

Seedlings🕯️🕯️🕯️🕯️: "The king shall come when morning dawns..."



## "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).

**The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.**

**Not, as of old, a little child,  
To bear, and fight, and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.**

**O brighter than the rising morn  
When he, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death,  
Despite the rage of foes.**

**O brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall this fair morning be,  
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes,  
And we his face shall see!**

**The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings.**



# **Christmas in Riverside**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December  
22nd**

**10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy  
Communion  
with Children's Presentation**



**Christmas Eve**

**7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy  
Communion  
with String Ensemble, Handbells and  
Candlelight**



**Christmas Day**  
**at Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**400 Nuttall Road in Riverside**  
**10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols**  
**with Holy Communion**  
*No liturgy here on Christmas Day.*



*If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up page is available on the bulletin board at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or you may contact the church office to place your order at 1.708.442.5250 or [office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org) . The cost per plant is \$17 and the deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 18th. Church office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon.*



***Thank you so very much to those who offered food, decorations, and service for the reception here on Sunday evening, December 8th, following the concert performance as well as those who were able to receive this gift of the season! Thanks also to everyone who helped to decorate the church facility for the Christmas season and set up the outdoor creche.***



## **December 2024 Greetings from Ketumbeine, Tanzania**

Dear friends,

*Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace (Zechariah in Luke 1:78-79).*

As we celebrate God's tender mercy this Advent season we are thankful for all of you who partner with us. As you know, [Global Health Ministries](#) has had a huge impact on our work over the past 25 years. Enjoy this video featuring rural health care, including in our village of Ketumbeine: [Rural Health Care 2024](#) .

With thanks,

*Steve and Bethany Friberg*

*ELCA Sponsored Missionaries in Tanzania*



IT SEEMS THAT TURNING THINGS UPSIDE DOWN IS JUST THE WAY GOD DOES THINGS. YOU KNOW, TO KEEP US ON OUR TOES.



I THINK THE FACT THAT GOD'S ACTIONS SEEM LIKE AN UPHEAVAL IS A SIGN OF HOW MESSED UP OUR "NORMAL" IS.



YEAH...  
NORMALLY



GREENSTEIN

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the*




*lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.*

## **The Sts. Peter and Paul Kitchen Band Rides Again (*redivivus*)!**

### **The New American Slovak Kitchen Band Project**

*from Jesse Proksa (son of Tom Proksa and the grandson of the late John and the late Betty Proksa, Dorcas Society member)*

***Read "The Manifesto" here...***

 Manifesto RD w\_PICTS .pdf



**Hello Pastor,**

**I was so happy to hear from you via Michelle, and now I'm happy to fill you in! We've been working steadily on forming the band and trying to figure out how to play these instruments. There have been many baby steps adding up to current day progress.**

**The first step was to restore the instruments. I did minimal alterations: I touched up paint and glitter, coated instruments with water-based polyurethane. For the saxophone, I made three new buttons to replace the missing ones, and on the pie tin instrument my father welded a loop on the back for attaching a strap. We also built two replicas: one based on the juice can instrument and the other a washtub. The originals were too delicate and we wanted to preserve them as they were. We also gave each instrument a name.**





**Things really seem to be taking off recently. There is so much to do I can hardly keep up! Plus, practicing the music! And we just bought our first PA system so now we are learning about performing and getting a good sound. We've got the stringed instruments amplified with contact mics.**





**So far I have two faithful bandmates who are on this journey with me and eventually we might add a fourth if we can find the right match. This year we had our first two official performances. In October we performed in conjunction with a storytelling event that occurs once a month. This month we participated in a holiday block party and had a cozy spot in an upscale furniture store downtown, so it was a more casual event. This coming Monday one of the local news channels is coming over to do an interview and have us play for them. So I'm getting ready for that now.**





**Our next event will be May 1st, 2025 . We will be putting on a two hour presentation for the Osher Learning Institute through Boise State University which hosts classes for adult learners over age 50. Our presentation will be interspersed with live music. I'll attach the write-up here to give you an idea. It would be great to get out to Chicago for a visit so I could do some research for the presentation but I'm not sure if I'll be able to afford it. Please spread the word about this presentation to the families. I would love it if you and any family members could contribute memories and share whatever they know about the original band and how it came about.**







*We do have a facebook found under [NEW AMERICAN SLOVAK KITCHEN BAND](#). If you google our band name it will pop right up. I have also been working on a band manifesto to document the project and to act as a guide for incoming members. This is still a rough draft but again if there is anything you can add, I'm trying to get as accurate an account as possible. So far this is based on my online research and stories from my family.*

*We're working on editing our videos from shows and should be able to get those posted before the end of the month. Thank you so much for passing these instruments on to me; it has been a great privilege to carry on the history. Alright, enjoy! Don't hesitate to call in case anything comes up.*

*Kindest Regards,  
Jessie*



Merry Christmas from Jesse  
and the members of the [The New American  
Slovak Kitchen Band](#)  
and from all the beloved women of blessed  
memory  
performed in the original ensemble.  
Please "like" the Band on [Facebook](#) and  
share your memories!



## **The purpose of [a person's] life is not happiness but worthiness.**

— Felix Adler

When we pursue happiness as a goal for its own sake, we usually reach the opposite point of emptiness. Feeling happy is a by-product of other life experiences. Happiness comes and goes. We welcome it but cannot capture and hold it, nor can we create a recipe for achieving happiness.

We will lead far more successful lives if we choose and pursue values that we do have control over, such as

honesty, respect for others and ourselves, seeking loving relationships, and making a contribution to the well-being of others. We can accept unhappiness and difficulties without struggle when we know we are doing something that has greater meaning. Our Eleventh Step tells us we pray only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out. This helps us focus on God's purpose for us. We can have an inner sense of joy knowing we are leading meaningful lives, even when we aren't having a particularly happy day.

I will seek the goals that make my life worthwhile and welcome happiness when it comes.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at [www.hazeldenbettyford.org](http://www.hazeldenbettyford.org).





**Please note:**

For urgent pastoral care and *important* administrative matters, please contact Pastor Dennis at his mobile phone number.

The landline at the parsonage is no longer in service.☎x  
If you need this contact information, please reply to this message.

*Photos: Olivia Lauritsen (New Mexico desert) and Rafael Martinez (Christmas Eve 2023)*

***Please forward this e-newsletter  
to others who may be interested!  
And previous issues of  
"Seedling" E-News are posted at the website.***



***For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water... (Isaiah 35:6b-7a).***



**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.  
For continuing live streaming of the  
liturgy  
please click [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for  
viewing at a later date.**



**[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -  
Noon**