

STREAME

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
June 2014



It has been another wonderful school year here serving the Lord with you! It is a year that has richly blessed me. I hope you also have been blessed through all we have done together in worship, fellowship, study and service! As I look back over the year, I remember our first annual picnic, and the tons of food and fun we enjoyed; the Fall Fest, which raised about \$2000 for

mission; a tasty Thanksgiving Hamball Dinner; the Cookie Walk, which also raised about \$2000 for needy families; and our sweet tradition of families lighting the Advent Wreath and musicians offering their gifts before our Christmas Eve Service. I can still see the boxes and boxes of gifts for needy children of the world that our children's Sunday school class gathered together! I remember warmly fellowship times with various groups, even during the coldest of winters. I can still see the hundreds of cans that made up the façade of our church, and the piles of clothes and toys that were donated for needy families. I remember the flurry of activity that made up our celebration of Holy Week and Easter—four worship services, breakfast at the church, and an egg hunt (take a look at the pictures and video I posted on my facebook)--from the dead of winter and an empty tomb to Spring and New Life! I am happy to see so much love and friendship, so much worship and service! I am happy to see new faces, new gifts being shared, new programs, new potlucks, new picnics. In Christ all things are made new, and it is happening here!

With all that has filled our calendars, and with all the new things we are planning (even during the “summer slump” we are planning new things!), let’s not forget what this is all really about. As we draw nearer to one another, as we learn about gifts and talents and needs, as we learn to love all our neighbors in Christ, we draw nearer to God. But drawing nearer to God isn’t all warm and fluffy comfort and peace, as our culture can sometimes lead us to believe. Drawing nearer to God (see James 4:8-10), often leads us on a journey of self-discovery. We don’t always like what we see. We don’t always want to take the risk of drawing close to God. So, as we continue to grow, and learn, and change, and step into New Life, we might as well expect a few bumps in the road. We surely will make a few mistakes. But if we humble ourselves, and seek only to love God and love each other, God will lift us up. In fact, I think that is exactly what I can see God has been doing here this past year!

As we move into the summer months, let’s not quit. Continue to pray and study and discover what God is humbling in us, and what God is lifting up. Invite your friends and neighbors to church and to ministry. Teach your family to know the Lord. Come together, grow together, and serve Christ together. And, with all your heart, trust that we have a friend in God!

Health Ministries

Health Care: From Reform, to Revolution

"Heart disease is not the leading cause of death among men and women in the United States. Cancer, stroke, pulmonary disease, diabetes, and dementia are not the other leading causes of early mortality and/or chronic" disease either. "Don't get me wrong- these are the very diseases immediately responsible for an enormous loss of years from life, and an even greater loss of life from years. In that context, heart disease is indeed the most common immediate precipitant of early death among women and men alike. Cancer, stroke, and diabetes do indeed follow close behind. It's just that these diseases aren't really causes. They are effects."

Admittedly, "we cannot 'prevent' death. But what makes death tragic is not that it happens- we are all mortal- but that it happens too soon. And even worse, that it happens after a long period of illness. That, we can prevent. We can preserve vitality, and we can postpone death to its rightful time, at the end of our full life expectancy."

"Research revealed a list...of factors...factors that, we have substantial control over. The actual, underlying "cause" of premature death in our country...8 times in 10 comes down to bad use of our feet (lack of physical activity), our forks (poor dietary choices), and/or our fingers (holding cigarettes)."

"Research shows that people who eat well, exercise routinely, avoid tobacco, and control their weight have an 80% lower probability across their entire life span of developing ANY major chronic disease- heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, dementia, etc. than those who smoked, ate badly, didn't exercise, and lost control of their weight. Flip the switch on any of these factors from bad to good, and the lifetime risk of serious chronic disease was reduced by nearly 50%. This means "DNA is not destiny, and to a substantial extent- dinner is. By changing what we eat and how we live, we can alter the expression of our very genes in a way that immunizes us against chronic disease..."

"And so it is we have the knowledge to eliminate fully 80% of all chronic disease and premature death. However, knowledge only gives power when it is put to use. And for the most part, we have not leveraged this precious knowledge. Lifestyle is the best of all medicine!"

