

“The goal of instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Because they missed this goal, some people have been distracted by talk that doesn’t mean anything. They want to be teachers of Law without understanding either what they are saying or what they are talking about with such confidence.” First Timothy 1:5-7

When it comes to the Bible and theology I really enjoy learning new approaches and theories. I also love it when I can share what I have learned with someone who comes to me with a question. Especially if they have previously been hurt or made to feel inadequate for even having questions or not “knowing things” in a previous study group or discussion. It has happened to me and to be belittled rather than lovingly informed is disrespectful and harsh.

One of the subjects I most often hear questions about is “Predestination”. Usually and wrongly explained as “God has arranged everything in advance and your future in this world and the next is already pre-planned and pre-decided”. If that is true: why do we have free will? Why bother to be a good person if God has already pre-planned that you will be going to heaven?

The term was introduced by John Calvin, when at the ripe old age of 27, he published the First edition of his massive and even today, hugely influential “The Institutes of Christian Religion”.

First and foremost Calvin believed in the Sovereignty of God. Not in the sense of God fore-ordains and pre-determines what will happen, but in the sense that God is everywhere and knows everything. A situation he defined as “God has foreknowledge”. Therefore your faith does not have to be ruled by doubt and fear. Rather, for Calvin, it was a Doctrine of comfort. In all situations we are in God’s hands and receive God’s grace, so there is nothing in this world, or the next, to fear.

Civil War Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, a Presbyterian and an ardent Calvinist, was noted for his strong unflappable nature, especially in the heat of battle. When questioned he said “My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God alone already knows when and where I shall die, it is not mine to fear or worry over.”

George Washington believed “all people are constantly under God’s watchful, benevolent eye.” He was taught to call it God’s Providence. At 22, with four bullet holes in his coat, and having had two horses shot from under him, Washington emerged from a battle near Pittsburg, without a single scratch. “Twas God’s Providence.”

Calvin taught that we can’t blame our bad decisions on God, and God certainly did not make us do it. However, like a wise parent watching their child face a challenge, God “knew” which decision we would make. Not control, but understanding and love added to forgiveness.

Our sovereign God is in control and is offering us the gift of grace. That is a promise we can hold on to. - Pastor John

Rummage SALE

The RCLPC 2016 Rummage Sale is off and running! Thank you so much to our dedicated leaders who have stepped up and volunteered to help make this year's sale bigger and better than ever!

It won't happen, though, without all of you! We need your items, and your time to help with sorting, pricing, and working the days of the sale. Please check the fellowship bulletin boards for sign up sheets. We appreciate any time you can give us.

As you begin to put aside your dedicated items, please remember we will not accept ANY electronics, such as TV's, camera's, printers, fax's, etc. We also ask, that you make sure small kitchen appliances are clean and in working order.

Remember, Rummage Sale dates are Friday, June 3 (9-3) and Sat. June 4 (9-12). Donations will be accepted in Fellowship Hall from May 23 – May 30. We will also have a truck available to pick up large furniture items on Saturday, May 28.

Stay tuned for further details these next few weeks in Sunday bulletins. Thank you so much for your support, we look forward to a great event!

Mary Finch, Marge Stewart, Linda Schweers



Need Help With A RCLPC Special Event?

Did you know that one of the Deacon responsibilities is to assist with the coordination of special events? New Member welcoming receptions, receptions for confirmands, hosting the Presbytery meeting, and the Hope College concert are a few examples of special events at RCLPC that we can help with. Deacon Dan Newman is available to aid in such things as finding ushers, getting volunteers to help serve or greet, or perhaps ordering a cake or corsages. If you need helping hands for an event you're organizing at RCLPC, or you would like to volunteer to help, Dan can be reached at 815-337-1906, or dmnewman1@att.net.

*Remember! Next Spirit deadline is
April 29th*



VBS is Coming Back to RCLPC!

The RCLPC VBS will be grabbing surfboards and heading to the beach to Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love at Surf Shack! Kids get 'amped' to learn that God creates, helps, loves, calms, and sends them. On this ride, kids are reminded that the Lord is great and awesome as they experience both Old and New Testament passages that point them to the attributes of their Heavenly Father. Dates are June 13-17. Registration forms can be found on our website or in the office. Questions? Contact Pam Palmer or check out the VBS section of our website (located under the Education tab).



