



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

October 2025

Issue 10

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.

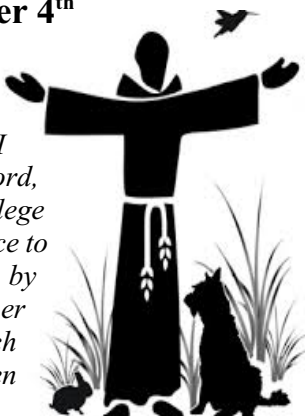
Welcome Interim Pastor, Ken Johnson!

On September 18th, 2025 Rev. Ken Johnson began his service at Sts. Peter and Paul as Interim Pastor. Shut-ins wishing a visit from Pastor Johnson can use the contact information below to arrange an in-person or phone visit. Pastor Johnson will serve as the presiding minister at our services on the second Sunday of the month beginning in November, as well as Christmas Eve. In the event of a pastoral emergency Pastor Johnson can be reached via e-mail or mobile phone at Ken6168@sbcglobal.net or 773-947-4488.

St. Francis of Assisi, Commemorated October 4th

It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching. ...As for me, I desire this privilege from the Lord, that never may I have any privilege from man, except to do reverence to all, and to convert the world by obedience to the Holy Rule rather by example than by word. Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.

—St. Francis



Prayer for the Blessing of Animals

Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer over work, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures, and guard them from all evil, now and forever.



The tremor of awe is the best in man.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

We have a spiritual experience in knowing and being touched by something much larger than us, something beyond what we understand, something of mysterious dimensions. It can happen as we stand on the banks of an ageless river, listen to beautiful music, read scripture, or say a prayer with a friend. When we set aside defiance, willfulness, and our demands to subdue whatever we meet, we become receptive to a larger reality. The experience of awe brings out the best in a man because it instills a spirit of respect and gratitude. It inspires humility and expands our minds into realms we can't express in words.

The sense of awe is a kind of reverence. After we learn where our personal awe is inspired, we can return to it again and again. As we feel it more, we become more open to it in the mundane parts of our daily lives. Today, we might feel the spirit in the visit of a wild bird on a branch, the spontaneous “Hi” from a small child, or the stillness before prayer at the dinner table.

Today, I will look for moments of awe in my life.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening.



On Prayer

by Ole Hallesby
Norwegian Lutheran theologian and writer (1879-1961)

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me (Revelation 3:20).

To pray is nothing more involved than to let Jesus into our needs. To pray is to give Jesus permission to employ His powers in the alleviation of our distress. To pray is to let Jesus glorify His name in the midst of our needs.

The results of prayers are, therefore, not dependent upon the powers of the one who prays. His intense will, his fervent emotions, or his clear comprehension of what he is praying for are not the reasons why his prayers will be heard and answered. No, God be praised, the results of prayer are not dependent upon these things!

To pray is nothing more involved than to open the door, giving Jesus access to our needs and permitting Him to exercise His own power in dealing with them.

He who gave us the privilege of prayer knows us very well. He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

That is why He designed prayer in such a way that the [weakest] can make use of it. For to pray is to open the door unto Jesus. And that requires no strength. It is only a question of our wills. Will we give Jesus access to our needs? That is the one great and fundamental question in connection with prayer.



Oct. 1	Ekaterina Riha	Oct. 17	Aidan Altavilla
Oct. 2	Jason Skudrna		Bryan Galdun
Oct. 3	Karen Kubik	Oct. 18	Jonathan Meyers
Oct. 5	William Bute	Oct. 19	Michael Vercimak
Oct. 8	Janice Hapgood		Janina Yezo
Oct. 9	Matthew Bute	Oct. 22	Saundra Spilotro
Oct. 11	Charles Langsett	Oct. 23	Helena Galdun
	Olivia Lauritsen		Tanya Jech
Oct. 16	Robert Melnyk	Oct. 24	Kathy Ganschow
	Mildred Mendel	Oct. 28	George Pagurko
	Earl Mika, Jr.	Oct. 30	Donald Haase
		Oct. 31	Betty Ann Mocek

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- October 1, 1988: Kenneth and Joyce Hurbanis
- October 6, 2001: Janet and John Broussard
- October 6, 1962: Edward and Joanne Sefara
- October 10, 1964: Robert and Julie Barcik
- October 14, 2023: Brandon and Michelle Michaels
- October 15, 1988: John and Juanita Jakubec

Just a reminder. . .

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. Thank you for your assistance.

