

The ANNOUNCER

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

WORSHIP & LIVESTREAM:
Sundays at 10 AM on YouTube & in person worship.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Palm Sunday, 10 AM; Maundy Thursday, 7 PM; Good Friday 7 PM; Easter Sunday, 10 AM

EARTH DAY- April 22nd.

VILLAGE INN – April 23, 2023 - 11AM TO 11PM

A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN SERVICE – April 29, 2023



EASTER CANDY NEEDED-
Candy (no chocolate) and tiny toys to fit inside plastic easter eggs needed for our Egg Hunt! Please get those items to the office by **Palm Sunday, April 2nd.**

BUNCO PRIZES NEEDED

Prizes needed for our Bunco Card and



Raffle Party! Brand new items or giftcards of any place and amount are needed for our fundraiser event! See Carol Iannotti with questions, and you can leave your items in Laura's office at the Laramie Avenue entrance.

A publication of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

One time I got to hear a former drug addict tell his story of getting clean and sober. I don't remember what he said he was doing, but suddenly this agnostic fellow heard an inner voice tell him, "You do not know why you are here; but you are NOT here to put drugs and alcohol into your body!" He had to believe this voice came from a higher power, and, wowed by this miracle of Someone or something outside of himself re-directing him, he stopped using (and drinking) for good. I think he even used the phrase, "the grace of God."

That, my friends, is a story of one person's this-life resurrection by the grace of God. He was heading into death, whether he knew that or not, but something / Someone happened, and progressing death was stopped in its tracks (and in his veins); a new life for him began. Life out of death. He had not died, he was in no tomb; all the same, a new life from what would have most likely ended in death.

I imagine several of us have heard, or lived, stories along the same lines. I had my own kind of this-life internal resurrection in seminary (unrelated to substances). I was not dead or dying either; but for a little while I came to believe my life had lost its projected meaning, and God was definitely

Behind it. In my mini-resurrection, I felt like I received both my God and my purpose-in-life back.

I am all about the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the tomb; I find this to be our one real source of hope for a life beyond this mortal one. I find it to be the Christian's foundation for hoped-for-success in taking on the evils and injustices of our world; if Jesus was raised over the final enemy death, what can Jesus (or now, his body on earth, the Church,) not do? I've spent many Minister's Desks in Announcers, and Easter sermons, elaborating on both themes.

It does all come down to miracles and the grace of God, which we receive by faith. Sometimes, like with the agnostic addict, faith isn't necessarily needed. Resurrections in our lives can totally transform them. The resurrection of Jesus empowers hope and inspires people of God to love God totally, to love our neighbors as ourselves (plus our enemies). That makes a lot of great good possible. The resurrection of Jesus saves us, for this life and the next. As Jesus asked Mary after telling her that He is the truth and the life, He asks us too, "Do you believe this?"

Keep the faith, Rev. Richard Lanford

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday is April 2nd. It's possible Sunday School will be cancelled as about half of our students will be out of town. However, we will as always have palm crosses available to take home, handed out while folks come into the sanctuary for worship! This is also a Communion and Choir Sunday as we lead-off Holy Week remembering the entrance of Jesus into

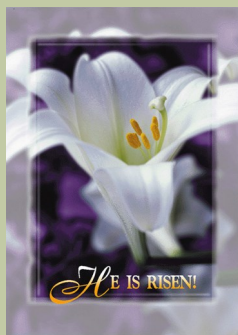
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Jerusalem for Passover and the acclaim showering His way there-in. Saint Peter's will have our **7:00 PM worship services on Maundy Thursday (4/6), Good Friday (4/7)**. Communion will be celebrated Maundy Thursday, as that's when we believe Jesus 'instituted' the Lord's Supper at the Last Supper. Pastor and Ben have agreed to look into marking Good Friday with a Vespers service, not unlike the Advent Sunday evening Vespers service of music, readings, silence and prayers we enjoyed last November. We cannot tell you anything more specific than this, although Readers Theater may be part of the service! **EASTER – Resurrection Sunday – is Sunday, April 9th!** No Easter Breakfast; worship begins at 10 AM. We'll plan for an attended Nursery. There will again be Communion, an Anthem, joyous music and a homily celebrating the power of God at work in raising Jesus from the dead. NOTE: There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 10 and younger following worship. Weather permitting it will be outside on the lawn, or if not, in the

Auditorium/ Gym. THEN at 11:30 there is an **EASTER BRUNCH**, a first for St. Peter's, held in the Memorial Room.



