



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

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**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. 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.*

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# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the Evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of Holy Communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.*

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## HOLY COMMUNION

*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4, PAGES 147-155*

### GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

*Alleluia No. 1*

setting Hamilton

### \*EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to God,  
**who rescues us from the power of darkness;  
who redeems us, and sets us free!**

Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,  
**through whom all things were made,  
in heaven and on the earth.**

Praise be to the Spirit of God,  
**whose presence sustains us,  
and whose breath renews all creation.**

Behold! I am making all things new!  
**Come, O God, and make your home among us.  
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

—*from New Heaven, New Earth,  
an Easter and Earth Day worship resource (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)*

\*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of 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

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

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

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

PSALM

Psalms 118:14-29

*Prayed responsively by leader and congregation.*

The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

The right hand of the LORD is exalted!

**The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Hosanna! O LORD, save us!**

**We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

**The LORD is God and has given us light.**

**Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ, experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

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

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

ELW 364  
(Verse 1 and Refrain)

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

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ Has Arisen  
While Earth Slumbers*

ACS 938

\*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

**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

Holy Spirit, as you gave courage and confidence to the disciples to proclaim the risen Christ, despite the warnings of the authorities, so let us be faithful with the beauty, the power and the urgency of the gospel message. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Help us look forward, Heavenly Father, to the day of resurrection as your gift of eternal life. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus Christ, chief cornerstone of the church, build up our lives true to your will. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Holy Spirit, as you inspired the prophets to see beyond the affairs of this earth, so inspire us with the eyes of faith to see the return of Christ as our Savior. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus, when we are deep in doubt, open your wounded side to our touch, and let us see the print of the nails in your hands, that we may be restored to active discipleship in your name. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Come now, Lord Jesus, with your healing power, and touch all of us who doubt, who are ill, and who need you very near, especially... . Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Strengthen this congregation to sing songs of hope and promise. Raise up musicians who will share their gifts and lead our praise. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

*Other prayers may be added here in speech and silence.*

Fill our hearts with joy and gladness as we remember those who have died believing in life in your name, especially... . Reveal to us the joy of your salvation even in the face of death. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay. Amen**

## \*PEACE

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

# MEAL

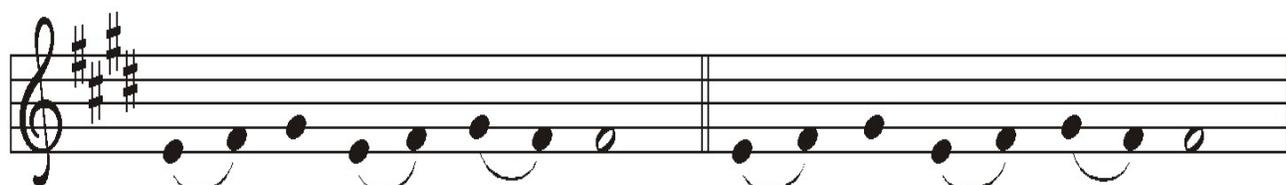
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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

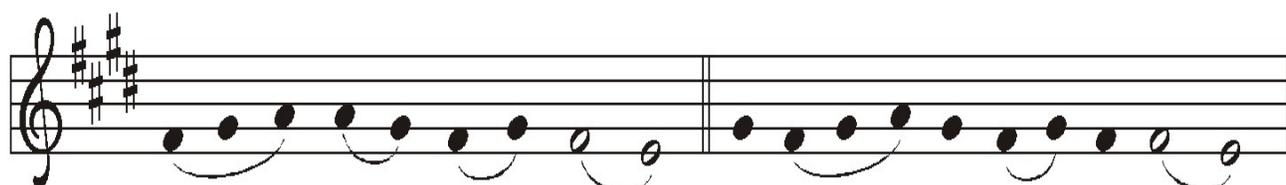
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

