

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

October 2026

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.

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



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.

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.



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.

Memorials and Honorariums

✦ For the Church ✦

Adolf and Ellen Heimann, in memory of +Ann Vana+.
In memory of +Shirley Wood+ on the anniversary of her birth from
her loving children Debbie and Dave Bark, Ken and Pam Wood,
Dr. Michael Wood, and Larry and Sue Kusch.
Peter and Sheila Hope, in memory of +Ann Vana+.
Mark and Liz Rouck, in memory of +Jeri Basek+.
Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study
Cornerstone Montessori
Soda Sales
In memory of father and grandfather +William Stastny+ on the
anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Audrey
Bucz, grandson Brian Bucz, and granddaughter Adrienne Gana.



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

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

August 2026

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$1,815.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
8/2	\$1,220.00
8/9	\$1,215.00
8/16	\$ 575.00
8/23	\$ 877.00
8/30	\$3,010.00

Benevolence is our commitment to SZS and ELCA missionary support. The budget's current need will be adjusted when a new pastor accepts our call.

Donations are welcome via Zelle at
donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

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 return to the church. Thank you for your assistance.

Places In The Heart by Alexander Shaumyan

There are places in the heart,
that are still unmarred by
understanding -
those places that we have
kept hidden for so long
from all those prying eyes,
prowling in the darkness -

There are places in the heart,
filled with childhood memories
of laughter and joy,
hope and new beginnings,
those places that we revisit
secretly and tenderly,
those places that make us
feel alive again -

There are places in the heart
that know no boundaries,
no limitations, but unrestrained
happiness of a smiling child,
filled with wonder and love
for the world, feeling both
godlike and tiny, overtaken
by the invisible presence
that permeates the moon
and the countless stars -

There are places in the heart,
where life is filled with miracles
and questions lead to more
questions, prompted by infinite
curiosity and the desire to know
the essence of things,
there are places that only
you and I know,
those places that remind us
who we really are -

For we are the essence
of life's joy and discovery,
truth and beauty, love and
tenderness, that penetrates
the cracks of a fractured world,
we are those places in the heart
that know no end and no beginning,
but love and only love,
that sings through us like
warm summer rain.

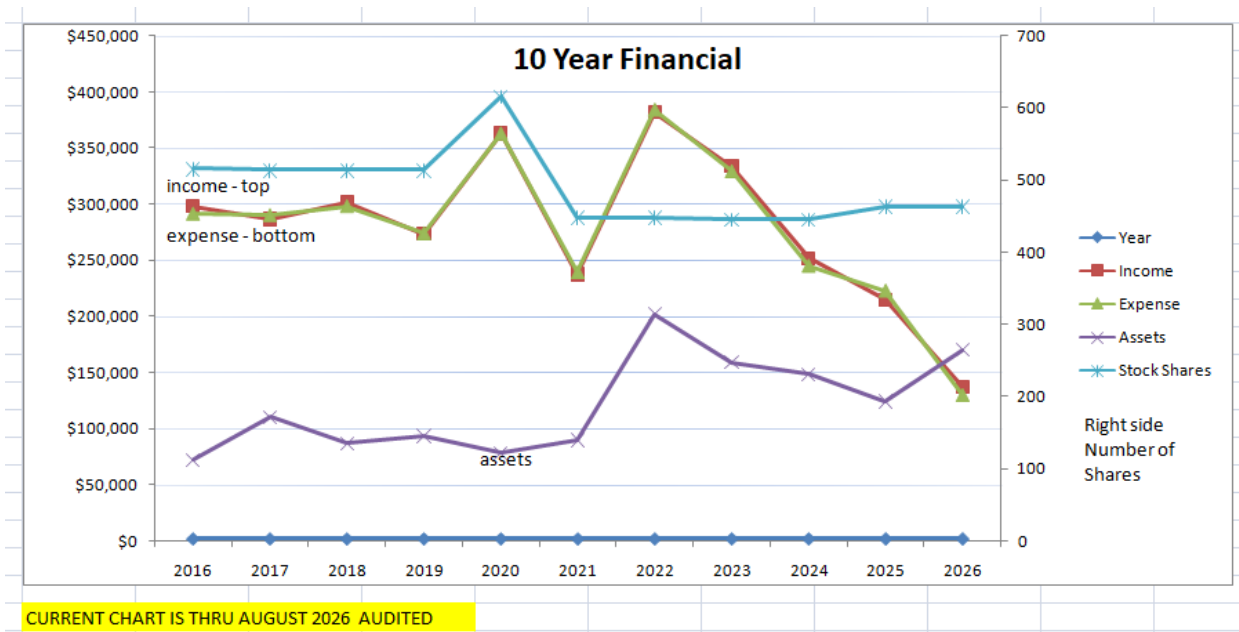


Summary of Treasurer's Detail Financial Midyear Report

Six months have come and gone and I'm late in sending you the review of our church's financial position. Since we lost our bulletin board for posting the Treasurer's Detailed Report, I've prepared the following chart to keep you informed. The chart is from JANUARY 2026 through JUNE 2026 of Receipts and Expenditures. It's a summary of the detailed report. As you can see we have held back on making a number of repairs in order to keep our expenses in line with the income {donations} we receive.

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSE
Benevolence	\$ 2,130	\$ 2,000
Payroll	\$ 810	\$ 32,319
Administrative Expense		\$ 3,030
Maintenance	\$ 22,885	\$ 9,966
Administration	\$ 254	\$ 29,204
Worship	\$ 774	\$ 2,870
Receipts	\$ 70,616	
Endowments/Selecky Trust	\$ 16,563	
Utilities		\$ 26,642
NET	\$ 114,032	\$ 106,030

Many of you prefer to watch our service live streamed. Then again many in our congregation are battling various medical conditions which prevent their worshipping in person. We miss you and wish you were here. Thank goodness we have been blessed with individuals gifted with the skills and knowledge to make live streaming possible. If you'd like a copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report, I'll gladly email you a copy just let Karen know and provide her with your email address. The following chart reflects our financial progress over the years.



Submitted by John Kostelny

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

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DATED MATERIAL**OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVERS****October 4th:**

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

October 11th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

October 18th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

October 25th:

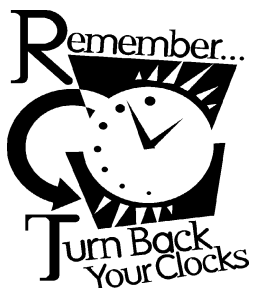
Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Kristine Boike

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.



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

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