

The Churchman

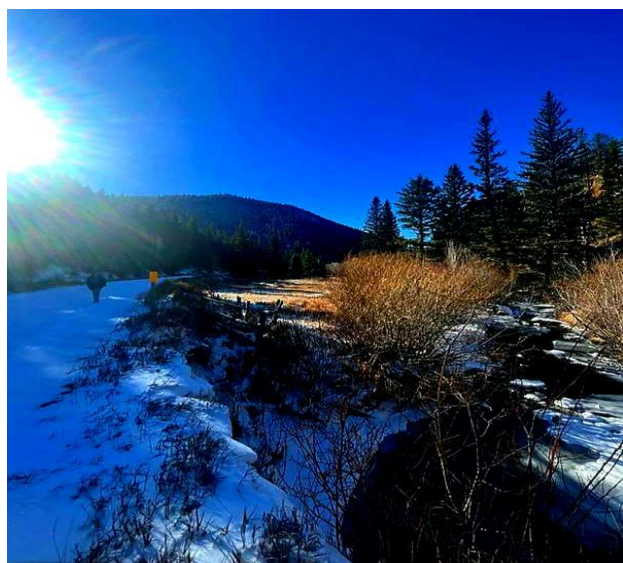
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250
"Faith Active in Love"
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 46

January 2024

Issue 1

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.



New Mexico at Thanksgiving 2023. Photo by Olivia Lauritsen.

The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6th

We bring what we can. We offer what we have. We give our time, our skills, our resources. We give not out of a sense of duty or obligation but in response to the immeasurable gift we have received.

Together, the church is the body of Christ, a ragtag community of believers following a hunch and a star. Together, we offer what we have. We offer our songs, words, hopes, fears, and failings. We offer our prayers. We offer our ability to comfort and mourn, our willingness to be vulnerable. We give our gifts, whatever they are, and we give them joyfully. Some shiny and new, some worn and mended, some cracked but beloved. Gifts more precious than gold, rarer than frankincense or myrrh.

We journey down a long road, sometimes through the dark. Together, we face danger. We face uncertainty. We face temptation. When we come finally, joyfully to celebrate the arrival of the baby Jesus, the king in the humble manger, we rejoice. We pay homage. We offer our gifts in response to the God who has given us all that we see and know. We offer what we have because of what we have received. We bring what we can because the gift that God gives us in Christ is a gift beyond our ability to measure.

We can't always offer as much as we wish we could, but we offer what we have in the spirit that we can and find that together, our

broken gifts make a beautiful whole. The gift we have received is the sure and certain truth that our gifts are enough. That we are enough. That we are created with care and redeemed to be love and light in the world.

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In the depths of winter...

In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer (Albert Camus).

Sometimes we suddenly see or sense opposite emotions within ourselves. The cold of winter presses in on us, and we may feel tested by its bite. Yet, when we think we cannot bear it a moment longer, we find a counterforce within, an inner reassurance that comes like a summer breeze and says we can do what we must. Perhaps it comes in a time of dark despair, and we realize that at least we've made it this far. We are pretty tough. In our deepest sadness about the loss of a love, we may find a more meaningful contact with our Higher Power.

The opposites in our lives may tempt us to fight them. One side may be very clear and obvious while the other side is hidden. When we are open, these extremes are spiritual teachers for us. As we think about life and our feelings today, what opposites do we find?

Today, I will remember that I have an invincible summer at the deepest part of winter in my life.

Quoted from the app Touchstones. Find recovery resources at Hazelden.



Riverside Township Food Collection Thank You!



Passages

Burial:

Anita Louise Horak, 88 years old, passed from this life on December 2nd. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on December 16th at Hitzeman's Funeral Home.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jan. 3:	Gerald "J.T." Tarbox	Jan. 18:	John Galdun
Jan. 4:	Suzanna Skudrna	Jan. 20:	William Boor
Jan. 6:	Esther Meksto	Jan. 21:	James Kuemmerle
Jan. 8:	Samuel Lauritsen	Jan. 22:	Trevor Jech
Jan. 10:	Joyce Hodul		Kenneth Kostelancik
Jan. 14:	Thomas Michaels		Mildred Riban
Jan. 15:	Sarah Gavac	Jan. 31:	Leslie Byrne
			Rachel Decosola

