



Calendar of Events

Craft Weekend (Great Room)

April 8, 7:00 p.m. and April 9, 9:00 a.m.

Double Baby Shower (Park and Cho)

April 9, 2:00 p.m. (Off-site at Walrath's)

Dudes' Night

April 9, 4:00 p.m.

Children's Education Ministry Team

April 10, Noon

Worship Planners

April 10, 5:00 p.m.

Missions Ministry Team

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Financial Resources Committee

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Elders

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday Brunch (RSVP's required)

April 17, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Service incl. Communion

April 17, 10:30 a.m.

No classes offered at the 9:00 a.m. hour
Nursery care at 10:30 a.m. only

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 22, 7:00 p.m.

Childcare provided up to age 5

Easter Sunday

April 24, 10:30 a.m.

No classes offered at the 9:00 a.m. hour
Nursery care at 10:30 a.m. and *Eggstravaganza* for kids ages 4-12

Caregiving Ministry Team

April 25, 7:00 p.m. (Off-site)

Weekly/Bi-Weekly Dates

Choir

Sundays, April 3, 10 and 17, 5:00 p.m.

Crown Ministries

Mondays, April 4, 11 and 18, 7:00p.m.

IGNITE (Sr. High Youth)

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study (Daytime)

Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

Childcare provided

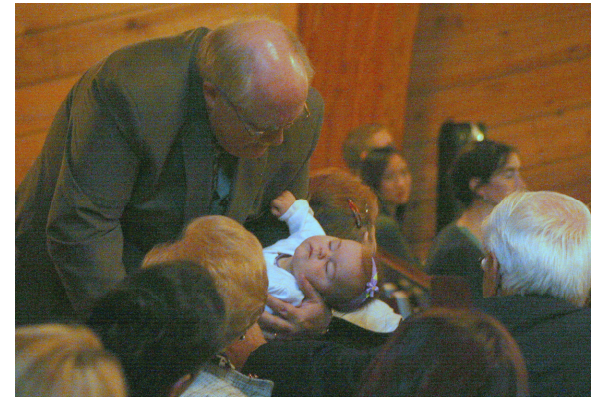
Ladies' Bible Study (Evening)

2nd and 4th Thursdays (April 14 and 28), 7:00 p.m.

CLUB 180 (Middle School Youth)

Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Joe and Amy Hartel who dedicated their daughter Grace Kathryn on March 20th.



Congratulations to Billy and Shanté Pohl on the birth of their son, Samuel Lewis. Samuel was born on March 4, 2011.



Congratulations to Belle Ingersoll and Gareth Hughes for their white roses. Both kids recently asked Jesus into their hearts.



Congratulations to Matt Williams who was accepted to The United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.



Wedding Policy Updates

Recently VCL has revised and updated our wedding policy including pricing. You can check them out at www.evcl.org or ask Jenn Uren for a copy.

CRAFTERS! Join us in the Great Room for a weekend of crafting. We will begin Friday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. and return Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m. Bring a salad or dessert to pass and \$5 for lunch. We will plan to wrap up at about 4:00 p.m. There will be a swap table so if you have something (gently used) that you don't need/use anymore, bring it to the table and swap it for something "new". The items can include crafting supplies, tools, craft books, or magazines. Any questions, contact Steph Ingersoll @ 716-200-3286 or Pamela Hedges @ 847-265-3493.

Senior Escape Coming in May!

One of the best traditions that Pastor Jared fostered in our youth ministry was Senior Escape. This is a weekend get-away for our graduating seniors. It is our way of sending them off to the next stage of their lives and a way of honoring them and God for the growth in their Christian walks. Harold Lutz and I are planning on taking this year's seniors on an adventure weekend with the folks at Fort Wilderness in Wisconsin sometime in early May. We are still hashing out the details, but we look forward to reporting some fun God sightings and memorable stories about our seniors in coming issues.

(cont'd from front)

crucial phase of Jesus' ministry, Jesus begins to tell his disciples his real purpose, and that is to suffer, die, and rise from the dead. But these things do not fit into the disciples' worldview, and they lack the faith to understand and accept Jesus' teaching. As Jesus leads his disciples to Jerusalem, he gives them lessons on what it takes to truly follow him.

