

SEPTEMBER 2022

The Announcer

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
8013 Laramie Ave.; Skokie, IL 60077

From the Minister's Desk

By Reverend Richard Lanford

In a sermon I preached some months ago, I said that "white Christian nationalism" and "Christian nationalism" are not Christian. "White nationalism" is a racist term that implies this nation is or ought to be primarily white, run by whites, and all people of color are less-than part of this nation. There is no equality, no seat for them at the tables of decision-making; no more "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." There is Nothing Christian about racism and exclusion. White Christian nationalism, or "Christian nationalism" are oxymorons. Nationalism is about promoting as superior one nation above all others, which is the original sin of pride. Christians are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom, avoiding pride.

Jesus preached about the Kingdom, or Realm, or Reign of God – there is no geographical nation or boundaries, because the Kingdom of God is wherever God is sovereign. There are no Rand McNally maps depicting a country, region, city or island so designated. Wherever God is Sovereign, wherever Christ (who welcomed strangers and says we find Him among them) is Lord, there is the realm of God. It has nothing to do with what land mass you're in. Jesus also said "The Kingdom of God is among you" or, in another translation, "is within you" (Luke 17:21). Yet this is not the first time folks have presumed to wrap themselves in the cross and flag to set themselves apart as righteous and better-than. They may be deluding themselves, or it is a cynical play for political power (and intimidation).

Let us not allow white-supremacist bigots and religious nationalists (who think God only loves this nation) to say "This is Christianity." No, it's not; have those folks read the New Testament, and the teachings of Christ which run so counter to that kind of ideology? And, such declarations may be turning prospective disciples away from the real faith. Jesus and His gospel are so, so much bigger, grander, more open and grace-filled than that. Our faith is not about lifting up one race or one particular nation, even if some countries are seemingly more under the influence of compassion, mercy, humility, forgiveness and welcome than, say, some countries known especially for brutality, inequality and oppression.

God so loved the world. Period.

*Keep, and share the faith,
Pastor Richard Lanford*



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

BRIEF COLLECTION
All September

SUNDAY SCHOOL
starts Sept. 11th

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE:
September 23rd &
24th from 9 AM to
3 PM

**VILLAGE INN
FOOD
FUNDRAISER:**
September 25th
from 11AM to
11PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. PETER'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

We invite you to shop our Rummage and Bake Sale on **September 23rd & 24th from 9 AM to 3 PM**. We have so much to sell this year, deep thanks to the donors and sorters for all your hard work all summer long! You will find clothing, accessories, housewares, luggage, kid's clothes and toys, appliances, hardware, linens, garden supplies, pet accessories, wall art, holiday décor, boutique high end and vintage items- and so much more; and our bakers will be selling lots of delicious treats too. *We'll need lots of volunteers in September- for sorting and pre-sale prep as well as on the sale days. Also bakers are needed, talk to a Women's Guild member for details.* Annie will have a sign-up sheet up soon, so look for it!

Rummage collecting ends September 11th so get that stuff in ASAP!

THIS SEPTEMBER WE HOLD A 'BRIEF COLLECTION'!

With so much going on in May we were unable to hold the Undy 500 so we picked September to ask you to share in this collection instead! The Night Ministry's website asks for this in underwear: Dark colors preferred; Men's boxer briefs, sizes M-XXL; Women's briefs, sizes S-XL. They really do not want white if possible. *Due to the important Rummage and Bake Sale taking up the Gym, Memorial Room and seating area / Lounge in September, we are asking folks to bring their "brief collection" to the sanctuary and place it (them) in front of the chancel, as if the Christmas tree were there and these were gifts underneath the tree (like we do for the Advent mission project).* If you are unable, let someone know and leave them by the offices so they will be brought up the stairs from there. Thank you in advance for giving important help to those on the margins and living on the edge! Your Micah 6:8 Committee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 11th

Our traditional start of the Sunday school year falls on the first Sunday after Labor Day weekend. Chapel begins at 9:00am in St. Peter's sanctuary, followed by the students breaking into classes. We welcome our two new teachers: Carolyn Van Til and Rita McMahon and returning teacher Karen Christianson. Our Sunday school program serves students from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Questions can be answered by contacting Karen at 847-308-3120.

VILLAGE INN FOOD FUNDRAISER IS

SUNDAY, SEPT 25TH FROM 1 PM TO 11 PM –

You'll be pretty tired after a successful Rummage Sale weekend, so let them do the cooking! On this day eat in, carryout or have delivered food from Village Inn on Lincoln Avenue in Skokie, *let your server know you are ordering for St. Peter's UCC fundraiser*, and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend!! You'll get a great meal you won't have to cook, it's a win-win! Mark your calendars!

