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THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF WAUCONDA
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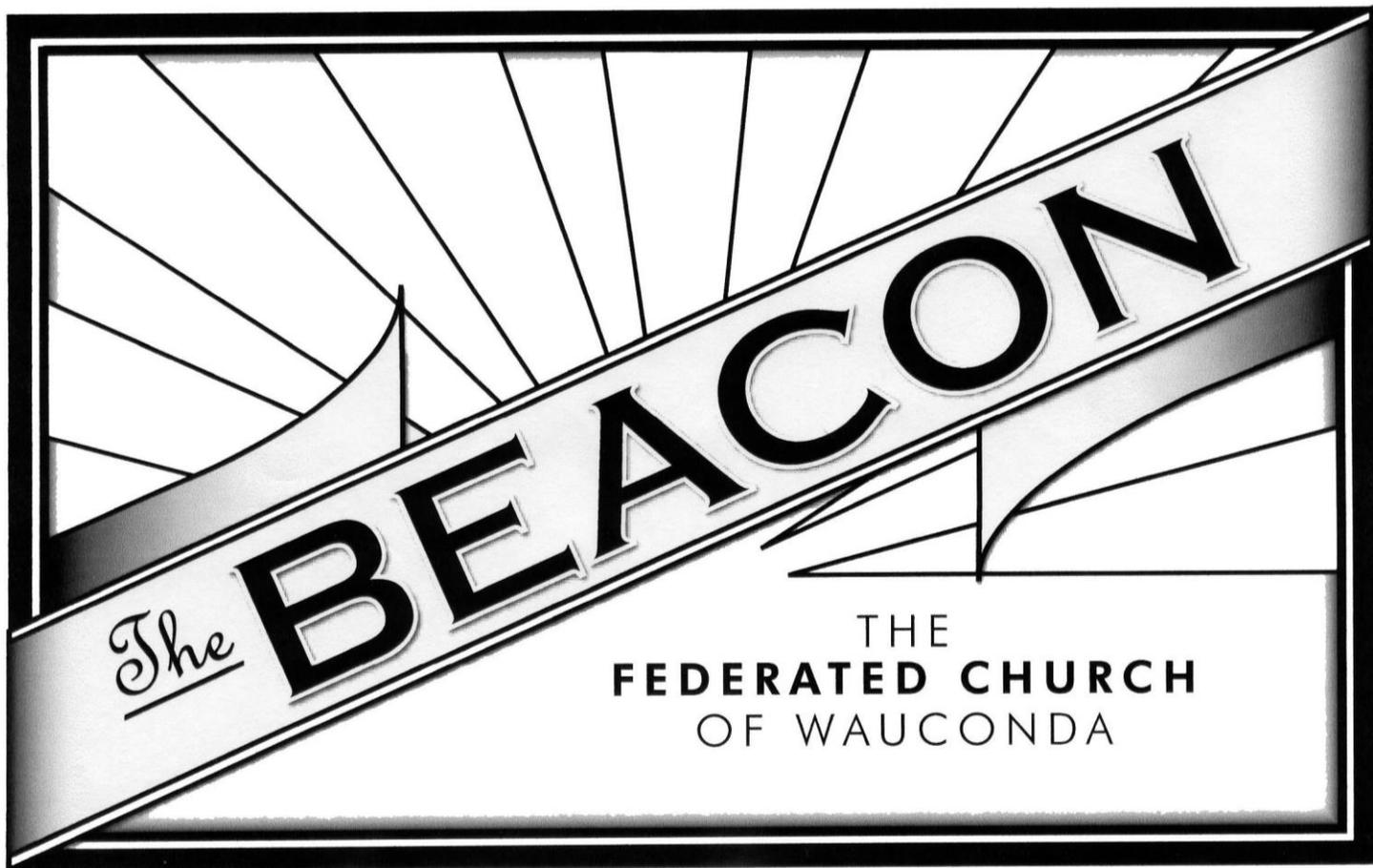
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March 2017

Vol. 65, No. 3





FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12)

It will come as no surprise to many of you when I say winter is my least favorite season. True this year we have had such a mild winter I hardly found any reason to complain. All the same I'm looking forward to the month of March. March will have cold days and quite likely there will be some snow on the ground, but the first day of spring on March 20th. You know what they say, “March is in like a lion out like a lamb.” We have some hard days ahead, but good days are just around the corner.

The lion and the lamb are two creatures that share almost nothing. The lion is a strong predator, feared by man and a symbol of power and authority. The lamb is weak, needing to be looked after for protection and a symbol of humility. The lion is at the top of the food chain. The only thing below the lamb on the food chain is grass.

It is clear from this allegory that winter is powerful and cruel, while spring is meek and mild. The lion and the lamb are used to describe the month of March because they are so opposite, but they are also used in the book of Revelation to describe Jesus. John saw in a vision that there was a scroll in heaven that could not be opened by any man or angel. John was ready to despair when one of the heavenly elders turned to him and said “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then John saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.

Jesus Christ is the Lion of the Root of David and the Lamb that was slain. This may seem to be a contradiction of character. After all, how can he be strong and meek at the same time? The lion is a symbol of authority and the lamb is a symbol of sacrifice and Jesus demonstrated both in his ministry. He stood up to the leaders of his day to preach the good news of forgiveness and grace. He gave his life as a willing sacrifice so that we might be saved.

