

POPLAR CREEK CHURCH

◆ 300 Schick Rd. ◆ Bartlett, IL 60103 ◆

Journeying with others into a viable
and thriving relationship with Jesus Christ

12/18/2011



630.483.1000 • www.poplarcreek.com

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CONTACT INFO:

Shepherds

shepherds@poplarcreek.com

Church Office

Kathleen Malick

office@poplarcreek.com

9-2pm M-F

READ ME FIRST

Children's Worship – Children's worship takes place on the lower level at the same time as our worship gatherings and is for children ages 3 years through grade 6. We are committed to teaching our children about the Good News of Jesus Christ in a safe, environment offering age-appropriate, biblically-based curriculum.

Nursery – For our youngest attenders we have a fully staffed nursery during our worship gatherings located in the back of the auditorium. For children from birth to age 3.

Communication – Each week, Poplar Creek Church sends out an e-mail newsletter to our congregation with last minute reminders, changes and updates to events for the upcoming weeks. You too can be added if you just write your email address on the Attendance Pad, send Kathleen an email office@poplarcreek.com or call her at 630.483.1000. You will be added to the list and receive the most up-to-date information we have. We also welcome feedback from you. Comment/Suggestion Cards can be found in the Attendance Pads along with the Prayer Request Cards.

Communion – Communion is offered weekly as part of our worship gatherings.

Offerings – We do not pass a plate during our worship gatherings at Poplar Creek. Instead, we have our “**Joy Box**” at the back of the auditorium where we leave our gifts.

Prayer – In need of prayer? We have prayer warriors and shepherds available to pray with and for you at the end of each service in front by the stage. You are also welcome to fill out a request card and place it in the Joy Box at the back of the church. All requests will be sent to the church prayer chain alerting them of the need.

If you would like to be part of the prayer chain and will commit to praying faithfully for any request submitted, please contact the office at 630.483.1000 and we will be happy to assist you.

Our prayer team meets every Friday in the Sanctuary at 7pm to pray, and everyone is welcome to join us.

We hope that your time with us is Christ-focused and inspirational - and we invite you to share with us again.

GREETINGS!

We're so thrilled you decided to gather with us this morning. We hope that your time here is not only encouraging, but challenging as well.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask one of our Greeters at the back of our sanctuary.

Grace and Peace to you!
– Ian

"God With Us" - A Christmas Day Gathering - December 25, 10am



We believe that when God referred to Jesus as Immanuel (which means “God with us”), He was making a significant statement about the power of relationships and His desire for people to truly know Him – not simply know about Him. As we gather for a simple service and celebrate the life found in Jesus, we are inviting people everywhere to invite friends, neighbors, and even strangers to join with us for a time of family. We’re taking that a step further and challenging the family of PCC to invite those who are alone and hurting to join them for Christmas celebrations in their homes. Please pray and consider who you can love on this enormously significant day.

Visit us at www.poplarcreek.com

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



3 Yrs. – Kindergarten

Children ages 3 through kindergarten will learn about God's word through songs, Bible stories, art projects and age-appropriate games and activities. Available during Sunday worship services.

1st – 6th Grade

Students in 1st-6th grades enjoy an age appropriate worship experience including fun songs, prayer, interactive Bible stories, games, art projects and more. Available during Sunday worship services.

Coming in January: 5th & 6th Grade Small Group

God doesn't call us to be "culturally relevant". In fact, Jesus often went against what was cultural during his life. But God's word is just as relevant today as it was when the Bible was first written. Beginning in January, the PCC Children's Ministries will be mixing up the structure of our worship services.

One of the exciting new additions is a group dedicated specifically for 5th and 6th graders. It is our hope to be rooted in scripture while exploring connections and relevance to students' every day life.

For more information about the groups, or to learn about how you can get involved, please contact Kim Cody: kim@poplarcreek.com

The Children's Ministries have been working hard to prepare today's production. Thank you for joining us as The Channel Three Evening News Hour reports on the birth of the new Savior, with several field reporters interviewing the characters to set up the creche scene. This production is a fun (humorous commercials!) and meaningful way to share the Christmas story with family and friends and to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

See page 6 for more information.

