

STREAM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

April 2014

Message from the Pastor

Christmas has, at least in recent American history, become the most recognized and celebrated of Christian events. Certainly this has to do with the way the culture at large can identify with what Christmas seems to embody: the attitude of generosity, the joy of family gatherings, the possibility of hope and peace to come.



Easter does not get that same kind of cultural recognition, though it does share in some of the commercial “success”. I have no idea how a bunny that lays colored eggs ever surfaced as a legend. Perhaps I should look it up on a source of accurate information like Google or Wikipedia...but I digress.

Even music belies the different kind of holiday recognition these two important Christian celebrations enjoy. From Elvis to the Beatles, from Garth Brooks to Mariah Carey, it seems everyone has put out a Christmas album. No wonder the stores can play Christmas music for well over two months.

I certainly don't want to get into ranking Christian events, like a Letterman's Top-Ten listing. But, there is certainly an unequal recognition and celebration, even among Christians, to what is at the heart of the Gospel: the Good News! We forget that Christmas is the even when God entered the mess of humanity in order to save it from darkness. Those who saw baby Jesus celebrated, “he has come to save us!” This was the beginning of a life that would eventually be given up. Christmas anticipates the Passion of Christ on Good Friday.

This connection has not always been absent from culture. In the 18th century, Handel composed “the Messiah,” which included a number of movements on the birth, the

Message from the Pastor Continued

death, and the resurrection. A few decades earlier, Bach composed several works, though only two have survived, on the Passion, which were introduced to the world at a Good Friday service of worship.

Easter weekend is tremendously important for me, from the cross, through the grave, to the empty tomb. It is an event that is entirely God's loving and saving action for me, and that undeserved. My only proper response to this gift is myself. Each Good Friday as I remember that gift, I surrender my life in faith to one who gave his life for me.

I hope that we can reclaim the import of Easter this year by spending some time in worship.

- We will remember Jesus' last acts of ministry before his arrest in our Maundy Thursday service at 7pm in our sanctuary.
- We have two options for the celebration of Good Friday.
 - The Bethany Church, where I have served as moderator of session since late 2012, has invited us to join the parade of the Cross in Loves Park this year. Meet in the Machesney Mall parking lot (near the Burger King) at 9am. The walk will end at Bethany with fellowship and refreshments at 11am.
 - And, the Stateline Ministerial Alliance will be hosting the community Good Friday worship at the Old Stone Congregational UCC Church in Rockton at noon.
- Our Easter morning celebration is a full slate:
 - 8am--Our youth group will lead us in worship at the Scottish Cemetery Chapel.
 - 9am—Session will serve breakfast, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children.
 - 10am—All gather for Easter Worship with Communion upstairs in the sanctuary.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Judith

Health Ministries

Do you find yourself asking these questions?

Is there someone that can help me organize all my medicines?

How can I organize all these medicines with all these bottles?

Did my mother take all her medications?

Is there an easier way to travel with my medications?

If you're looking for an alternative solution to a pharmacy, delivery, and safe medication management,

a new option might be: **ExactCare Pharmacy**. They offer:

Free and fast delivery

No added costs

Medicare, Medicaid, and other major insurance companies accepted

The ExactPack is an easy to use multi-medicine packaging solution for administering medications. It is delivered to your home labeled with day and time, and in convenient tear-off packages.

If you need a pharmacy that delivers to your home, perhaps this will help you? If you need a delivery system that gets to you already divided, labeled, and trackable, perhaps this will help you? If your loved one needs help setting up medications and you have trouble being available on a weekly basis, perhaps this will help you? Want a brochure? Ask your parish nurse!

ExactCare Pharmacy

877-355-7225

www.exactcarepharmacy.com

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event.

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 5/1/2014. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

Mark your Calendar for these upcoming Health Ministry Events:

April 28 3-7pm Blood Drive

May 1 9:00am Lifeline Screening

Bell Rehearsals: We will practice on Thursday, April 3 at **7:15 pm** and Saturday, April 12 at 4pm followed by a light supper. Please note the previously scheduled practice for Thursday, April 10th is cancelled. **Bells will ring for worship on Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday.** Watch for next month's Streamer for details of the next series of rehearsals and dates to provide music for worship. **This will be a great time for new ringers to join us!**

Children's Choir: The Willow Creek Children's Choir will provide special music on April 6.

Let's join together on Sunday, April 6th for a potluck luncheon immediately following morning worship. Bring your table service and beverage. Families, please bring two dishes; singles and couples, one dish to pass. Our theme will be "Bring Your Hobby to Church." There will be a table set up for display, and maybe we will hear some tunes.



Bring your riding clothes for the "Bring Your Hobby to Church" day.

Steve Paulson, Jack Greenlee, and the bookkeeper, Diane Van Vleet, are willing to bring their hobby to church—if the weather cooperates. They will give short wagon rides for anyone who would like one. You may want to bring some extra "outside duds". In case of bad weather, do not worry—they will not bring their hobby inside.

It is with much appreciation and great sadness that the Preschool Board has accepted Debra Gallagher's resignation as Director/Teacher of Argyle Preschool, effective the end of this school year. Her family is relocating to Oklahoma. Debra has provided young children with a very high quality program and we feel the preschool has provided a community service for our area. We wish her the best!

We, therefore, have a job opportunity available for a new Director/Teacher. Argyle Preschool is a DCFS licensed PreK program, and all applicants must meet DCFS requirements and qualifications. At this time our program runs morning sessions – 3 year olds attend Tuesday/Thursday and 4 year olds attend Monday/Wednesday/Friday. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone, please call the church office. Thank you!



A Jungle Safari is coming to Willow Creek!!!

