Audrey Bucz, Brian Bucz, and Adrienne Gana, in memory of mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt +Laverne Hanzel+ on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death.

William Boor, in memory of +Robert Kavicky+.

Milan D. Zavodny, in memory of mother +Olga Zavodny+ on the anniversary of her birth on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### ❖ In Memory of Anita Horak ❖

Lois Michaels

William Boor

John and Janet Broussard

Martin and Ann Pennino

Ann Vana

John and Shirley Kostelny

Ann Kmet

Tom and Vicki Michaels

## February Announcements

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 coming 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.

## Memorial Flowers

*Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>:* In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt +Laverne Hanzel+ on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Karen Cox, sons Kevin and David Hanzel and their families, sister Audrey Bucz, nephew Brian Bucz, and niece Adrienne Gana.



February 4: Isabelle Boike  
Lois Mika

February 6: John Borysek  
Zachary Sawyer

February 7: David Richards  
Ann Vana

February 11: Donovan Byrne  
Christopher Greer

February 12: Jack Bute  
Susan Hassel

February 13: Valerie Smith

February 15: William Londak

February 19: Gretchen Kostelny

February 21: Peter Drahos  
Adriana Kubova

Sarah Michaels

February 22: Robert Kany

February 25: Gary Drahos  
James Triska

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

February 5, 1972: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos

February 14, 2008: Vincent and Valerie Smith

February 27, 1965: George and Joyce Hodul

## Directory changes...

Paul Watkiss  
312-502-8008 (c)

Byrne Residence  
505 S. Townhouse Road  
Newark, IL 60541-9424

Martin Tornil  
W151N10178 Windsong Cir. W  
Germantown, WI 53022-5294

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



Amount raised as of January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024: \$3,942.00

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Road  
Riverside, IL 60546  
Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Riverside, IL  
Permit No. 37

**DATED MATERIAL**

**“Is that You?”**

By Andrew King, lectionary poet

*The jittering snow flakes chase one another  
in flight from the knuckles of wind*

*that sway the abandoned branches of trees  
in their inaudible dirge of loss*

*and scatter the dust that lines the street  
where blank windows stare at the gray.*

*A fragment of newspaper rolls by, revealing and hiding  
its jumble of pain under clouds the colour of bruises.*

*And the torn creation seems to live in the lines  
of the face of this solitary woman,*

*old coat buttoned high and frayed hat pulled hard  
on a forehead furrowed with years,*

*eyelids pinched from the chill of the air  
as she shifts, from one hand to the other,*

*the heavy weight of two bags that might  
carry all that she cares about today.*

*See how carefully she opens her thin wallet  
at the counter of the McDonald's.*

*How each coin is cradled like a departing child  
by wrinkled and shaking fingers.*

*How, when she lifts her face to yours and you  
smile, and she smiles in return of your greeting*

*something crosses the space between you  
like a bridge spanning unseen waters*

*and across that bridge moves a gentle light,  
a glow of kindness, of friendship, of grace.*

*Is that you in those eyes, O Beloved Redeemer,  
in that smile, in that bridge, in that light?*

*Is that you in the lines on all our weathered faces,  
in all our hands that count out life's coins?*

*Grant me grace to see you looking back at me  
with the love you have for all creation,*

*to see you, O King, in all of your glory,  
beneath the folds of each old hat, worn coat.*



**Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Liturgy of Holy Communion  
with Imposition of Ashes  
at 7:15 p.m.

...And the Greatest of These is Love



I CORINTHIANS 13:13

**Annual Congregational Meeting:  
February 4<sup>th</sup> following the liturgy.**

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

### February 4<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
 Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
 Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos  
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

### February 11<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Ann Kmet  
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
 Lector: Emily Bittner  
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
 Usher: John Kostelny

### February 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
 Lector: John Kostelny  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: Janet Broussard

### February 18<sup>th</sup>:

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

### February 25<sup>th</sup>:

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

#### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

## MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

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

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

### March 10<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss  
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
 Lector: George Valek  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: George Valek

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

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

### Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox  
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

### Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
 Lector: Tom Myers  
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
 Usher: Janet Broussard

### Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:

Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
 Lectors: Carrie Watkiss, Jane Lauritsen,  
 John Broussard, Charles Matthies,  
 Brandon Michaels, George Valek,  
 J. T. Tarbox, Kristine Boike  
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
 Usher: John Kostelny

### Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
 Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos  
 Live Stream: John Broussard  
 Usher: Rafael Martinez & John Kostelny

#### Sacristan and Altar Care:

Beverly Tarbox

December 2023	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
<i>Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00</i>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
12/3	\$ 3,416.00
12/10	\$ 3,117.00
12/17	\$31,030.00
12/25	\$ 2,661.00
12/31	\$ 2,920.00



*If one gives food to others, one will improve one's own lot, just as, for example, if one lights a fire for others, one will brighten one's own way* (Nichiren Daishonin, "The Three Virtues of Food," ca. 1278).



# Mardi Gras

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:00-9:30 p.m.

Donation: \$10.00  
Includes a meal of Mostaccioli, Meatballs,  
Salad, Dessert and Coffee.

D.J.  
50/50 Raffle  
Prize for the best costume!

Bring a dessert to share if you wish.

RSVP to the church office no later than  
Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 708-442-5250.

And please bring your friends!