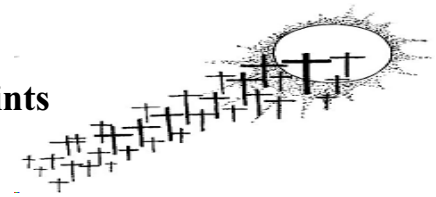


The Churchman

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

Volume 48 | November 2026 | Issue 11

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.



Festival of All Saints
November 1st

The Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul remembers the following persons who have passed to their eternal rest since All Saints Sunday, 2025 listed here in chronological order of their death dates:

+Milton Podzamsky+
+Mary Sasuta+
+Gerald "J.T." Tarbox+
+Ann Vana+
+Ann Head+

On the Sunday of the Festival of All Saints, November 1st, a table will be placed at the front of the nave near the lectern. On that day, worshipers who wish to do so may light a votive candle in memory of a deceased loved one to commemorate their dwelling among the saints who have gone before us. This invitation is especially offered to those who have had a loved one(s) pass away during the last year.

Blessed Reward

All Saints Sunday, November 1st

Rewards are not gifts. You have to *do* something to earn a reward. When Jesus speaks of a heavenly reward in this day's gospel, it seems to imply that those who receive it have done something to earn it—something exceptional. What? The reward recipients have been "poor in spirit," "persecuted for righteousness' sake," and have undergone the indignities of being reviled and slandered on Jesus' account. In other words, it sounds as if they have been miserable. Is the reward a payback? Is it compensation for the suffering that seems to accompany being a follower of Christ?

Hardly! In this gospel Jesus paints a portrait of saints whose lives do not appear to exemplify what the world considers states of blessedness. The poor, the mourners, the meek, the persecuted—these do not fit the world's mold of success. They simply don't fit in. The First Letter of John says it well: The reason the world does not know us—children of God that we are—is because the world did not know God (1 John 3:1).

To be a saint is to follow Jesus on a path of hidden mission in the world. Despised, rejected, a failure on the world's scales of achievement, Jesus shows a new way of being a "success." It is the way of humble obedience, servanthood, seeing your life as a gift to be spent on others. Following Jesus on this path, we arrive with him at the destination of resurrection glory. Through suffering, through death, through a cross and open tomb, we will arrive with all God's saints at the surprising end of all our earthly stories, a joyful and gladsome reward waiting for us in God's eternal home.

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Reflections on November

At this closing of the liturgical year, endings are revealed as beginnings, and we find that as the Christian community we live simultaneously in past, present, and future. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. What seemed dead lives on, and what seemed purely memory is present, what was longed for is actually at hand. Time and its distinctions stretch and blur at this closing of the year, and the church finds itself living in the future for which it so earnestly petitions. The day of the Lord is at hand. The new age has begun.

The shadows are approaching. The night is lengthened. The grasses fade. Then from the shadows emerges light. From the night comes hope and the memory of saints. From the chaff comes new beginnings and the constant, sure presence of the risen Christ, transforming these days into a new beginning, a new day. The implications are startling! The reign of God is at hand. Newness has already dawned. A new day arises that is gloriously present.

Albert Einstein once set himself this thought experiment: if I were to sit astride a beam of light, traveling at the speed of light, how would time appear? Einstein concluded from his imaginative vigil that past and future would gradually thin until one existed in an ever-widening, ever-expanding present now. C. G. Jung said that Communion is the opening of a window into eternity, the fuller reality. For Orthodox Christians, the Eucharist is nothing less than heaven on earth, the light of God breaking in and making of the past, present, and future one ever-expanding moment. At this transition time in the church's year, we are reminded of the breaking in of God's reign into this earth.

–continued on next page...

So we remember in these waning days the saints, those whose stories and lives have shaped our lives and the collective life of the church: human moments of an expanding now who have lived the future of God's reign; who bore the harvest of the Spirit's talents as willing and open participants and who are eternally present in memory and expanding time by the pervading light of God through Christ and the Spirit. "To those unwise they seem to have died, but, lo, they shine like stars…" (Wisdom 3:2a, 7; paraphrase).

The lives of the saints are a part of the church's inheritance, and their gifts of hymns, writings, windows, and quiet acts of mercy shape the present in which we live. They are a link of rich memory to the holy story that shapes the church's life and our individual lives here, now. They are rays of light, the *lux aeterna* (eternal light) breaking into our days. "Look to [God], and be radiant" sings the psalmist (Psalm 34:5). Like the saints we are cajoled to live as children of light, radiant with God's presence in an ever-greater melding and blurring of past, present, and future. When we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we remember the Lord's death until he comes.

