



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

March, 2014

The Free Gift, The Suffering God

March 5
Ash Wednesday

March 7
North Park
University
Choir Concert

March 14-16
Men's Retreat

March 28,
April 4 & 11
Lenten
Meditations

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But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (Romans 5:15)

Soon we will begin reading the passion story together. If we listen carefully, the growing cry of the world as our Lord Jesus suffers is simple and clear: **“Save Yourself!”** This is what Jesus must do according to the world to prove his claim to be the Son of God. Messiah. This is what a God of power and might, after all, would do.

It was Jesus' first temptation he received while he was still damp from baptism's glory. **“Save Yourself!”** His answer was that he couldn't, he wouldn't turn away from the mission for which he was sent. Nevertheless, Satan got into human beings as surely as Jesus was God in human form. Everyday was an opportune time. And though God, Jesus was fully human, and so to not listen to the world's relentless call had to be excruciating. In this sense Jesus suffered and died (to himself) all his life. There must be an intriguing reason!

During his final days in Jerusalem, the old cry came from everywhere. From the Sanhedrin, and Pilate, and Herod, from the growing, raging crowd. From the soldiers beating him, and nailing him, and watching him die, and from those criminals with whom he hangs as he suffocates. **“Save Yourself!”**

Think, during this Lenten season, just think about how different our reality would be, past, present, and future, had

Jesus said “Yes”. And wonder in the love that drives him forward into unimaginable pain and suffering. For he will not save himself. He suffers and dies with a humanity longing for salvation on his mind. He looks out over his crucifiers and speaks a blessing of forgiveness. He will not save himself, and in so doing saves us. Jesus saves us! Through the suffering and death of His own Son, the grace of God defeats our sin and death. We are saved through the One who will not save himself. His dying “Yes” is God's merciful yes spoken to humanity, once and for all.

The world in large part continues now as it did then to pity the poor soul who claimed to be God but could not save himself, and ended up a criminal on a cross. Indeed, as Paul says, the message of the cross is foolishness, except for us who live into the holy story of God coming in Jesus, who could certainly save himself, but does not, will not, because God has in mind to save us instead!

Humanity has always lived with the sin that makes us know we need salvation, and here salvation is! Jesus Christ, God's Son, on a cross, crucified for the sins of the world, mercy abounding to the many. How will you live into this blessed and excruciating news? His “Yes” is for your saving, your life made new. It is for this, for you and for me he suffers and dies.

Peter Hawkinson

Children's Rotation Sunday School

What is it?

We're now in another great year of Rotation Sunday School. What is Rotation Sunday School? This curriculum style focuses on teaching major Bible stories and concepts through kid-friendly, multi-media workshops, such as: art, drama, music, cooking, puppets, storytelling, games, audio-visual, and woodworking. Children learn the same Bible story four consecutive weeks, rotating to a different workshop each week. Personal connection, familiarity and continuity are provided by a volunteer called a "shepherd." These individuals accompany the children each week and focus on building relationships.



Consider leading a rotation Sunday School workshop!

It's a great way to share your gifts, interests and faith with our children. Workshop leaders are needed for this unit and for future units. Contact Pastor Andrea to learn more.

2013-2014 Theme: THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God, as passed on to us through the Bible and the lives of the faithful, is a multifaceted jewel providing for us many different ways to enter into the story of faith. It is from these words that we receive guidance and support as we travel on the journey of faith. From the ancient text of Genesis to the power of Revelation God's word continues to be relevant to our lives.

March 9 - April 13 "Holy Week: Gospel Comparison"

Memory verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3:16

Workshops: (March 9, 16, 23)

Thou Art: Kids will explore the stories of the angels at the resurrection and make angels using either mock-stained glass panels or flowerpots.

Garden of Eatin': Kids will explore the story of the Last Supper and the words of institution. They'll make unleavened bread and ponder how things that are broken can be useful.

Puppetry: Kids will portray the events of Holy Week and choreograph several songs.

(March 30, April 6, & 13)

Disciples' Drama: Kids will enact the different events from Jesus' trial through the resurrection in a melodramatic style; very fun and interactive.

Mad Scientists: Using static electricity experiments, kids will learn about the events of Holy Week.

Where in the World Is?: Kids will learn the story of how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, participate in a foot-washing service and ponder how we express our faith through service to others. They'll make personal service banners to take home or decorate washcloths to give to a homeless shelter.