Watch for our new Children's Ministries Newsletter:

There is a new email newsletter available for families at Poplar Creek sharing summaries, upcoming events and more. The emails started going out last week. If for some reason you don't receive the email, or would prefer not to continue receiving them, please contact Kim Cody kim@poplarcreek.com.



STUDENT MINISTRIES

–Ian Simkins
630.379.9222 • ian@poplarcreek.com

Ignition - Wednesdays 7-9:30PM

Ignition starts with game time and is followed by a teaching time for the entire group before they break into their small group discussion time. This allows us to engage the students on matters specific to their age group and context on a weekly basis. We conclude our evening with fellowship and snacks. Ignition is for any student in 7th-12th grade.

**NO
IGNITION
THIS
WEEK**



FACEBOOK If you're not a part of our Facebook group yet, I'd highly recommend that you do so!
[facebook.com/matchboxministries](https://www.facebook.com/matchboxministries)

The Matchbox will not be meeting on
December 21st or the 28th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

You don't want to miss out on your favorite Matchbox activities for the rest of the year- so mark your calendars. Save these dates. They may change but we will make sure you know about the changes.

December -

- 21 No Matchbox
- 22-23 Living Nativity (7-9pm, basement/barn)
- 24 Christmas Eve Services (4, 5pm)
- 24 Living Nativity (6-8pm, basement/barn)
- 25 Christmas Morning Service (10am)
- 28 No Matchbox

Visit us at www.poplarcreek.com

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CHANNEL 3 NEWS

Drama

Channel 3 News Team:

News anchors

Marcus - Nathan Leonard
Rebecca - Valerie Walther

Field reporters

Aaron - Jacob Cody
Elizabeth - Ashley Gates
Abigail - Lauren Cody
Isaac - Chris Laker

Eyewitnesses:

Joseph - Isaac Johnson
Mary - Shannon Gates
Innkeeper - Jacob Valencia
Innkeeper's Wife - Madison DeLisle
Shepherd 1 - Grace Leonard
Shepherd 2--EmiliaCody
Person 1 - Madison DeLisle
Person 2 - Grace Leonard
Person 3 - Emilia Cody
Magi (Wisemen)
 Jacob Cody - Magi 1
 Chris Laker - Magi 2
 Jacob Valencia - Magi #3

Dance

Ava Barclay
Bela Camahalan
Emilia Cody
Lauren Cody
Quinn Jaeger
Grace Leonard
Nathan Leonard
Valerie Walther

Puppets

Lauren Cody
Jessica Dixon
David Johnson
Isaac Johnson
Chris Laker

Choir

Nathan Leonard
Grace Leonard
Valerie Walther
Emilia Cody
Lauren Cody
Ashley DeLisle
Quinn Jaeger

Set Design

Bela Chamahalan
Emilia Cody
Lauren Cody
Ashley Delisle
Madison Delisle
Shannon Gates
Quinn Jaeger
Isaac Johnson
Grace Leonard
Nathan Leonard
Jacob Valencia
Valerie Walther

Adults

Leslie Buss
Connor Cody
Kim Cody
Mindy Hoover
Paul Hoover
Sam Hoover
Becca Laker
Sandy Laker
Katie Lawrence
Arlene Leonard
Leann Walther
Angela Wehrle

Special thanks to Connor Cody (commercials), Ed Scrempf & Ray Wiczorek (tech)

Helping Hands Ministry

"Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief." Cicero

The Poplar Creek Helping Hands Ministry could use a few more hands! We're small in number but big in heart, and looking to grow in both areas.

The goal of the Helping Hands Ministry is to be able to provide help to our friends when they need it. Our life circumstances can change abruptly, which sometimes makes it difficult to take care of routine tasks like making dinner, getting to the store, etc. When one of our PCC family members has a need such as this, an email alert goes out to our list of volunteers, stating the need and requesting help. If you might be available to provide a meal (this is the most-requested need), a ride or a grocery run, please consider adding yourself to our group of volunteers. Don't let poor culinary skills keep you from serving. Providing a carry-out meal or gift card to a local restaurant would also be helpful (depending on how well you cook, maybe more appreciated than a home-cooked meal)!

