

February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

February 2012 Calendar of Events

Young Adult Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m. (at the Wunderlich's)

Missions Ministry

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Elders

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Craft Night

Friday, Feb. 10, 7:00 p.m.

Brentwood Senior Ministry

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m. (at Brentwood)

Children's Education Ministry

Sunday, Feb. 12, Noon

"Lunch with Lawson"

Sunday, Feb. 12, Noon

"Dinners for Seven"

Saturday, Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m. (off-site)

Worship Planners

Sunday, Feb. 19, 4:00 p.m.

Concert of Prayer

Sunday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Childcare provided

Financial Resource Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 8:00 p.m.

Dudes' Night

Saturday, Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m.

All-Church Soup Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, Feb. 26, Noon

Ministries and Other Standing

Groups/Events:

Outreach Bible Study Group

Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

Women's Evening Bible Study

Every other Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. (Feb. 7 and 21)

Sr. High & Middle School Youth

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Women's Daytime Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Village Voices Choir Rehearsal

Sundays, 5:00 p.m. (beg. Feb. 12)

Lunch with Lawson Sunday, February 12

Dr. Lawson Younger, a much-admired professor of Old Testament at Trinity, will take us back to the days of Habakkuk and Esther.



February 12 is bagel Sunday, so right after church grab a bagel and head back to the Great Room. We'll have the trimmings for a sandwich and beverage.

As an Old Testament scholar, Lawson will make the days and places of these two Old Testament saints come alive to us through his photos of artifacts and archaeological sites.

Directory Updates

VCL's (photo and contact info) 2012 directory is now on-line. It is password protected, but the password is in the back of the hardcopy directory which is available at the Information Center.

Monthly contact information updates (like those below) will still be shared with you via the Vine, but they are also uploaded to VCL's on-line directory at the end of every month. The VCL website, where you can find the directory, is eVCL@eVCL.org.

New additions:

Kiran and Suneetha Miriyala & daughter Twinkle
1414 Downing Place (Apt. N 203)
Mundelein, IL 60016
Kiran (kiran.erp@gmail.com)
Suneetha (suneetha.erp@gmail.com)
(Home) 224.333.2089 / (Cell) 224.595.7959

Daniel Noonan
2789 Oak Street
Highland Park, IL 60035
wandr.pilgrim@gmail.com
(Cell) 262.951.8402

Additions/Changes:

- ◆ Unit number for Barbara Hause at Sedgewood - PT106
- ◆ Delete Young Kim's email; contact by phone
- ◆ Delete land line for Nancy Molinari; use cell number 479.981.9315
- ◆ New email address for Guy Viti – guyviti86@yahoo.com
- ◆ Cell number for Ronnie Waud 847.636.2802

"Dinner for Seven" Returns

There will be an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, food and fun with others from our VCL family on February 18th.

WHO: Any adult who would like to participate is welcome!

WHAT: Seven people will be randomly selected to have dinner together. People can choose to host or not to host. You do not have to host in order to participate.

WHEN: Saturday evening, February 18th.

WHERE: Whoever volunteers to host will be notified about their assigned guests.

WHY: To get to know different members at VCL and have opportunities to grow in our relationships.

Interested in attending, please write "Dinners for 7" on the Friendship Register (and if you'd like to host a dinner, please indicate that as well). Additional questions, contact Pastor Lee or Megan Cahill: (231)-670-7600, or email meganecahill@yahoo.com.

More Good News About Giving.....

You may remember that last fall we gave an offering to help combat the famine in the horn of Africa. We learned that our offering, given through World Vision, was quadrupled because of U.S. government grants. Ana Calvo, who was part of VCL, is now working with World Vision in Spain. She was the person who first alerted me to this opportunity for giving. Recently she forwarded this news from their director, "So far as we know no child in World Vision development project areas affected by the Horn of Africa drought has died as a result of this emergency. That is a testimony to the dedication and hard work of our staff in the region, and to the grace of God." Aren't you glad we got to have a part in giving to that!



Village Church of Lincolnshire

201 N. Riverwoods Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045
Phone: 847-295-7707 Fax: 847-295-7757
Email: evcl@evcl.org
Website: www.evcl.org

Senior Pastor Lee Eclow
Associate Pastor Michael Mauriello
Ministries Administrator Susan Eclow
Office Manager Susan Beck
Custodian Angela Fisher

Elders: Warren Anderson (chair), Carl Johnson, Chris McNiven, Jim Stamooolis & Raymond Wunderlich

From Esther to Revelation

By Pastor Lee Eclow

Talk about variety! We'll begin February with three sermons from a book most of us have never studied: Esther. Then, we will turn our attention to a book most of us don't really understand: Revelation. I'm very excited about preaching from these books and about the worship times which are being planned for each of those Sundays.