SEVEN MINUTES OF PRAYER ONCE A

MONTH - The Niles Township Clergy Forum has, for over 2 years, been gathering with any and all like-minded people in the area, on Third Wednesdays at 3 PM for 7 minutes of silent prayer. This happens at the Village Green space just to the east of the Skokie Village Library's eastern entrance. It began as some kind of response to all the gun violence that was taking over our news. The convener is usually Rabbi Jeffrey Weill of Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation." If you are interested in joining us / them, please know you are welcome.

UPCOMING (CONT.) CHURCH NEWS

PET BLESSING – October 23rd at 3 PM.

For a small entrance fee, you and your beloved four legged friend can receive a blessing and be part of a great event with fellow four legged friends. We'll have a raffle, C.A.R.E. will be on hand with adoptable animals and short leashes, treats for both humans and pets alike and a short pet sermon. All proceeds will be split with St. Peter's and C.A.R.E.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW UPDATE -

Coming soon is St. Peter's Holiday Craft Show this year on **Saturday November 19th from 10-3**. If you, or someone you know would be interested in a table please let either myself, Beth Lanford or the church office know so you can reserve your spot. We suggest you reserve your table soon before this information goes out to the previous vendors we've had in the past. Our email to contact us:

st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com.

Wendy Svenson and Beth Lanford, Directors

St. Peter's Regathering Update - At our Mid-Year check-in, we discussed our current COVID safety protocols, and decided to lift a few of the restrictions. Specifically, we will no longer block off pews in the sanctuary for social distancing. We will resume the practice of sharing the peace in worship, however with "peace signs" rather than handshakes. We will resume coffee hour in the fall and will look at holding the Advent Dinner in December. What we are keeping in place is the individual communion cups, and not passing the offering plates. We will also still have hand sanitizer and masks at entrances and encourage those who are more comfortable wearing masks

to do so. Choir will also resume rehearsal and singing in worship, with Ben and the choir members managing their own preferences and how they are comfortable with COVID safety. Thank you to everyone's attention to these and other ways we worked to keep our members and friends safe over the last 2 years.

NO GUILD MEETING - In September, as members of the Women's Guild focus their energies along with others on the upcoming Rummage and Bake Sale. The Women's Guild will meet, however, on **Wednesday, October 14th at 11:30 AM**.

FOOD ALWAYS NEEDED FOR MINI PANTRY – The need is greater right now during our turbulent economy; any food or household goods you have to donate is greatly appreciated! Things like canned beans, veggies, fruits, meat and fish, pasta, rice, bread items, unusual fun items, snacks, juice, cereal, dried fruits, nuts. Household goods include toiletries, paper goods, soap - anything you might have that could be used is welcome!

PASTORAL NEWS - Skokie's Mayor George Van Dusen approached our Pastor, Rev. Richard Lanford, to consider applying for the open 3rd spot on the Village of Skokie's Ethics Commission. He did consider it, he did apply, and the Mayor will announce the appointment at a future meeting of the Village Board of Trustees. The Commission meets as needed and not on a regularly scheduled basis.

Budget at a Glance for July				
	<u>July Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Operating Contributions	\$13,348	\$11,667	\$98,826	\$81,667
Operating Expense	\$15,261	\$14,044	\$100,786	\$98,309
Gain/(Loss)	(\$1,913)	(\$2,377)	(\$1,960)	(\$16,642)

These numbers exclude line items for any income transfer, roof repair and directed gifts.

OUR PEOPLE

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED – Please consider volunteering for Nursery as over the last season 3 folks finished their service and we currently have ONLY 3 volunteers and 2 parents. Your service would be 1 hour every 5 – 6 weeks or 8-12 weeks should we get more folks. This helps us especially giving parents a much-needed break and the kids get to spend time with other folks of the church they wouldn't normally get to interact with. We are growing and that's so wonderful, but we can't grow without your help to meet it. Contact Laura in the office for more information and to sign up. Thanks so much!

CONFIRMATION CLASS THIS YEAR?

Pastor Richard has had a few short conversations over the summer about possibly having a Confirmation Class to some young people aged 13 and older who have not gone through Confirmation yet. Nothing is decided, but if this sounds like something you want to learn more about, either call the church office or email him at RevLanford@aol.com to see where plans lie.