If you would like to be one of our appreciated volunteers, or would like some more information, please contact LeeAnn Walther by email at leeann71011@gmail.com.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

Threshold: "Why we do, what we do, the way we do it" Jan. 15 – Feb. 5, 2012. 3-4:30pm.

Aget-to-know-us class for those interested in wanting to know more about Poplar Creek, who we are, and the things we feel God is leading us towards. Contact the office for more information at office@poplarcreek.com

PCC Serves a t Dupage PADS

PADS stands for Public Action to Deliver Shelter. PADS offers housing and food to those who are less fortunate. With the support of over 130 congregations and organizations, 4000 volunteers, 288 PADS Partners and numerous community advocates and other service organizations, we were able to offer hope for more than 900 men, women, and children in our communities through programs and services that embrace multiple solutions to end homelessness.

This year 80 families asked for assistance through DuPage PADS - 99 children were without the safety of a home in our county, approximately a 23% increase over last year.

The numbers are staggering and disheartening. But we are making a difference. We serve at Corpus Christi Church in Carol Stream on the 1st Wednesday of the month from October through May, with a usual staff of 14 to 16 on the dinner shift, 4 as night monitors, and 8 to 10 staff on the breakfast shift. This doesn't include the 10 to 20 others who supply food of all kinds. Our congregation has been generous over the 6 years that we have been participating.

The 1st year Webelos Scout Pack #26 from Bartlett helped last week with setting up the 40 pads with blankets, pillows and sheets for all. They then helped arrange the tables and placemats for the guests. Their help was greatly appreciated and they certainly speeded the "set up" process. Thanks to their moms who helped supervise.

This month we served 4 varieties of beef stew, soup, rice, French bread and dessert. They ate every last drop, and a trayful of sandwiches dropped off at random from an office party somewhere. We are seeing more local area people drop in just for dinner, as they are in dire straits, jobless and in foreclosure. We have not been less than full at any time the past 2 years.

I cannot express my gratitude enough for all of you good and faithful servants..for without each and every one of you who participate, PADS would not be possible. We can always use more help.

To volunteer, contact Mark (Triumph2974@comcast.net) or JoAnn (Tfjnjoann@comcast.net) DeAngeles 630.293.1642 or Debbie Jackson jackson4527@sbcglobal.net.

Food donations sign up at: <http://padsvolunteer.wetpaint.com>

Visit us at www.poplarcreek.com

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and...

ACTION!!!

Calling all YouTubers, hopeful directors, camera crews, and video editors. If you've been waiting to put your gifts to work, this is the ministry for you!!

For more info, E-mail
worship@poplarcreek.com
and...CUT! That's a wrap!

Wait, Before you go!

After using space, equipment, and/or items, please be sure to leave it the way you found it.

- Please Turn off the lights
- Make sure the items you took out and used are cleaned and put away
- Etc.

Please be considerate to the next party and clean up after yourself.

**Past sermons are
available to listen to
online at
www.poplarcreek.com**

A "Hidden Gem" from the Outreach Ministry at Poplar Creek Church - Volunteering at Ontarioville School

At the present time, we have five members of our community involved in this relatively new ministry. To give you an idea of what goes on, I would like to share a typical volunteering experience. I volunteer once a week on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am.

I enter Ontarioville School, greet the ladies in the front office and check in on the school's computer. I click Volunteer, answer other directives ...and a printed name tag, which I attach to my shirt, is generated from the computer. From that point, the office knows who I am, where I'm going, and logs my time in the building. I volunteer in a first/second grade classroom.

As a volunteer, I confer with the teacher to see what my role will be assisting the students. For example, I work with reading groups reinforcing reading skills. Seeing how their precious minds work is a blessing. How cool it is to read with and reinforce literacy skills in small groups of students!

As I finish my volunteering for the hour I'm there, I check out on the school computer. When I leave the building, I'm energized. I "get" to volunteer. What a privilege it is, and I get so much joy out of each visit! But ultimately, it's not about me, it's about helping the students and the community.

Quite honestly, I couldn't agree more with Leslie Buss' comment; "I have served at the school twice now. I leave with such a strong conviction that God has placed us in collaboration with Ontarioville School to benefit us - almost more than the children & teachers we help."

One need not be or have been a teacher to volunteer. This commitment can be once or twice a week, monthly, or occasionally as a need arises.

