

VCL Family News

Welcome Sedgebrookers

VCL wants to extend a warm welcome to **Don Hahn** and **Donald and Marilyn Swanson** who have begun to worship with us recently.

Graduating this year....

Congratulations and best wishes to our TIU graduates who will have completed their respective academic journeys either in May or at the end of the coming summer semester.

Receiving their Master's degrees are:

- Sarah Esau, Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries
- Jasmine Grady, Master of Arts, Bioethics
- Dan North, Master of Divinity
- Alex Stewart, Master of Arts in Old Testament

Receiving their undergraduate degrees are:

- Kaleb Barrett
- Grace Postma - Grove City College (PA)
- Kyrri Schober
- Crystal Smith
- Naomi Sorenson
- Tony Thomason

Other Graduates Include:

- Joseph Schlosser - Lake Forest High School
- Suzanna Forman - River Trails Middle School

Facilities Maintenance

Movable Partitions—Our movable partitions in the north wing classroom area are no longer entirely plumb, so Buildings & Grounds recently ordered and supervised a complete tune-up which included panel alignment and plumb, inspections of all trolleys, tracks and locking mechanisms, securing of trim and hardware and lubrication of all moving parts.

Parking Lot—Our parking lot also needs attention, so in the not too distant future, the entire lot will be repaired (cracks filled, etc.), resealed and restriped.

Congratulations...



Congratulations to **Svetlana Mozharova** and **Alec Holzman** who were married at VCL on April 26. Pastor Lee officiated.

Congratulations to **Lynne Cocallas** (right) and **Linsey Xue** (left) on their baptism on Easter Sunday.



Congratulations to **Jeff and Sara Konkle** on the dedication of their son, **Joey**, on March 16. Joey was born on Oct. 13, 2013.



Jared & Tammy Smith to Be Re-stationed

For the last three years, our former associate pastor, Jared Smith, has been serving the Navy at El Centro, CA. Now, he and Tammy, his wife, are taking a new step as they are being reassigned to serve with the 3rd Marine Logistics Group in Okinawa, as either the regimental or battalion chaplain. Jared is very excited about serving with the Marines and all of the changes and challenges that will come with it. While he knows that he won't be at a chapel, he will be involved more in the day-to-day routine of the Marines, as well as officiating services in the field. Let's remember to keep Jared and Tammy in our prayers as they move overseas, establish new contacts and connections with the Marines in Okinawa and minister the gospel of Jesus Christ in a military context.

VCL Happenings

Community Bible Experience Coming to Village Church This Summer

by Pastor Michael Mauriello

Have you ever wanted to read through the whole New Testament? Have you ever read the Bible by yourself, and asked, "I wonder what other folks think about this passage? Why is this so confusing to me?" Has the order of the books of the Bible ever puzzled you? Why are all the gospels grouped together? Have you ever jumped around in Scripture, reading a paragraph here and there, and wondered how it relates to the other parts of Scripture? What if you could read through the whole New Testament, with every one in the whole church—in a short amount of time? In just 40 days, over eight weeks?

We will be doing just that in the Community Bible Experience, beginning June 29 through August 31. And you will be hearing a lot more about the Community Bible Experience in coming weeks.

But before that, Mornings with Michael will shift gears from the minor prophets to major theologians in church history. David Moser and Pastor Michael will introduce seven important figures from the history of the church who helped the church sharpen their understanding of the Trinity, Jesus, and the Christian life. We'll take a look at Carl Henry, C.S. Lewis, Athanasius, Cyril of Alexandria, Thomas Aquinas, and Bonaventure. We'll examine their theological contributions to the church as well as their pastoral heart for the people they served.

C.E. News

by Susan Edov

We'd like to say "congratulations" and "goodbye" to two of our kids who are graduating out of our Children's Ministries. Micah Uren (right) has been a part of C.E. from his earliest days and Alex Harjanto (left) has been with us since his family arrived two years ago. These boys will be moving up to the Middle School class on Sunday morning and Wednesday night youth group beginning June 1.

We wish you guys the best as you continue your spiritual journey. It has been so fun having you participate in our activities. In September, we will promote several other children to the next class level within C.E.



Information Technology (IT) Update

by Andrew Seamen

Up to this point, our website (evcl.org) has mostly served those who are looking for a new church and those wanting to listen to a recent sermon. We are making a shift that will encourage our church family to visit our website more often. There will soon be a page for our "VCL Family" that will provide links to announcements, Village Vine articles, upcoming events, and other pages that a regular attender would be interested in.

In the meantime, did you know that we put up the week's bulletin on the website the Friday before our Sunday worship service? See our bulletins at evcl.org/bulletins. Do you know that you can give securely online with your credit card or PayPal account, and even set up an automatic regular payment? Check it out at evcl.org/give.

An exciting development for our staff is our recent switch to using Google Apps. Google provides their Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Drive, and other web applications to churches and other non-profits at no cost. The huge benefits of switching to Google Apps will not necessarily be obvious to the church at large, but it will provide the ability for our staff to have a much more organized and unified way of communicating, including having a shared contact list, as well as the ability to share and organize documents.

In the days to come, you may notice new email addresses from our staff. This is part of the switch to Google Apps. However, all old email addresses will continue to work, so do not worry about having to learn a new one at the moment. We will send out an email soon to the church with a list of the new and expanded email addresses. In the meantime, feel free to send any questions or comments to IT@evcl.org. Also, don't forget to like us on Facebook (villagechurchoflincolnshire) and follow us on Twitter (@_evcl).

Coming This Summer to Children's Church:

Buck Denver asks...What's in the Bible?