Disciples are always learning, always growing to be more like their master. During this season of Lent, we have learned much about what it takes to become more like Jesus. It takes things like self-denial, cross-shaped living, authentic faith, childlike dependence, and servant identity. As we approach holy week, where we celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord, let us take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to truly follow after Jesus all the way to Jerusalem, knowing full well that what awaits for us is not earthly glory and success. Instead, what awaits us is the same thing that awaited Jesus as he approached the first holy week in Jerusalem: suffering, death, and resurrection. May God grant us the grace of His Holy Spirit to so transform our lives that we live and die like Jesus.

Village Church of Lincolnshire

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Associate Pastor
Ministries Administrator
Office Manager
Custodian

Lee Eclov
Michael Mauriello
Susan Eclov
Susan Beck
Angela Fischer

Elders: Warren Anderson (chair), Bob Fischer, Carl Johnson, and Jim Stamoolis



Village Vine

April 2011

Our Great Celebration Season!

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Good Friday and Easter are the pinnacles of the church year. The services of Holy Week bring Christ's followers back to our most important stories and the core of our faith. They are also an opportunity for Christians to invite others to church for Easter, our greatest and most distinctive celebration.

Palm Sunday, April 17, will be a celebration not only of King Jesus' triumph, but also of the everlasting life he promises those who trust in him. We're planning some especially wonderful music on that Sunday. Also, that morning, from 8:30 to 10, we enjoy our annual Palm Sunday Brunch in the Great Room.

Good Friday evening at 7 p.m. we mark the death of Jesus with our Tenebrae service. Traditionally known as a "Service of Shadows," our Village Voices will lead us through a simple service marked by a re-

peated pattern: part of the scripture story is read, a song is sung, a candle is snuffed out, and quiet time is given for reflection. We repeat that seven times, till the church is dark. Then, with the story of our salvation painted so richly in our minds, we leave in silence.

On Easter Sunday, April 24, we will celebrate! Our choir, Village Voices, will lead us. We will hear and sing of Jesus' resurrection, and we will think again on what a wonder it is to be people whose Lord is risen. We anticipate bringing the service to a great conclusion with baptisms of newer believers. Easter has long been the church's favorite day to baptize Christians.

There are no education classes during the 9 a.m. hour on either April 17 or 24.

Have you been baptized as a believer?

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Baptism is the great Christian statement of new birth. All Christians are to be baptized as a public declaration of their faith in Christ, and of our confidence that we have died with Christ and been raised to new life.

Baptisms, of course, can happen anywhere and anytime. I've baptized people in ponds and pools, plus in a variety of church baptisteries. But the church's favorite day to baptize believers has always been Easter Sunday. Nothing so wonderfully symbolizes our resurrected life as a Christian coming up out of the water's grave. (I always think of the young man whom I baptized in a lake. When I lifted him from under the water he threw his arms up in the air, leaned his head back and grinned like he'd seen

heaven itself!)

If you have never been baptized, consider being baptized this Easter Sunday. The baptistry in our church is right below the cross so we can do the baptisms at the end of our service. If you have young people in your family who have professed Christ but have not been baptized, I suggest you talk with them, or arrange for us all to talk together.

To be baptized, Pastor Michael or I will meet with you for a simple Bible study and instruction. We'll answer your questions both about the meaning and the physical process. Let me know if you're interested.

Approaching Holy Week: A Lenten Reflection

By Scott Swingle

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he came riding on a donkey, signifying that he was the king promised by Zechariah the prophet. The people hailed him as the Son of David, a title which affirmed that he is the promised descendent of David who would bring God's eternal kingdom. So as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people had high hopes and expectations of revolution, political independence, and an earthly messianic reign.

But Jesus had something much different in mind. He

is headed to Jerusalem all right, but not to re-establish the Davidic kingship on earth. He is headed to Jerusalem to be rejected, to suffer and die, and then to rise again. He is truly the Son of David; He is the promised King. But he is a king who becomes the servant of all, the king who goes to the cross to die for the sins of many.