"Health care reform is really about improving disease care systems. That's quite important. But lifestyle as medicine is a true revolution whose time has come! More years in life, more life in years" is our reward.

David L. Katz, MD, MPH

President of American College of Lifestyle Medicine

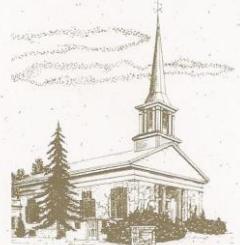
Founding Director of Yale University's Prevention Research Center

To read his entire message, go to www.lifestylemedicine.org

Have you planted your garden? The Health Ministries Committee wants to encourage healthy activities and eating habits by organizing a mini-farmer's market. Each Sunday during the growing season, growers will bring their excess vegetables to the Produce for Peace table in Fellowship Hall. Shoppers will take what they want and leave a fair price in the donation basket. Unsold veggies will be taken to a local food pantry Monday morning, and the money donations will go towards mission. Please let the office know if you will be gardening this year (willowcreekchrch@aol.com or 815-885-3455).



Kind Words of Thanks: Hello my name is Paige I don't live around here; I live in a small town called DeMotte. I was on my way to a tournament for my travel volleyball team and needed to go to the bathroom and the only place that we could see was your church so I walked in thinking they probably won't let me go. Instead I got a very nice welcome and they let me use the bathroom. After, a man gave me a rock with a cross and a pamphlet. I just want to say thank you and that you have made my day so special. Have a good rest of the day and God be with you.



A Thank you from the Old Stone Church in Rockton: Thank you for being a part of the Good Friday Service. Attendance was around 60 people and there was \$519 collected for the food pantry. The pantry donations tend to slow down this time of year, so this contribution is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Pastor Dan

A Thank you from the Rock River Valley Pantry: At the Rock River Valley Pantry, our work touches lives every day, sometimes in surprising ways. While our mission is to provide food to those in urgent need, it's oftentimes the compassion shown to our clients that's equally as important. We would not, however, have the opportunity to help our clients in any way if not for the generous support of friends like you. Your gift of \$30 told our clients that someone believes in them, and that's powerful. We'll use your donation to purchase canned fruits and vegetables for the more than 7,000 individuals who come through our doors each month. We have a large buying power and are able to make pallet purchases at a substantially reduced price, made possible because of donations like yours. With gratitude for your support and compassion, Kim Adams-Bakke, Executive Director



Thank you from the Gideons: What a nice surprise we received in the Gideon PO Box! On behalf of Andy Crull and the Gideons, I want to thank you and the church for your most generous offering of \$90. On April 27, when Andy visited your church and then stood down at the table in Fellowship Hall, several people gave him donations that totaled \$80. The grand total is now \$170. Please thank your people for these contributions. This money will be used to purchase Bibles and/or Testaments to be given free of charge to those who might be in need. Just last week we were at Belvidere High School and Belvidere South Middle School where we gave out just short of 300 Testaments to the school "kids." So we appreciate partnership with churches like yours to help us spread the Word of God to as many as possible without cost. Thank you, Pastor, for your support of the Gideon ministry. May you be richly blessed as you minister in the name of our Lord there at Willow Creek. Please know that we continue to pray for you, your ministry, and your church every Saturday at our Prayer Breakfast. God Bless, Brad Salley

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Stephanie Konen as our new Preschool Director/Teacher. She is actually a parent of a preschooler who attends here. We are excited to have her begin the next school year and look forward to working with her. The Preschool Board



A Celebration of Life for Rubye Nielsen will be held on Sunday, June 8th at 3pm. An Ice Cream Social will follow.

Sunday, June 8th is Pentecost Sunday. Please wear red or flame colors to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.



Let's join together on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th 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 Friend to Church." **So, invite your friends to church (they don't need to bring food).**

A Jungle Safari is coming to Willow Creek!!!

June 23-27 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Volunteer Signup and VBS Registration are available online:

www.vacationbibleschool.com/willowcreekpc or contact the church office (815-885-3455) or Rebekah Landi (815-978-4982). Volunteers can also use the signup located in the Fellowship Hall. **Please mark your calendars for the VBS Volunteer Meeting on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00 pm.**



Watch for the post-it notes going up in Fellowship Hall for VBS Snacks!