COMMUNICANTS CLASS TOO - When any of our Sunday School students are in 6th grade, they are ready (in St. Peter's life as it is) for a two-session class about the Lord's Supper. After the class, they are OK'd by the Pastor to join the rest of the communing congregation in partaking of Holy Communion. This year there is one student we know of, Drew Ryan, and Pastor has already opened the conversation with his parents and Drew for scheduling whenever it will take place.

NEW MEMBERS / SEEKERS CLASS - It has held its first session and will conclude at the end of the second session. We hope we will be able to receive one or more new members in the near future during worship. If you yourself are not an official, voting member and are curious about exploring becoming one, please let the Pastor know! Thank you.

HOSPITALIZED - Jackie Johnson had foot surgery in July and after a handful of days in hospital, she went for in-patient rehab (and didn't receive any), going home after a week there, for progress with physical and occupational therapists. Rich Suckow had his hip replacement surgery on July 21st at Advocate Condell Medical Center. He continues physical therapy, and as of this writing in mid-August he has already been back in worship with us more than once! Judy Paige, Wendy Svenson, Carolyn Kuechler, Jenn Schneider and Dorothy Panzke also continue their therapies and regaining of strength at home; some of it may still be out-patient, too. Please keep these persons in your prayers.

IN CELEBRATION OF BIRTHS - On Wednesday, August 3rd, at 5 AM, Jenn (Wirth) Loach gave birth to Jeff and Jen's 2nd child, Camden Allen Loach! Camden entered this world weighing 7 lb., 3 oz. and is 19" tall. Our best wishes to the Loaches, including his older sister Evelyn! On Monday, August 22nd, Christine Carnate Svenson gave birth to her and Peter's third son, Fredrik William Carnate Svenson. He was 7 lbs., 11 oz.

LECTOR & NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept 4th	Lector: Dan Guenther Nursery: Laurie Mitchell
Sept 11th	Lector: Carolyn Van Til Nursery: Annie Noorts
Sept 18th	Lector: Rich Schneider Nursery: Mike Ryan
Sept 25th	Lector: Annie Noorts Nursery: Heidi Tarzian
Oct 2nd	Lector: Beth Lanford Nursery: Laurie Mitchell

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Prayer Requests

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 – *Bill Schaller*
Ursula Dworak
- 9/8 – *Isabella Aguayo*
- 9/9 – *Jackie Johnson*
- 9/10 – *Kylie Sykes*
Nathan Paige
- 9/11 – *Isabella Mau Gemignani*
- 9/12 – *Judy Williford*
- 9/18 – *Errol Mitchell*
- 9/19 – *Dylan Kahn*
- 9/20 – *Megan Caras*
Ryan Puckett
- 9/25 – *Amanda Steegmueller*
- 9/27 – *Beth Sterba*
- 9/30 – *Maya (Schuhrke) Martinek*

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/3 – *Anthony & Jennifer Gemignani*
- 9/11 – *Wendy & Roy Svenson*
- 9/12 – *Maribel & Joey Powers Laarveld*
- 9/18 – *Jackie & Dave (Meyer) Rosenthal*
- 9/29 – *Angela & Harrison Kuras*
Kathy & Jeffery Issel



Backlot Bash 2022. Photo courtesy of M. McDonald

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/1 – *Lucy Rees*
Nicole Miller
- 10/3 – *Doug Johnson*
- 10/4 – *Gretchen Sterba*
- 10/7 – *Winfield Meggs*
- 10/11 – *Gabriel Banoyo*
Jillian Caras
- 10/20 – *Sincere Williams*
- 10/21 – *Shawna Frenzel*
- 10/25 – *Ryan Loach*
- 10/27 – *Sean Loach*
- 10/28 – *Dorothy Panzke*
Rich Suckow
- 10/31 – *Mark Aler*

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/1 – *Amanda & Richard Steegmueller*
- 10/4 – *Peggy & Chad McCoy*
- 10/9 – *Laura & Paul Medaglia*
- 10/12 – *Megan & Steven Caras*
- 10/21 – *Anna & Hugh Riley*
- 10/28 – *Kathy Zipperer & Darrell Kerbel*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Ingrid Anderson, Guy and Traudel Cline, Pat Mauer Erdman, Linda Haig, Ken Itter, Helen Mauer, Jim Todd, Roy Svenson & Cristy Lopez.

If you see your name listed and would like it removed, or, someone you know should be added, please contact the office.