Adult Sunday School

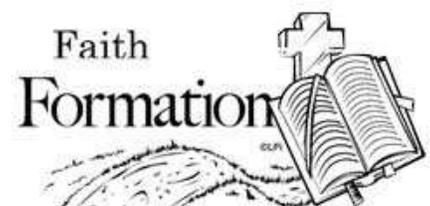
How the Church Faced Cultural Change

February 23 - March 16

Kurt Peterson, teacher

Kurt will discuss four different periods of change within the Evangelical Covenant Church:

- 1) Plantings - immigrants and the culture of the "uprooted"
- 2) Language - the shift to English as the language of culture and commerce
- 3) Beyond Ethnicity - the loss of a Swedish majority
- 4) Justice - confronting a changing urban landscape



Music Notes



Soon we enter our Lenten season. Even though we've had an extreme winter, I am thankful for the seasons and the promise and Spring's renewal. Just as we experience the seasons of climate, so too, as Christians we can experience spiritual seasons - both together and individually. May this be an avenue of refreshment for your personal life and likewise the life of our church.

Music in March:

March 2 - "Prayer for Transfiguration" - choir and organ

March 7 - North Park University Choir in concert at 7:00 p.m.

As of this writing we have overnight hosts for 32 and need spots for 10 more. This involves taking them home after the concert, providing breakfast and return to church by 8:00 a.m.

March 16 - "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" - choir and Cindy Buettgen (flute)

... that we may all live out God's Psalm 119 challenge:

"Teach me, O Lord the way of your statutes, that I may serve thee to the end."

Dawn Pegis

We observe Lent as we prepare for Easter

Ash Wednesday, March 5

6:00 - all are invited for a very simple soup supper, followed by the 7:00 worship service

Choral music for the Ash Wednesday service will include Alice Parker's moving arrangement to Isaac Watts' rich text:

Teach me the measure of my days, Thou Maker of my frame;

I would survey life's narrow space, and learn how frail I am.

A span is all that we can boast, an inch or two of time;

Man is but vanity and dust in all his flow'r and prime.

See the vain race of mortals move like shadows o'er the plain;

They rage and strive, desire and love, but all the noise is vain.

What should I wish or wait for then, from creatures, earth and dust?

They make our expectations vain, and disappoint our trust.

Now I forbid my carnal hope, my fond desires recall;

I give my mortal int'rest up, and make my God my All.

Bread for the Journey

As we journey toward the cross with Jesus this Lent, he provides us with the spiritual sustenance we need.

Come. Gather around the sacred table.

Lenten Communion, Prayer & Reflection - Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning March 12, 7:00-7:45 in the sanctuary.

Scripture. Silence. Music. Spiritual practices. The Lord's Supper.

Lenten Meditations

March 28, April 4 & 11 - Our Lenten Friday series this year will offer 3 Friday evenings of special music in the sanctuary.

On March 28 Royce and John Eckhardt will provide organ, piano and violin selections

for you to come and go as you can between 6:30 and 8:00.

A seasonal exhibit of works by our own artists will be in the narthex.

Good Friday Concert - April 18, 7:00 p.m.

The Seven Words

by John Carter

Dimitri German, baritone; Steven Braun, tenor; Lydia Stalker, soprano

Winnetka Covenant Church Choir

&

The Seven Last Words

by Franz Haydn

Dawn Gingrich, violin; Monica Pegis, violin; Matthew Pegis, viola; Jon Pegis, cello

Trustee News

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through January 2014:

Thank you again for your financial support in 2013 and, your 2014 pledges and to the 121 additional responses received during the "Be 1 of 152" program in January. We now have over 170, 2014 pledges and the additional funds to help manage our approved 2014 budget. Our cold and snowy winter weather is not cooperating, by the way. We'll continue to communicate to you any changes and use the Network to summarize our plans and status.

As of January 31, our financial summary is highlighted below.

» YTD Financials

- o General Fund Giving through January 2014 - \$87,915
 - Receipts to date are 2% below planned budget.
- o Expenses are 7% above 2014 planned budget due to snow removal and heating costs.
- o Operating funds and cash are good.

