

**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
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Parsonage: (708) 442-0238
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Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Email address: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service

Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

Greetings and welcome in the name of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. We trust that the Holy Spirit has called you to Sts. Peter and Paul Church and pray that your worship experience today will be meaningful for you and strengthen you in faith.

You are invited to sign **the guest register** at the entrance to the sanctuary or fill out **a welcome card** from a pew pocket. Please indicate whether or not you would like to be placed on our mailing list as well as your desire for a visit by the pastor or another parishioner.

Restrooms are located in a room off the entryway to the sanctuary and also across the gym on the west side of the building and on the lower level. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions. **Parents and children** are welcome to make use of the anterooms on the main level at the Woodside.

Interested in membership? We would be delighted to have you join our community of faith in worship and ministry. **Please use a welcome card** from a pew in front of you. Additional information is available from pamphlet displays and tables throughout the facility. Our website may be accessed at the following address: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org .

In addition to words, music and gestures, the liturgy includes several **periods of silence**. In our noise-filled world, we listen for the Word in the silence of our hearts. Before the liturgy begins, we are called to a time of reflection and centering.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Adults or children not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you or a member of your family is interested in Baptism, please speak to Pastor Dennis. Join us for conversation following worship in the dining hall on the lower level.

How to use this worship folder: Hymns for the service are in the back two-thirds of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red book). In this bulletin: *—indicates those who are able may stand. **Bold parts** are for the participation of all.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 8th, 2020 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at Easter. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND *CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)* Holy God, **we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen.**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 121

Prayed in unison by the congregation.

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.
The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the One who watches over you fall asleep.
Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;
the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lenten Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
 Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John
Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Blinded by the Light”

*HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

ELW 451

*CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, as you sent Abraham and Sarah to a new place and a new land, so you invite us to anticipate worlds beyond our imaginations. As we journey in faith, bless us with your presence that our life in your new world may be as real as this day. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giver to the dead, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you call into existence things that do not exist, things too wonderful for us to even imagine. You justify the ungodly with your own righteousness, and by faith we receive your grace as a pure gift. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus, as you taught Nicodemus heavenly things, give us ears to hear your heavenly Word, and a heart to accept your grace of a new birth from above. As you were lifted up upon the cross for us, so lift our hearts in faith that we may have eternal life with you. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

We bring to mind those persons among us in need of healing. Hear our prayers offered in faith that you already know the names of all who seek your touch, especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for the faithful departed, especially... and for the example of faith by which they lived, that it sustain us until we all enter the reign of God in its fullness. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

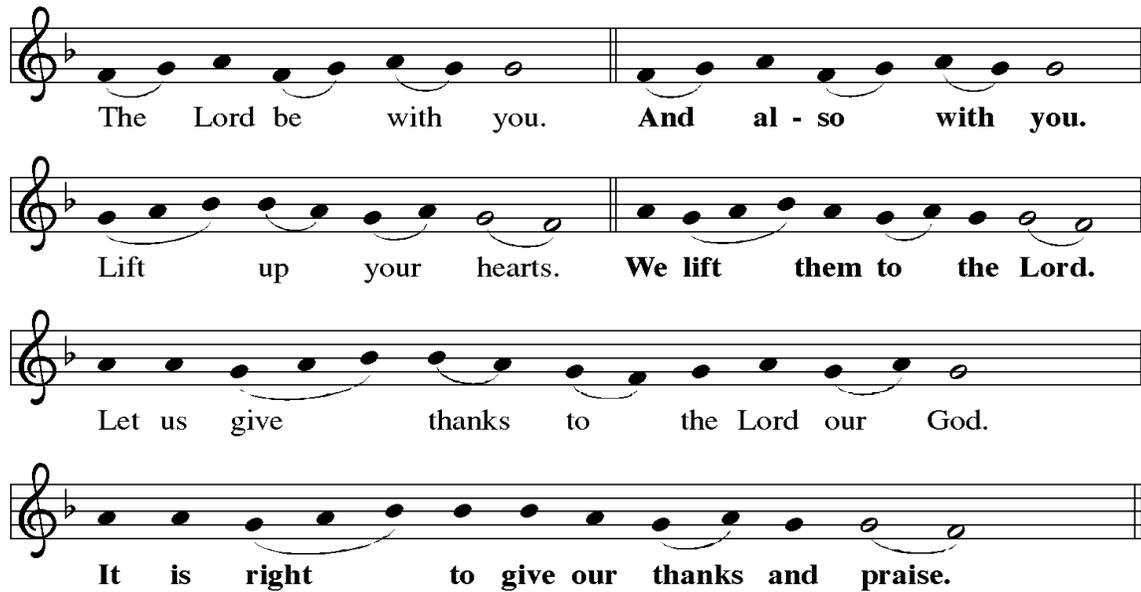
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