Easter Basket Abundance

On behalf of the Sunday school children, I want to extend a huge thank you with gratitude and appreciation for your generosity with the Home of the Sparrow Easter Basket Mission Project. Each year RCLPC is challenged with a number of families that we are trying to provide for and each year I am overwhelmed by your generosity. RCLPC is the small church with a big heart! With your generous donations we were able to amply fill 52 children's baskets and 22 mom baskets. Along with the baskets, each family received two gift cards. Thank you for helping to give the families of Home of the Sparrow a blessed Easter.

Be a Summer Sunday School Hero!

The children's regular Sunday school program will be ending on May 22nd for the school year. Summer Sunday school will be offered during the months of June and July. However, volunteers are needed to sign-up to teach on each of the Sundays. The dates needing volunteer leaders are: June 5th, June 12th, June 19th, June 26th, July 10th, July 17th, July 24th, and July 31st. No experience needed. Curriculum and games will be provided for you.

Summer Sunday school is a great way to get connected with our youth as they learn about God's love. Grades included are preschool through fifth grade. Please consider taking one of the dates in the Summer. There will be a sheet on the sign-up board. Questions, call Karen Nelson at 815/477-4862 or email nelsvenska55@sbcglobal.net. Thanks.



Farewell and Good Luck

Session, with regret, has accepted the resignation of Matt Brown from his position as Youth Director. Matt's last day will be Sunday April 10th. I know we will all miss our favorite "energy bunny" and all that enthusiasm and bounce! Deep thanks are owed to him for all the work he has done with our children and youth and for the profound effect he has had on their faith and knowledge. Please join us to say God Bless and Best Wishes to Matt & Jessica Brown in Fellowship hall at 10:00 am, Sunday April 10th.



Palestinian Olive Oil

The new shipment of Palestinian olive oil is here! We have 750 ml bottles for \$20 and 500 ml bottles for \$15. Try it with Za'atar (thyme herb mix). Za'atar is \$5 a package. Enjoy the delicious taste and the pleasure of helping Palestinian farmers. Look for it in Fellowship Hall near the Fair Trade Coffee cart.

Pizza Pizza

Enjoy Lou Malnati's pizza for lunch and/or dinner on April 12th, Tuesday to support Good Samaritan Ministry, the short-term financial help to Crystal



Lake people with Emergency needs. Coupons in connecting link or contact Karen Hutchings; 815.236.6340

Karen.hutchings991@gmail.com
Good cause and delicious pizza.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

A few good RCLPCers needed to help at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry on Saturday, April 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you work or are in school during the week, here is your opportunity to spend a few hours doing some good in the world. We need about 5 or 6 volunteers and you can spend as little as one hour up to the full four hours. We need your help. Call Nancy Vazzano 815-477-5301 to volunteer or for more information. Guaranteed to warm your heart.





Another Incredible Event for the Women of RCLPC

On Sunday, April 17, please join us at noon when chef Andrea Pracht will be offering a class on pressure cooking (and it is not your mother's pressure cooker experience!). Not only will Andrea be presenting an informative cooking class, but she will also be offering a light lunch which will include her delicious homemade bread. Even if you have retired from cooking, please join us for a fun afternoon and a wonderful meal. Sign up is available in our new Sign Up Center by the church office. Questions? Contact Kathy Rabe, 815-455-6436.

1+Options

The newly created 1+Options Group for single members and friends of RCLPC had their first outing. We went to Fritzl's, a top rated German Restaurant in Lake Zurich. About 15 members attended with much laughter and fellowship. The next of our monthly outings is to the Chicago Botanical Garden on Tuesday, April 26th. Plans include a tram ride around the Botanical Gardens and lunch at a restaurant. More details will follow. If you are interested in knowing more about the 1+Options group call Sue Neuschel at 815-356-7041.



Scrip

funny word...easy fundraising

When ordering Scrip gift cards you are raising funds for our PADS lunches! Order Scrip cards and use them when doing your everyday shopping for gas, clothes, groceries, gifts and more. Fill out order forms from the board in Fellowship Hall and attach your check with Scrip on the memo line. Place it in the Scrip mailbox at the front door and down the steps. We will e-mail you when the cards arrive which is usually about 2-3 weeks. Thank you for supporting PAD lunches. Next deadline is April 24th.



Compassion, Peace and Justice Team

Our purpose is to advocate for justice in various areas of life and for peaceful solutions to conflict. These goals are addressed through study and prayer, offering educational opportunities, informing the congregation about current issues, and working with other faith groups. In all undertakings, the example of Jesus' life, his compassion for God's world and his passion for justice, should guide the team's efforts.