	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	%	2014 Bud.	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 87,915	\$ 82,770	106%	\$ 89,687	98%
Expenses	\$ 95,961	\$ 86,024	112%	\$ 89,896	107%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$ 8,046)	(\$ 3,254)			

» Capital Projects

- o WCC front signage work has started.
- o WCC playground to be started in the Spring

The WCC Board of Trustees develops monthly financial reports and meeting minutes with further details. These can be referenced in the church office and will be summarized at the quarterly business meetings. Please contact Kurt Kovacic, Trustee Chair, Roger Schmitt, Treasurer, or Kelly Quackenbush, Financial Secretary with any questions.

Are you ever the last person leaving a meeting? Please remember to turn off lights as you leave the room and check hallway lights when you are leaving the building. We can all help control the costs at church by doing our part.

North Park Theological Seminary is now offering a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction

The Seminary is actively seeking people of all ages whom God has called into ministry to come study this summer or fall, either residentially or as a distance learner. Not all callings are for full-time vocational pastoral ministry, so they have a variety of programs to help meet the hopes and needs of people called to a variety of ministries. The Certificate in Spiritual Direction is one of these options.

Spiritual Direction is a specialized ministry of listening, discernment, and prayer in confidential settings of encouragement and compassion. The North Park Seminary program is designed to benefit people who want to develop a ministry of Spiritual Direction, to enhance their listening skills for their current ministry, or to enrich their own spiritual life.

To learn more details about the program please visit their website at www/northpark.edu/spiritual-direction.

Local Mission Update

A Just Harvest

We got the following note from Rev. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, Executive Director of A Just Harvest:

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church:

Thank you for your participation in our "Hunger Is No Game: Catching Coins" campaign. Together we collected coins worth more than \$1,500 that will be used to feed the children in our Community Kitchen.

By hosting a box at your establishment, you provided others the opportunity to make a difference in our fight against hunger. A Just Harvest believes that there can be an end to hunger and poverty if we work collectively. Your participation in this mission helps us remain hopeful for a time where "all have plenty and no one is left in need."

Remember that we have a chance, two times a month, to help alleviate hunger through our cooking and serving at A Just Harvest. In March we cook in our kitchen on the 6th and the 20th. All are welcome to join the kitchen crew at 1:00 for about 2 hours. On March 6th the contact person is John Anderson and on the 20th the contact person is Ted Garrison.

Additionally, on the 20th we serve the meal at A Just Harvest. Contact Pastor Andrea if you are able to help. Meet at church at 4:15.

Can you live on \$5 a day?

Join us March 3-8, 2014 and take the Temple Jeremiah SNAP Challenge.

Temple Jeremiah in Northfield invites us to join them as they take the SNAP Challenge.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) is the cornerstone of our country's safety net for those experiencing hard times.

By taking the SNAP Challenge, you can see what life is like for thousands of our neighbors living on \$35 worth of food for a week.

Share your experience on Facebook or Twitter (#TJSNAPChallenge) or on our blog at templejeremiah.org/snapchallenge

Guidelines:

- Your food budget for the week is \$5 per day for ALL food and beverages
- You may use coupons but you should not shop at membership clubs (i.e. Sam's Club, Costco)
- Do not eat food purchased before taking the challenge (i.e. food in your pantry or refrigerator, except condiments)
- Avoid accepting free food from friends, family, or co-workers
- Using the budget, decide what groceries to purchase and how much to put aside for food incidentals before starting the challenge
- Keep track of your receipts and take note of your experiences and the choices between the variety and quality of food you ate

Upcoming Events

Bach Week Festival

Once again this year the Bach Week Festival is partnering with North Park University for a wonderful series of concerts.

- Friday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. - concert held in a private home in Evanston, featuring members of the Bach Week Festival Chorus and North Park University Chamber Singers, with Julia Davids conducting and Jason Moy, harpsichord
- Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m., in Nichols Concert Hall, Evanston
- Friday, April 25 at 10:00 p.m., Candlelight Concert at Nichols Hall Lobby, Evanston
- Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m., at North Park's Anderson Chapel
- Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m., at North Park's Anderson Chapel

Information about all of these concerts, including prices and ticket ordering details at bachweek.org or by calling 800-838-3006.

Women's Ministries Notes

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 **March 27** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. We are using the texts for the coming Sunday as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project. The **March meeting will be on the 18th.**

Thursday Bible Study -

Thursday afternoon Bible Study will resume meeting soon with a new course of study. Please be watching your bulletins for an announcement of the new topic and schedule.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

Tuesday morning Bible Study class is currently studying the book of Isaiah. As always, study begins at 9:30 but you are welcome to come early for coffee and conversation. Contact Joann Larson with any questions.

