

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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 22nd, 2020 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

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

PSALMODY

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

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

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

SERMON

“I Once was Blind, but Now I See”

*HYMN OF THE DAY

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 611

*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

Lord God, you sent Samuel to anoint David in front of his brothers, and your Spirit came mightily upon him all the days of his life. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you all the days of our lives. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Good Shepherd. Even as the psalmist talked about you in his psalm, until he started talking with you, so train us to learn from his example. Become for us not only the subject of our holy conversation, but also our dearest confidant and companion. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Holy Spirit, help us understand what is pleasing to the Lord so that we may be children of the light. Wake up our sleeping spirits so that the light of Christ may shine on us and through us. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world. Even as you opened the eyes of the blind, open our eyes to see your presence everywhere, and give us the courage to confess our faith boldly, like one who knows whom to thank. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Great Physician, the infirmities of all people are subject to you and your word. If it be your will, heal those with special needs whom we name silently or aloud before you, especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

You have prepared a table for all who believe in you. We give you thanks for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who now dwell in your house forever, especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we remember that we are your precious dust. **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

Balm in Gilead

*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.

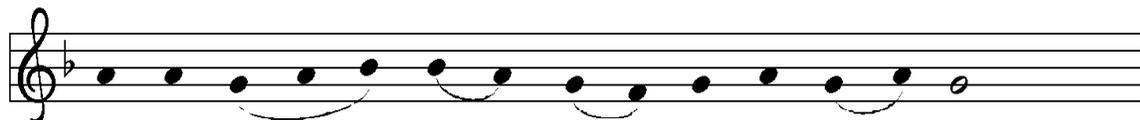
*DIALOGUE



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.

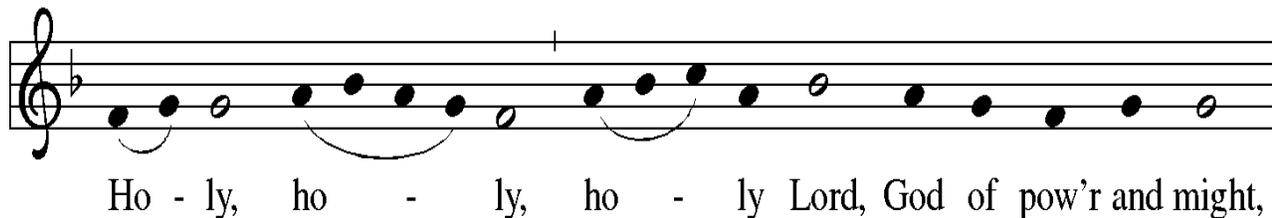


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

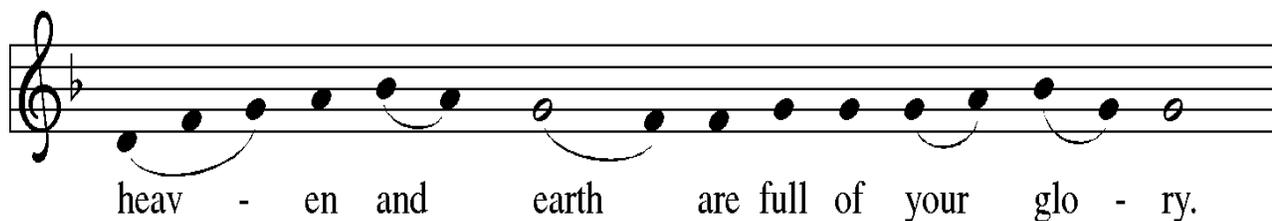
*PREFACE

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

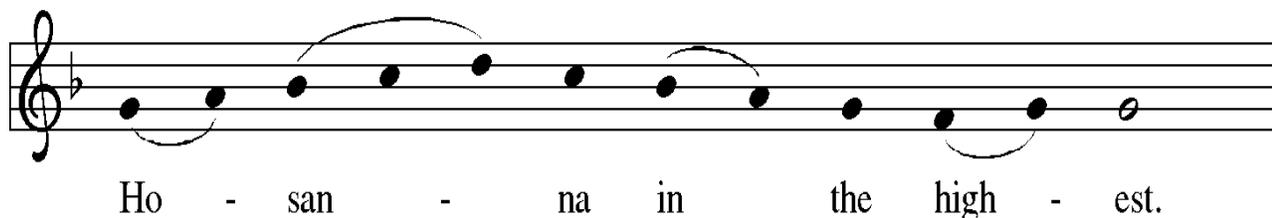
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