If you are interested in learning more about this "Hidden Gem" of the Outreach Ministry at Poplar Creek Church, please contact outreach@poplarcreek.com

UP- & COMING-EVENTS

The following shows the ministries, events and Community Groups (👤). This (📦) designates a Matchbox event.

Sunday, December 18

- 9:00am Worship Gathering
- 11:00am Worship Gathering
- 4:00pm Children's Ministry Christmas Party - Lower Level
- 6:30pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Cody/Buss
- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Zirkel/Laker

Monday, December 19

- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Cullen
- 7:15pm Make Believers Christmas Party- Drew

Tuesday, December 20

- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Anders
- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Cornelius
- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Ripples
- 7:30pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Lum

Wednesday, December 21

- 7:00am Wednesday Morning Prayer
- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Reynolds

Thursday, December 22

- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Panico
- 7:00pm Living Nativity - Building & Grounds
- 7:00pm Praise Team - Sanctuary
- 7:30pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Velen

Friday, December 23

- 6:00pm Celebrate Recovery - Lower Level
- 7:00pm Living Nativity - Building & Grounds
- 7:00pm 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Kraft

Saturday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

- 10:00am 👤 COMMUNITY GROUP: Gates
- 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 6:00pm Living Nativity - Building & Grounds

Sunday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10:00am Christmas Morning Service

It's That Time of Year...

Yes, the Christmas season is upon us. For Poplar Creek Church, that includes the Living Nativity—an outreach that provides people the opportunity to feel a part of the Christmas story and the manger scene—on December 22, 23, and 24. However, Living Nativity doesn't happen without the efforts of many volunteers. Please plan now to be a part of this amazing event by choosing to serve in one of the following areas:

...Setting up (December 21) and taking down (December 27) the nativities and the Chrismon tree (1:00 p.m. both days): We will be transforming the church basement into a reminder of the true reason for the season, so the more, the merrier! Contact Mindy Hoover or Sandy Laker for additional information.

...Fixing up the barn and caring for the animals: If you love animals, please help out with their care! Contact Steve Laker, Kurt Burkhardt, or Jim Lackowski for information.

...Setting up and serving refreshments: We provide food and beverages to our many visitors. This effort is headed by Deb Lawrence, so contact her if you want to help out.

...Additional opportunities: During this three-day event, we need costumers, servers (for refreshments), and people to fill the roles of the characters in the Nativity scene. Look for specific sign-up sheets as we get closer to the actual dates.

The Living Nativity provides an amazing reminder for our community of the true celebration of the season—the birth of our Lord and Savior! Please consider being a part of the joy this event brings!

The Great Recovery: Finding Financial Peace - Starts Friday, February 17th - 7pm

It's no secret that thousands of families find themselves in extremely difficult financial situations and the months following Christmas can be among the most challenging for many.

Believe it or not, more than 1.5 million families have attended the Financial Peace University with amazing results. On average, these families paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in just the first 90 days! Stop worrying about money, and start your journey to Financial Peace this winter with Poplar Creek Church.

Contact our office for more information about this powerful class.

office@poplarcreek.com - 630.483.1000



Our Weekly E-mail Newsletter:

Do you know that Poplar Creek has a weekly E-mail Newsletter? It is sent out every Friday and it is a condensed version of the Program. It contains upcoming events, announcements and is also occasionally used to send out emergency notifications. You don't have to wait until Sunday to hear about what is going on!

Get in on the club and get it earlier! Just drop Kathleen in the church office an E-mail or phone call and she will sign you up! 630.483.1000 or office@poplarcreek.com.

Investing in God's Treasure Fund (Worship) by Rick Warren

"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income." Proverbs 3:9 (TLB) We invest in God's Treasure Fund by using some of our money to express worship. There's nothing we can give God that he needs, and God certainly doesn't need our money.

But when we give an offering to God — an undesignated, planned, and proportional offering where and when we worship — we're saying, "God I love you." That's the first purpose of life: to know and love God. You're planned for his pleasure.

The Bible says, "Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income" (Proverbs 3:9 TLB). We honor God when we tithe. It's an act of worship.

God wants you to give to this fund before you invest in any of the other funds. Why? He wants our hearts more than anything else. He doesn't want our money; he wants what it represents.