Esther tells one of the Bible's most dramatic rescue stories. It has heart-stopping drama and a wild ending. And it has the strange distinction of never mentioning the name of God in its 10 chapters. We're looking at Esther as part of our



End of Year Giving Is a Great Encouragement

By Pastor Lee Eclow

It is nice to see a financial report that begins, "Wow! Hallelujah!" That's what the elders saw in January. It went on, "VCL was blessed with an extraordinary giving month to close 2011. Our monthly giving of \$84,000 far surpasses any month for the past three years, and puts our annual giving ahead of budget by \$10,000. We finished the year with general fund cash of \$119,000. With expenses under budget by \$45,000, our surplus for the year is \$55,000."

Some of that surplus has already been applied to pay down the principle on our mortgage. The elders will be considering in February the allocation of the remaining surplus, including the likelihood of giving some of that to two or three urgent concerns we are aware of beyond VCL. We'll keep you posted.

series, "Finding God in a Cold, Dark Season." The Jews found themselves in captivity far from their land, and then learn that they are targeted for annihilation. Yet the story of God's astonishing deliverance is behind the Jewish celebration of Purim – the biggest party of the Jewish year!

That joyful salvation leads beautifully into the series I will preach during Lent this year, seven sermons from Revelation. I've titled the series, "What Are We Waiting For? The Great Promise of Revelation." Take a look at the *Vine* flap for the series which will carry us through Easter Sunday, April 8.

As pastor, I want to tell you how grateful I am for your faithful generosity to the Lord. Offering envelopes don't just carry checks. They also carry faith and sacrifice for Jesus' sake. People put praise in an offering plate and we don't hear a sound. Jesus asked in Luke 16:11, "If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Dear friends, many of you *have* been faithful and God is entrusting us with true riches.

A special thank you, also, from our staff for the wonderful Christmas gift we received from the church. I hear it was the largest offering ever given for staff gifts and we are so grateful.

**For more news and information
from VCL check our website:
www.eVCL.org**

February 2012

A Heart for Our Kids! By Susan Eclov

It has been our VCL tradition to use the weeks of the Lenten Season to pray specifically for the spiritual development of children and youth of our church. Pictures of each beautiful face (infant through high school) will be hanging in the foyer on Sunday, February 26. By taking a heart, you are making a commitment to pray for the child through Easter Sunday (April 8).



We have learned many things through this project in the past years. First and foremost, we have seen evidence of answers to your prayers through white roses (our symbol when someone gives their life to Jesus), baptisms, and a deeper understanding of spiritual things. We have no way of knowing how many times God answers our prayers for physical, emotional or spiritual protection, but we know that He does!

We have learned that the kids are aware and excited about being prayed for. It is very meaningful for them to know who is praying for them. Because of this, we will remind you during the six weeks to please make contact with your student.

We have learned that sometimes well-meaning adults forget to let the CE Team know who they are praying for. This makes it difficult for us to ensure that every heart has been taken. **So if you take one of the hearts don't forget to leave the ID form at the Hearts for Kids table.** In exchange, you can pick up a suggestion list of age appropriate ideas. If you take a child who has siblings, you may want to coordinate your efforts. We would like to help you make those connections.

If you want to pray for a student, but miss your chance to get a heart on February 26, please contact Susan Eclov. Watch for the familiar heart logo each week in the bulletin for reminders and ideas. Thank you for participating in our Heart for Kids project.

Ash Wednesday Service February 22

Several years ago we began observing Ash Wednesday, a custom somewhat unusual for Evangelical Free Churches. We invite you to this moving, thoughtful service that begins the season of Lent. Our service, which begins at 7, is more liturgical in style, including the traditional "imposition of ashes." Those who wish to participate come forward while Pastor Lee puts a smudge of ash on their foreheads and says, "Remember, from dust you came and to dust you will return." Then the service turns toward our hope in Christ. This year Andrew Seaman will bring the sermon.



PAD'S Children's Offering Project Update by Jennie Stanonik

As part of our compassionate outreach, VCL helps PADS Crisis Services, Inc. by making sandwiches once a month to be brought to the homeless shelter. The offering money that our children bring in every week goes towards supplies needed to make 40 sack lunches.

Each lunch costs \$3.00 to put together. So far, the boys and girls have brought in \$104.88 - enough to provide 34 lunches. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$120!



Aaron's Army by Pastor Lee Eclov

Long ago I decided I was more of an Aaron than a Moses. Aaron was a spokesman. That is what I am as a preacher. Each year I recruit people for Aaron's Army who volunteer to pray specifically for the preaching ministry of our church at least three or four times a week.

