



Daniel 6:10 "he went to his upper room, where the windows opened towards Jerusalem"

Keeping a window open towards God has always been my favorite metaphor for praying. In an article by David Peach, several "types" of prayer are identified in the Bible.

Thanksgiving

Philippians 4:6 and Colossians 4:2, Psalm 95 and 100 tell us to enter into the presence of God with thanksgiving. When Christ prayed He often gave thanks. Matthew 15:36; 26:26, 27; Luke 22:19

Supplication

Along with being thankful, Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6 that we should pray with supplication. This isn't just asking on behalf of others, supplication is more a prayer for oneself. Often the Psalms ask God for help in a particular area of life.

Intercessory

This is praying on behalf of others. "To intervene" means to get between two people, to speak on behalf of someone to another person. In the Bible "entreat" is used to mean "to beg or implore". Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1 that intercessory prayer should be given on behalf of all.

Imprecatory

This is a very surprising, even shocking type of prayer that is associated with King David. "To imprecate" means to curse or speak evil toward someone. David did not use it in a negative way but to show agreement with God's judgment and sovereignty over evil. Ps. 7, 35, 55, 58 and 59.

Public

In the book of Acts the disciples were involved in public prayer. In the first couple of chapters of Acts it seems that the church services were mainly made up of prayer. Then, as now, decisions should be accompanied by prayer. Acts 6:1-6 and 13:1-3.

Private

In Matthew 6:5, 6 the Lord tells His disciples to pray privately. We should not pray to show off our religiosity, or to make someone uncomfortable, or simply to be admired. The example that Christ uses is the hypocrites who pray out loud—and loudly—so that they can be seen by others. Mk 12:40. Private prayer is a time of personal relationship with the Lord.

Worship

A prayer of thanksgiving focuses on what God has done, the prayer of worship focuses on who God is. We see this in Jesus' model prayer for the disciples. He says to pray in worship and honor to who God is. Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

Consecration

This is a type of prayer used as a confirmation and dedication to the will of the Father. Matthew 26, Luke 22 and Mark 14. We use it at Communion, Baptism and Ordination.

Faith

James 5:15 states that the prayer of faith will heal the sick. When our prayers are in line with God's will, we can have confidence that the Lord will answer.

Communicating with God

Relationships grow over time and are nurtured by openness, trust, sharing and honesty. Take some time each day just to talk with God. I say "with God" not "to God" because it is a two way street and listening is just as important as speaking. Otherwise you may never hear God's answer.

Philippians 4:6 "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
- John Dillon

MEET YOUR DEACON

WENDY SANDERS

Wendy has been a member of RCLPC for 17 years. She and her family live in Crystal Lake, but she grew up in Belvedere, Illinois. Do you remember what you liked to do in the summertime when you were growing up? Well, Wendy liked being outdoors and playing with friends. Just like most of us, she liked tag, baseball, frisbee, and hide & seek. While in school she loved art class, and continued her education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in fine arts and then continuing to earn her Master's in early childhood education (one of her proudest accomplishments). She began college with a strong interest in photography, but her senior year she was introduced to ceramics and loved it. Her working career included being a preschool teacher, which was her favorite job, and also being a hotel housekeeper, which was her worst job. She hopes she will be remembered as "the best mom, wife, sister, and friend that I could be."



Wendy's Deacon families:

Jim & Carol Iddings

Scott & Jodi Iddings & children

Dave, Allison & Anna Larsen

Allison & Arne Lee & children

Todd & Amy LeFevre & children

Rich & Lynn Miller

Cindy & Andrew Nichols

Elizabeth & Frank Novak & children

Chris & Janet Pickett

Rick & Laurie Pohl

Dave & Deb Steele

Bill & Sally Weller



Hope College

Wind Ensemble Concert

The Hope College Wind Ensemble will be performing a FREE concert on Monday March 21st at 7pm at Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church. Hope College is a liberal arts college located in Holland, Michigan. The Hope College Wind Ensemble is the premier wind group on campus. They perform a wide variety of music, from standard works, to cutting edge twentieth century works, to chamber pieces. The band is under the direction of Dr. Gabe Southard who is the head of the instrumental division at Hope College. Join us for a lovely evening of music!