During the season of Lent, we have been following the journey of Jesus and his disciples as they make their way to Jerusalem. During this (cont'd on back)

Preaching & Worship Series



Blind Spots: What Christians Miss

- 4/10 Dead Wrong
Mark 12:18-27
- 4/17 Good Answer
Mark 12:28-34
Communion
- 4/24 **Easter**
The Last Piece of the Puzzle
Mark 12:35-40; Acts 2:22-41
Baptism
- Ready for the End**
- 5/1 "Beginning of Birth Pains"
Mark 13:1-8

Prayer Requests



APRIL PRAYER LIST

Please tear off this list and use it in your regular prayers for VCL

Pray for the children of our church—for faith in Christ, for understanding of the faith, for protection, for parents

•
That our church would sincerely celebrate Jesus' death for us and his resurrection

•
New initiatives in our compassion ministries

•
Our ministries at Sedgebrook Retirement Community

•
Youth staff to replace those who are stepping aside

Russia Missions Opportunity

By John Feinberg

In summer 2009 I was privileged to teach in Kursk, Russia. Classes were translated and videotaped. Those courses are now being sent to Russian-speaking people all over the world. From August to December, 2011 I'll be teaching the whole of Trinity's required MDiv Systematic Theology Courses. Technicians from the Kursk Seminary will be at TEDS all semester long, videotaping my classes. (Pending University approval, they may also be taping an additional course.) This is a great opportunity to reach Russian-speaking ministers and lay people and give them much needed biblical and theological training. **And you can help in this missions outreach!!!**

There will be two technicians from Kursk living in our area from the middle of July through the middle of December. A third person will be here from mid-July to mid-August. Each of these men needs a place to live. While we may have to rent an apartment for them, it would be a great cost savings if we could find a home or two in which they can live. It would probably work best in homes with "empty nesters." If you would be

Housing Update

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Londa and I want to say thanks to all of you who have been asking about our housing situation as we work to get our family all together here at Village Church. As many of you know, Londa and I are now working on closing on our third house. Like the previous two, this house is in Mundelein, about twenty minutes away from church. It's located at 54 S. Chicago Ave, so please don't send any mail to the address listed in the directory.

This has been a grueling process for our family. The disappointment over the last two houses was very difficult, but we now can see that the Lord was working to protect us from and guide us to a place of his choosing. God has sustained us through your prayers in the midst of illness and distance as we worked the problems of real estate. He has given us fortitude, endurance, courage, and enough patience to get through this tough patch. Over the course of the last months, we

I Want You!

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

We have a great tradition of having awesome youth volunteers to mentor our students. It's always sad to have to say goodbye to our students, but this summer we are saying goodbye to Harold and Meghann Lutz, two of the most devoted youth volunteers I have ever had the privilege of working with. As they leave to begin a new stage of ministry with Campus Crusade in Cincinnati, OH—we send them off with sadness for our loss but joy for the universities of Ohio. Also, this summer, three of our Jr. High volunteers, Brandon Boulais and Ashley Whited, and John Wood, will be taking the summer off. Brandon and Ashley will be getting married, and John is going home to begin a pastoral internship. All three will be back in the fall, but we have some holes to fill in both our senior high and junior high ministry.

willing to house one or more of these men, you could do so for one month, several months, or longer—we want to fit what works best for you! I should add that the two men who will be here the whole semester speak fluent English; the one who will be here for a month speaks Russian.

In addition, while these men are here they will need a car to get around. We are wondering if someone might have an extra car that they could loan for that purpose. Increase in the cost of insurance, money for gas and for routine maintenance will be raised by the school in Kursk. This will be a great help, as the only other alternatives are to rent, lease, or buy a car for 5 months—each of these would be a rather costly option.

Please pray for these needs, and consider if the Lord might have you get involved! If housing and transportation are not secured **by June 1**, we'll need to look to rent an apartment and provide transportation some other way. If you can help, please contact Jim Uren, Pastor Lee, or myself. Thanks for your prayer support and for any help you can give!!!

have been praying for wisdom, and the Lord has certainly provided that for us. We are overwhelmed by his protection and provision in our lives. We are very excited about this current house, and we are hoping to close sometime near the beginning rather than the end of April. The seller has been wonderful to work with, and it will be a great home for our girls and for ministry in our neighborhood.

