

Family News

Andrew Seaman Resigns from Board of Elders



Andrew, Sarah and Micah Seaman have decided that they need to attend a church nearer their home on the north side of Chicago, especially with the near arrival of their second son. So, reluctantly, the Elders accepted Andrew's resignation, effective February 28.

We are so indebted to Andrew and Sarah for many contributions to our church—in small groups, music, missions, technology, and the Elder Board. We hope to retain Andrew's ongoing help with technology and communication issues at church. They expect to attend First Free Church in Chicago, which is only a short bus ride from their home.

The Elders will seek to find and appoint someone to fill Andrew's place on the Board. They welcome your input.

Middle and High School Students on Winter Retreat at Ft. Wilderness (WI)



Making Church our Home

By Pastor Lee Eclor

The Elders and staff continue to explore our newly expressed desire to see VCL in the *language of home*. We are trying to see how this might impact our approach to things like outreach, family ministry, worship, and more. We're also exploring a new design of our logo and even perhaps redecorating our foyer to better communicate our values. We'd also like to plant a kind of miniature garden patio near the sidewalk in front of the church with benches or chairs to invite rest and conversation. (Interested? We're looking for help on that.) We will keep the congregation informed of our thinking, especially at our semiannual congregational meeting in May, if not sooner.

Camp News

We sent 6 campers and 2 sponsors to Timber-lee Camp for Arctic Blast. All reports indicated they had a blast with plenty of snow this year! Thank you for your generous contributions to our Tip Jars in February which is Camp Awareness month. We received well over enough money for three full-scholarships. Campers can earn up to half that amount (\$250) by memorizing scripture, reading books, doing art projects or participating in service projects during the year. We could have 8 campers going to summer camp this year. Thank you for helping them on their way.



Missions & Ministry Updates

Love INC by Pastor Michael Mauriello

Thank you for your generosity to Love INC's call for boy's and girl's clothing and kitchen towels. There is a new opportunity to participate with them in serving the poor. Love INC's Teacups for Christ will be Saturday, April 5, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 51110 Grand Ave, Gurnee, IL. Look for more information and registration at www.loveinclakecounty.org.



Can Openers Show Christ's Love?

by Jennie Stanonik



Yes! Five can openers and 5 sets of bakeware have been purchased for families connected with Love INC. (*Love in the Name of Christ*) based in Waukegan. The

money, \$130.41, came from the weekly offering brought in by the children of Village Church from the month of September through the end of the year.

What's Next?

Our new Children's Church Offering Project will be to raise money for translation headphones for Spanish-speaking people attending Christian Neighbors Church, also in Waukegan. Our boys and girls are encouraged to do extra chores or bring in some of their own money so someone has the opportunity to hear the gospel in their own language. Each headset costs about \$100 and we are already well on our way toward that goal!

A Heart for Our Kids!

by Susan Eclor



It has been our VCL tradition to use the weeks of the Lenten Season to pray specifically for the children and youth of our church. We will have pictures of each beautiful face (infant through high school) hanging in the foyer on March 9. If you take one of these hearts, you are making a commitment to pray for that child through Easter Sunday (April 20). You will get a reminder in the bulletin each week to keep up the good work. Thank you for this significant ministry to our children & youth.

MIA



A very puzzling evening began because Mr. Wrinkles was missing! But he was found among the many imposters thanks to the creative sleuthing by our kids on Friday, Feb. 28. Special guest was Sherri Gallagher and her Search and Rescue Dog, Belle.

March is Clothes Horse Month at VCL by Pastor Michael Mauriello

During March we'll be collecting food items for the Clothes Horse, the food pantry and clothing closet for Master's students at TIU. The Clothes Horse quickly runs out of major food staples. We are asking our church family to provide the following items: Rice, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned chicken, canned tuna, breakfast cereals, and hamburger helper. You will find labeled containers in the foyers for your donated items. Thank you for your generosity!

Preaching & Worship

Sermons

MARCH 9—APRIL 6, 2014



"Then You Will Know that I am the LORD"

To know God and remember well what he has done for us

Date	Text	Sermon Title
3/9/14	Ex. 12:28-42	Free at Last!
3/16/14	Ex. 13:1-16	Celebration of Heritage Communion
3/23/14	Ex. 13:17-22	As God Leads
3/30/14	Ex. 14:1-31	"The LORD Will Fight for You"
4/6/14	Ex. 15:1-21	The National Anthem of God's People

Prayer for VCL in March

That our fellowship might be enriched through our "Redemption Tales" story nights during Lent

That we might know God deeply through our studies in Exodus on Sunday mornings

Open doors for the good news of Jesus; our Lists of 5

Our Elders - how to display our core value of VCL as home

Child Dedication - Is planned for **March 16**. If you would like to have your little one dedicated, please see Pastor Lee.



March Calendar

Seder from a Christian Perspective
Sunday, March 2, 5:00 p.m.
(with Dr. John Feinberg)

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 9, 2 a.m.

Craft Night
Friday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.

Men & Boys Swedish Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 15, 8:30 a.m.
(presented by Men's Prayer Group)

Concert of Prayer
Sunday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Caregiving Ministry
Monday, March 17 p.m.

Young Adult/College Party
Saturday, March 22, 5:00 p.m.
(off-site at Baker's house)

Guys & Gals (Youth - Off Site)
Friday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.