Our CPJ Team meets in the library on Monday, at 7 PM, in odd-numbered months. Our next meeting is May 2. Currently we are working on organizing a visit by Rev. Cesar Carhuachin; Living Waters for the World; Fossil-Free Divestment Overture; The Illinois Budget impasse and its impact on people with disabilities; and adult education opportunities. If these issues are an interest area for you, please join us.



Join the Human Race! Bring friend!

5K Walk/Run on Sunday, April 24 at 8 AM
at MCC Sign up on the bulletin board across
from the church office, \$40 registration fee
made payable to VCMC (Volunteer Center
McHenry County). For information, call
Mary Finch, 815-653-0596 or go
online www.mchumanrace.org



Celebrate Creation

Join us in the hallways of RCLPC on April
10th for the Green Living Fair from 10-
11am. The folks at RCLPC have lots of
ideas for greening your life! Eco-cooking,
composting, decluttering, fair trade prod-
ucts, energy efficient lighting, farmers
market, sustainable investing,
Conservation@Home, and much more.

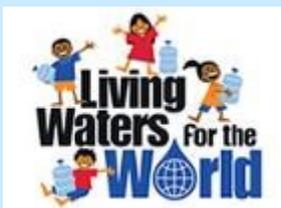


"Fiesta Agua Viva"

A Celebration for Clean Water
Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4-7pm
Fellowship Hall

Support this mission of RCLPC at an open
house featuring:

- musical entertainment
- games for children
- silent auction
- and Latin American food!



Celebrate Creation!

Earth Care Classes
Sundays ~ April 3 - 24
10:00 Education Hour

*God saw everything God had made,
and indeed, it was very good.*
Genesis 1:31A

The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. We celebrate the marvels of God's creation ~ right here, close to home.

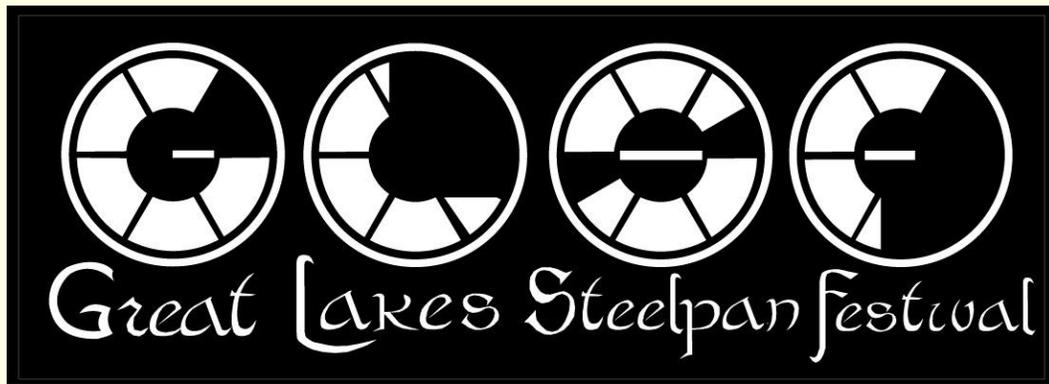
Several classes have been planned for the Sundays in April. Please join us if you are free at that time. You are welcome to come to whichever topics interest you -- come to one or all!

April 17 Birds of McHenry County

Doug and Maggie Crane, familiar RCLPC faces and leaders in McHenry County Audubon Society, will introduce us to birds found right here in our county. Come get acquainted with our feathered residents.

April 24 Responsible Gardening: Today's Issues and Opportunities. David Woodruff, often found singing tenor in the choir, will discuss ways we can improve our impact on our environment through our gardening practices.

~ Sponsored by the Earth Care Team



*Annual Music Festival in Chicagoland Returns to Crystal Lake The
Largest Event of its Kind - April 9, 2016*

Local Chicago Music Award Winner welcomes acclaimed international performers to Crystal Lake on April 9, 2016. Artists will be traveling from Seattle (Gary Gibson), West Virginia (Dr. Ellie Mannede) and as far as Denmark (Gregory Boyd) to perform along side Chicago Music Award Winner Potts & Pans. At this one day only festival, attendees will have the opportunity to hear groups from across the midwest form a 60+ piece band to perform throughout the day with the featured artists. There is no other festival of this nature and magnitude in the area, and it only comes once a year.