January 18, 2015: James and Kathi Zinsser
January 19, 2014: Eric and Gretchen Kostelny
January 21, 1996: Leslie and Matthew Byrne

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Dan and Raeann Dlhý (*Good Samaritan Fund*).
Betty Jane Licko-Keel, in memory of mother +Marie Michalic
Licko+ and sister +Nancy Carol Licko Carter.
Betty Jane Licko-Keel, in memory of husband +William Jerry Keel+
and father +Stephen Licko, on their November birthdays.
Peggy Swenson, in loving memory of +Harvey Clifford Swenson+ by
the Swenson Families for the live-stream ministry of the
congregation.
Dee Miko and Family, in memory of dear mother +Darina
Durkovic+.

❖ In memory of Annette Kozik ❖

The Family of Annette Kozik
Ann Kmet
Ruth Bakalich
Karyn Bute
Ann Vana
Saundra and Peter Spilotro
Robin Jones
Tracy Jones and Beth Jones
Tom and Vicki Michaels
Roseanne Stranski
Patricia Kozik
William Boor
Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Christine Renak
John and Janet Broussard
Lois Michaels
Edward and Joanne Sefara
Molly Kozik and Jeff Horn
Liz Kmet
Mary Kmet
Ann Kmet

❖ In memory of Milan Oklepek ❖

Saundra and Peter Spilotro
Lois Michaels
William Boor
John and Janet Broussard
Marlene Dickey



Thank you for participating in our food collection to benefit the Riverside Township Food Pantry and to the coordinators Fred Kuzel, Jane Lauritsen and Karen Rouleau. Jane and Fred are shown above at Village Hall for the delivery on December 8th.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

January 7th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

January 14th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

January 21st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

January 28th:

Greeters: John and Janet Broussard
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel

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.

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We will be starting off by celebrating 2023 with number projects focusing on 2023 along with ice and winter. We will end the month with a "Crazy Dazy Day" where we will enjoy being silly all day in preschool.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

Thank you!

Thank you to the following households who purchased poinsettias to decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for our Christmas services. Poinsettia plants may be taken home on Sunday, December 31st.

Ruth Bakalich Fred Kuzel
William Boor The Mocek Family
The Hassel Family Martin and Ann Pennino
The Slahor Family

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVERS

February 4th:

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

February 11th:

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

February 14th, Ash Wednesday

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

February 18th:

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

February 25th:

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

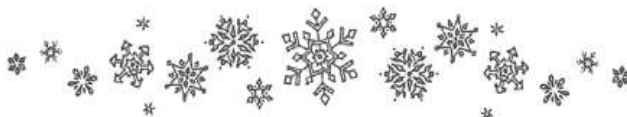
Directory change:

MaryJo Meyers
18 Pine Tree Lane
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Memorial Flowers

Dec. 3rd: In loving memory of dear husband, father and grandfather +Larry Bakalich+ on the 95th anniversary of his birth on December 7th by the remembering Bakalich Family.

Dec. 10th: In memory of +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the 32nd anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Shirley Babyar.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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DATED MATERIAL

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).



Every sip of warm and healthy soup is a divine experience during cold winter days. Come join us on Saturday, January 20th at noon in the dining hall for the first “Soup Swap.” All that is required is for each participant to bring their favorite pot of soup to share with others. Most recipes make 8 servings (2 quarts). Please RSVP to me no later than Monday, January 15th at 1-630-968-5204 so I can provide enough bowls, spoons, bread, crackers, coffee, tea and dessert for all. This is not limited to only church members. Please invite your friends. If you have any questions, feel free to see me on Sunday or contact me at the above number. Looking forward to some delicious sampling of soups and great conversations. — Shirley Kostelny

January Announcements

- ★ Offering envelopes for 2024 are available for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so.
- ★ If you will be leaving the Chicago area during the winter 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.
- ★ 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.

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



Amount raised as of December 10th, 2023: \$3,642.00



November 2023
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00

Date	Offering
11/5	\$1,694.00
11/12	\$2,120.00
11/19	\$11,172.00
11/26	\$1,000.00