



STREAMER

Willow Creek Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
August 2021

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the Love of Christ"

August finds us in the midst of a sermon series on Ephesians.

I typically follow the Revised Common Lectionary, a schedule of scripture readings that follow a three year cycle. There are designated readings for every Sunday - one from the Psalms, one from another part of the Old Testament, a Gospel passage, and another New Testament passage.

One of the reasons we follow the lectionary is because at the end of each three year cycle, if we've read *every* lectionary text, we'll have heard nearly the entire Bible, receiving a consistent and broad exposure to all of God's Word.

Of course, we don't always read every passage! You might notice that most weeks there's a scripture reference next to the Call to Worship and Assurance of Pardon. I do my very best to get these from the Lectionary Readings, so that we'll hear as much Scripture as possible.

Even so, we can't make it to every verse. So when I noticed that for several weeks the New Testament readings were long passages from the book of Ephesians, I wondered what it might be like if we read every word of Ephesians together in worship.

Preaching on Ephesians is interesting because the book itself is like a sermon. It is believed that the writer wasn't the Apostle Paul, but a student of his. The person who wrote this letter carefully studied Paul's writings, and then wrote their own version of Pauline theology. The letter is addressed to the "saints who are at Ephesus" but even that is vague - there were probably several churches in Ephesus, a bustling, cosmopolitan city. With origins that are so open to interpretation, we're left to conclude that this is a letter from any beloved child of God to any church. Certainly it is a letter for us here and now.

It's a letter that bounces back and forth between describing the life of individual discipleship and how our individual discipleship gives shape to our communal life. It's a letter full of praise for the divine gift of grace - indeed, again and again the letter writer seems overwhelmed with gratitude for the goodness of God, and eager beyond description to invite others to be just as joyously overwhelmed.

There is much wisdom and many lovely quotes in Ephesians: "For it is by grace you have been saved!" "God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we can ask or imagine!"

The gifts of this letter are too vast to be preached on in just seven Sundays. My hope is that these summer sermons highlight some of Ephesians, but that you also hear things in the Scripture readings that intrigue you and invite you to come back and read the letter on your own.

And I am always curious to know what resonates with you and what interests you. Do you enjoy sermons on the epistles (the New Testament letters like Ephesians), or the Gospels, or do you tend to be more captivated learning about the Old Testament? Are there parts of Scripture you've never heard sermons on that you're curious about? As I continue to get to know you and as I plan for fall and then Advent, I'd love to learn more about what parts of the Bible most intrigue you.

In Christ,

Pastor Lauren

The Session met Tuesday night (August 2nd) and prayerfully updated our covid policies here at Willow Creek in consideration of the CDC's most recent recommendations, the increased spread of covid in our region, and our ongoing commitment to love our neighbor. Since it's not possible for our young people to be vaccinated, at this time the most loving thing we can do is wear our masks.

- Everyone (regardless of vaccination status) is encouraged to wear masks while in the building.
- Please continue to social distance between households.
- If you are experiencing any covid symptoms or have been exposed, please stay home.

Our worship service remains unchanged at this time (and you are still invited to sing and pray aloud).

Thank you for being patient and loving as we continue to navigate the ongoing pandemic. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions.

Pastor Lauren

Argyle Preschool Update!

As many of you know, Stephanie Konen, our Preschool Director/Teacher informed us last spring that she would not be returning for the 2021-2022 school year. She has been generously helping us renew our Preschool license by navigating all the criteria and paperwork that DCFS requires.

In the meantime we began advertising the Preschool/Director/Teacher on the indeed.com website. We vetted two well qualified individuals and were excited about their interviews. The first candidate we offered the job to accepted and then had to resign due to personal circumstances and life changes. We then offered the job to our second candidate, she accepted and also resigned shortly after due to family circumstances and life changes. We have since readvertised the position and have not received any interest and inquires from any possible candidates.

We then contacted families who had expressed an interest in our program this past spring and summer, but because of the uncertainty of whether our school would be open in the fall, they chose to sign their children up for other programs.

So it is with sadness and disappointment that our committee decided that Argyle Preschool will not open this fall. We will continue to work on securing a Director/Teacher with the hopes of filling the position so that we can open for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Argyle Preschool Board

Kim Reid, John Reid, Sandra Bell, Rev. Lauren Patrus-Betzel



faith and finances

Per Capita

Please submit your Per Capita prior to December 1, 2021 in order to meet the Blackhawk Presbytery Deadline.

