

MARCH 2018

the Outlook

A NEWSLETTER OF ORLAND PARK CHURCH

THIS ISSUE

DEACONS' CORNER

page 2

PRESCHOOL NEWS

page 3

STEWARDSHIP SHORTS

page 4

CHOIR NOTES

page 5

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

page 6

CALENDAR

page 7



*C'mon out for,
a knee-slappin'
good time!*

**YOUTH GROUP
THEME DINNER**

**MARCH 10, 2018
6:00 PM**

SIGN UP IN THE OUTER LOBBY



Don't forget to check out our church website for more news and information!

www.orlandchurch.com

Deacons' Corner

MARCH OFFERING SCHEDULE

March 4: World Renew Disaster Response Service | worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services

World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) brings hope to disaster-affected communities in North America by restoring homes and lives of those who are most vulnerable. Their mission is to show God's love, help communities recover, and provide Christians the opportunity to honor the Lord by serving others. DRS carries out their mission through services at every stage of recovery, in partnership with other organizations and volunteers.

March 11: Calvin Seminary | www.calvinseminary.edu

Calvin Theological Seminary is a learning community in the Reformed Christian tradition that forms church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1876, Calvin Theological Seminary (CTS) is the oldest denominational ministry and the sole theological seminary of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. A majority of ordained ministers who serve in CRCNA congregations have received their primary theological education at CTS. With a focus on preparing students for biblical, authentic, contextual, and life-changing ministry rooted in historic Christianity, CTS provides a foundation that connects the best of the Reformed tradition with the contemporary ministry practices essential for tomorrow's leaders.

March 18: Bethany Christian Services | www.bethany.org

Bethany Christian Services is a global nonprofit organization that brings families together and keeps families together. Bethany is recognized as a prominent leader in social services worldwide, and is the largest adoption agency in the U.S. Services include adoption, foster care, pregnancy counseling, counseling to families, and assist refugees and immigrants resettling in the U.S. Founded in 1944, Bethany's mission is to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

March 25: InterVarsity | Tim/Martha Lin

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty. They minister to students and faculty through small group Bible studies, large gatherings on campus, leadership training, thoughtful discipleship and life-changing conferences and events. Tim and Martha Lin are campus missionaries working with InterVarsity in the Kansas area overseeing the development of a staff team working on 7 campuses: University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Johnson County Community College, Maple Woods Community College, Longview Community College, Rockhurst University, and Cottey College. You can find their blog here: ivkansas.wordpress.com.

March 30 (Good Friday): Roseland Christian Ministries | www.roselandchristianministires.org

RCM is dedicated to serving the Roseland community through service, work, worship, and fellowship. Ministries include the Food Pantry, Women and Children's Shelter Ministry, Thrift Store, Homes Renewal, The Van Zanten Center to serve meals and have gatherings, and Roseland Christian Reformed Church. It is important and necessary to reach out to a community in need because it is what Jesus commanded. "Whatever you do for the least of these you do for me".

Preschool News

-Ruth Baas, Preschool Director

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN FOCUS ON HEARTS AND LOVE IN FEBRUARY

An important pre-reading skill for preschool children is the recognition of shapes. At Orland Park Christian Preschool, we focus on one shape in each of the 9 months throughout the school year. If you were to take a walk down the preschool hall on a Sunday morning, you would see a large sign that hangs on the wall year-round titled "Fun With Shapes." Young children need hands-on learning experiences and lots of repetition. That is why the teachers in preschool plan an art activity of some kind each month that highlights the shape of the month.

During the month of February, the art work in our hall displays some fun heart creatures that the children had the opportunity to create. (See photos.) Hearts were used to make fish, spiders, cats, caterpillars, foxes, lions, and more!

We also took the opportunity to focus on the meaning of the heart shape and the importance of remembering that hearts represent love – love for God and love for our classmates, friends, and families. It certainly is a privilege to teach the young children about God's love for them. Our Bible memory verse for the month came from 1 John 4:7. The children practiced saying this verse every day at snack time: "Dear children, let us love one another, for love comes from God." Because we have God's love in our hearts, we can share that love with our friends. That's why we give out Valentine hearts to each other.

Our extended day children had the opportunity to share God's love with a friend of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church. They hand-painted a Valentine card for Clair Laning, our praise-team electric guitar player who has been in the hospital since a tragic motor accident over a year ago. When this story was shared with the children, they were eager to let Clair know we were thinking about him and praying for him. One of our children even shared the story at home, and came to school

the next day with a special Valentine for Clair from his family! What important lessons to learn at this young age. Praise God for the freedom and the opportunity to teach about God's love every day at Orland Park Christian Preschool!



SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION FOR FALL, 2018!