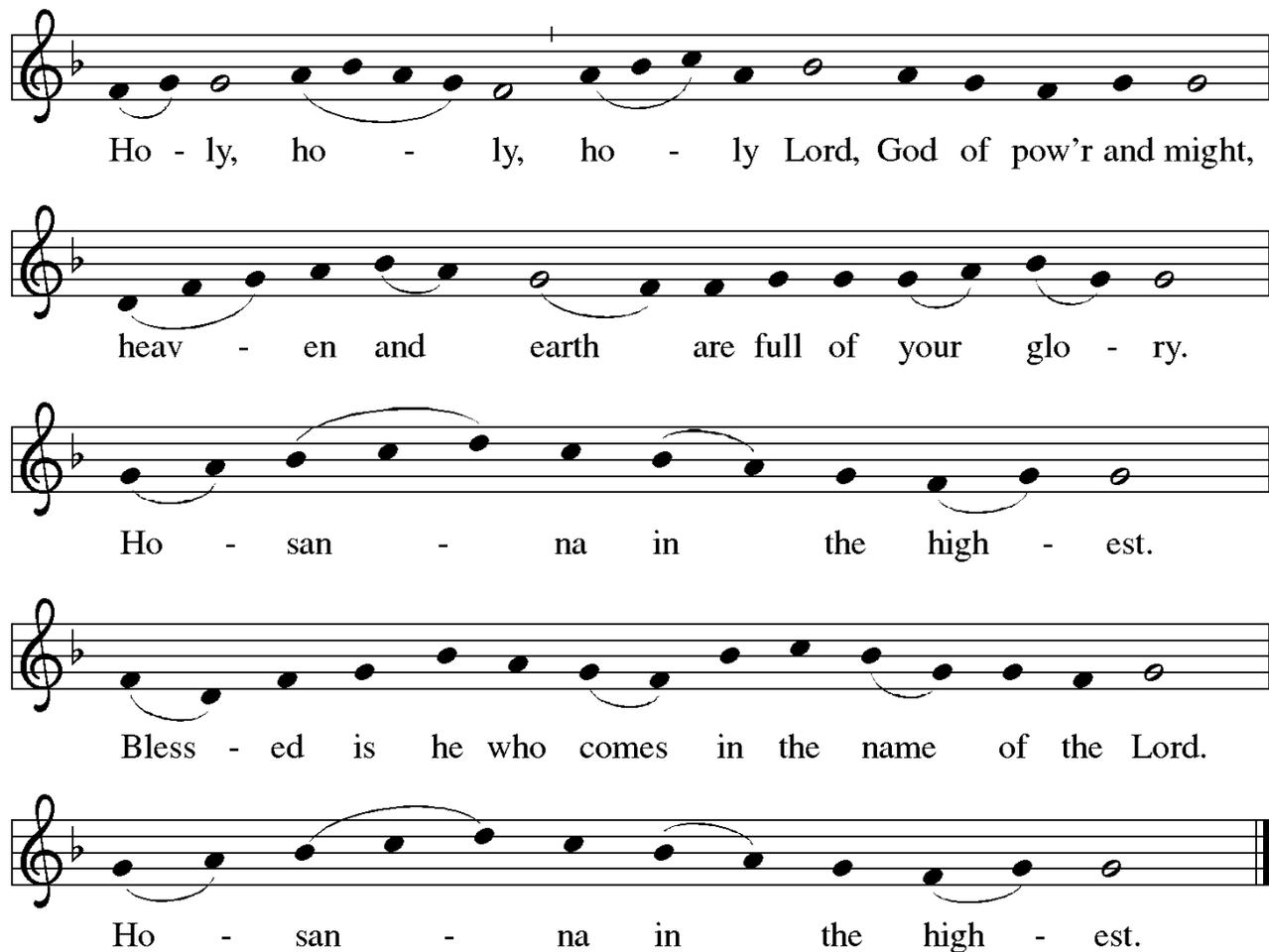
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