Central Conference Spring Celebration - Nourish to Flourish

Spring Celebration is an annual spring mini-retreat, sponsored by Women Ministries of the Central Conference. Held this year March 14-15 at the Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton, all women of the conference are invited to attend. The featured speakers are Jessica Boggs and Tracy Harvey. More information about the retreat and registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the church. Information and online registration is also available on the Central Conference Women Ministries website, www.wmcc2gether.com.

Bridal Shower for Christy Bouris and Andy Meyer - April 6.

Save the date of Sunday evening, April 6 for a bridal shower for Christy Bouris and Andy Meyer. All are invited. Anyone wishing to be a hostess, please contact the church office.

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year, some on a regular schedule, others periodically.

Men's Fellowship - The group usually meets on the **first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.**, in the Prayer Room. All men are invited to participate. It's worth getting up for! (Note, in March the group will not meet on the 16th due to the men's retreat.)

Men's Work Crew - Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Watch for an e-mail notification.

Men's Share and Support - If you're expecting a medical procedure, test, treatment, or new medication, get connected

to someone who's been there and done that. Pastor Hawkinson will try to link you to someone with experiences to share and who can help turn anxiety into anticipation. Men who are willing to share and support can also contact Pastor Hawkinson.

Men's Retreat - It's not too late to sign up for the Men's Retreat at **Covenant Harbor, March 15-17, 2014**. Led by Doug Wysocky-Johnson and Paul Hettinga, the theme is "Inside Out or Outside In?" Integrity is about living a whole life, connecting our beliefs, values, and passion to the way we live. We will explore what Jesus had to say about inside out living, along with writers like Richard Rohr and Parker Palmer. Learn more about the retreat and register online at the church's website, www.winnetkacovenant.org.

Youth Ministry Dates for March

- Sr. High League - March 2, 9, 16 (North Side Youth Collision), 23, 30 - 6:30 Sunday nights
- Junior High Youth Group - March 5, 12, 19, 26, during Wednesday night activities
- Coffee (High School) - March 5, 12, 19, 26, after school
- Ash Wednesday - March 5th, Lenten practice begins - led by youth, extended to the congregation
- Jr. High North Side Youth Collision Event - date TBA

Mailbox

Dear Friends at WCC,

Thank you for the warm welcome at church on February 9th. It has been 3-1/2 months since my fall and I have thirsted for Sundays here. Thanks to Joan for the CD recordings.

Ruby and I, first, want to thank you for the cards, prayers, calls, visits by our pastors, particularly by Pastor Peter, and by the diaconate.

Second, and also important, our adversity has brought God's spirit "along side" for fellowship, counsel, and support. This is a blessing I continue to seek.

What a wonderful church we have! God bless you all.

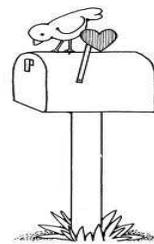
Love, Ruby and Doug Anderson

To the Church Family,

I'd like to thank all of the church family for the support in prayers, cards, and phone calls during my operation and treatment for the big C!

The pastors and Stephen ministers have all been wonderful! I am doing real well, it has indeed been a tremendous blessing to know the reality of Christ's love and care in my life!

From my heart, thank you!
Ingrid Eiesland



To the Congregation,

The WCC staff would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts you gave us. It is a blessing and a privilege to serve such a loving and supportive congregation.

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Steven Braun and Lydia Stalker**, on their recent engagement. They will be getting married on June 28th at Western Springs Baptist Church. Steven is one of our music interns from Moody Bible Institute and Lydia is a recent graduate of Moody.
- **Paul and Rachel Couleur**, on the birth of Genevieve Marie Couleur, February 16 at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Genevieve weighed 7 lb., 10 oz., and is 20-3/4 inches, and joins her big brother Titus at home. John and Jeanne Couleur are her happy grandparents.

It has been several years since our last photo directory was made and we are badly in need of a new one. We are looking for several people who would be willing to form a committee and oversee the production of a new photo directory. This is a short-term commitment but a very important one. If you like to organize, then this is the opportunity for you!

Learning Made Fun!