Bank Draft

A Bank Draft is an easy way to give monthly. Many of our members have chosen this method. Several advantages include: no church weekly giving envelopes, no need to write checks, no handling by the Church Financial Secretaries & there are no fees. Please contact our bookkeeper Diane VanVleet at the church for assistance to set up a bank draft.

Online Giving

Through the website: willowcreekpc.org, click on the "Giving" or "Make a Donation" tabs and follow the instructions. This is a very simple method to give. There is a 2% fee per dollar amount on each transaction. On a gift of \$50 the fee would be \$1. If this is a recurring gift, and you would like to avoid the fees the church pays you may want to consider a bank draft.

Church Envelopes

This is a traditional method of giving. Church envelopes are generated for you and used to give weekly gifts. If you wish to receive or discontinue receiving a box of envelopes, please notify the church office.

WCPC Operating Statistics

	WCPC Operating Statistics	
	June 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	13,394.07	80,603.25
Expenses	9,703.74	84,527.61
Excess/(Deficit)	3,690.33	(3,924.36)





Dear Willow Creek Friends,

August already!!! Wow...where did the summer go? I do, however, have a really great month lined up for you.

On August 8th my friend and colleague Nicholas Janitzky, baritone, will be sharing his superb voice with us. He sang for us last fall, but now you can hear him in person!

August 15th brings a quartet from Sweet Adelines. I wish to thank Renee O'Dell for helping me arrange this. I am looking forward to hearing these harmonies.

August 22nd will feature our own Lucas Greenlee. We are so blessed to have him and his pipes. I have told him several times that when my time comes and I enter the Pearly Gates, I will not hear a choir or brass, but bagpipes. At least

that is what I would like to hear.

I have several ideas for the fall as we, hopefully, open up more.

Liz

You are all familiar with our Baby Angel Closet that we have had for several years and you have all supported so generously.

The picture was taken June 29th when Mary Cacioppi came to pick up some items to help another church start a Closet. Mary is the Coordinator for the closets of all sorts in the Rockford area.

A new closet is going to be in a church on the near west side and will be so easy for persons in need to get to. They can take a bus if necessary. For now they will only have diapers and the items that go with them.

We prepared a box of diapers of different sizes, baby wash, diaper rash cream, and wipes. We are sending it with our blessing and best wishes.

We have had some clients who do not come to pick up what they have requested. That is a matter of not having transportation and not knowing where we are even after I talk to them. As someone told me, some of them have probably never been outside of Rockford and the neighborhood where they live.

Again thank you for your support.

Jim and Delores



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday, August 8th, 15th & 22nd @ 10:30 am

We will meet in person. Children can go down to Sunday school after the Scripture reading.



August 29th is Kick-off Sunday!

Join us for VBS including Youth Fellowship after worship - remember to bring a lunch!

After our kick-off, we'll return to our rhythm of Children's Sunday school three Sundays per month (keep an eye out for bulletin and Streamer notes for which Sundays each month) and Youth Fellowship at least twice a month.

Adult Sunday school is starting, too! Join us Sunday, September 12th at 9am. We will begin the year with a two Sunday mini-series on Ecclesiastes! If you've ever wondered if life is meaningless, this is the class for you! This class will be co-taught by April Rottman and Pastor Lauren.

There's something for everyone this fall - hope you can join in the fun and fellowship!

Children's Sunday school:

Sept 12, 19, 26
Oct 10, 24, 31
Nov 14, 21, 28
Dec 5, 12

Adult Sunday school:

Every Sunday at 9:00 am, starting on September 12th.



Last one of the season on August 29th.

We have quite the collection of winter coats for August! Will you please check the coat closet by the entrance to the back parking lot, between the offices and fellowship hall? Any coats that haven't been claimed by the end of August will be donated.

Thank you!



Church Cleanup



Save the Date! Church "Spring" Clean in the Fall! Saturday, September 11th 8am 'til the work is done!

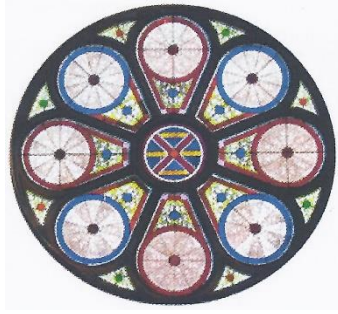
It's time to knock down some cobwebs, polish some pews and get our kitchen ready to be used! Mark Sept. 11th on your calendars. We'll get started at 8am, and work until around 2pm or until the work is done! You can come for the whole day, or for part of it.