One of the things we were looking for in a house was a place where we could entertain and practice hospitality. This church has been generous to my family in terms of hospitality—we cannot thank you enough for the meals and prayers and encouragement. Lee and Susan have been especially welcoming, in extending what was supposed to be a three or four week stay into three months! Once we close, we look forward to opening our home to the church family. We can't wait to have you over and be neighbors.

Short-term Mission, Long-term Impact

By Scott Swingle

Short-term mission is everywhere. Back in the day, missions was only for those select few who were called to spend their entire lives in another country doing God's work. But in recent years, missions has broadened out to include shorter engagements, anywhere from a few days to a few months. Some Christians welcome short-term mission as a valuable way for more people to become exposed to what God is doing around the world. But others are a bit skeptical. They see short-term mission as an incredibly expensive endeavor, costing money, time, and effort on the part of the sending church and the receiving church. Not only this, but they also question the long-term impact of these short-term projects. Are they really worth all that we invest into them, or would we be better off just donating all of that money directly to the church?

This question has been debated by missions scholars and ministry leaders in recent years. The Evangelical Missiological Society is a group of missions-minded scholars and ministers who meet once a year to hear papers presented on various topics surrounding how to best engage in God's mission in the world. There were several papers presented on short-term mission at this year's conference, and one of them in particular addressed the question of doing short-term mission with long-term impact. The answer given was that the way forward is for the church to engage in short-term mission in the context of a long-term relationship, sometimes called a global partnership. Rather than randomly send out a trip here and a trip there, hoping for some long-term impact, the wiser and more responsible thing to do is to intentionally

enter into a long-term relationship with another church or organization and to build that relationship through the sharing of ministry resources.

The speaker went on to define the elements of a healthy, effective global partnership. One element is that both the sending and the receiving church have something to offer. It is not merely a matter of one church being the benefactor and the other church becoming dependent upon the other church, a dynamic which has led to some extremely unhealthy situations. A global partnership is a two-way street, a true partnership. Both churches are enriched and edified as a result. Another element of a healthy global partnership is that both churches work together to design the ministry that they will partner in. This involves the sending church recognizing that it is the receiving church which is carrying out the long-term ministry, and it is the receiving church which knows what it needs. The goal of the sending church is not to impose its own agenda, but rather to acknowledge that God is already at work through this church, and listen to that church to discern how they can best come alongside and partner with them in the long-term ministry.

There is much more that can be said about global partnerships, but this much is clear: when the church carries out short-term mission in the context of strategic global partnerships, then short-term mission can lead to long-term impact. When two churches from two different parts of the world come together, ministering to one another and with one another, then we experience a new dimension of the body of Christ building up itself in love, to the glory of God.

Money for Music!

By Jennie Stanonik

The children of VCL are bringing in their weekly offering money for a new missionary project. We are excited about the fact that it involves one of our own VCL families, the Pattersons. Todd, Jana, Elisabeth (3rd grade), and Max (1st grade) will return to Banská Bystrica, Slovakia this summer. Jana is certified to teach Music Together, a program that helps very young children explore music and movement with their parents. Connecting with the families in this fun way, she hopes to establish solid, positive relationships. Building on this foundation, she will have the opportunity to let Jesus shine through her life and, hopefully, share her faith.

The money that we collect in the next few months will go toward instruments Jana can use in her music program. VCL kids are encouraged to earn at least some of the money they'll be bringing in as an offering. We are grateful to be able to partner with our friends in this way.

Our Satellite Congregation

By Pastor Lee Eclow

Did you know we have another service venue? Sort of. The last Thursday evening of every month we lead a worship service at Sedgebrook Retirement Community on Rt. 21 in Lincolnshire. It is a unique delight. Usually about 20 folks gather, and no pastor ever had a more attentive or appreciative congregation.

For the last several months I have been preaching through a variety of Jesus' parables. Often I have help in the service from our interns, from some of

our church musicians and from our children, who love to play their instruments, sing, read scripture or make bookmarks. I'm especially indebted to Betty Stice who is our regular pianist.

Several of the people who come to that service also attend our services here at VCL and some have started coming because of the friendships we've built there. Another connection is that Daniel Sweetser has been doing a practicum for his counseling degree alongside the chaplain at Sedgebrook.