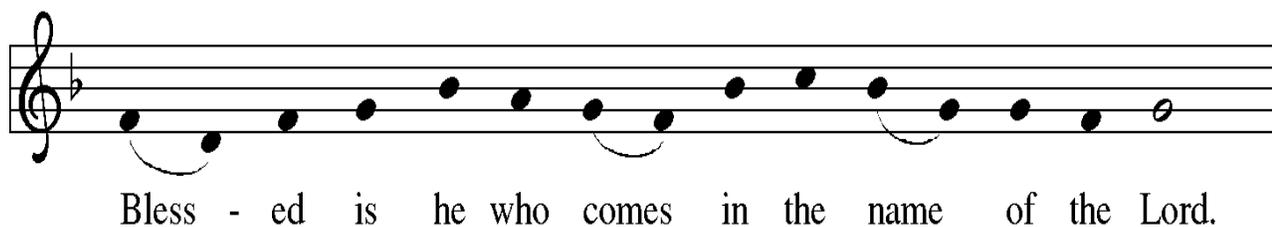
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



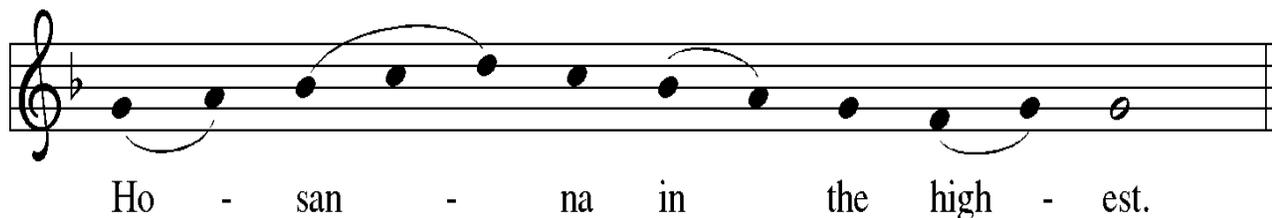
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

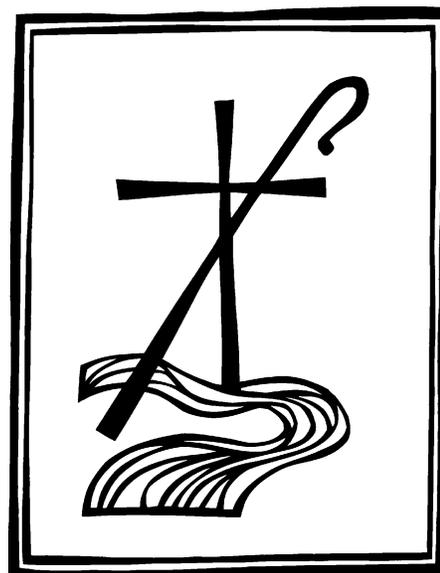
Christ will come again.

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.

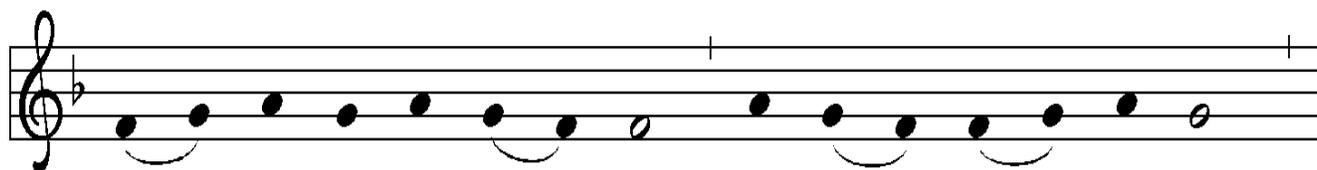
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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.**



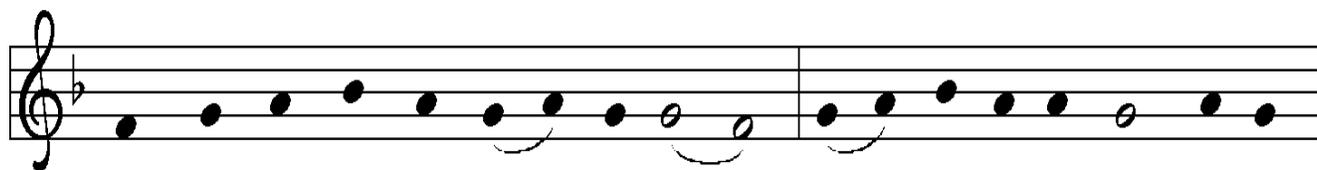
*LORD'S PRAYER



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.



