



Palm Sunday March 28
9 & 11AM

Good Friday April 2
7:30PM

Easter Sunday April 4 at 9 & 11AM

RSVP EARLY
OVERFLOW AVAILABLE

As we approach the Easter season and Holy Week (March 28-April 4), we hope you use this time of the year for personal moments of worship reflecting on the incredible sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross for us. Over the next several weeks, we encourage all of you to read through the Gospel accounts leading up to Jesus' death on the cross, burial and resurrection. As you do, God's Word will prepare your heart to corporately celebrate and worship our Glorious King and Victorious Savior. The time is right for all of us to connect more deeply with Jesus Christ and each other, his church, and to engage intentionally with those who are visiting WSBC. Be sure to RSVP and arrive early for these services. Overflow space will be available.

ON-SITE MORNING WORSHIP

Sundays at 9 and 11AM

March 7

The Christian's New Clothes

Ephesians 4:17-24

March 14

The Practical Christian Life

Ephesians 4:25-32

March 21

A Well-lit Walk

Ephesians 5:1-14

March 28 - Palm Sunday

The King of Glory

Psalms 24

LIVESTREAM on our website:

<https://wsbc.info/online-stream/> and

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WSBCVillageChurch and

YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch>



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Please use this as your reminder to adjust your manual clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night, March 13 for **Sunday, March 14**. Thank you.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jean Thomas

March 6

Michele

March 11

John

March 13

Matthew

March 15

Jon Lewis

March 23



IF: Gathering for Women

Friday, March 5 (6-9:30PM)

and

Saturday, March 6 (8AM-3PM).



We invite all women (youth - adult) to gather at WSBC (or online at home) for this national livestream event. This year, the theme for IF:Gathering 2021 is "Even If." Even if ... the worst happens, we don't lose hope. Come, join us as we remember that together. We want God's will to be done on this earth as it is in heaven and our heart and prayer is that "on earth as it is in heaven" starts with us. Register online: <https://wsbc.info/if-gathering>

You may contact Bri Hueber for additional information.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you want to contribute to the traditional flowers that are used on Resurrection Sunday, choose the **FLOWER FUND** on the Giving page of the church website, or write *Easter flowers* on your offering envelope or the memo section of your check. Also include the greeting you want published. Deadline for inclusion is Monday, March 29. Suggested donation is \$12. Enjoy your flower at home by taking it from the clay pot following the 11AM worship on April 4.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: FAMILY DEVOTIONS



When we consider the more important events in Christianity and the seasons of the year, Christmas and Easter top the list. All too often, Easter tends to quite literally spring up on us with little anticipation or preparation. This year at WSBC, we hope families of all ages, sizes, near or distant will find encouragement and discipleship moments through our *Journey to the Cross: Family Devotions*. The WSBC Kids team launched a series of video devotions that tells the *Story of Redemption*. A new devotion will be available on our

Website: <https://wsbc.info/journey>
and

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/wsbcvillagechurch>
each Sunday up to Palm Sunday. Starting on Palm Sunday there will be a new devotion every day of Holy Week. Our prayer is that the *Journey to the Cross* will help you and your family know and grow God's Story of Redemption. Join us for this incredible *Journey to the Cross*.



OWLS

Older Wiser Loving Saints

It's going on a year since we gathered in the Fireside Room for a lunch meeting and a program. We really miss our members, but with the current COVID concerns it's best we practice the recommended precautions.

The Village of Western Springs Senior Center has been a source of good information for our age group; you don't have to be a resident to access the newsletter. Program Director Michelle Cagney mcagney@wsprings.com encourages sharing the information with everyone. Some ZOOM programs are accessible for educational and entertaining subjects.

Looking to the future, when we're able to gather, serve a lunch, and present a program will probably be September or October. Third Thursday noon—watch for notices.

We have three programs in the queue, two of which were scheduled for last year. The presenters are awaiting the call to be scheduled. One other, John Boda, and I, have kept in touch - he's considering retiring since COVID has suspended his activity.

Be safe-stay healthy.

