

Network

Volume 13 Issue 4

April, 2012

Dates to Remember:

MARCH 30,

APRIL 6 & 7

Stations of the Cross

APRIL 1

Palm Sunday

APRIL 5 & 19

A Just Harvest Dates

APRIL 5

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 8

Easter

APRIL 28

Rummage Sale

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Resurrection

(In Loving Memory of Richard Drimalla ... and with a Living hope in his life still!)

Easter comes again, blessed day!

This year, it comes fresh with the death of a beloved friend. Isn't this strange? Shall not our grief win the day?

Reflection reveals that Easter is at home with death, death, in fact, the one essential ingredient for resurrection.

Resurrection! The young man in the white robe says:

"You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He is not here!"

All his life Richard said, and we with him,
"...crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades, and on the third day he rose again from the dead."

Now, though his voice and breath is muted,
We proclaim his life! Following after his Savior,
Though Richard is not here, he has been raised!

The end of life is life!
God has made it so.

O Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His steadfast love endures forever!

Even though death has come to call,
Let loose an Easter "hallelujah",
Sing a hopeful song, because of our resurrection God!

It is as though Richard sings to us
From a broad glorious place
His death the most important witness to faith of all ...

*In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity, in our doubt there is believing,
In our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection, at the last a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
(Covenant Hymnal, 752)*

Our dear friend and mentor has died, was dead,
But lives, somehow, in the great wonderful mystery of resurrection.
We shall forever proclaim it, and hope until glad heavenly reunion.

Resurrection! Blessed Easter day!

Peter Hawkinson

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION:
Our continuing journey of being transformed by the Holy Spirit into Christ's likeness,
experiencing and expressing love for God and others.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 each week. (There will be no classes on Easter Sunday.)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOICES:

- 1) **Handel's Messiah: Worthy Is the Lamb!** April 15, 22, 29, led by Royce Eckhardt. Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*, part three, celebrating the risen and exalted Christ, will be the post-Easter topic of an adult education class.
The class begins with an overview of the oratorio with its three-part structure, how the text was compiled by Handel's librettist, and a fascinating glimpse into the life of Handel the composer, celebrity, and philanthropist. Come to enhance your understanding of and appreciation for Handel's inspiring masterpiece, and to enrich and deepen your experience of the joyous Easter season.
- 2) **Intergenerational Class.** A time of experiential learning, storytelling, relationship-building and intergenerational fun in Room 203. For high school students and adults of any age. Quality coffee, hot chocolate and tasty treats are served every week.
- 3) **20's & 30's Small Groups.** New small groups for people in their 20's and 30's are now meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Couples' groups meet every other week, and men's and women's groups meet on the alternative weeks. If there is interest, groups will also be formed that may meet on other days/times of the week. The groups meet for care, support, prayer, and engaging each other around topics that are pertinent to their faith and life. Please contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested in joining or would like more information.

APRIL ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL: *Images of Jesus in the Arts, April 15, 22 and 29*

Connection to this year's theme, "The Messiah": While a portrayal of an historical Jesus can impart authenticity to scripture, each race and nationality also creates its own image of Jesus. That image reflects the role of Jesus Christ in our own lives and within our own culture. The fine arts provide a gateway for exploring those images throughout the many cultures of this world, where the face of Christ offers endless interpretations.

Memory Verse: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." *John 1:5*

We are looking for workshop leaders for all three of the following workshops. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andrea.

Moved by the Spirit: Play games with different floorboards; learn about early Christian mosaics; create a floor-sized paper mosaic

Eat Your Way Through the Bible: Learn about stained glass; look at stained glass art that depicts Jesus; create stained glass cookies.

Faith Today: Explore the use of music in our congregation; brainstorm many different images of Jesus and find them reflected in contemporary Christian music.

RESURRECTION LIFE! THE CHALLENGE OF LOVE
A Study of 1 John

Wednesday Evenings, April 11 - May 23, 6:45 p.m., Church Library
*This little letter packs a big punch! Come and joy us as we read and reflect together on love,
which is at the center of this new resurrection life we celebrate in Christ.*

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWING CHURCH ON APRIL 29.