Preaching & Worship

Sermons

MAY 11 —JULY 6, 2014



CHURCHHOME:

Why Our Church Is Our First Family

Date	Text	Sermon Title
5/11/14	Matt 9:35-38	Storm Home
5/18/14	Matt 11:28-30	Rest Home
5/25/14	Neh 3:1-32	Under
6/1/14	Eph 4:7-16	Bound Up Communion
6/8/14	Gal 6:1-10	Home Work
6/15/14	John 14:1-6	The Way Home
6/22/14	Luke 10:38-42	Open Your Home
6/29/14	Luke 14:1-14	Guest List Communion
7/6/14	Luke 19:1-10	Grown Up So Fast

Pray for VCL in May

Learning how we can please Christ by being a church that is home

Open doors for the good news of Jesus; our Lists of 5

That we'd have opportunities to invite others to VCL and that we'd welcome visitors well

Our semi-annual congregational meeting – clear and unified direction

Our church finances



Calendar of Events

National Day of Prayer

Monday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.
(@ Crossroads Church, 1350 Rte. 137, Grayslake)

North Shoemyer Wedding Shower

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.

Jared & Tammy Smith Reception

Sunday, May 4, Noon

Spring Work Day

Saturday, May 10, 8:00 a.m.

Guys and Gals (Youth) Cookout

Saturday, May 10, 5:00 p.m. (off-site)

Caregiving Ministry

Monday May 19, 7:00 p.m.

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.
(Includes Concert of Prayer)

Recurring Events

Middle and High School Youth

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Ladies Daytime Bible Study

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. (final meeting 5/15)

Men's Prayer Breakfast

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. (5/3 and 5/17) (5/17 begins at 7:30 a.m. due to road closure)

Cancellation

Iowa State International All-Church Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, May 18 at Noon has been cancelled.

SAVE THESE JUNE DATES!

- Sweetser Baby Shower - Sat. June 21
- Annual VCL Picnic at Whytegate Park - Sun., June 22

Pastor Lee Speaks to "Small Town America" Pastors

I come from a rural church and grew up in a town of about 1500 people, so I have a soft spot for pastors in communities like that. A couple years ago I learned of the Rural Home Missions Association, an organization that places pastors in rural and small town churches around the country.

At the end of April I was privileged to lead some seminars at their annual conference in Morton, IL (near Peoria). About 400 pastors and wives attended from many states and three Canadian provinces. I had about 40 attend each of the three seminars I did. In one seminar I spoke about some of the themes in my book, *Pastoral Graces: Reflection on the Care of Souls* (Moody Publishers). The second seminar, which I did twice, was titled, "In It for the Long Haul." I talked about the challenge of ministry longevity and offered biblical encouragement.

I'm very appreciative to VCL for the opportunity to take on this ministry.



Easter Eggstravaganza 2014

Fun for Kids of All Ages



For more news and information from VCL check our website: www.evcl.org.

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Associate Pastor	Michael Mauriello
Ministries Administrator	Susan Eclov
Ministries Assistant	Jane Niederbrach
Pastoral Ministry Assistant	Guy Viti
Office Manager	Susan Beck
Custodian	Angela Fisher

Elders: Lee Eclov, Carl Johnson, Michael Mauriello, Chris McNiven, Jim Stamoilis, Jim Uren, and Raymond Wunderlich (chair)

May 2014

Getting Closer to Home by Pastor Lee Eclov

After thinking about it a long time our Elders concluded that no word captures the heart of Village Church any better than *home*. Last year we rewrote our Core Values to reflect this.

Recently we have been exploring ways we might visualize this identity in a new logo, our website, perhaps some redecorating of our foyer, and even the possibility of a garden along the bike path fronting our property. But the heart of our reason for this focus is found in the Bible. On Sunday mornings over the next two months we will look at passages of Scripture that shape our view of VCL as home.

The series, titled, "CHURCHHOME: Why Our Church Is Our First Family," began after Easter with two sermons on the moving story of the prodigal son and his elder brother. In the first sermon I said VCL's approach to evangelism is

this: "Found people make friends with lost people for Jesus' sake. We are God's agents of grace. When Jesus is with us and we're with lost people, they tend to get homesick."

Going forward we will talk about VCL as a refuge for "harassed and helpless" people and we will look at passages from Ephesians 4 and Galatians 6 that remind us of how our relationships within the church are to grow. On May 25 I will take you to meet a foreman working on Jerusalem's walls under the leadership of Nehemiah. Hardhats may be required. Of course, no series on home would be complete without a Sunday to celebrate our hope of heaven. As our Elders discussed this series we liked the idea of studying passages on how Jesus changed the homes he visited so the final three sermons in the series do just that.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting May 18

We gather on Sunday evening, May 18, at 6:30 p.m. for our semi-annual congregational meeting. While the agenda is not finalized at this writing, it is clear that we will spend time talking about our current emphasis on VCL as home and some of the ideas we're exploring to make that part of our identity more vivid. We will give you your first look at an exciting summer project: the Community Bible Experience. Our leaders will update you on finances and attendance so you have a good sense where we stand. We will conclude with time to pray together.

Ramping up Membership

Our Elders have noted that roughly half the adults at VCL are not members and we'd like to change that. We know that there are some good reasons why people aren't members: we don't emphasize membership very often, it is difficult for people to schedule the two Explorers' Classes required, and often, people just don't get around to it. Over the summer months we hope to personally encourage our non-members to consider this step. Essentially, all that is required is your personal testimony of faith in Christ and your affirmation of our Statement of Faith. More information is available at our website: evcl.org/membership/. The elders expect to offer Explorers' Classes in June.