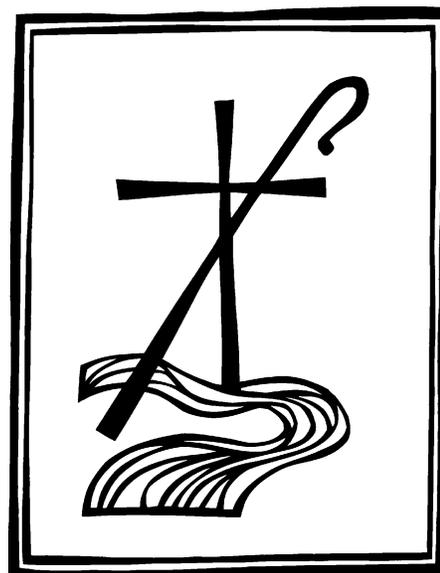
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

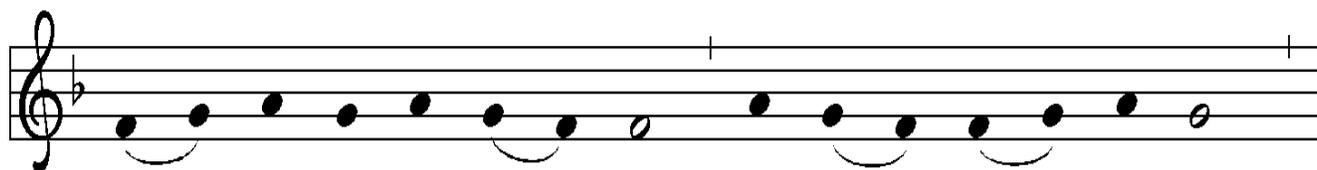
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.**



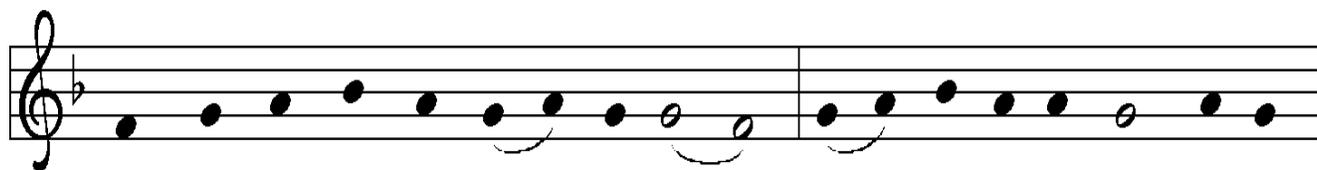
*LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



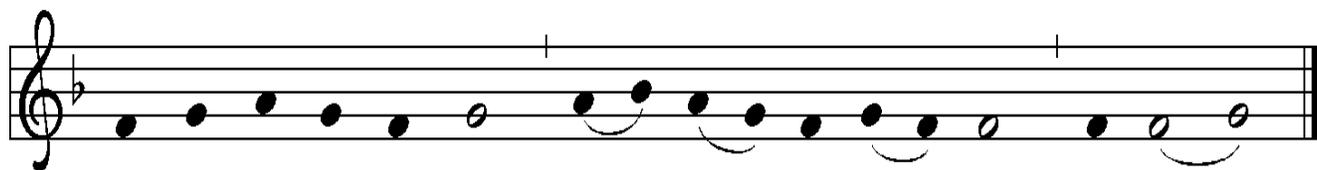
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