Surrounding the memory of the saints in these days are what seem to be dark and worrisome texts of scripture, full of clouds and thick darkness. God declares to us: You are redeemed. Live as redeemed people! You are loved. Live as beloved people! The day of the Lord has already dawned with the radiant face of the risen Christ, and as baptized people, that is the day in which we live.

So the gospel writer Matthew reminds the church to live out the fruits of the Spirit, to use the rich talents and inheritance of the new dawn, and not to cower in fear and hoarding. We are to live lives of compassion, loving-kindness, truth, creativity, wisdom, mercy, and justice. To live without compassion, to live in fear, to live hoarding away gifts and the steadfast love of God is to live as if the eternal day of the risen Christ had never dawned. It is to live outside the dawning of God's day, in the place of darkness and gloom, in the day of clouds and thick darkness. These days of ending are a beginning, and what seems past is present, and the longed-for future is at hand. Redeemed and radiant and beloved, how shall we live in these ending days that are a beginning? We are beckoned to live as children of the light, radiant in the dawn of the risen Christ, whose festival closes out these days of the church: the Sunday of fulfillment or Christ the King.

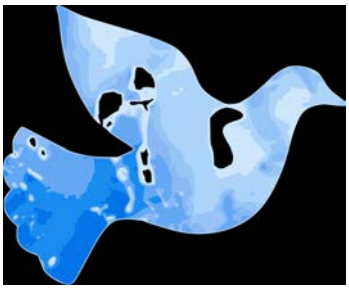
"I will seek out my sheep," says God. "I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Ezekiel 34:12). God is always calling us to be radiant and fearless, coaxing us out of darkness into the new day, bidding us into the glorious dawn of the day of the risen Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come. This is the day that God has made, the eternal, ever-widening present of life in God, radiant with Christ, gifted by the Holy Spirit poured out into our hearts. What seems past is here, and what seems yet to come is at hand, in the eternal, gloriously redeemed moment of the day of God.

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Thanksgiving Day
November 26th at 10:15 a.m.

A Service of the Word and Prayers of Thanksgiving
The monetary offering will benefit the Chicago Food Depository.

Prayer for Veterans



Dear Lord,

Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them. We pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

—by Joanna Fuchs



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1st. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday evening, October 31st.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 5: Jessica Drahos
Collin Sender
Nov. 7: Ashley Mazur
Nov. 8: Philip Painter
Nov. 9: Jennifer Smith
Nov. 10: John Vercimak
Nov. 13: Ivan Durkovic
Mary Anne Waychunas
Nov. 14: Gino Decosola
Dale Hawes
Nov. 15: Kelly Jones
Nov. 18: Vincent Smith
Nov. 19: Abby Collins
Nov. 21: Joseph Decosola, Jr.
Nov. 23: Kristi Skudrna
Nov. 29: Ty Smith

Birthdays and Anniversaries

November 7, 1992: Vlado and Agnes Vercimak
November 10, 2012: James and Anne Marie D'Alexander
November 23, 1984: Gary and Annette Tapak



MINI-BAKE SALE

All Saints Sunday, November 1st following service.
Bakery donations are being accepted beginning at 9 am that morning.
Please have your donations sliced and wrapped ready for sale.
For more information, contact Linda Painter at (630) 209-5783

A Great Opportunity...

Philip and Linda Painter have graciously offered a fifty percent match to any donations received from October 1st though December 1st designated for current, memorials, maintenance, and the building maintenance fund. Please use this opportunity to increase our giving. Thank you to The Painters for their generous offer.



Memorial Flowers

Oct. 18th: In loving memory of beloved father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Audrey Bucz, grandson Brian Bucz, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.

Oct. 25th: In memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Zittman+ on the 40th anniversary of her passing on October 27th by remembering family Rocky, Tina, and grandchildren.



If you would like to order a poinsettia to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet will be posted in the dining hall beginning Sunday, November 29th. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is $17. Deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 16th.

November Announcements

★ The 2027 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up the First Sunday of Advent, November 29th in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives. If you would like to have your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Karen in the church office.

★ 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 morning for rides to and from worship services. Please contact Blue Village Cab Company at (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.



All of Grace

Matthew 20:1-16

Like sun that shines the same on every face,
both vineyard and the work, the owner's gift.
We learn at end of day it's all of grace.

Upon the earth each person has their place
as surely as each star its nightly shift,
and sunlight falls the same on every face.
By mercy we're all winners of the race;
by mercy every lowly gets a lift:
by mercy do we learn it's all of grace.
God's vineyard spans the globe; there's lots of space
for all who hear God's call to heal its rifts
like sunlight chasing pain from every face.

