

Seedlings 🌱 : Forward by Faith; Moving in Mission, Sunday,  
February 2nd, 11:30 a.m. following the Liturgy: Annual  
Congregational Meeting with 2025 Report in this Issue

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do,  
we have come to our real work  
and when we no longer know which way to go,  
we have begun our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.*  
by poet Wendell Berry



**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord**

**Sunday, February 2nd**  
***Annual Meeting of the Congregation***

following worship and beginning promptly at  
**11:30 a.m.**  
in the dining hall.

Epiphany is the season when  
the Light of Christ shines forth to all nations.

Come, celebrate this wondrous season of light  
around our vibrant mission


and warm Christian fellowship and friendship!

...And the Greatest of These is Love



I CORINTHIANS 13:13

***2025 Annual Report to the  
Congregation  
may be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)  
or the file below:***

 Annual Report to the Congregation 2025.pdf

*Hard copies of the Report are also available  
Beginning this Sunday, January 26th, at  
the entrances to the sanctuary and lower  
main hallway.*



## [Amazing Grace](#)

Performed by the Pacific Lutheran Choir of the West,  
Richard Nance, Director.

By Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds

## *An Invitation from Terry Sullivan...*



**Jazz Vocalist Terry Sullivan**

*On Sunday, February 2nd at 4 p.m., I will perform a concert with the superb young guitarist Gabriel Datcu who is a native of Transylvania, Romania and one of the most gifted musicians I have met. Music simply pours out of him. To top it off, we will be joined by bassist Clark Sommers who is, in jazz parlance, a “monster” (meaning he plays very well). Clark has literally toured the world with jazz vocalist Kurt Elling; but for one Sunday afternoon he is ours.*

***Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside in Riverside (31st and Desplaines)***

*Members of the congregation may attend for \$10  
(payment in cash only)  
rather than the usual admission ticket price of  
\$25 by identifying as such at the door.*



[Jazz Guitarist Gabriel Datcu](#)

*Jazz guitarist Gabriel Datcu is a native of Transylvania, Romania. He began his musical journey at age four and by age nine was playing piano and acoustic guitar. As a teen, he was given several cassette tapes, one was Christopher Parkening playing Bach and another was a recording of jazz guitarists Joe Pass and Barney Kessel with Ella Fitzgerald. Since then, Gabriel's commitment to studying these two music styles—classical and improvisatory—has been uncompromising.*

While a student at both the National University of Music and the National University of Arts in Bucharest, Gabriel was invited to perform at several local music venues. Doing so allowed him to meet, study and perform with several of the best Romanian jazz musicians, including Sorin Romanescu, Tudy Zaharescu and Pedro Negrescu. At age eighteen he was asked to record at the National Radio-Television studios, and at nineteen, to embark on a two-week tour across Switzerland. In 2000, Gabriel was offered the chance to study and settle in the United States.—TS



Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

*and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*



## **Once to Every Man and Nation**

**Text by James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)  
Excerpt from the poem**

## "The Present Crisis"



***There are things for which an uncompromising stand is worthwhile.***

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor and martyr  
German Lutheran pastor, neo-orthodox theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who was a key founding member of the Confessing Church.





For many of us, a time came when we said, “I’m not going to live this way anymore!” This was a deep, internal decision for change, even though we didn’t know how it would come about. Somehow we had reached bottom, and we no longer debated about whose fault our problems were. We quit negotiating over what we would change and what we would not change. We were willing to put all our energy into finding a better life, no matter what it would require. That is the kind of inner readiness that finally made real change possible.

Such willingness to take an uncompromising stand and give ourselves totally to a worthwhile cause is a model for our lives. It’s the beginning of deep change. Many men and women have taken similar heroic stands for other causes, like world peace, compassion for the poor and hungry, human rights, and protection of the environment.

On this day, I will take a stand for what is worthwhile.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

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



*Photo credits: Daryle Lauritsen (sun dogs and snowy hills;  
Jane Lauritsen (snow on Maplewood Road); Amanda  
and Brian Wilkinson Family (overlooking the Statue of  
Liberty)*

***The Seedlings E-Newsletters are now  
archived  
on the website of the congregation.  
Take a look by clicking [HERE](#) .***



*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