

# 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 47

April 2025

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 2025 April 13<sup>th</sup>—April 20<sup>th</sup>

### Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

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, April 17<sup>th</sup>

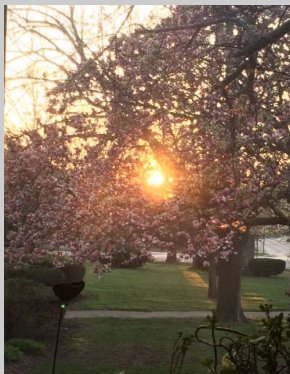
7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,  
Individual Absolution,  
and Foot-Washing

### Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

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

### Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

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 earthy 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

—continued on next page...

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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## 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 April 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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 use the sign-up sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). *The final day for ordering is Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>*. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.



**Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting**  
is sung every Wednesday evening at  
7:15 p.m. during the weeks of Lent  
through April 9<sup>th</sup> preceded by a supper  
of soup and bread beginning at 6:30 p.m.

*One supper host(s) is needed and may sign up  
on the list posted at the lower west entrance to  
the dining hall or please leave a voice mail  
message by calling the church office at  
708-442-5250 or send an email message to  
[office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org).*

## Thank you!!

A huge THANK YOU to all who made this year's Sts. Peter and Paul's Mardi Gras celebration such a whopping success! All five of our senses were employed to maximize our enjoyment—from smelling and tasting the delicious food and drink, to listening and moving to the joyful sounds provided by our DJ, from admiring the decorations that set the mood, and playing a rousing game of crazy dice. All this aside, however, the best part was the fellowship experiences for those few hours.

To those who were not able to attend, yet still sent contributions to support the event, please accept my heartfelt gratitude and thanks. If my calculations are correct we made around \$1,000.00 for the church. The generosity of so many around us never ceases to awe and inspire me. Many thanks and always in Christ.—*Vera Borysek*



*The Baroque String Ensemble and Viol Consort from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire performed in concert here on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Rafael Martinez*

## APRIL

### 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 suspicious; 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.

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

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones

### Memorial Flowers

*Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>:* In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Adrienne Gana.

In loving memory of +Mildred Beausejour+ on the anniversary of her birth on February 20<sup>th</sup> by remembering nieces and nephews.

*March 9<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his birth on March 6<sup>th</sup>, parents +Mary and +Martin Selecky, Sr.,+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

*March 16<sup>th</sup>:* In loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +Robert Skudrna+ on the anniversary of his birth on February 9<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing on March 15<sup>th</sup> by remembering wife Sue and children Kristi Skudrna, Jason Skudrna and his family Brooke, Lyla, and granddaughter Skylar.

*March 23<sup>rd</sup>:* In loving memory of dear husband +Edward Meksto+ on the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing on March 20<sup>th</sup> by remembering wife Esther.

### Memorials and Honorariums

#### ❖ For the Church ❖

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Mark Douce+ (*Good Samaritan Fund*).

Brian Bucz, in memory of father +John Bucz+.

Philip and Linda Painter, in celebration of grandson Theodore Murray's baptism on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Audrey Bucz, in memory of husband, father and uncle +John Bucz+ from loving wife Audrey, son Brian, and niece Adrienne Gana.

Kathryn and Tom Murray, in celebration of son Theodore Lee's baptism on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

St. Paul VI Parish Sports Club (*facility usage*).

Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study (*facility usage*).

Adolf and Ellen Heimann

### New Council Officers and Members...

The following individuals were installed as our new council officers and members on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to these elected leaders for the service they offer.

#### Officers

Carrie Watkiss, President

Philip Painter, Vice-President

Charles Matthies, Financial Secretary

Fred Kuzel, Secretary and Treasurer

#### Members

Keith Altavilla

Kathy Ganschow

Janet Broussard

John Kostelny

Larry Crachy

Linda Painter

### February 2025

#### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

*Budgeted Offering: \$1,962.00*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/2	\$2,675.00
2/9	\$ 990.00
2/16	\$1,795.00
2/23	\$1,865.00

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

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**APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: Joanne Sefara  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Janet Broussard

**Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Aidan Altavilla  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Tom Myers  
Live Stream: John Broussard  
Usher: John Kostelny

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lectors: Philip Painter, Beverly Tarbox, Paul and Carrie Watkiss, John Broussard, Jane Lauritsen, Charles Matthies and Kristine Boike  
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: Janet Broussard

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
Lector: Brandon Michaels  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

**April 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: John Kostelny  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: Rafael Martinez

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Edward and Joanne Sefara

**MAY WORSHIP SERVERS**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
Lector: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos  
Live Stream: John Broussard  
Usher: Janet Broussard

**May 11<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Ann Kmet  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Fred Kuzel  
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: John Kostelny

**May 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeter: Staci Harden  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: George Valek  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Rafael Martinez

**May 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Aidan Altavilla  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Jane Lauritsen



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

Welcome Spring! We will be learning, singing, and making projects about Easter and bugs.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Good day my brothers and sisters in Christ,

As Chairperson of the Finance Committee I have been asked by several members of the congregation as to how our donations are being used. Annually I prepare a budget with input from your elected officials. That budget is reviewed, discussed, and voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting. As the year progresses the details of our spending along with receipts are posted on the dining hall bulletin board. However I would like to provide a better transparency and understanding of our finances.