Orland Park Christian Preschool held its annual open houses on January 28 and 30. The opportunity was given to see what a Christian preschool is all about and register for the Fall, 2018 classes. It is always a pleasure to share the mission and goals for offering early childhood education as a ministry of Orland Park Christian Reformed Church with church and community families. It is also a great opportunity to answer questions that parents have about our school.

We enjoyed having some new families of three- and four-year-old children visit us, and most of these attendees have registered their children for the fall. We were also thrilled to have so many of

the parents of our current three-year-old children sign them up for the four-year-old class that will begin in the fall. The September, 2018 four-year-old class is almost full at this time already! There is a good possibility that we will open an afternoon-only session on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for this age group. The September, 2018 three-year-old class is also off to a good start – just as good as last year at this time. With six months to go before the new school year, we are in a good place to welcome new families to our school as they inquire over the spring and summer months. Praise God with us that He is working in and through Orland Park Christian Preschool to plant seeds of faith and learning in many children and their families. Thank you very much for your prayers for and your support of this ministry.

STEWARDSHIP SHORTS

STEWARDSHIP: AN ACT OF GRATITUDE

The theme for our church this year is **gratitude**. In keeping with that theme, the following is an article found on the internet that shows us that stewardship and gratitude go hand in hand.

Most people are aware of the concept of stewardship: recognizing everything we have is a gift from God, being grateful, developing our God-given gifts and generously sharing those gifts with others. Gifts are typically categorized as time, talents, and treasure.

But how do we practice this in everyday life?

TIME: Invest in your prayer life

- Pray to God frequently, throughout the day, every day.
- Talk to God and listen to Him.
- Prioritize the 24 hours a day you have been given; don't waste precious time on things that don't add value to your life.

TALENT: Willingness to help others

- Participate in parish ministries and other charitable organizations.
- Be responsible for helping others, especially those in need.

TREASURE: Generosity with your financial gifts

- Generously return a portion of the money you have been given by God.
- Give cheerfully without expecting anything in return. No gift is too small or insignificant.

Stewardship isn't an exclusive club. We are all stewards. Living stewardship requires a conversion – a change that softens our hearts and makes room for the Holy Spirit to enter.

Living a **STEWARDSHIP LIFESTYLE:**

- Takes time; takes prayer
- Is difficult – demands placing God first in all things
- Means taking risks – detaching ourselves from our time, possessions and money – placing our trust in God

You are invited to follow this path and invite one other person – *just one* – to do the same!

Stewardship requires action. The action of past generations is what built the church. It is our responsibility to develop and nurture our gifts for the future generations. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary."

Stewardship isn't easy, but it has tremendous rewards: love, peace, and joy on earth and eternal life in heaven.

QUESTION: When you stand before God and He asks what you have done with the gifts he has given you, how will you respond?



**NEW ADULT
EDUCATION SERIES
BEGINS SUNDAY,
MARCH 4, 9:45 AM
YOUTH CENTER**

Join us beginning on January 29 at 9:45 for this seven-week study led by Dave Kamp. How should Christians live? The church of Jesus Christ should be a distinctive community of God's people—but how different are we, really, from the rest of the world? Join us on a journey to discover what it means to be a light shining in the darkness.

Choir Notes

PALM SUNDAY CHOIR CANTATA

"WE REMEMBER CALVARY"

MARCH 25 | 6:00 PM

-Carol Vroom



During the season of Lent, we reflect on our Savior and his journey to the cross. As we remember Calvary, let us reflect on the character of our Savior; His servant nature, His submission to His Father's will, His suffering, and His sacrifice on the cross. As we remember Calvary, let us fix our eyes on the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

As we remember Calvary, let us reflect on the empty cross and the empty tomb. "Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through your selfless love. This the power of the cross, Son of God slain for us. What a love! what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross." As we remember Calvary, let us worship the Risen Christ! Worthy is the Lamb! Holy is He!

"We Remember Calvary" is a choral work which includes scripture, narration and congregational hymn singing. We are excited to have the Sunday School children participate as well.

Please join us in worship and praise to Calvary's Lamb!

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2



**CHICAGO CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL
100 YEAR
CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

Chicago Christian High School will celebrate 100 years of God's faithfulness on Friday, April 20, from 6-10 pm at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located at 18501 Convention Center Drive in Tinley Park.

To register for the event, please visit www.swchristian.org/100thanniversary. This is a free event and there will be an opportunity to make a donation. Registration is required to attend. You can register for one, or as many as ten individuals at a time (seating is by table of 10). There will be assigned seating, so if you would like to sit with specific individuals, you need to register together as one table.

Join us for a special night of celebrating God's faithfulness through all generations. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Bergeson at jbergeson@swchristian.org.

Orland Park Church Family News

THANK YOU!