Recurring Events
Middle School and Senior High Youth
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
(except 3/5 when Youth Group attends Ash Wednesday Service)

Ladies' Bible Study
Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. (3/1 ; see 3/15 for special all-male breakfast event beg. 8:30 a.m.)

Young Adult/College Student Luncheon
Bi-monthly, Sundays, Noon (3/2 and 3/16)

VCL Choir Rehearsal
Sundays, beg. 2/23, 5:00 p.m. (except 3/2)

Redemption Tales
In-Home Mtg. Dates 7-9 p.m.
Saturday, March 8
Friday, March 14
Wednesday, March 10
Wednesday, March 26
Saturday, April 4



2014 Easter Calendar

Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal
Sunday Evenings 5-6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday Brunch
April 13, 8:30-10 a.m.
(No classes offered at 9 a.m.
Nursery care & children's classes offered at 10:30 a.m. only.)

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 18, 7 p.m.
(Childcare provided upon request. Please register by contacting the church office.)

Our Good Friday service (April 18 at 7:00 p.m.) will be a Tenebrae Service. "Tenebrae" means service of shadows. The VCL adult choir will lead us as we hear the story of the Passion of Christ as recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. We will sing old and new songs selected to correspond to the story. There will be time for silent meditation as the room is gradually dimmed to total darkness. This is a very quiet and somber service dealing with some graphic details of the crucifixion and may not be appropriate for young children. Childcare provided up to age 5. Please register your children by contacting the church office. The service will last about an hour. It is a beautiful and meaningful reminder of the cost of redemption. You are asked to arrive reverently and to leave in silence.

Concert of Prayer
April 20, 9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Service
April 20, 10:30 a.m.
(No classes offered at 9 a.m.
Regular nursery care provided.)
Eggstravaganza for ages 4 through 12.

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

Thanks for Your Support of My Speaking Trip to Alberta

By Pastor Lee Eclow

I had such a significant and enjoyable time on my week-long trip to Calgary, Edmonton, and Grande Prairie, Alberta early in February. I am very grateful to VCL and our Elders for affirming this sphere of ministry. We think of this as an extension of VCL's ministry—not just mine alone. I wouldn't be able to do these things without the church's blessing and prayers, not to mention VCL's health.

I have come to a rather settled conclusion over the last two years that any ministry I do beyond VCL will focus on pastors and seminary students. I believe these opportunities will increase. On this trip I spoke in a seminary class and was the speaker for two virtually identical pastors' conferences. The experience confirmed again the decision I had made. My spiritual gift of encouragement was evident with these sometimes beleaguered pastors.

What's more, I've been given an opportunity to write much more regularly for a leading magazine (digital and print) for church leaders, *Leadership Journal*, published by Christianity Today, Inc. I'm working on an article now on how to respond when a pastor friend falls. Another upcoming assignment focuses on imagination in ministry.

The people to whom I spoke in Canada were so appreciative. I forwarded some of their notes to VCL but here's another: "Thank you very much for allowing your pastor, Lee Eclow, come and share with us up in the Peace Country. We really appreciated the Pastor's Day and we are benefitting from his book as well. God bless you for sharing. :) Fred and Grace Sherwood."

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Office Manager Susan Beck
Custodian Angela Fisher

Elders: Lee Eclow, Carl Johnson, Michael Mauriello, Chris McNiven, Jim Stamoolis, Jim Uren, and Raymond Wunderlich (chair)



March 2014

Redemption Tales: Remembering How the Lord Rescued Us Sharing Stories and Dessert During Lent

by Kathy Richards

The day when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem and restored to its rightful place of honor was a day of great celebration! 1 Chronicles 16 tells us how King David led his people in worship that day through sacrifice, music and psalms. In 1 Chronicles 16:12 David urges the people of God to "Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced."

During Lent this year, we would like to build on this idea which also comes across so strongly throughout the book of Exodus: **the importance of remembering and telling our rescue and redemption stories.** As Moses said to the people "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand." (Exodus 13:3)



We are planning a series of in-home gatherings designed to help us share our stories. Some of the activities will include the whole group (such as dessert!). We will also have at least one gifted storyteller tell us his or her own redemption story during the evening. Sign-ups for the meetings will begin on

Sunday, March 2 and continue through Sunday, March 9. We invite you to pick ONE gathering to attend during the season of Lent, and to spend some time leading up to Easter reflecting deeply and with great thanks on your own redemption story. Christ has brought us through so many deep waters; let's tell each other his story and celebrate his victory!

In-home gatherings will be held from 7-9 p.m. on March 8, March 14, March 19, March 26 and April 4.

Baptism Planned for Easter Sunday, April 20

All Christians should be baptized. It is *the* way Christians make their faith public. What's more, baptism confirms a believer's faith in their own heart, in the church, and even to the unseen angels and demons in the heavenly realms. Our church practices believer's baptism. While we are eager to baptize anyone at any time, it is the ancient tradition of the church to baptize people on Easter Sunday. Whenever we can, we like to do so at VCL as well. Thus we are planning baptisms as part of our service on April 20.

If you are interested in discussing baptism with one of our pastors, send us an email, give us a call, or write "baptism" on the Friendship Register. Perhaps this is one of those important things you've just never gotten around to, or maybe your faith is new. Perhaps you are a young person and now is the time for you to make your faith public.