Reservations were required, and the suggested donation is only \$5, so if you're just hearing about this now, call the church office ASAP to see if you can still get in (847-673-8166). With thanks to our volunteer live-streamers, we will be able to livestream all the services on our YouTube channel.

A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN SERVICE

Saturday, April 29! Starting late last year, meals were both served curb-side, and to a limited extent, also indoors (for the first time in years). We expect this to still be the case for April. So we are again asking for donations totalling \$500, and about 5 volunteers (possibly more). These folks will do some help before the dining room opens, and then help serve. We are doing lunch now, not dinner: Volunteers are asked to be at the Kitchen from (tentatively) 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM. The Kitchen staff uses the money we

collect to buy and prepare the rest of the meal we would be responsible for. This may change if lots of you tell the Micah 6:8 Committee members that you're willing and able to fix Sloppy Joes and bring them to church. We'll need more than a handful of batches! It would, however, end our asking for \$500 each time there are 5 Saturdays in a month. We are grateful for the very generous gifts that have come forward from you all to meet the covenant/mission partner commitment!

VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER DAY

Make **Sunday, April 23rd** an easy and fun Sunday and order Village Inn food that day. If you let your server know you are here for our fundraiser we'll get 20% of whatever you spend! This is good for dine-in, carryout and delivery, so mark your calendar!



WELCOME SPRING CRAFT SHOW AND BAKE SALE

Our "Welcome Spring" Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday May 6th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Please mark your calendar to help (if possible) but especially to shop all our wonderful crafters selling their special and beautiful items. Share this date

with your family, friends and neighbors to come and have a fun day of shopping! Any questions or if you can help please text Wendy Svenson 847 528-4545 or Beth Lanford 773 882-4729.

Easter Brunch Reservations

New this year, in place of our early morning breakfast we are having an after-worship brunch and you are invited! **Reservations are being taken until Palm Sunday Apr. 2nd.** Please let us know you are coming. Donations for bread/coffee cakes also needed, as well as help on the Saturday before (10AM) and Sunday before and after the brunch. Email the office or fill out the form in the bulletin!

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023

ADULTS CHILDREN 3-6 INFANT

I'LL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/READS

HELP SAT. 10:00AM HELP EASTER

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

EASTER BRUNCH SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2023

11:30 AM

Celebrate Easter with your church family and join us something NEW, an Easter Brunch AFTER worship! It will be served in the Fellowship Hall and the menu will include something for everyone. We are asking for donations of breads and coffee cakes. The cost this year is \$5.00 with children \$3.00 (under 3 free). **PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR ONLY.** We will still need reservations so please fill in THIS FORM ONLY (no payment) in your offering bag to the church office. We will also need donations of coffee cakes, breads etc. and help, so please check those boxes too. If you have any questions contact Barb Todd and/or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!

RECYCLING EVENT IN SKOKIE!

This huge, four-hour reuse and recycling drop-off event is located in two separate parking lots on the west side of the Westfield Old Orchard shopping center. Stations include: Document Destruction; Electronic Waste; Prom Dresses & Accessories; Clothing & Shoes; Bicycles; Sports Equipment; Ink & Toner Cartridges; Baby Supplies; Fluorescent Bulbs; Paper;

Cardboard; Batteries; Fire Extinguishers; Holiday Lights & Extension Cords; Scrap Metal and Propane Canisters; Housewares, Small Appliances & Children's Items; Eye Glasses & Hearing Aids; Medications; Building Materials & Tools; Latex & Oil-Based Paints. Westfield Old Orchard Shopping Center on **Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

BUNCO, CARD AND RAFFLE PARTY

Our Bunco, Card and Raffle Party is back again! We'll again have three prize tables filled with great gifts, giftcards and fun items that you can win at our most fun fundraiser/event of the year. For your \$5 entrance fee donation, you'll get a snack bag, dessert and drinks and have so much fun! Invite your friends and on **Saturday, May 20th at 7 PM** join us, this event is open to the public and all are welcome.