The Picnic committee is hard at work on the 2nd Annual Community-Wide Picnic. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 24th and be prepared to have a good time.



Bell Rehearsals are scheduled Thursdays, May 29 (7:15-8:30), June 5, 12, and Wednesday June 18 at 7:00 p.m. Bells will ring for worship on June 22.



Join us for Worship in the Park on Sunday, July 20th in Rock Cut State Park at the Lions Club Pavilion (which has handicap parking and is completely accessible). Worship will begin at 10am, with fun, games, and food afterward. Bring meat to grill and a dish to pass. Plates, napkins, utensils, drinks and FUN provided!

Office Summer Hours Effective Monday, June 1 (Please note)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:40 am to Noon

June 2014 All Church Calendar

Sun 6/1	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 6/2	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Tue 6/3	9 am – noon	Babies in Need Closet Open for Distribution
Wed 6/4	4 pm	Christian Education Meeting
Thur 6/5	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 6/8	10:00 am	Sunday Worship (Pentecost Offering and Wear Colors of Flames to Church)
	11:00 am	Potluck after Worship – Theme “Bring Your Friend to Church”
	3 pm	Celebration of Life & Ice Cream Social in memory of Rubye Nielsen
Mon 6/9	9:30 am	Membership, Stewardship & Mission Meeting
Tue 6/10	---	Presbytery Meeting
Wed 6/11	11:30 am	Mariners - Lunch @ Amici's and Senior Follies following lunch @ Harlem High School
Thur 6/12	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 6/15	10:00 am	Sunday Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Wed 6/18	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Tue 6/17	9:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Wed 6/18	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
Thur 6/19	8:00 am	Youth Trip to Six Flags Great America
	Noon – 3 pm	Babies in Need Closet Open for Distribution
Sun 6/22	10:00 am	Sunday Worship (Bells Ringing)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Finance & Personnel Meeting
Mon 6/23	9:00 – noon	Vacation Bible School
Tue 6/24	9:00 – noon	Vacation Bible School
	9:30 am	Martha Ruth Circle
Wed 6/25	9:00 – noon	Vacation Bible School
Thur 6/26	9:00 – noon	Vacation Bible School
Fri 6/27	9:00 – noon	Vacation Bible School
Sun 6/29	10:00 am	Sunday Worship (VBS Sunday)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Youth Car Wash, Bake Sale, Lemonade Stand Fundraiser

Future Dates Worth Noting

July 5– Church reserved for a wedding
 July 20 – Worship in the Park
 July 27 to August 2 – Youth Trip to Kentucky
 August 24 – 2nd Annual Community-Wide Picnic
 August 31 – Schuster/Neff Wedding
 October 6 – Nadia Bolz-Weber, Belv. Com. Center @6:30 pm
 October 11 – Kickoff meeting for Cookie Walk @ 10:30 am
 November 2 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
 December 6 – Cookie Walk

Treasurer's Report:

WCPC Operating Statistics April, 2014

Income	9,506.00
Expenses	12,923.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	3,120.00



Exciting Fashion News! Colorful New shirts are coming to Willow Creek. Get ready to place your order.

Extra! Extra! Exciting Mission News:

- Recent Mission Givings include: the Gideons, Rockford Rescue Mission and the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!
- Babies in Need Closet through Love Inc will be open two days a week. The first Tuesday of the Month from 9:00 am to noon and the third Thursday of the month from noon to 3 pm. We are currently in need of Diapers.
- Future Mission speakers include Love Inc (Babies in Need) in September and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering for November.
- Please notice the new Handicapped Signs. Thank you Dave Ensminger and Jim Ralston!



EXTEND YOUR HOSPITALITY! It's easy to resist simple acts of hospitality growing up in a world where crime, litigation, disclaimers, etc. capture all the headlines. But we must put ourselves above all this and seek opportunities to fulfill GOD's wishes each and every opportunity we have. Two opportunities come to mind that occur each and every Sunday Morning. The Passing of the Peace is a custom-made chance to reach out and touch those with whom you would not normally mingle. We also join these same folks in the Fellowship Hall for a bit of food and drink after the service. Share a moment or more with someone you have yet to meet; each of us has been uniquely created and has our own name and story. Move up/down an aisle or two, crossover to the other side, move over a table or two, etc. You will find that it is a rewarding experience for both you and the recipient!