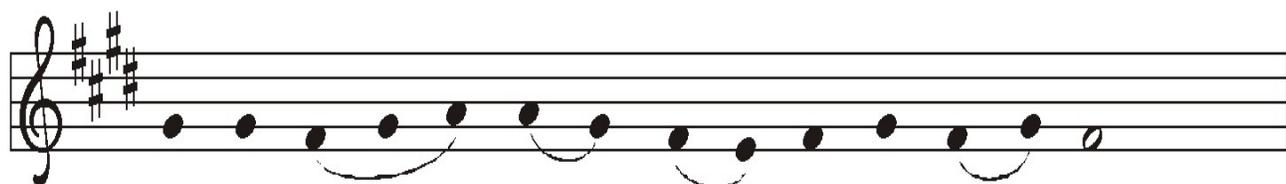
## \*DIALOGUE



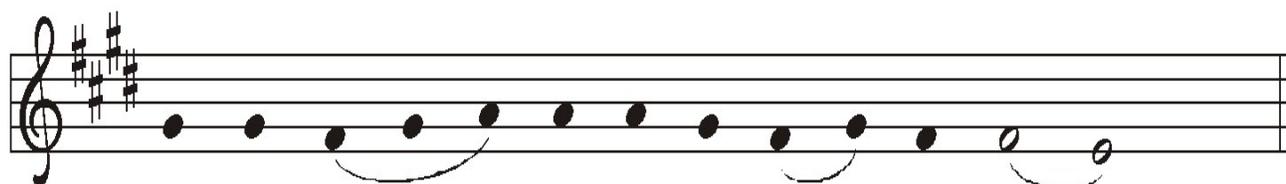
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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.



## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever. **Amen**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

**\*EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

## DISTRIBUTION

### \*BLESSING

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

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**

## SENDING

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

### \*SOLEMN BLESSINGS OF EASTER

Almighty God bless you on this solemn feast of Easter, and may he protect you against all sin. **Amen**

Through the resurrection of his Son, God granted us healing. May he fulfill his promises, and bless you with eternal life. **Amen**

You have mourned for Christ's sufferings; now you celebrate the joy of his resurrection. May you come with joy to the feast which lasts forever. **Amen**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ELW 363

### \*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Lippen Schweigen*

Lehár

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

John Broussard

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

LECTOR

John Kostelny

GREETERS

Philip and Linda Painter

LIVE STREAM

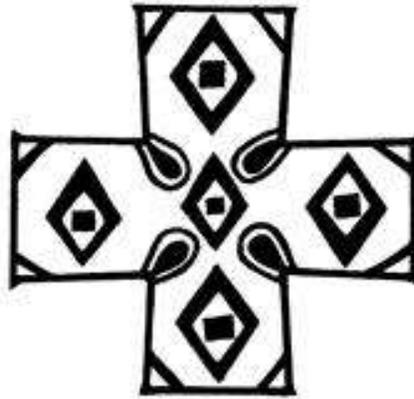
Paul Watkiss

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Edward and Joanne Sefara



### IN THE PRAYERS...

*Members of the Congregation:* Heather Greer, Ann Head, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mary Sasuta and Edward Sefara. *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kesney, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Mike Matthies, Nick, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Gus Sicaras, Thomas Sicaras, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson and Tom Zajac.

**The church office will be closed** beginning Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the office on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

—Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380*

*Tuesday, April 29, 2025*

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

*Philip and James, Apostles*

*Thursday, May 1, 2025*

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

*Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373*

*Friday, May 2, 2025*

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.



### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,875.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 740.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org) .

Lux Cantorum Chicago  
presents:

LUX CANTORUM

# GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA!

*Celebrating the rich heritage of Gospel Music.*

*Experience a wide range of gospel music styles with universal themes of love, hope, and perseverance!*

May 2, 2025 7:30 pm

Buchanan Chapel of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

May 4, 2025 4:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL

May 10, 2025 7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Oak Park IL

May 14 - 24, 2025

Streamed Live Performance Recording

Info Detail at:

[www.LuxCantorum.org](http://www.LuxCantorum.org)