Wherever I put my money shows my priorities and values.

This week, look through your checkbook and your credit card statements. What do they say about where your heart is today?

Where do you want your heart to be? Put your money there!

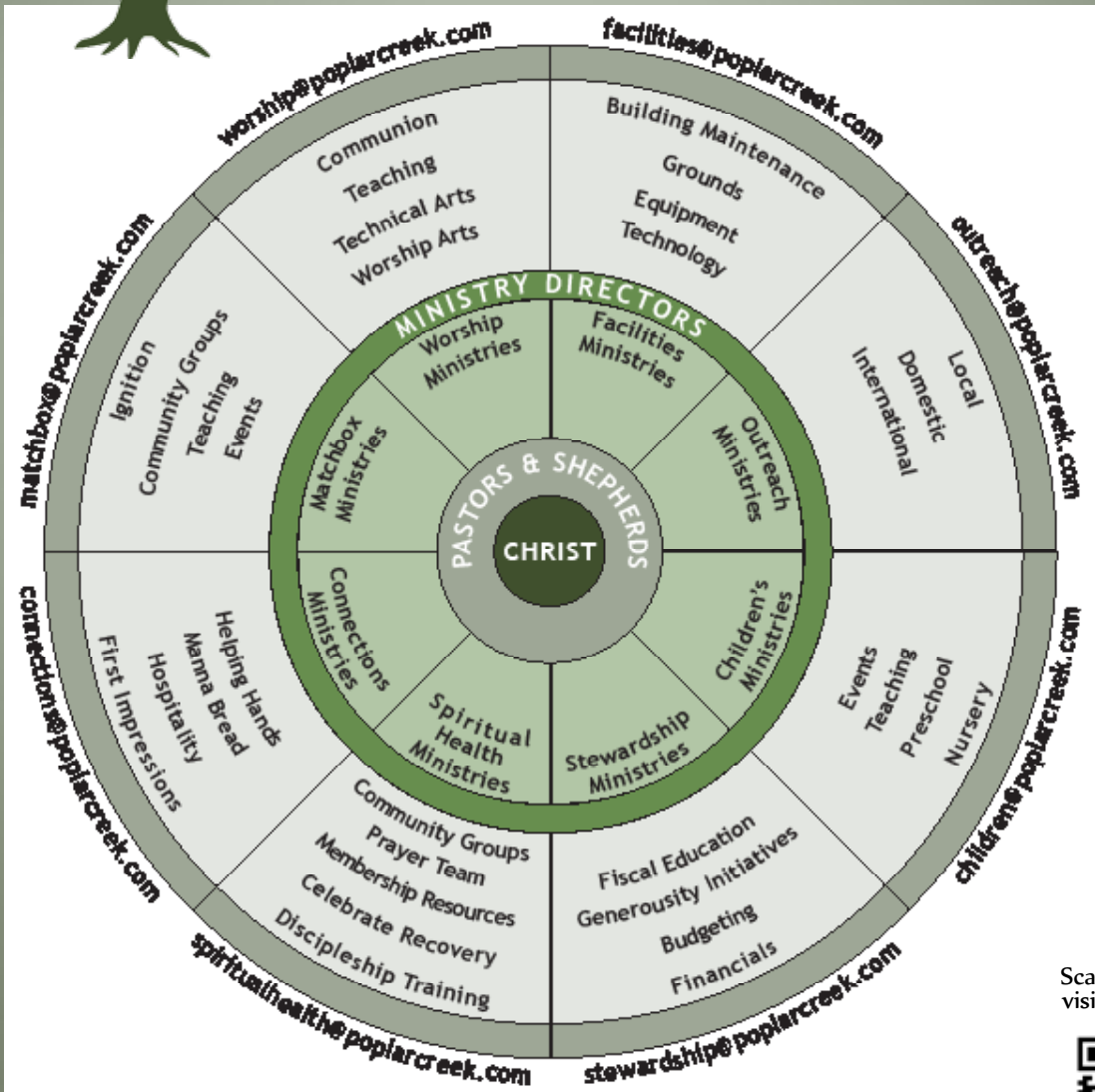
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and thriving relationship with Jesus Christ



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