Offering of Letters

March 13, 2016

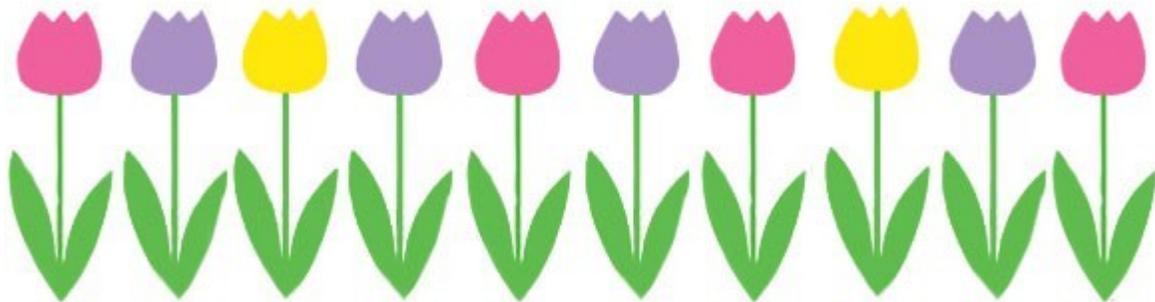
You are invited to join thousands of Christians from all over the United States as we focus on women and young children in developing countries for this year's Offering of Letters. The majority of subsistence farmers in rural areas of Asia, Africa, and Latin America are women, and their families often live on the edge. Hunger and malnutrition may rob the children of opportunities for a healthy life. Come to Fellowship Hall before or after worship on Sunday, March 13, to use pen and paper to urge Congress to reform food aid and improve nutrition for mothers and children.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER BASKET MISSION PROJECT

During Lent we prepare our hearts and minds for holy week and Easter Sunday. It is also a time for our annual church wide mission project of collecting donations for Easter baskets for families of Home of the Sparrow. The Sunday school children need your help with filling the baskets. In addition to needing baskets, ideas for donations are: candy, snacks, fast food gift cards, reading/coloring books, markers/crayons, card games, small toys, puzzles, bubbles, jump ropes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. **No Easter grass is needed.** The children's Sunday school classes will be helping to put the baskets together and fill eggs on Palm Sunday, so donations are needed **by Wednesday, March 16th.** With compassion and generosity, RCLPC has always met the challenge.

There are approximately **48 children** and their ages range from seven months to 16 years old. There are presently **21 moms** and I am sure they would love some lotions, shower gels, shampoo, etc., along with \$10.00 gift cards for (Target, Wal-Mart, etc.).

Thank you so much for your consideration in helping with this wonderful mission project and for helping to make a joy filled Easter for the Home of the Sparrow families. Donations can be dropped off in the box across from the office and gift cards can be placed in my mailbox near the stairs. Monetary donations can be dropped in the offering plate and marked "Easter Baskets" and will be used to purchase items for the baskets. Any questions, feel free to contact Karen Nelson at nelvenska55@sbcglobal.net or 815/477-4862. On behalf of the children's Sunday school classes, thank you in advance for your compassion and generosity. RCLPC has always met the challenge.



Shop and Raise Money at the Same Time!

Help raise money for our PADS lunches by ordering Scrip gift cards. Order Scrip cards from the stores you shop every day for groceries, gas, clothes and more. It is so easy, pick up an order form on the bulletin board in the Connecting Link, fill it out and leave the form with a check to RCLPC and "Scrip" on the memo line in the Scrip mail box at the front door and you will receive your cards in about a week or two. We will contact you when they arrive. The next deadline dates for ordering are...Sunday, March 20th and April 24th. Thank you!

Deacon Fund Needs Funds!

Did you know that the Deacons have an Emergency Fund? This is a very special fund that allows us to provide money to members of the RCLPC congregation who are experiencing an unusual, one-time-only, immediate need for financial help. The Emergency Fund depends upon donations and/or fundraising; no money for this fund comes from the RCLPC budget.