Crystal Lake, IL - April 9, 2016 - <http://www.steelpanfestival.com> - Great Lakes Steelpan Festival is coming back to Hannah Beardsley Middle School in Crystal Lake, IL on April 9, 2016. The festival is open to all music lovers and starts with free performances at 9:00 am and concludes with an evening concert starting at 8:00 pm.

GLSF16 is the only music festival in Chicagoland specializing in the steelpan, the musical instrument from the caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago, also commonly called the steel drum. Throughout the day at GLSF16, attendees will hear music ranging from classical to calypso and even original compositions that were commissioned specifically for this festival. The event is hosted by the Woodstock based 501(c)(3) organization, Culture, Arts & Music (<http://www.cultureartsmusic.org>).

The 2016 Great Lakes Steelpan Festival (GLSF16) will be bringing together performers and educators from 6 states across the US, Trinidad and Tobago, and Denmark. Guest artists include Dr. Ellie Mannede, Gary Gibson, Gregory Boyd, and Potts & Pans Steelband. GLSF16 is packed with free performances and educational workshops starting at 9 am and an evening concert starting at 8 pm. From steelpan aficionados to casual music lovers alike, GLSF16 is sure to deliver lasting memories and leave attendees yearning for next year. No matter what prior exposure audience members have had to the steelpan, GLSF16 will make every person in the room think a little differently about the instrument and what it is capable of. For more information about the festival, contact information or to purchase tickets at a reduced price, please visit <http://www.steelpanfestival.com>.

About Great Lakes Steelpan Festival Great Lakes Steelpan Festival was created to fill the void in top level steelpan performances and educational events in the midwest. Imagined by two midwest panists, that decided to start GLSF in order to create a closer option for bands like theirs, after meeting in Virginia for a different festival. Media Contact: Matt Potts * 815-245-3624 * info@steelpanfestival.com

Living Waters for the World Update

The RCLPC Living Waters for the World team is planning to install the water treatment system in Jerez, Guatemala, July 9-16, 2016. We are pleased to announce that Mary Finch, David and Cindy Theobald, Ann Legg, and Ed Waters have chosen to join us on our trip. Mary, Ann, and Cindy will help Rick Johnson as educators. Ed and David will help Jac Kelewae with the installation. Lois Johnson and Sarah Kelewae will be working with the business side of the clean water distribution and will be training the water committee.



We invite everyone to join us for “Fiesta Aqua Viva,” a celebration for clean water and a fund raiser for the water installation trip on **Saturday, April 23** from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall. We will have musical entertainment, games for children, Latin American food, and a silent auction. Donations will be accepted at the Fiesta or can be mailed to the church. *Please make checks out to RCLPC and put Living Waters in the memo.* All donations are tax deductible.

We are grateful for the support of people in the community who are contributing to the Fiesta. However, we still need people to act as greeters, floaters, servers, and auction helpers, In addition, we need help with set-up, clean-up, and making desserts. We encourage you to check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place and find a way that you can help, too.



Session Highlights - February 22, 2016

- Rev. John Dillon Moderator.
- Audit team report, suggestions being implemented.
- Request received for reference for Richard Floyd, delegated to Scott Iddings.
- Finance team, income holding steady, spending down, broke even first two months.
- Decision to hold one service at 10:00 a.m. on July 3, 2016.
- Training of ushers, liturgists and greeters in planning stages, hope also to recruit.
- Matthew Brown resignation accepted with regret. John will prepare announcement. for congregation and invite all to reception at 10:00 on April 10th.
- CLFD inspection resulted in one infraction, a non-operating sensor. Walter Alarm has fixed the issue and this has been reported to the fire department.
- Building and Grounds to wait until temps average over 50 degrees to repair roof leaks.
- Volunteers requested to take part in “Human Race”. Steve to use \$1,500 of dedicated account for “scholarships” to give financial assistance to individuals in need to join LWW trip to Guatemala.
- Received invitation to Passover at McHenry County Jewish Congregation April 23rd.
- Invitation to attend Rabbi Marilee’s retirement party Sunday June 5th, Clerk to send letter of congratulations on retirement and thanking her for close ties between synagogue and RCLPC.
- Approved the call of a RCLPC Congregational meeting on May 1, 2016 at 11:00, (with one worship service at 10:00 a.m.) for the purpose of electing Ruling elders, elect Session Youth Elder, elect Deacons, elect Audit Committee Member, elect Nominating Committee Members, elect JCB Endowment Members.
- Next meeting April 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in RCLPC lounge.