George Graves



DID YOU KNOW . . .

that WSBC at one time offered pre-school for four-year-olds? Organized by church members who all had public school teaching experience, the program was monitored by a three-person Board. The first class began in September 1975; enrollment varied over the years but ranged from 20 to 30 children. A small percentage of students was from the church family, but

most came from the Village or nearby communities. Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9:00AM to 11:15 AM, one could hear little voices in song or in conversation; large muscle activities were conducted in the Community Room, snacks were served in the Pine Room (#100), teaching was done in the Lower Auditorium (now Youth Lounge #101). Class photos were taken each year, and plenty of craft projects were created for display. Staff size ranged from two to three teachers depending upon the number of children. As state certification guidelines and required building modifications changed, the program, with waning enrollment, came to a conclusion at the end of the 1989-1990 school year. If you have any artifacts from that program, please consider donating them to the WSBC Archives!

VBS 2021



We are looking for a few people with a heart for children and families of Western Springs and surrounding neighborhoods to form a VBS Leadership team. God has faithfully given WSBC a clear gospel connection with our neighbors in past years and we are praying and planning for Him to do it again this summer. If God is nudging you to help us rethink, reshape and rebuild our VBS Ministry, please contact Pastor Joel ASAP.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE Month Ended JANUARY 31, 2021

	GENERAL FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$285,900	\$302,600	(\$16,700)	(6%)
Expenses	\$268,800	\$291,500	(\$22,700)	(8%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$17,100	\$11,100	\$6,000	

	MISSION FUND			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Over/(Under)
Receipts	\$94,900	\$105,500	(\$10,600)	(10%)
Expenses	\$66,100	\$86,300	(\$20,200)	(23%)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$28,800	\$19,200	\$9,600	

Note: all amounts are rounded to nearest hundred.



MISSIONARY PARTNER NEWS BRIEFS

For security purposes, please do not distribute, post, or share this information **without** individual permission from the partners to do so.

Jon and Meg Huffman



Young Life Costa Rica National Leadership Team at our Vision Retreat in January. It was the first time we were all together in person since early last year.

All Young Life ministry in Costa Rica has been virtual since March 2020. While we are thankful for the blessing of technology that allowed us to stay connected over these past 11 months, the youth we are trying to reach are tired of ZOOM meetings (let's be honest...who isn't?).

Right now, we are in the process of a controlled, gradual opening of in-person Young Life activities, with a focus on outdoor, socially distanced gatherings of small groups.

Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we continue to explore how to balance these contrasting realities, and for health and safety for our leaders and students, especially in the poverty-stricken communities where it is much more challenging to maintain COVID protocols.

Jon and Anita Lewis



In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published their famous *Communist Manifesto*. Since that time, hundreds of manifestos have been written as a means of strongly declaring, as the Merriam-Webster

dictionary defines, "The intentions, motives, or views of its issuers."

I am excited to be part of a small team of people who plan to roll out a brand new declaration called *The Steward Manifesto* in the next few months.

Ever since I started teaching stewardship principles to Africans, I have become more and more impressed by the powerful impact steward theology can have, not just on how people manage their money but how they manage their Christian life. As one participant told me at the conclusion of a seminar, "This changes everything; I need to completely rethink how to live as a Christian."

My particular subcommittee is working on a section entitled *The Stewardship of Self*. Although that sounds very philosophical, clearly articulating what it means to be children of God (1John 3:1), who have been created in his image (Genesis 1:27), with a biblical mandate to co-rule the earth (Genesis 1:28) is critical.

My hope and prayer is that *The Steward Manifesto* will motivate a new revolution among Christians everywhere as they commit themselves to serve God's kingdom as faithful stewards of Christ.

Metro Southwest (MSW) Young Life



Thank you for supporting MSW Young Life during this difficult season. Your gift allowed Young Life, WyldLife, and Capernaum to continue to reach kids in creative ways throughout the fall. We look forward to 2021 and all that it has in store for the ministry.

MSW Young Life Staff
(Allice, Charlie, Alex, Danny and Jocelyn)

Kurt and Johanna Metzger

We praise God for his mercies are new every morning. Thank you for partnering with our ministry, and loving and



encouraging our family so faithfully.

By God's grace we are able to celebrate many things this January. First, we celebrate 21 years of marriage. We also remember that we arrived for the first time in Papua New Guinea 14 years ago. Kassia and Lukas have birthdays this month turning 16 and 13 respectively. Oh, how faithful God has been.

Please **pray** for our family as school started again at Ukarumpa International School and it will be a busy semester. **Pray** for our children to enjoy school and to have wisdom and discernment with managing their time. Also please **pray** for Johanna as

she began teaching reading and writing to the third- grade students at the Primary Campus.