This year for VBS we will be exploring the nature of God through music, Bible stories, crafts, games, and service projects. This adventure will be June 23-27 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Look for registration forms and volunteer sign-up soon! We hope you can join us on this safari!

Babies in Need Closet is in need of diapers sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6. Please help fill the closet!



The 2nd annual all church picnic will be on Sunday, August 24th, after worship. We are looking for committee members, and volunteers to make this event a fun filled success. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon. Watch for more information. If you wish to be on the committee, or want to help in some way please contact Pat Nortch at 815-623-2897 or pnortch1@charter.net

Stronghold Summer Camps 2014: Stronghold is a year-round Conference, Retreat and Camping Center operated as a ministry of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Presbyterian Church (USA). During the summer, Stronghold Summer Camps become the place where many friendships and memories are born. Stronghold Summer Camps offer youth opportunities to respond positively to the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, grow in their relationships with God and one another, and increase their understanding and appreciation for the world around them. To learn more about Stronghold's summer camps and for a registration form see their website:

www.strongholdcenter.org

Attention Quilters

2014 Stronghold Quilt Auction and Silent Auction
Saturday, October, 4 (Quilt Preview 10:00 – noon)
Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, 1922 IL 2 North, Oregon, IL.

Needed: Donated quilts for the Quilt Auction and items for the Silent Auction. To donate a quilt or silent auction item as an individual, church, or group, please contact Thelma Busker, Quilt Auction Coordinator, at 815-871-1655 or tkbusker@comcast.net or stop in the church office for additional information.

Also Greatly Needed: Bidders for quilts. If you know anyone who appreciates the hard work that goes into making a nice quilt, invite them to attend the auction to bid on a quilt and more importantly to support Stronghold. Quilts make a great birthday or Christmas gifts for someone to love. **Proceeds will benefit castle and camp improvement**

Thank you!

Thank you, Willow Creek, for all of the can and monetary donations for our first Canstruction Project! Your support was amazing and without your help, the façade of our church would not have looked so good! Thank you also to those who came and helped with the actual construction of the project! We are pleased to be able to donate over 400 cans to local food pantries, and are looking forward to the possibilities of an annual Canstruction Project in the future.

With gratitude,
The Schooners



We have a Unique opportunity for a Grant Writer(s). The grant is offered by Presbyterian Mariners Family Ministry. Eligible applications must be a Congregation, organization, or individual member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The grant project must propose an event, program, curriculum, or book for developing family ministry opportunities. The Award Range is \$1,000 - \$2,000 and the deadline is November 1 (postmark). If interested, please stop in the church office for additional information.

April 2014 All Church Calendar

April 3	7:15 pm	Bells Rehearsal
April 5	10:00 am	Lenten Bible Sack and Study (bring your own brunch)
April 6	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	5 th Sunday of Lent Worship with Communion (Ezekiel 37 & John 11) (Special Music by Children's Choir)
	11:00 am	Potluck (Bring your Hobby to Church)
April 7	---	No Preschool (In-service)
	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
April 8	---	Presbytery Meeting, Fox Valley, Geneva
April 9	11:30 am	Mariners: Sophia's Restaurant, Roscoe (Hosts: Gordon & Pat Bindenagel)
	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
April 12	10:00 am	Lenten Bible Sack and Study (bring your own brunch)
	4:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal followed by light supper
April 13	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship with Communion (Isaiah 50 & Matthew 26:66) (Willow Creek Bell Ringers)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	2:30 pm	Youth Group: Sunrise Service Practice
April 14	2:00 pm	MMS Meeting
April 15	9:00 am	Buildings & Grounds
April 17	9:30 am	Preschool Easter Egg Hunt
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion (Exodus 12 & John 13)
April 18	---	No Preschool (Good Friday)
	9:00 am	Parade of the Cross in Loves Pk (Meet Machesney Mall parking lot (near Burger King) Walk will end at Bethany with fellowship & refreshments
	Noon	Good Friday Community Service-Old Stone Congregational UCC in Rockton
	6:45 pm	St. Mark Lutheran Church Good Friday Cantata: Titled: "Upon This Rock" by Pepper Choplin. It is the story of Jesus' last days on earth as told by Peter.
April 20	8:00 am	Sunrise Service at Scottish Cemetery Chapel
	9:00 am	Session will provide Breakfast and Christian Ed an Easter Egg Hunt
	10:00 am	Easter Worship with Communion (No Fellowship Afterwards)
April 22	9:30 am	Martha Ruth Circle Lesson 5 (Delores Hall Home, 12021 July Drive, Machesney Pk)
April 26	9:00am	Music & Worship Meeting
April 27	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	2 nd Sunday of Easter Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Finance & Personnel meet in Library
	2:30-4:30 pm	Youth Group
April 28	3:00-7:00 pm	Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)

Future Dates Worth Noting

May 3 – Church reserved for a wedding
May 3 – Youth Group Lock-In
June 8 - Pentecost (wear colors of flames)
June 23 thru 27 Vacation Bible School
July 5– Church reserved for a wedding
August 24 – 2nd Annual All-Church Picnic
August 31 – Schuster/Neff Wedding
October 11 – Kickoff meeting for Cookie Walk @ 10:30
November 2 – Daylight Saving Time ends
December 6 – Cookie Walk

Treasurer’s Report:

WCPC Operating Statistics

February, 2014

Income	9,696.00
Expenses	15,330.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	2,864.00

NOTE: Committee and group chairpersons. Please stop by the office and put your meeting and/or activity dates on the calendar.

Information for the May Streamer is due by April 20. Please write your committee, group, or personal submittal as you would like to see it appear in the newsletter and email it to the church office.

Also, announcements for the Sunday Morning Order of Worship must be in the office by Wednesday morning. Anything that does not meet that deadline can be appropriately announced at the designated time during the service.