MUSIC NOTES



Poignant ... enriching stillness ... solemn meditation ... If you haven't yet taken a few minutes to experience the Stations of the Cross Lenten Friday in the intended context of art, music, word in the evening, we hope you can. Take any 20-30 minutes between 6 and 8 p.m. March 30 or April 6. You will be glad you did. Thanks to all who contributed to this special event.

Holy Week begins April 1. We sing the rousing, multi-lingual "Voices of Praise" enlivened by African rhythm assisted by North Park student, Patrick Walls, and our own, Linda Johnson. What a celebration! Contrasting that will be Dan Forrest's new setting of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" with an exquisite violin solo played by David Katz. Maundy Thursday we sing John Hudson's fine "O Love Divine".

Easter morning!! Children from 4 years - 5th grade are preparing the special presentation of Handel's "The Trumpet Shall Sound". They are doing a great job learning it. What a special surprise it will be to put together with CSO trumpeter Tage Larsen on Easter Sunday. He will be joined by Channing Philbrick, Bob Hoffhines, and Dan and Mary Gingrich in brass selections. Special thanks to Dan and Mary for playing and coordinating the array of special Easter music for brass ensemble. In addition, they will join Joshua at the organ in Francheschini trumpet duet and new arrangements with choir, "He Is Risen!" by Craig Courtney and "Psalm 24" by John Ness Beck, and with our whole congregation on Richard Webster's "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". We will again have our substantially enlarged choir sing Handel's "Hallelujah". All singers plan to join.

In the Eastertide weeks following, we continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection with Dan Forrest's "In Your Footsteps". Our budding intern, Dominic, will direct the classic Randall Thompson "Alleluia".

With the especially early and vibrant Spring this year, I hope you are reminded of the new life God provides so bountifully as we contemplate his death and celebrate the resurrection.

Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Dawn

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 1

Normal Sunday morning activities

(no regularly scheduled Wednesday night activities)

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m.

Service of Holy Communion and Prayers for Healing

Good Friday Stations of the Cross, April 6

Noon - 1:30, with a brief meditation and prayer at 1:00

6 - 8 p.m., with a brief meditation and prayer at 7:30

Holy Saturday Stations of the Cross, 11 - 1 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 8

Worship at 8:30

Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 - 10:15

Worship at 10:45

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

We have all been amazed by the unusual spring/summerlike weather of the past few weeks and are now enjoying the beauty of the early spring flowers. However, in the East Rogers Park neighborhood of the Just Harvest Community Kitchen, regardless of the season or the weather, poverty and hunger remain constants.

Please join us on April 5th and 19th in our church kitchen from 1-3:30 in the afternoon as we prepare a tasty meal for our neighbors, the patrons of A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen. We have a great deal of fun in good company!

Questions? Ted Garrison is the contact person for the 5th and John Anderson is the contact person for the 19th. They'd be happy to talk to you.

On the 19th we also serve the food, which was prepared in our church kitchen, to the patrons of the Community Kitchen. We need 8 volunteers. You can sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen or online at www.winnetkacovenant.org. Meet at church at 4:15

Thanks for your love and support of this mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rummage Sale - April 28, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are fast approaching Rummage Sale time, with the sale scheduled for Saturday, April 28. Dropoff of donated items will begin Sunday, April 15, on the stage. If you need someone to pick up donations, 2 pick-up days are available: Saturday, April 21st and Wednesday, April 25th. Please call the church or sign up in the Narthex for a date and time. Help any time throughout the week from the 16th to the 27th (day or night) is always most appreciated, and fun! We are looking forward to another fun and successful sale! Proceeds of this year's Rummage Sale will benefit our high school students who will be attending CHIC this summer

Vacation Bible School - June 18-22

BABYLON: DANIEL'S COURAGE IN CAPTIVITY

Join Daniel - torn from his home and forced into a foreign king's service. Immerse yourself in the exotic sights and smells of Daniel's new Babylonian world. Imagine the **pressures** of learning a new language and culture ... and the **shock** of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a **fiery furnace** - just because they follow God.