Every Sunday the church bulletin has the following insert whose values change each week:

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**  
**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$1,962.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,468.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 494.00

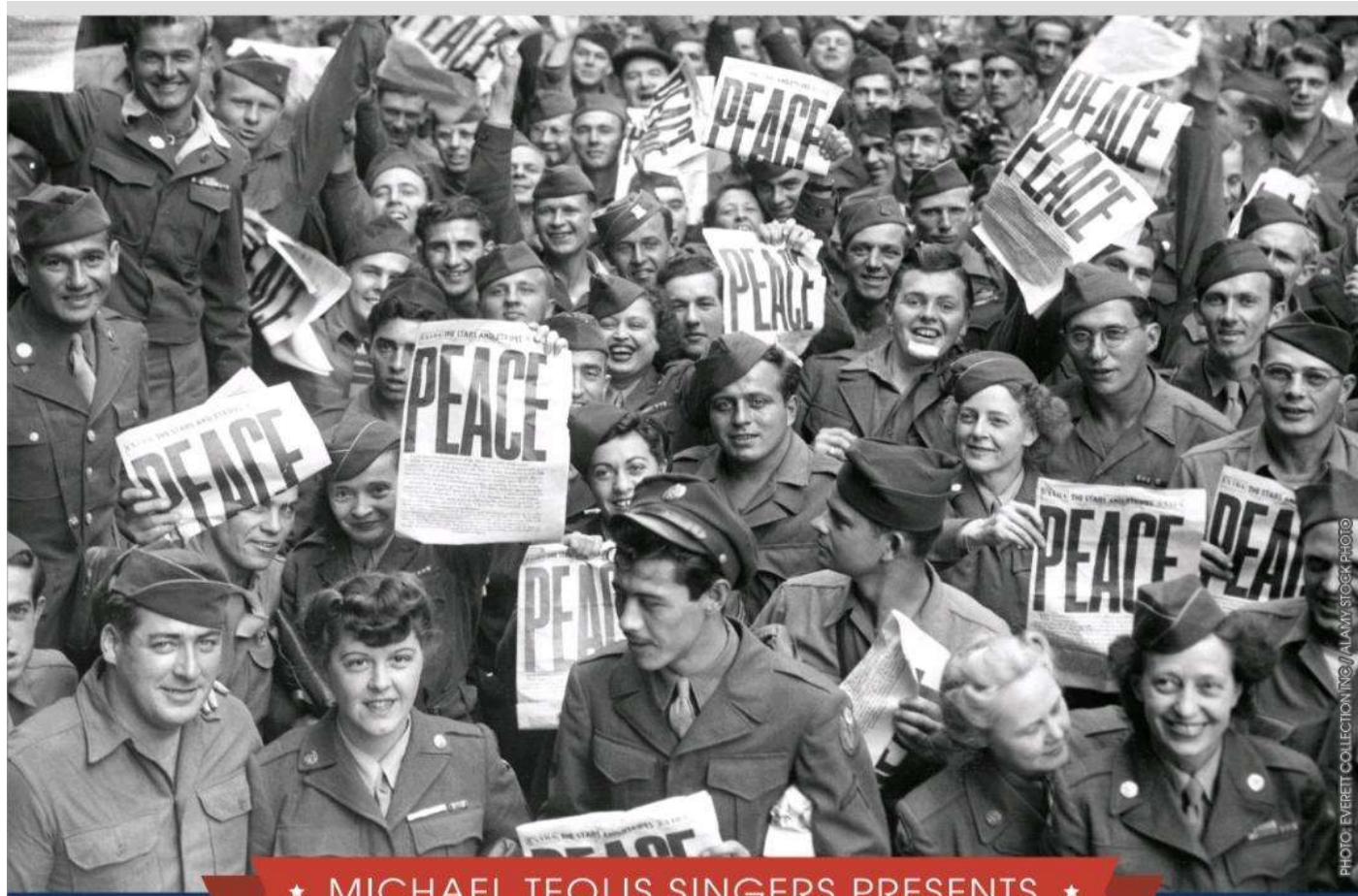
Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org) .

This insert shows budgeted INCOME for only 3 listed categories. It does not show our Income or Expenses in other categories needed to operate this facility. It misses the total picture of our MONTHLY financial position.

The following chart is an attempt to provide transparency. Hopefully it will give a better understanding of where donations are being used and where we need greater support. Since the posted detailed treasurer's report is hard to read, I've listed each category without the detail for a better understanding. The following is through the end of February. I would consider reporting, in this format, every quarter or bi-monthly in *The Churchman*.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>GAIN/LOSS</b>
Administration	\$ 80.70	\$ 4,300.24	(\$ 4,219.54)
Administration [tax, mileage]	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,936.08	(\$ 1,936.08)
Benevolence	\$ 1,145.00	\$ 1,333.00	(\$ 188.00)
Child Care [RPS]	\$ 2,573.00	\$ 2,364.55	\$ 208.45
Endowment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ \$0.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,823.00	\$ 8,161.84	(\$ 6,338.84)
Payroll	\$ 400.00	\$17,694.86	(\$17,294.86)
Receipts <i>(Includes Current Giving, Free Will, Special, Special Appeal, Capital Improvements)</i>	\$16,725.00	\$ 0.00	\$16,725.00
Utilities	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,540.96	(\$ 4,540.96)
Worship	\$ 450.00	\$ 2,329.22	(\$ 1,879.22)
=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$23,196.70</b>	<b>\$42,660.75</b>	<b>(\$19,464.05)</b>

—submitted by John Kostelny



★ MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS PRESENTS ★

# Peace Triumphant: ★ ★ 1945 ★ ★

Saturday • May 10, 2025 • 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church • 324 N. Oak Park Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302 • Handicap Accessible

Online tickets at  
[www.MTSingers.org](http://www.MTSingers.org)  
 • \$25 Adult  
 • \$20 Seniors / Students  
 All tickets at the door  
 • \$30



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**ARTS**  
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THE MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS IS PARTIALLY FUNDED  
 BY THE OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP  
 WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY  
 AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

*Beverly Tarbox and David Richards of our congregation perform with the Michael Teolis Singers.*