The Stronghold Golf Benefit will be held on June 20, 2014 beginning at 12:30 at Prairie View Golf Course in Byron, IL. The event will be followed by a steak dinner and a silent auction in the club house. Registration for the golf and dinner is \$100.00. If you are a NON-Golfer, activities are planned for you as well. Garden walks, big swing at Stronghold will be open, tea on the veranda, games, manicures, chair massages and a variety of games. The cost for this is \$50.00 including a steak dinner. If you are unable to attend this event, plan a Golf Marathon in your own area and send a donation to Stronghold. Registration for this event is available at [Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center](#)

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





Our youth group will be heading out for a week of mission work next month! We will take off after church on July 27, and travel to Louisville, Kentucky! The Mid-Kentucky Presbytery conference center, Cedar Ridge Camp, will provide our housing, meals, and some team-building camp activities. Cedar Ridge staff is also arranging some mission opportunities for us. We will learn and serve at the Wayside Christian Shelter, the Kentucky Refugee Mission, and Camp Cedar Ridge itself. We will also have time to learn about and visit the national headquarters of the PCUSA, the Presbyterian seminary campus where Pastor Judith attended. A special pool and pizza party will cap off a great week!



AFTER CHURCH ON JUNE 29th, the youth group will be washing cars and selling baked goods and lemonade to help raise funds for our mission trip. So, please, plan to come to church (6/29 will also be VBS Sunday!!). There will be a couple of parking spaces designated for the car wash in front of the Christian Education Wing (for the first two vehicles to be washed after church), and a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can leave your keys with our attendant (for vehicles after those first two). In addition to the VBS Fellowship Snacks, there will be baked goods you can purchase to take home for the week. Planning to be out of town that Sunday? (or walking to church?) Never fear, you can also help us anytime between now and then by sending a donation to the church for our youth mission trip. Our goal is to raise \$4,000 to do Christ's work in the Greater Louisville Area!!

WCPC Youth help pets make a FRESH START



After church on May 18th, Pastor Judith and Lucas Greenlee packed the youth group into their vehicles and rushed them off to work in Belvidere. Earlier in the year, as we were just beginning our study of friendship, the kids requested we volunteer at a pet shelter as one of our ministries to the community. Fresh Start is a *No-Kill* shelter that receives pets from Animal Controls in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.



The shelter provides any necessary veterinary care, tests, vaccinations, and much needed love and affection. They are funded only through donations and pet adoption fees (\$40/75 cats/kittens and \$150/250 dogs/puppies). We were happy to meet Hannah-the-miracle-kitty, who had come to the shelter so sick that she needed IV fluids and a surgically placed feeding tube. She was healthy, playful, and awaiting adoption when we met her. The day we volunteered, we helped cuddle and clean cages for some of 56 felines and 3 rabbits, and we walked 10 of 24 canine friends!

5/18 was Sunday School Sunday at Willow Creek



We had quite a celebration of the end of Sunday school this year! After studying about God and friendship in class and youth group this year, our children and youth helped to lead a worship service all about being friends of God. Bryson and Katie led the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer. Riley led the Prayer of Confession. Kylie and Hailey read the scriptures. Sara led the Children's Message (Actually, it was wonderfully led astray by the kind and generous act of one child toward another.) Noah, Jayden, Serena, and Bryson brought the offering forward. Emily led the benediction. The Children's Choir sang the Anthem, and the whole group sang the Choral Response to the Benediction. Hallelujah!!

Clean out your Medicine Cabinet - Free! Medication Disposal

Bring in all your unused over-the-counter
And prescription medications



Accepting
Prescription Medications
Non-Prescription Medications
Aerosol Inhalers
Veterinary Medications

Not Accepting
Needles & Sharps
Medical Waste
Biohazard Materials

Belvidere Township Building, 8200 Fairgrounds Rd., Belvidere
Saturday, June 14, 2014; 9 A.M. - Noon