Wilbert O. Watkins Conductor & Artistic Director

Philip Kendall: Assistant Conductor

Kyle Stephens Accompanist

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

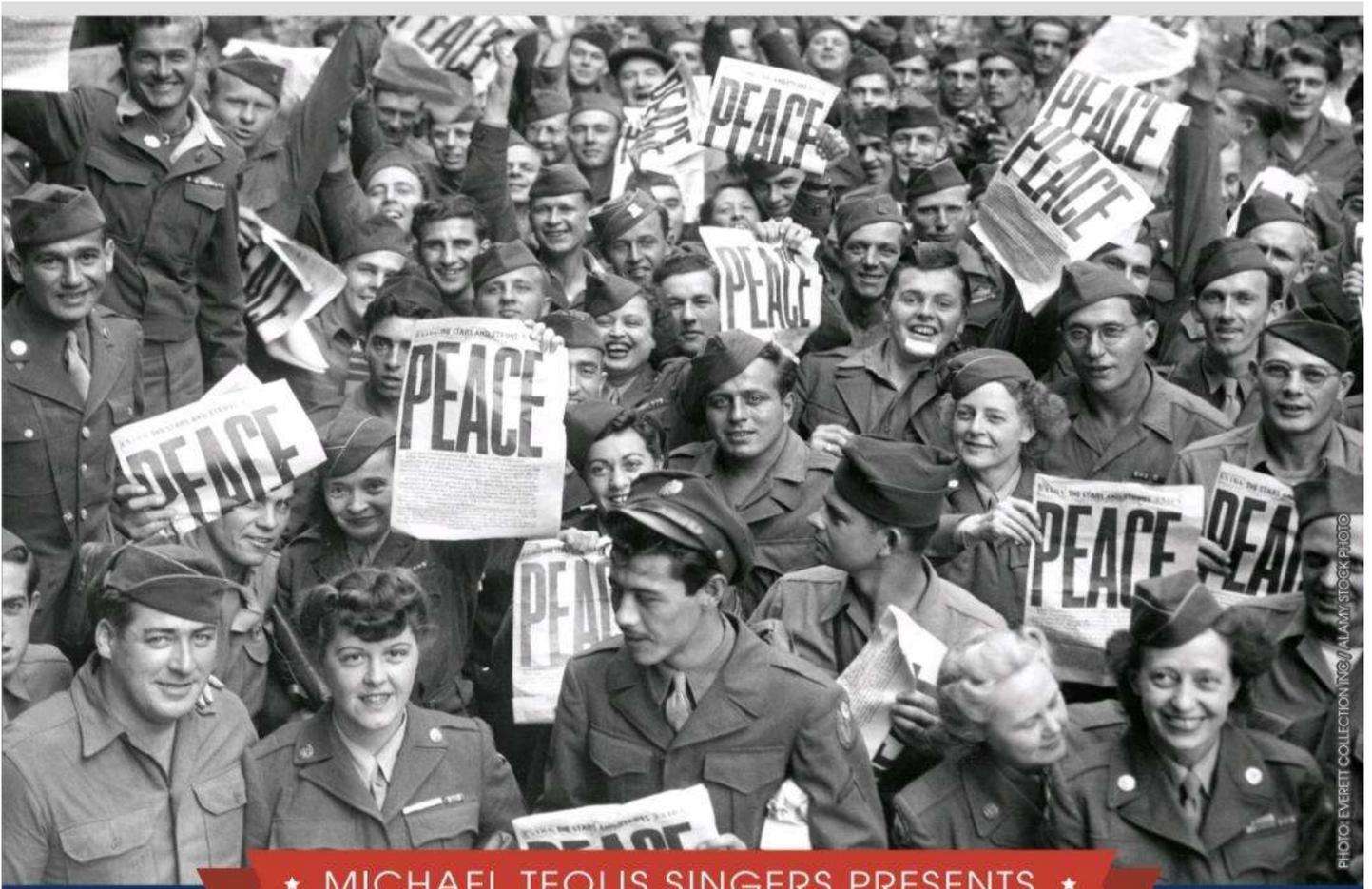


PHOTO: EVERETT COLLECTION INC./ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

★ MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS PRESENTS ★

# Peace Triumphant: ★ ★ ★ 1945 ★ ★ ★

Saturday • May 10, 2025 • 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church • 324 N. Oak Park Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302 • Handicap Accessible

Online tickets at  
[www.MTSingers.org](http://www.MTSingers.org)  
 • \$25 Adult  
 • \$20 Seniors / Students

All tickets at the door  
 • \$30



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THE MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

*Beverly Tarbox and David Richards of our congregation perform with the Michael Teolis Singers.*