You are welcome, if you choose, to bring with you to Communion your worship books (ELWs) so that you may continue to join in singing the hymns during the distribution.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Loving Spirit

ELW 397

*DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PRESIDING AND PREACHING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

PARISH MUSICIAN

David Richards

LECTORS

Tom and Vicki Michaels

COMMUNION MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

ACOLYTE

Abby Tarbox

GREETERS

Philip and Linda Painter

USHERS

Walter Cudecki and Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Ruth Bakalich

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

March 1st, 2020

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2019:</i>	\$2,597.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$4,180.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$1,583.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society
Tuesday, March 10*

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Thursday, March 12

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., M-F.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 8

9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15 AM Liturgy of Holy Communion
11:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, MARCH 9

6:30 PM “Legends of the Game” Volleyball until 9:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous Meeting
7:00 PM Windsome Quintet Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

6:30 PM Co-Dependents Anonymous Meeting
6:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper
7:15 PM Evening Prayer, Holden Setting
7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

12 Noon Ladies Altar Guild Meeting
6:30 PM Mutual Ministry Committee

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

11:00 AM AA Big Book Study Group Meeting
7:00 PM AA Group Meeting

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 15

9:15 AM Confirmation Class
9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:15 AM Liturgy of Holy Communion
11:30 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
11:30 AM Worship and Music Committee Meeting
2:00 PM Windsome Quintet Concert
Celebrating Beethoven’s 250th Birthday

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER . . .

Olga Zavodny, Sheryl Hallmann, Dot Myers, Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Mildred Mendel, Mary Sasuta, Mary Sordel, Bob Skudrna, Wally Kessler and Steve Podzamsky.

Taz Zajac (*in-law of Kathy Ganschow*), **Carol Zitko** (*church secretary at Concordia Lutheran Church, Berwyn*), **Danny Orozco** (*co-worker of Tom Michaels*), **Jacob Kavicky** (*great-grandson of the late Betty Kavicky*), **Jessica Babiari** (*niece of Vera Borysek*), **Barbara Kessler** (*sister-in-law of Wally Kessler*), **Beverly Bartlett** (*aunt of Ann Head*), **Delores Linden** (*aunt of Martin and Ann Pennino*), **Donald Neal** (*brother of Barbara Kessler*), **Marguerite Boike** (*mother-in-law of Kristine Boike*), **Sandy Rossella** (*sister-in-law of Mary Jo Meyers*), **Denise Fricano** (*friend of Charlene Patula*), **Sue Doyle** (*friend of Charlene Patula*), **Wally Bisping** (*friend of Charlene Patula*), **Pat Pileggi** (*Helen Gaydusek's co-worker*), **Joe Caruso** (*friend of Wally Kessler*), **Eric Dennison** (*friend of Wally Kessler*), **Rev. James Kuemmerle** (*Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago*), **John Racek** (*life-long friend of John Kostelny*), **Nicole Kisiel** (*friend of Fred Kuzel*), **Ramona Daug** (*relative of Beverly Tarbox*), **Mary Costello** (*mother of Debbie Boor*), **Damon Cooke** (*relative of Wally Kessler*), **Dr. Craig Reckard** (*friend of Milan Oklepek*), **Gertrude Tarbox** (*mother of J.T.*), **Jim and Janie Tarbox** (*brother and sister-in-law of J.T.*), **Ralph Thompson** (*friend of Lois Mika*), **Dale Renville** (*son-in-law of Bev and Steve Podzamsky*), **Kelly Alvey** (*granddaughter of Bev and Steve Podzamsky*), **Alice Puglise** (*relative of Steve and Bev Podzamsky*), **Cpt. Kristopher Mabrigo** (*relative of Wally Kessler*), **Celia Martinez** (*mother of Rafael*), and **Mark Van Scharrel** (*former pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul, Blue Island*).