Donations made easy

Donations to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church can be made using the Zelle service from your bank. For some, this may provide a more convenient way to donate on a regular weekly basis as well as before or after an event or for a special occasion. This service should not charge you or the church a service fee, avoids the need for a paper check, and gets your donation to the church as quickly as possible. Other ways of donating continue to be gratefully received. Here are some easy steps to follow: Zelle is supported by most banking applications, rather than being a standalone app. You simply go to your online banking website or phone app, go to the Zelle interface, and add Sts. Peter and Paul as a recipient via our e-mail address: donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org. From there, you may send any amount of money with a note as to what it is for. The money will automatically be accepted into our account. We will get a notification at that e-mail address that you done so. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

August 2025	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00	
Date	Offering
8/3	\$2,126.00
8/10	\$ 840.00
8/17	\$ 800.00
8/24	\$1,805.00
8/31	\$1,584.00

The Love That Embraces All of Us

by Andrew King, lectionary poet
(Mark 9: 30-37)

*The light is passed from face to face
as if from flower to flower
as children, hand in hand, race
to greet the one in whose embrace
the smallest finds acceptance. Power*

*is not so often used to serve the weak,
the under-valued vulnerable,
the helpless. But Jesus seeks
his followers to bend to serve, speaks
of being welcomed among the little*

*and the least; welcoming the very One
who sent him. Have we yearned
for greatness? Here it is, among
these shining faces; and in Christ's gentle song,
the love that embraces all of us, unearned.*



OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS

October 5th:

Greeter: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

October 12th:

Greeter: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

October 19th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Rafael Martinez

October 26th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Janice Hapgood

Directory Changes

Steven Deshazer
401 Green Street
Maywood, IL 60153

A message for you from Touchstones

It is as important to cultivate your silence power as it is your word power.—William James

We bless ourselves with renewal and healing when we retreat from the world for a few private moments of silence. The power we cultivate in silence isn't generated by us; that power comes to us. We can do this by deliberately withdrawing from all distractions. Then we quiet our inner selves by concentrating on deep relaxation, thinking about a brief reading, or by praying.

Most of us already have a personal island of renewal that we have turned to many times in the past for serenity and strength. We can use it and turn to it daily. This natural pattern is necessary for a strong and healthy life. It builds our relationship with ourselves and our Higher Power. In our problems with self-esteem, we often label as worthless the quiet, subtle things we do, but these very things are essential to build our strength and self-esteem.

I will take time for silence to receive the power it gives in my life.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 2nd:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Walter Cudecki

November 9th:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Aidan Altavilla
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

November 16th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

November 23rd:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Thanksgiving Day, November 27th:

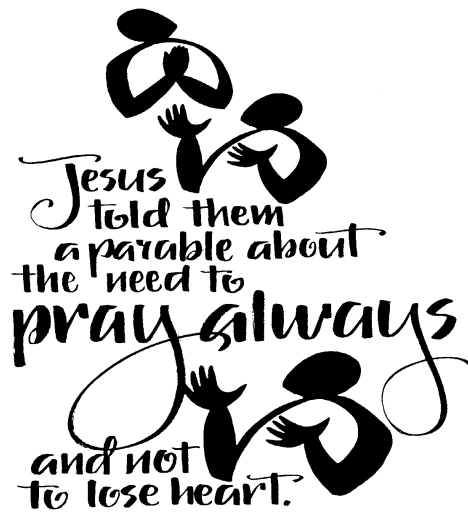
To be determined.

November 30th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Beverly Tarbox



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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DATED MATERIAL

Winter Folklore

from the *Old Farmer's 2025 Almanac*

Before there were weather apps for your smartphone, or the National Weather Service, people looked to the signs of nature to prepare for what's to come.

Cleveland weather guru Dick Goddard put together a laundry list of these "signs" of nature that can predict a harsh winter ahead. We featured these in the *The 1978 Old Farmer's Almanac*, and they are still relevant today.

Here are the 20 signs of a Hard Winter:

1. Thicker-than normal cornhusks
2. Woodpeckers sharing a tree
3. Early arrival of the snowy owl
4. Early departure of geese and ducks
5. Early migration of the monarch butterfly
6. Thick hair on the nape (back) of the cow's neck
7. Heavy and numerous fogs during August
8. Raccoons with thick tails and bright bands
9. Mice eating ravenously into the home
10. Early arrival of crickets on the hearth
11. Spiders spinning larger than usual webs and entering the house in great numbers.
12. Pigs gathering sticks
13. Insects marching in a line rather than meandering
14. Early seclusion of bees within the hive
15. Unusual abundance of acorns
16. Muskrats burrowing holes high on the riverbank
17. "See how high the hornet's nest, 'twill tell how high the snow will rest."
18. Narrow orange band in the middle of the woolly bear caterpillar warns of heavy snow, fat and fuzzy caterpillars presage bitter cold.
19. The squirrel gathers nuts early to fortify against a hard winter.
20. Frequent halos or rings around the sun or moon forecast numerous snow falls.

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



A Bit of Humor...

Three sisters, ages 92, 94 and 96, live in a house together. One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses, "Was I going up or down the stairs?"

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters, she shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood." She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

* * * * *

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get made at me...I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." Her friend stared at her for at least three minutes and finally said, "How soon do you need to know?"