Spring and summer registration has opened for Creative Kids Corner enrichment classes and camps held here at WCC. Linda Kusel, Director, church member and award-winning educator invites you to visit:

creativekidscorner.org for Music & More-Preschool Extension (Tues), Cooking for Life & Love (4-13 yrs), School Holiday Classes and Summer Camps (30 mos - 13 yrs). Looking forward to answering any questions you may have.

Contact info@creativekidscorner.org or (847)933-0672.

& Directory Changes

Please note these address changes in your directories:

- Larry & Bonnie Hollenbeck
4509 State Rte. 89
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
- George Soucek
8434 E. Paradise Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
- Alex Johnson
1012 Fox Creek Rd., Unit F
Rolla, MO 65401
- Emily Peterson
511A Wilkes St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Rummage Sale Coming Soon - Saturday, May 3

It's time to start thinking about the rummage sale. As you clean your closets, drawers, basements, and attics, please keep the rummage sale in mind. As always, we need lots of items, from clothes to furniture and everything in between, to sell, and we need lots of volunteers to make the sale a success.

Be watching for details as we get closer

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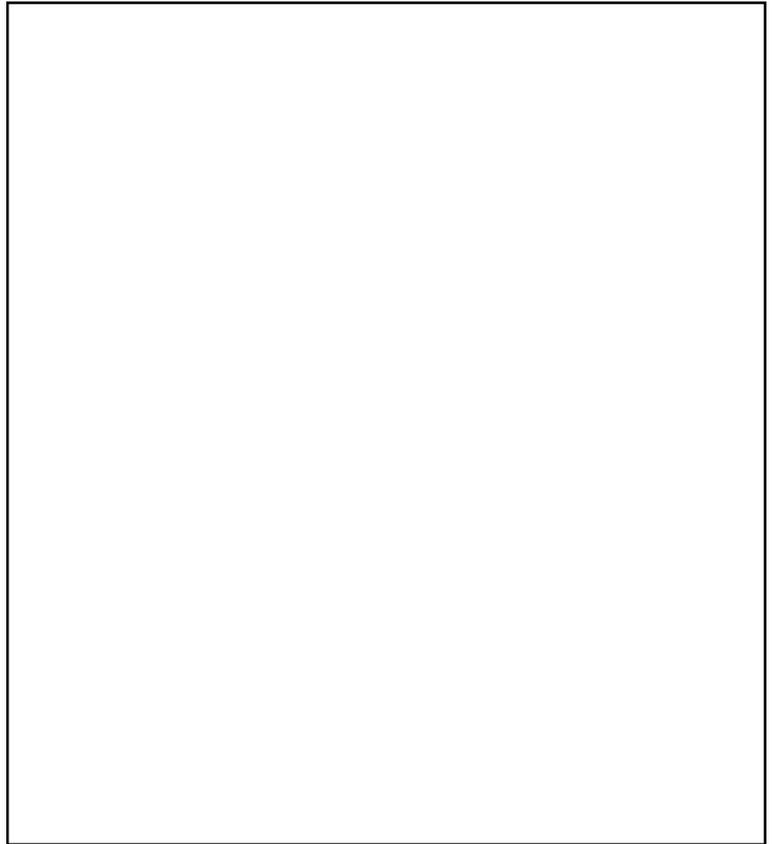
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

Our Mission

To be a Christian community and to proclaim
the gospel, Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
And 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.



Anyone Up for Adventure?

**Escape with us! Vacation Bible School 2014:
June 16-21, 6-8 p.m.**

We're planning a great Vacation Bible School week in the Wilderness, where we'll join Moses as he and the Israelites escape Egypt and travel to parts unknown—trusting in God all the while!

Our goal is to reach 70 children with God's love at our Wilderness Escape event. How can you help?

Join the Wilderness Escape Team!

We're currently seeking adults who want to have a great time helping kids deepen their faith in God by using their gifts in one of the following roles:

- Fun & Games Leader
- Drama Team (Moses & Malachi)
- Tent Crafts Leader
- Baker's Tent Snacks Coordinator
- Tribe Leaders – adults and teens welcome
- Registrar
- Publicity Coordinator
- Decoration Coordinator

Come to the Wilderness Escape Job Fair on Sunday, March 16 in the narthex after morning worship to see job descriptions and to apply. (Early applications will also be accepted--contact Pastor Andrea anytime!)