Would you consider signing up for this vital ministry? You can do so by writing "Aaron's Army" on the Friendship Register, by calling the church office, or by sending me an email at byeglad@aol.com. If you have been signed up in the past you need to do so again, because I don't want to presume that you'll be able to continue. Thanks.

EFCA Challenge 2012 New Orleans

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Every two years, the Free Church hosts CHALLENGE: a youth conference for teens and youth groups. Thousands of Free Church students will gather this summer in New Orleans, LA to hear great speakers, participate in missions, evangelism, and urban renewal, pray for the Free Church and bond together as youth groups.



The conference runs from July 1-6. The steering committee that includes our very own Becca Spellman, has assembled wonderful speakers such as *Crazy Love* author Francis Chan as well as Free Church pastor Bryan McWhite. The conference is for both Middle School and Senior High students. An information packet will be mailed to families and a student-parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7:00 p.m. during our normal youth group time to answer any questions. Please pray for the students who will participate in this trip; especially, that the Lord would use this to expand their hearts and minds in loving and serving God. More information is available at www.challengeconference.org.

PADS Ministry Update

Every month, a group of dedicated people from VCL meet to pray for PADS of Lake County, an organization that works with homeless clients. Then we make sandwiches for those clients who are looking for work or heading out to a job. This year, our group is praying about taking a new step in our outreach to the homeless. We are asking the Lord to open a door for us to meet face to face with the homeless, the hungry, and those living in poverty. We are praying about working with PADS, the Mobile Food Pantry, Feed My Starving Children and other organizations in this next step. Would you pray with us? Pray that the Lord would open a clear door for ministry, that this step would be elegant and simple, and that it would be a place where children and adults could minister. We are always open to new participants. Please contact David Hooper if you are interested in serving alongside our team.

What do you do with a used Bible?

The church office is once again collecting used Bibles now through the end of February to ship to the Bible Foundation. If you have any gently used Bibles, just bring them to the church office before the end of the month and they will find a good home.

Youth Group Statement of Faith Class

By Pastor Michael Mauriello

Part of the responsibility of the church is to pass on the gospel and the truth of the Scriptures to the next generation. The Free Church takes this responsibility seriously by articulating evangelical theology in our ten point Statement of Faith.

Starting on February 15, 2012, both our Middle School and Senior High students will explore the Free Church Statement of Faith. If you are a Middle School or High School student who hasn't had a chance to get to know our great leadership team and students, or if you wonder what our youth group is like, this would be a great chance to get to know us and be a part of a great youth group.

College Group Update

Our new college group is up and running! Scott and Kim Cordes (*pictured on left*) and Jim and Ann Baker (*pictured below*) open their homes for a monthly supper and game night for college students who need a place to relax, have fellowship and a home cooked meal!



If you are a college student, and haven't had a chance to come to the college group meetings, don't be shy! The Cordes and Bakers would love to meet you. The next college group meeting is on February 18 at Scott and Kim's home in Buffalo Grove beginning at 5:30 p.m.. All college students are welcome!

Elders Begin Work in New Year

By Pastor Lee Eclov

Our elder board heads into 2012 with a particular goal of thinking through how we should address opportunities and needs related to our church's growth. Our attendance is often in the mid-200s, some 50 more people than we were seeing only a couple of years ago. That means we need to adjust. The elders will especially be thinking through three areas: future staffing, building changes (interior, not exterior), and debt retirement. We are planning to take several extra hours to pray and talk through these things in February.

At our January meeting we elected officers for the new year. Actually, we re-elected the same officers: Warren Anderson, chair; Carl Johnson, vice chair; and Jim Stamoolis, secretary.

Preaching & Worship Sermons

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2012



FINDING GOD IN A COLD AND DARK SEASON

Date	Text	Sermon Title
2/5/12	Esther 1-3	The Unseen King
2/12/12	Esther 4-6	King's Honor
2/19/12	Esther 7-10	Mourning to Joy (communion)

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? THE GREAT PROMISE OF REVELATION

2/26/12	Rev. 5	The Day the Lamb Takes the Scroll
3/4/12	Rev. 6	The Day of God's Wrath
3/11/12	Rev. 7	The Day Our Tears Are Dried
3/18/12	Rev. 11:15-19	The Day the World Bows to the King
3/25/12	Rev. 12	The Day the Devil Is Hurlled Down (Communion)
4/1/12	Rev. 15	The Day of Singing
4/8/12 Easter	Rev. 18:1-9	The Day of Our Wedding (Baptisms!)

Prayer for this month

So many of our people have been ill. Pray for our health and spiritual protection.

Elders strategic planning, especially in light of our growth.

Our 3rd-6th grade kids at Arctic Blast winter retreat Feb. 19-20.

Joy in our salvation as a church, especially as we study Esther and Revelation.

Opportunities to see people come to know Christ.