Petr and Petra Polach

We are praying for you especially now, as you go through the time of insecurity. We believe that our Lord is mighty to save and calls people to himself under every circumstance. What if we are on the brink of another revival? We are encouraged by the word of our Lord: "What is impossible with man is possible with God" Luke 18:27.

Our family *probably* went through COVID over Christmas time. We say probably, because our symptoms started right before Christmas and the testing capacities were so overwhelmed by popular demand that we decided just to stay at home, take vitamins, and hope that we will not get too bad, which we didn't, and we are thankful for that.

Let us share with you a story of this past month that might be very interesting. The first is a story about a man we met on the street nearby our church. His name is Taras and he comes from Ukraine. Petra felt an urge to share Christ with him. She did and she even prayed with him to receive Christ. Then she let him come back to his work and told him she would like to meet him again to talk about spiritual things.

The next day he was placed to a different location so we didn't get to see him, but the Lord provided a phone number for his boss and we were able to connect for a meeting at our church in the evening. We asked our former missionary to Russia, Eva, to be our translator. Petr was reading through the 4 Spiritual Laws in Russian with Taras, reviving his long-forgotten Russian skills from the school and Eva translated all Petra or I felt we needed to say.

It was a good cooperation and we learnt that this evening was the last one Taras was in our country. The next morning he was headed back home to his hometown, a day trip on the trains away for him. We were able to have a nice time of sharing with him.

We learnt that he was married with two children below ten, trying to make some money to purchase an apartment for themselves, because at the moment they share an apartment with his mother-in-law and his wife's siblings. He said that he might be able to come back to Ostrava in spring, but in the meantime we are trying to stay in touch with him and find the Bible believing church in his town. By another chain of God's orchestration we seem to have found someone who could help us with that.

Our prayer needs in the near future are:

- Staying focused on Jesus, walking closer with him as individuals, in our marriage, and in our church.
- Praying more boldly and expectantly.
- Finding new ways to reach out for the lost (getting Taras connected to a good church).

Bruce and Lori Rowe

In Bangkok!

Praise points:

- Uneventful check-in process in Chicago.
- Uneventful check-in process (Seoul).
- Uneventful processing in Bangkok—five different places to be checked through—and all went quickly and smoothly.
- Uneventful check-in to hotel.
- We have a beautiful suite on the twenty-fourth floor...but we have two weeks to be here and we are grateful for the gorgeous sun

coming through our wall-sized windows that will help our bodies adjust.

- Now we are here in this room for the next 15 days—with a negative COVID test in five days, we will be able to get out and walk in a set area for 45 minutes each day, but otherwise we are definitely quarantined. (The Thais are very serious about this process.) Please **pray** for negative tests at days 5 and 12, and that on March 7, we will be allowed to return to Chiang Mai, nearly a year after leaving.

Lewis and Barbara Winkler

Please **pray** for Myanmar.

From 1962 until 2011, the Myanmar (Burmese) military held a dictatorship over the country that plunged it into extreme poverty, and a long-standing civil war. In 2011, there was great hope that the country could finally move toward free elections and social reform. Over the past decade, huge progress has been made. Barbara and I have been there several times in the past ten years (most recently in 2019) to take advantage of this new era of openness and opportunity for the gospel.

However, after it lost significant power in the November elections, the military began claiming the election was rigged and a fraud. Recently, they began arresting duly elected democratic leaders in the capital and it looks like they intend to resume their dictatorship.

We do not know exactly what will happen to them or the numerous other EAST graduates who have already returned to serve in Myanmar. We have learned from a Burmese professor here at EAST that a former Cru staff who was fairly elected to

parliament is now under house arrest and being guarded by the Burmese military.

I also just heard via WhatsApp from a recent EAST graduate who wrote: "Please **pray** for my country and also for my hometown. There is a coup in my country now by the Burmese Military and the civil war's battles are becoming more serious around my hometown and some other

mountain villages. But I am still safe and going for a mission trip with our Bible school students."

Please **pray** for Myanmar, that justice would prevail, and that Christian believers there would courageously share the gospel in the face of growing fear and hopelessness.

Jesus really is our one and only hope.



Coming to WSBC
April 18 &
October 2-3



April Linking Events:

- Featuring eleven Missionary Partners, **Jon Lewis**, keynote speaker.
- Pandemic-safe projects: *start saving plastic grocery bags now.*
- Virtual and In-person ways to participate.
- Box lunch fellowship.