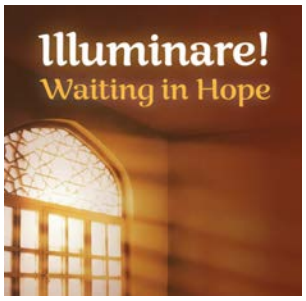
Let none begrudge the width of God's embrace
which reaches from the safe to those adrift.
We learn at end of day it's all of grace.

Until our human love can keep apace
with God's, may labour be a sharing of the gift
that shines like sun the same on every face.
At end of day, we praise: it's all of grace.

—by lectionary poet Andrew King



Our parish musician David Richards is pianist for this choral concert.



Saturday, November 14th, 2026 - 7:30 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church, Forest Park, IL

Sunday, November 15th, 2026 - 4 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, IL

General Admission: $25
Seniors: $20
Students through high school: No ticket required

Beverly Tarbox is a member of Heritage Choir

Avers String Quartet
with guest pianist David Richards

Sunday, November 8th - 2:30 p.m.
Music by Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn

Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, IL

Free Admission. Donations appreciated.



Stockings FOR SOLDIERS & VETERANS

List of Recommended Items:

Food:

Candy / Gum	Granola bars	Beef jerky	Mac&Cheese Singles
Poptarts	Trail mix	Peanuts	Coffee / Tea
Individual cerals boxes	Tuna Packets	Hot cocoa	Protein powder / Bars
Candy canes	Keurig coffee k-cups	Flavored creams	Microwave popcorn
Workout supplements	Vitamins	BBQ sauce / Hot sauce	Ramen noodles
Seasonings	Peanut butter / Nutella	Sugar / Salt / Pepper	Crackers / Chips
Campbells soup-on-the-go	Individual powdered drink mixes		

Toiletries:

Shampoo / Conditioner	Body wash		
Toothpaste / Toothbrush	Mouthwash	Dental floss	Sun block
Cough drops	Lip balm	Foot / Body powder	Vicks vapor rub
Eye drops	Saline soulution	Eye glass cleaner	Eye glass repair kit
Small sewing kit	Wash clothes	Toilet paper	Feminine products
Laundry soap / Pods	Clorox wipes	Febreeze / Air fresheners	Travel kleenex
Dryer sheets	Dish soap	Hand / Toe warmers	Stress balls

Clothing / Linens:

Mens underwear	Mens t-shirts (L & XL)	Shoe insoles	Gloves/Hats
Warm socks	Washcloths	Flip flops / Shower shoes	Towels

Just for Fun:

Beanie Babies	Batteries (AA & AAA)	Playing cards	Crossword puzzles
Sudoku	Magazines / Comics	Mechanical pencils	Pens / Markers
Small ornaments	iTunes gift card	Letters & cards	Post-its
Holiday decorations	Tableware	Pre-paid phone cards	Board games
Flashlights/small	Blender bottles	Coloring Books / Crayons	Movies
Speakers / Headphones	Amazon gift cards	Insulated tumblers	Zip Lock bags

Drop-Off Hours:

Now through December 12th
Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Kuratko-Nosek Funeral Home
2447 S. DesPlaines Avenue
North Riverside, IL 60546
(708) 447-2500
www.KuratkoNosek.com

Please <u>do not</u> mix food items with non-food items.

When mixing soaps and other toiletries with food, the food begins to smell and taste like the soap it is boxed with. Although the soldiers appreciate everything we send, they would probably not rather have their food taste like soap. Thank you!

Save these dates...



Riverside Holiday Stroll
Friday, December 4th
5-9 p.m.



Christmas Cookie Exchange
Sunday, December 6th
Details to follow in the weekly bulletin.
For more information contact Shirley Kostelny at 630-968-5204

Where Peace Begins

This holiday program gathers music of peace, welcome, and blessing from a range of traditions, expanding the circle of sacred celebration and reflecting the many ways different communities name and seek the divine.



Friday, December 4th
7:30 -9:30 p.m.
St. Paul and the Redeemer in Hyde Park
4945 S. Dorchester Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615

Sunday, December 6th
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Buchanan Chapel - Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 West Chestnut Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Saturday, December 12th
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Pilgrim Congregational Church
460 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

December 17th, 2025 -
January 9th, 2027
An online version of the program will be available worldwide beginning Thursday, December 17th through January 9th.