LENTEN STUDY

THANKS— Thank you to everyone who attended sessions of our 2023 Lenten Book and Bible Study on the opening chapters of the Gospel of John. Next year the plan is to complete the first volume of the curriculum which we started this year; that will take us from Chapter 5 or 6 of John to Chapter 10! Thanks to all who not only came but made and brought soup, salad and fix-in's, crackers, desserts and good conversation!

HOSPITALIZED - Sue Bailey was admitted to Evanston Hospital in mid-March and treated for serious breathing difficulty. She returned home March 16th and continues her recovery there.

NEW MEMBERS & SEEKERS CLASS - At some point after Easter, Pastor Richard will offer a New Members / Seekers class, scheduled on the basis of interest and the availability of those interested. Let him know if you are interested!

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Apr 2nd Lector: Karen C.
Nursery: Annie Noorts
Apr 9th Lector: Andre/Marcia
Nursery: Laura Olson
Apr 16th Lector: Beth Sterba
Nursery: Heidi Tarzian
Apr 23rd Lector: Carolyn V.
Nursery: Rita McMahon
Apr 30th Lector: Barb Todd
Nursery: Annie Noorts

Budget at a Glance, February 2023

| | Feb. Actual | Monthly Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Operating Contributions | 10,271 | 13,342 | 21,903 | 26,683 |
| Operating Expense | 19,854 | 15,493 | 32,565 | 30,986 |
| Gain/(Loss) | (9,582) | (2,151) | (10,661) | (4,303) |

These numbers exclude line items for directed contribution, directed gifts and interest/investment income.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/3 – Kristine Mau
- 4/11 – Henry Aguayo
- 4/14 – Marcia Hilliard
- 4/16 – Ken Itter
- 4/18 – Bonnie Loach
- 4/21 – Gail (Dennis) Balling
- 4/23 – Darrell Kerbel
- 4/24 – Mark Taylor
- 4/25 – Susan Garcia
- 4/26 – Elisa Meggs
- 4/27 – Roman Salvatierra

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/15 – Analise and Juanito Banoyo
- 4/21 – Donna Gates & David Rees
- 4/22 – Carol and Bob Iannotti

BAPTISMS RECENT AND COMING UP

On Sunday, March 19th, as we've told you, Pastor Richard Lanford baptized two children during the service of worship: Hayley Ann Bruhn, daughter of Kim (Loach) Bruhn and Patrick Bruhn; and Camden Allen Loach, son of Jennifer (Wirth) Loach and Jeff Loach. The two kids are cousins, and each set of parents stood as baptismal sponsors for the other's child. On Sunday, April 30th, we've scheduled another baptism of a child: Fredrik W. Svenson will be baptized during the worship service, as were his two older brothers, Felix and Arthur (who are now in our Sunday School). Peter and Christine (Carnate) Svenson are the parents!

St. Peter's United Church of
Christ

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WOMEN'S GUILD

St. Peter's Women's Guild met at 10:30 a.m. on Wed. March 8 to clean out and organize the kitchen! Five hardy members cleaned out the refrigerators (including dozens of pop cans!) and re-organized cabinets and drawers and cleaned counters and sinks. Also, the contents of a box containing historical records and pictures in the old Guild closet was dispatched to a cabinet in the Memorial Room. Note: the old "Guild Closet" is now the "Prize Closet", holding the prizes and materials for Bunco, Raffle Baskets, Rummage Sale, etc. Our small group enjoyed a delicious soup lunch prepared and served by Barb Bailey and Devotions were given by Marlene Russell.

Good news from treasurer Sue Bailey - Wendy Svenson, Craft Show chairman, gave her O.K. to adding the profits from the Bake Sale in May to our treasury rather than the church fund.

The plate for Helen Mauer was placed on the Memorial Wall by Barb Bailey. Discussion was held on the Easter Brunch, which will be held after Easter Service, at approximately 11:30 in the Memorial Room. Donations are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children and reservations are required by April 2. See Barb Todd or the Office. Remember, coffeecakes are needed and can be delivered by Sat. morning.

Bakery goods will also be needed for the Craft Show/Bake Sale on Sat. May 6. There will be no meeting in April due to Holy Week and our next meeting is on May 10, complete with refreshments and games. Our June 14 meeting will be held at the Todds, hopefully outside with a picnic! More info later! Barbara Todd, President.