The Christian Formation board is currently forming the VBS planning team. Consider joining us for this great endeavor! We're looking for people interested in:

- ◆ Recruiting volunteers
- ◆ Coordinating the Marketplace Shops
- ◆ Decorating (planning, set-up & take-down)
- ◆ Publicizing VBS in the church and the community
- ◆ Registering participants

Contact Robin Magnusson if you're interested in serving in one of these roles on the planning team, or if you'd like to hear more about what's involved.

Family Camp - August 6-11, 2012

Consider creating space in your schedule this summer for our annual All-Church Family Camp at Covenant Point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula! From August 6th through the 11th we'll enjoy the best of camp life together - great food, the lake, chapel, ropes course, the Island, staff, games and free time - and have a chance each day to contribute to the ministry of Covenant Point through various age-appropriate work projects. The week has drawn nearly 60 participants each year and has become a much-loved time to rest, share our faith, and introduce new people to the camp's ministry. Brochures are available and information is posted on the web site, www.winnetkacovenant.org. Registration forms are in the brochure or can be done online. Questions? Ask Jed Bassett or Andrea Johnson.

TRUSTEE NEWS

Straight talk about financial stewardship – In February, we approved a 2012 budget that reflected the priorities and needs of our church and mission. We celebrated a good 2011 year- end financial position, but now are showing a significant shortfall in general fund receipts. Please maintain your pledges and generously provide for our wonderful mission at WCC.

YTD – February 2012 Financial Summary

General Fund Giving for 2012 (Through February) - \$159,409

Receipts 9.9 % less than last year and 15.0 % below budget (\$28,000 short)

Expenses are equal to last year and 2.7 % below 2012 budget (\$5,000 less)

Cash position is currently good, but will be significantly depleted as project spending picks up between now and summer (see below)

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	%	2012 Bud.	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 159,409	\$ 176,925	90%	\$ 187,603	85%
Expenses	\$ 175,683	\$ 176,237	100%	\$ 180,455	97%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$ 16,274)	\$ 688			
Debt Payments	\$ 5,433	\$ 5,119			
Net Excess / (Deficit)	(\$ 21,707)	(\$ 4,431)			
GF receipts – March	\$ 82,000 (first three weeks)			\$ 95,802	
Cash – 2/29/2012	\$ 209,109	\$ 206,825			

	<u>2/29/2012</u>	<u>2/28/2011</u>
General Fund Cash	\$ (31,722)	\$ (41,451)
Building Fund	3,050	2,900
Exchange Fund	145,302	109,602
Depreciation Set Aside	40,842	40,765
Memorial Fund	51,512	94,884
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$ 209,109	\$ 206,825

Capital Projects

Projects completed: Organ pit back-up sump pump & Narthex lighting

Projects in plan – Organ refurbishing, Hot water heater replacement, A/C replacement, Bessler stair replacement: Total estimated cost of these projects is \$ 104,000.

These funds are to come from Exchange /Memorial Funds which are part of our cash position

Technology

An office technology assessment is planned for this Spring. Plans are to upgrade the office software technology in 2012.

Columbarium Update

Project is complete except for Wall Memorial

The WCC Board of Trustees develops monthly financial reports with further details. These can be referenced in the church office and will be summarized at the quarterly business meetings. Please contact Scott Hall, Treasurer or Roger Schmitt, Financial Secretary for any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

Following are ongoing groups for the women of the church. They all welcome new participants at any time.

QUILTERS, KNITTERS, ETC. - Meet on the **second Thursday of each month** for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for details and location of the meeting.

SHARING GROUP - We cordially invite all WCC women to join us on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon** for lunch and fellowship. We will meet on April 26th at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

STITCH AND STUDY - Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, **meets on the first Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. This month's meeting is April 3. We will begin using the texts for the coming Sunday, along with our own Covenant Hymnal as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP - The Book of REVELATION:

Are you intrigued by it, interested in learning about it?

Continuing through Thursday, May 17th, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library, Women's afternoon Bible Study using a lecture series on the book of Revelation. This 11-week study, "**Here and Now...There and Then**", by Beth Moore, presents many points of view, allowing individuals to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal.

Please join us as we roll up our sleeves to explore God's word. For information please contact Claire Macfarland.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - The Tuesday Women's Bible Study is currently studying 2 Corinthians. Newcomers will benefit by joining at any time. With questions please call Sue Abram.