Tickets for all performances include the online version are available at luxcantorum.org.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

November 1st:

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

November 8th:

Greeters:	Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister:	Tom Myers
Lector:	Charles Matthies
Live Stream:	John Broussard
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

November 15th:

Greeter:	Staci Harden
Assisting Minister:	Beverly Tarbox
Lector:	Fred Kuzel
Live Stream:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	George Valek

November 22nd:

Greeters:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	Phil Painter
Live Stream:	Paul Watkiss
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

November 26th, Thanksgiving Day

Greeter:	Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream:	Fred Kuzel
Usher:	John Kostelny

November 29th:

Greeters:	John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister:	Vicki Michaels
Lector:	Joanne Sefara
Live Stream:	John Broussard
Usher:	George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Beverly Tarbox



Memorials and Honorariums

✣ For the Church ✣

Martin and Ann Pennino, in memory of +Ann Vana+.
Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study *(facility usage).*
Wayne Rauschenberg
Betty Ann Mocek and Adam Walker, in memory of +Jeri Basek+.
Soda Sales
Rev. Philip Lund
In memory of Kathy Sivak

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

December 6th:

Greeter:	Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister:	Tom Myers
Lectors:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	Fred Kuzel

December 13th:

Greeters:	Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister:	Carrie Watkiss
Lector:	George Valek
Live Stream:	Paul Watkiss
Usher:	George Valek

December 20th:

Greeters:	Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister:	Charles Matthies
Lector:	Tom Myers
Live Stream:	Fred Kuzel
Usher:	Walter Cudecki

Christmas Eve, December 24th:

Greeters:	Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister:	Beverly Tarbox
Lectors:	Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream:	John Broussard
Usher:	Janet Broussard

December 27th:

Greeter:	Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister:	John Broussard
Lector:	John Kostelny
Live Stream:	Charles Matthies
Usher:	John Kostelny

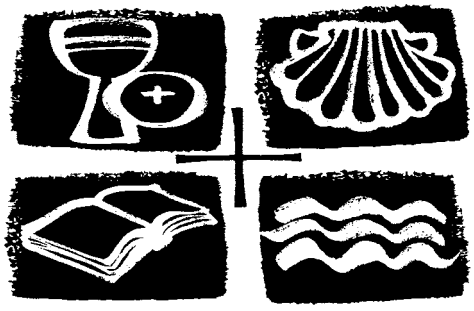
Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel

September 2026

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: $2,615.00

Date	Offering
9/6	$1,220.00
9/13	$ 990.00
9/20	$ 990.00
9/27	$2,343.00



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250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
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Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL

The History of Thanksgiving

from the *Old Farmer's 2025 Almanac*

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving Day in the United States? Here's a brief history of his all-important American holiday. (In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October.)

In a 1789 proclamation, President George Washington called upon the people of the United States to acknowledge God for affording them "an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness" by observing a day of thanksgiving. Devoting a day to "public thanksgiving and prayer", as Washington called it, became a yearly tradition in many communities.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. In that year, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln made his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation. He asked his fellow citizens "to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise..."

It was not until 1941 that Congress finally designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, thus creating a federal holiday.

Of course, Thanksgiving is not born of presidential proclamation. Native American harvest festivals had been celebrated for centuries, and colonial services date to the late 16th century. Thanksgiving Day, as we know it today, began in the early 1600s when settlers in both Massachusetts and Virginia came together to give thanks for their survival, for the fertility of their fields, and for their faith. The most widely known early Thanksgiving is that of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, who feasted for 3 days with the Wampanoag people in 1621.

Why is Thanksgiving Celebrated with Turkey?
Turkey has become the traditional Thanksgiving fare because at one time it was a rare treat. During the 1830s, an 8-10 pound bird cost a day's wages. Even though turkeys are affordable today, they still remain a celebratory symbol of bounty. In fact, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Adrin ate roast turkey in foil packets for their first meal on the Moon.

–published by *Yankee Publishing Incorporated*
Dublin, New Hampshire and *The Navigator Ministry*

A THANKFUL HEART

Take nothing for granted, for whenever you do
The "joy of enjoying" is lessened for you -
For we rob our own lives much more than we know
When we fail to respond or in any way show
Our thanks for the blessings that daily are ours...
The warmth of the sun, the fragrance of flowers,
The beauty of twilight, the freshness of dawn,
The coolness of dew or a green velvet lawn,
The kind little deeds so thoughtfully done,
The favors of friends and the love that someone
Unselfishly gives us in a myriad of ways,
Expecting no payment and no words of praise -
Oh, great is our loss when we no longer find
A thankful response to things of this kind,
For the joy of enjoying and the fullness of living
Are found in the heart that is filled with thanksgiving.

–Helen Steiner Rice