There will be a job for everyone - all ages and abilities and interests! Many hands make light work, so I hope you can join us on the 11th as we get ready for a vibrant church year! Thanks!

Pastor Lauren



Kirkin' o' the Tartans! Sunday, September 19th.



Rose Window Repairs & Funding

We are excited and grateful that the lower petal of our beloved Rose Window is being repaired and will return sometime in the next few months. The glass as well as the wood surrounding the lower panel are being repaired.

I am so grateful that the generosity of this church along with wise stewardship has enabled us to make this important repair.

Knowing a repair was on the horizon, your Finance/Personnel/Endowments Committee and Session made a withdrawal from the endowment fund in November 2019. That withdrawal was for \$30,000. Our practice is for one third of each endowment withdrawal to go to Mission, one third to Building Repair, and one third to Capital Improvement. That means that \$20,000 (Building Repair and Capital Improvement) was set aside for the Rose Window project.

Due to Covid, it was several months before Building & Grounds was able to select a company to do this work. The actual project started this past June with the removal of the petal.

The estimated cost of the project is a little less than \$30,000, so it is largely covered by the \$20,000 from the November 2019 Endowment Withdrawal.

Session has decided to fund the remainder of the cost through **Memorial Funds** and through **gifts** from the congregation.

Would you like your loved one's memorial funds to be used for this project? If so, let me or the church office know. We will have a plaque made indicating whose funds were used for the window.

Would you like to give to this project? We are setting a fundraising goal of **\$500** from the congregation. We have already received some gifts and are well on our way to meeting this goal. We would like to collect all of these gifts by September 19th, which is Kirkin' o' the Tartans. If you would like to give a special gift to the rose window, simply indicate that on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for your support for this important repair! Our church building is a landmark in our community - not just for us who love it so much, but for the many folks who drive past it every day. While the building itself is not the most important part of our church, the way we care for what God has entrusted to us sends a message about who we are as a congregation. Caring well for this historic structure shows our community that we are rooted in tradition while also attentive to the needs of the present, and able to prepare for the future.

Pastor Lauren

August 2021 All Church Calendar

Tues 8/3	6:30 pm	Session Meeting
Sun 8/1	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship: Communion Special Music by Elizabeth O'Leary, Contralto
	11:00 am	Vacation Bible School
Sun 8/8	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Special Music by Nicholas Janitzky, Baritone Children's Sunday School
Aug 10 – 15		Boone County Fair Respite Tent
Sun 8/15	10:00 am	Worship in Parking Lot (Can bring lawn chairs and sit in family groups, or can sit in cars). Special Music by Sweet Adeline Quartet, Vocals
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
Tues 8/17	8:00 am	B & G Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	W & M Committee Meeting
Fri 8/20	6:30 pm	Media Committee Meeting
	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Service Special Music by Lucas Greenlee, Pipes
Sun 8/22	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
Tues 8/24	--	**Streamer Articles due to Church Office**
Sun 8/29	10:00 am	Hybrid Worship Service Kick-Off Sunday
	11:00 am	Vacation Bible School & Youth Fellowship
	11:15 am	F/P/E Committee Meeting in Library

"Change for Change Sunday"

Each **Second Sunday** of the month will be "**Change for Change Sunday**". We have pledged to raise our children in the faith. The children have taken the lead in this mission project. They have given us the opportunity to show, surround and saturate them in the Gospel value of generosity.

Please mail your offering check to the church and indicate in the "memo" Change for Change. Thank you for your support!



Summer Church Office Hours: Open Tues-Wed-Thurs from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or email the church office at willowcreekchrch@aol.com.

In case of emergency members should contact:

Pastor Lauren Patrus-Betzel - 678-230-7549

Maren Reid (Clerk of Session) - 815-978-5307 or

Jim Hall (Chairperson of Deacons) - 815-633-1784



Willow Creek
Presbyterian
Church of Argyle
@willowcreekpc







@willowcreekpcargyle

Willow Creek PC of Argyle
We are a faith community growing together sharing the love of Christ.
We gather to worship, deepen our bonds, and grow in Christ serving others.



Check out the latest photos and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!
<https://www.facebook.com/willowcreekpc>
<https://www.instagram.com/willowcreekpcargyle/>

Miss a Worship service?
Check out recordings on
Willow Creek's new YouTube channel!



YouTube

Come Learn, Worship and Share
with us every Sunday



Adult
Sunday School
9:00am



Worship
10:00am



Fellowship
11:00am



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