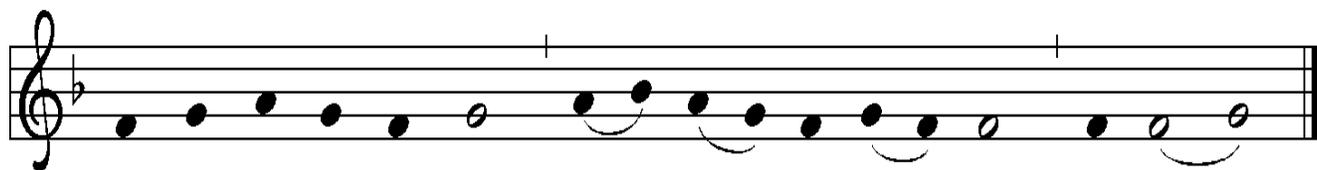
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



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

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

*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

John Broussard

PARISH MUSICIAN

David Richards

LECTORS

Jane Lauritsen and Brandon Michaels

COMMUNION MINISTER

Martin Pennino

ACOLYTE

Aidan Altavilla

GREETERS

Ed and Joanne Sefara

USHERS

Janet Broussard and Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Ruth Bakalich

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Sunday, March 22

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Tuesday, March 24

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the Eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

Wednesday, March 25

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 22

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 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 23

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 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 |

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 29

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 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 30

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER . . .

Olga Zavodny, Dot Myers, Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Mildred Mendel, Mary Sasuta, Bob Skudrna and Steve Podzamsky.

Fernando Freire (*friend of Pastor Dennis and Jane*), **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*), **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*), **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!

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of **+Theodore+** and **+Elizabeth Matthies+** on the 77th anniversary of their marriage on March 20th by remembering son Charles. 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.



Easter lilies are available for \$17.00 per plant for those who wish to place one or more in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebration. To place an order, please sign up on the sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower level, west entrance bulletin board) or call the church office. The final day for placing an order is Friday, April 3rd.

Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional **Palm Sunday Coffee Hour** on April 5th. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

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.

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!

March 1st through March 29th

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



**LENTEN
FOOD DRIVE**

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.houserpto.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.

GOD'S EYES ARE NOT OUR EYES

One heresy in the early church was called Donatism. The Donatists held that the sacraments were only efficacious if presided over by priests who were sinless. It didn't take the church long to realize that if it held to this policy there would be no sacraments for anyone. So if the gospel can be proclaimed through the preaching of a sinner, then we must allow for the possibility that God's healing may be accomplished through extraordinary means. God chooses a boy too young to be taken seriously to anoint as one chosen to lead Israel. When the prophet Samuel is sent by God to find the new king who will replace Saul, Samuel goes through a long line of all Jesse's tall, strapping, competent-looking sons of appropriate age. When none of them are chosen, finally Jesse sends for young David. All of the obvious-to-us choices were declined in favor of a boy. What we may see as authoritative, respectable, and trustworthy may not always align with God. Today's first reading reminds us that "the Lord does not see as mortals see" (1 Samuel 16:7).

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering Sunday, March 15th, 2020

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2019:</i> | \$2,597.00 |
| <i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i> | \$0.00 |
| <i>Surplus:</i> | \$0.00 |

Holy Week, 2020
April 5th – 12th

Palm Sunday, April 5th

10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Procession with Palms and Reading of the Passion Narrative
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution, Foot-Washing and
Stripping of the Chancel

Good Friday, April 10th

10:15 a.m., Pasie Liturgy in Slovak
7:15 p.m., Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 12th

9:00 a.m., Easter Breakfast
10:15 a.m., Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Trumpet, Handbells and Choirs