Please let us know when people may be removed from the prayer list and we will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their healing!

Flowers for the Lord's Table may be ordered by calling the church office. The price is \$20 per vase. Please make checks payable to Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church. The final day for ordering flowers is Tuesday.

Lenten Vespers and Supper

every Wednesday in Lent, March 4th thru April 1st.

Vespers (Evening Prayer) is Sung at 7:15,

preceded by Supper at 6:30.

The offerings received at Evening Prayer are given in the spirit of the Lenten discipline of almsgiving for people in need through Lutheran World Relief.

The meditations for the Evening Prayer liturgies are taken from *Simplifying the Soul: Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit* by Paula Huston, Benedictine oblate who invites us to de-clutter our minds, hearts, and souls in a book of daily Lenten practices woven from the gospels and the desert fathers and mothers.

You and your household, friends, groups or others are invited to **host a light soup supper** on a Wednesday evening during Lent preceding Evening Prayer. A simple soup (from the store or made at home or in the church kitchen) with bread for 15-20 people would be much enjoyed and appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall at the usual place (lower west entrance). *A supper host is still needed for April 1st*. Thank you for considering this opportunity for Lenten prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread.

Lenten Food Collection

in participation with Hauser Jr. High School in Riverside on the 50th Anniversary of the students helping to fight against hunger!



LENTEN
FOOD DRIVE

March 1st through March 29th

Bags are available today for donations of non-perishable and unexpired food items. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Volunteers are welcome to pack meals on **Saturday, April 4th** for **Feed Our Community Day** between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer, visit www.hauserpto.org/contact-us.



LENTEN
FOOD DRIVE

Students are hoping to reach their goal of 15,000 non-perishable items and raise \$15,000 for the meal packing supplies.

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love for ever and ever. Amen.

Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COMING INTO THE LIGHT

Today Abraham and Sarah follow God's call to go "to the land that I will show you," traveling into the unknown toward what they have never seen. In our gospel it is night when Nicodemus comes to Jesus and they talk of birth, water, the Spirit, and the cross. For months, a baby in the womb hears its family's voices but can't see them. Being born entails being pushed into baffling, blinding, unfamiliar light. Seeing is a process. So is knowing and being born again. In the gospel verses after today's reading Jesus offers a choice: doing evil and hiding, or doing the truth and coming into the light.

Nicodemus begins, "We know that you are a teacher." Jesus counters with riddles about the unknowable wind, leaving Nicodemus perplexed. Nicodemus's faith is sometimes described as imperfect; but neither do the friends of Jesus always comprehend in the moment.

The Last Supper will bring actual water and more talk of knowledge and love. Jesus, bending to wash Peter's feet, will promise, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand" (John 13:7). God sends Jesus not to condemn, but to save.

During the course of the Gospel Nicodemus will reappear to challenge his fellow Pharisees about their due process, and finally will help give the tormented body of Jesus a decent burial. Though today Nicodemus leaves the room scratching his head, something will germinate within where we can't see.

Lent means spring. If only by a minute or two each day—a process gradual, subtle, but steady—we are all coming into the light. We travel toward Maundy Thursday's footwashing and Good Friday's cross—where we will see again how God loves the world, and Jesus loves his own to and beyond the end.



WINDSOME QUINTET

IN

CONCERT CELEBRATING BEETHOVEN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

MOZART Divertimento No. 14 in Bb K.V. 270

BEETHOVEN – Adagio and Allegretto for Musical
Clock

BEETHOVEN – Quintet for Piano and Winds op. 16

Parish Musician David Richards on Piano

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH 2:00 PM.
STS. PETER AND PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
31ST AND DES PLAINES
RIVERSIDE, ILL**