SAVE THE DATES FOR BRIDAL SHOWERS -

There are three bridal showers on the calendar for the coming few months. All women of the church are invited.

- ◆ Saturday, April 21, at 10:00 a.m. - Jill Eskra, engaged to Adam Geake. Adam is the son of Howard & Judi Geake. *(Note that this is a corrected date from last month's Network.)*
- ◆ Tuesday, May 15 - Megan Braun, engaged to Steve Orlandino. Megan is the daughter of Bob & Jan Braun.
- ◆ Thursday, May 31 - Jenny Peterson, engaged to David Gruner. Jenny is the daughter of Ron & Deb Peterson.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continues to meet the first three Saturdays of each month, at 8:00 a.m. in the Upper Room. Contact Paul Christmas with any questions.

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF OFFERING

Covenant World Relief is a ministry of care through the Evangelical Covenant Church, responding to the needs of the most vulnerable who suffer from extreme poverty, hunger, disease, and injustice. They also work in areas of disaster response, education, agriculture, nutrition, women's empowerment, clean water, micro-enterprise, health, justice, and advocacy. **On Easter Sunday, a special collection will be taken for Covenant World Relief.** Visit www.covchurch.org/cwr for more information about this ministry.

FAMILY PROMISE

Our next week of hosting Family Promise will be April 29 - May 6. Two upcoming fundraisers for Family Promise: Mother's Day Potting Party, Saturday, May 12 (see posters around the church for info) and Carson's Community Days (coupon booklets available in the office for \$5.00).

WINNETKA MAILBOX

Dear Friends,

To all those who gave their considerable time, talent and creativity to our Stations of the Cross experience, thank you for your contribution. Projects like this cannot happen without the participation and enthusiasm of many willing hearts and hands. From what I have been hearing, this experience has deepened the appreciation for the season of Lent and left a profound impact on many lives. We are truly blessed with such a gifted and giving congregation.

With gratitude, Denise



Dear friends at WCC,

For almost a year now, my friend, Sandra Bishnoi, has been on our prayer list. In January, 2011, she was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. She is 38 years old, married, and has kids five and two years old. The statistics for life expectancy for more than a few years are pretty dismal for women of her age. But I bring you good news from Sandra's Caring Bridge website:

"I just got the results from my bone scan, MRI, chest x-ray, ultrasound, and mammogram. There is currently no evidence of active disease or new metastatic disease!! This is not to say that the cancer can't come back, but it means that the chemo and endocrine therapy have/are working. Thank you all for your prayers, positive thought, virtual hugs, and overall support over the last 13 months."

I, too, would like to thank you for being there for her even when you don't know her. I'm going to take her off the official list for now, but please continue to pray for Sandra and her family.

Polly McClellan

FAMILY NEWS

We extend our congratulations to **Matt and Elsa Johnson**, on the birth of **Lucia Gloria**, Tuesday, March 6. Lucia weighed 8 lb., 12 oz and was 21 inches long. Joan and John Wallgren are Lucia's grandparents and Fran and Ray Wallgren are her great-grandparents.

Winnetka Covenant Preschool News - Registration is now open for the 2012/13 school year. We are now offering more program choices, including extended day options for the 2012-2013 school year. We very much appreciate if you can tell friends and relatives about our program, as they are making choices for their children. See our link on the church website for more information or contact Linnea Johnson.

Winnetka Covenant Church Message Line - The pastors regularly send out a Message Line with prayers requests and other important church-related information. You can get this by e-mail or by calling the Message Line number (847-501-4158). If you would like to receive this by e-mail, please contact the church office.

A set of Conga Drums is missing from the Upper Room. If you have borrowed them, please let the office know.

OUR MISSION

*To be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel,
Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
And serving others as Christian disciples,
Building a world of justice and hope in the name of Christ.*

GUIDELINES FOR LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

We hold grace as our highest value.

We practice honest, open, direct communication.

We speak the truth in love and listen in love.

We believe the best about each other, valuing others above ourselves, as Christ does.

We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that mistakes are part of the growth process.