Recently, the Deacons have had the pleasure of supporting a congregational member with money from our Emergency Fund! It's gratifying both for us to be able to help and for our members to be able to benefit from this fund. Because we have nearly depleted the money in the Emergency Fund, it needs to be replenished. Please prayerfully consider making a monetary contribution to this fund. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please write "Deacon Emergency Fund" on the memo line of your check. The Deacons thank you, those who have benefited from the fund in the past thank you, and those who may have a need in the future thank you!



Notes from Building and Grounds:

We now have new bulletin board space to use. Please, do not post notices using scotch tape on painted surfaces as it peels the paint when removed. Jenny has the reusable sticky tabs in the copy room cupboard for your use.

We have a couple of new roof leaks, and the one in the women's bathroom soaked the ceiling tiles to the point of failure. We have the new ceiling to install on hand, but we need 50 degree or warmer weather to first reseal the flat roofs above the connecting link and choir rooms.

If you notice something that needs attention around the building or grounds, please fill out a work order request and put it in Bob Grecco's mailbox.

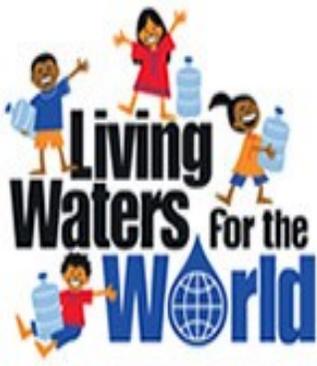
**Reminder*

April Spirit articles due

April 1st! (no foolin'!)

Session Highlights February 22, 2016

- Rev. John Dillon Moderator
- Approved 2015 Financial Audit report
- Approved Session Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2016
- Approved Congregation Meeting Minutes from January 31 2016
- Approved and accepted with regret the resignation of Session Ruling Elder Linda Schweers
- Reviewed and discussed 2016 January financial report
- Approved Men's Group Easter Breakfast Fundraiser
- Approved Youth Group Fundraiser
- Approved Living Waters of the World Covenant revision
- Discussed New Beginnings small group review of information generated by all small groups from the 6 sessions
- Next meeting March 28, 2016



Living Waters Update

Living Waters for the World partners with churches and communities in need of a sustainable, affordable solution for providing clean, safe water. “Partnering” means an association on an equal footing with someone else.

The Living Waters team has found that this partnering project with Belén church provides us with a means to serve and to share the compassion and love of Jesus with our neighbors, even though they are thousands of miles away.

The people of RCLPC have partnered in many ways since this project was approved in June 2015. You have offered encouragement and prayers; you’ve shared your talents in arts, organization, and creative ideas; you’ve supported the project financially. In so doing, you are partners in this joint project for clean water.

Income through December 2015 for this project was received from:

Dinner theater	\$555
Blackhawk Presbytery grant	\$3300
“God Calls” Christmas fundraiser	\$2658
Miscellaneous donations	\$215

The system itself has been funded through RCLPC donations, but other expenses will include piping and plumbing supplies, water tanks, 5-gallon bottles, tools, replacement filters, transportation in Guatemala, the services of a Living Waters coordinator and translator, education materials, and installation/operation manuals. The traveling team self-funds its airfare and insurance, plus meals and lodging in Guatemala.

While donations are always welcome, an additional opportunity is planned for April. Fiesta Agua Viva will be held on Saturday, April 23, from 4-7pm. A family-friendly open house to be held in Fellowship Hall, the Fiesta will ring with music, games for children, and Latin American food. No fee will be charged, but donations are welcome. Bring children, friends, and neighbors to celebrate clean water.

Do you have something you could offer for a silent auction at the Fiesta? Look for the sign-up in the Gathering Place, and add your name to the list!

As part of this church mission project, please join us as ongoing partners in prayer:

- for the needs and hopes of the Belén church
- for the Belén water committee members who will make many decisions
- for the Belén system operators and teachers
- for the RCLPC team that will travel in July to Jerez.

We praise you, God, for the part you seek us to play, for the ministries into which you invite us, for the situations that allow us to share good news.