Thank you for cards and expressions of sympathy I received I the recent passing of my sister, Annette Hulford. It's good to be part of a caring church family.
-Marvin Vis

CONGRATS!

Congrats to **Jon and Emily Waterlander** (currently at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho) who rejoice in the birth of a healthy girl, Annika Ruth, born on February 12. Give thanks for this precious gift from God!

SYMPATHIES

Florence Buikema passed away on January 30. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband, **Ralph Buikema**, and their family, to her brother, **John De Boer**, and also to brother-in-law, **Andrew Buikema**, and his wife, **Margaret**.

Annette Hulford passed away unexpectedly on February 11 at Victorian Village. We express our deepest sympathy to her children, to her brother Marv Vis, and to the members of her extended family.

We extend our sympathy to **Wilma and Jerry Jager** and **Carolyn Sales**, as they mourn the loss of Wilma and Carolyn's mother, Viola Zaagman, who passed on February 15.

Art Sluis passed away on February 19 at the age of 90. We extend our deepest sympathy to his sister, **Jessie Alderden**. May the Lord grant his loving comfort.

May the Lord grant his loving comfort to all these individuals during this difficult time of loss.

Happy Birthday

Cal Drenth
80 years
March 6

Ida Boss
90 years
March 7

Bill Bronsema
82 years
March 7

Pete Greendyke
81 years
March 10

Raymond Iwema
84 years
March 15

Bill Terborg
81 years
March 21

Elsie Van Drie
83 years
March 23

Arlene De Horn
81 years
March 23

Geraldine Hooker
87 years
March 30

Marlene Vos
80 years
March 31

Happy Anniversary

Ray & Betty Kerkstra
March 8 | 61 years

Harlan & Linda Fissel
March 8 | 10 years

Don & Ruth Huisenga
March 16 | 45 years

Ken & Barb Siegers
March 19 | 30 years

Hank & Doris Doorn
March 28 | 60 years

John & Linda Riley
March 31 | 40 years

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember these people in prayer who are recovering from recent hospitalizations, who are shut-ins, or who are dealing with other health problems.

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Jessie Alderden | Bob Hofstra | George Linde- | Al Siegers |
| Jim Boerema | Jeffrey Kamp | mulder | Steve Summers |
| Andrew Buikema | Marty Kuiken | Erling Ouwerkerk | Tom Thompson |
| Earl Engh | Clair Laning | Donna Rosendale | Carol Van Kuiken |
| Ruth Engh | Jennifer Leo | George Schaaf | |

To request prayer or give thanks for answered prayers, please send your request by email to prayer@oprc.org or contact the church office at (708) 532-4900.

MARCH 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Submissions for the April issue of the <i>Outlook</i> are due on Sunday, March 11. Please send to Denise Vander Plaats at denise@opcrc.org or drop off in the office.</p> </div> | | | | 1 Coffee Time With Pastor Derek (Victorian Village) 9:00 am Oasis 12:30 pm | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Choir, Sunday School, Adult Ed 9:45 am Missions 4:30 pm Cadet Sunday Service 6:00 pm Ice Cream Social 7:00 pm | 5 Women in the Word 9:30 am Women in the Word 7:00 pm | 6 | 7 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 am Coffee Break 9:45 am Theme Dinner Rehearsal 7:00 pm | 8 Car Ministry 7:00 pm | 9 | 10 THEME DINNER 6:00 pm |
| 11 Choir, Sunday School, Adult Ed 9:45 am God's Posse Topic Night 7:00 pm | 12 Women in the Word 9:30 am Women in the Word 7:00 pm Christ & Culture 7:00 pm | 13 Admin Elders 7:00 pm | 14 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 am Coffee Break 9:45 am Cadets/GEMS 6:30 pm | 15 Oasis 12:30 pm Preschool Dad & Me Night 6:45 pm | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Choir, Sunday School, Adult Ed 9:45 am College Lunch 12:00 pm Youth Group LOFT 7:00 pm | 19 Women in the Word 9:30 am Women in the Word 7:00 pm | 20 Admin Elders 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7:30 Shepherding Elders/Deacons 8:00 pm | 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 am Coffee Break 9:45 am | 22 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm God's Posse Movie Night 7:00 pm | 23 | 24 Choir Rehearsal 8:00 am |
| PALM SUNDAY 25 Sunday School, Adult Ed 9:45 am Choir 4:00 pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Choir Cantata 6:00 pm</div> | 26 | 27 Ladies' Craft Night 5:00 pm | 28 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6:30 am Coffee Break 9:45 am Coffee & Comfort 1:00 pm Cadets/GEMS 6:30 pm Orphan Ministry 7:00 pm | 29 | 30 <i>Church Offices Closed</i> GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 pm | 31 |