As we move through this month and closer to the celebration of his resurrection, let us see Jesus for who he really is. He wasn't a pacifist and he wasn't a warlord. He was the Son of God who amazed the people by preaching as one with authority. He was the Word of God made flesh and yet “he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:7-8) Praise God in the name of Jesus who is the Lion and the Lamb.

Pastor Jason

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 29 – 95
February 5 – 86
February 12 – 78
February 19 – 72
February 26 – 86

MEETINGS IN MARCH

March 02 – 7:00pm Endowment
March 08 – 7:00pm, Trustees
March 12 – 10:45am, Fellowship and Leadership
March 19 – 10:45am - Education
March 20 – Federated Board
March 27 – 7:00pm - FOCW

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are from 8:00am-12:00pm, Monday through Friday. If you need to drop off, or pick up something we are always open during those times.

PASTOR JASON'S HOURS

Pastor Jason's hours are Monday through Thursday 9am-2pm. He will be in the office at this time unless called away due to ministry. Even when he is not in the office he can be reached 24/7 by phone or text at [630-673-0492](tel:630-673-0492). Pastor Jason's cell phone will go straight to voice mail between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am, but his phone will ring if you call twice. You can also contact him at pastorhladik@icloud.com.

WINTERTIME PARKING

When the snow piles up, it can be difficult to find a parking spot on Sunday mornings.



Remember that you are welcome to use the lot across Barrington Road, and if it's full, you can park at the Village lot across Rt. 176. Use the stoplight and crosswalk at Rt. 176/Main Street. We also can register 6-7 cars with the Police Dept. and park in their lot on Sundays – provided you can walk the distance to the church.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Start your week off right with a time of fellowship with friends from the church. We meet every week on Monday at 8:00am at the Wauconda Café on Rt. 176. Join us for coffee, breakfast or just a good conversation.

BIBLE STUDY

Follow up with our Monday and Tuesday Bible Story Café Bible studies which are getting great reviews.

Join in one or both!

Monday 10am New Testament Class

Tuesday 6pm Old Testament Class



THANK-YOU FROM OUR YOUTH

On Super Bowl Sunday, you may remember members of our youth group standing outside of the sanctuary collecting money for a different **Souper Bowl**. They are happy to announce that \$118.32 was collected and will be donated to the Wauconda/Island Food Pantry. Thank-you for your generosity!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE --MARCH 1

Please join us as we begin the journey to Easter. We will observe Ash Wednesday on March 1 with a light supper of soup and bread. The meal will be provided so you only need to bring yourselves and your family. We will begin at 6pm. Following the meal we will meet in the sanctuary for a Service of Ashes which will begin our Lenten journey.



PRAYER MEETING – March 2 and 16



We will be meeting in the sanctuary at 7:00pm on these evenings. Whether you have a specific prayer in your heart or want to share communal prayer, come and join us. You will be blessed, refreshed and find a new sense of peace.

WAUCONDA CARE – March 22



A Wauconda Care Sing-along is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm. Meet at Wauconda Care, just off Rt. 176, at 2:45pm if you'd like to help pass out songbooks and greet the residents before the fun begins. Join us as we bring the worship of God in song to the people at Wauconda Care.

FOCW - March 27

The Fellowship of Christian Women (FOCW) meets monthly at 7:00pm from August through May. All women of the church are invited.

JOURNEY TO EASTER

We begin our journey to Easter with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 1st. During the 6 weeks of Lent, we will continue the regular Bible studies and prayer meetings. In addition, there will be special services to observe Palm Sunday on April 9 and Good Friday on April 14. We culminate our journey with the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 16th. Lent is a time of remembrance, introspection, prayer and reflection culminating in the triumphant resurrection of Jesus. Come and be a part of our journey.



INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

Since ancient times, Christians have set apart the weeks before Easter to prepare themselves to remember, honor, celebrate, and rejoice in Christ's resurrection. Don't let the place and time we live in deceive you—*Easter* is the most important and central holiday for Christians, despite the attention everyone gives to Christmas. *Easter* is the reason we can be Christians at all. *Easter* is the Gospel. And since Easter is so incredibly important, we do well to give it the attention and preparation it deserves. This is the purpose of Lent.

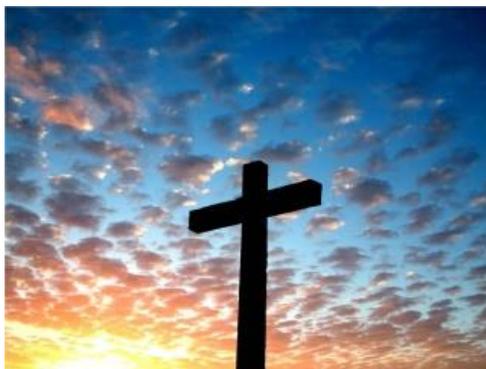
Lent is a time for us to purposely slow down and look at ourselves and our lives in light of our identity as followers of Christ. Lent is all about consciously and deliberately making room for God in our hearts and lives. Consciously and deliberately clearing other things away to be more present with God. Consciously and deliberately taking steps and engaging in practices to help us open more of ourselves to God. These practices are known as spiritual disciplines.

Spiritual disciplines should be a part of every Christian's life, not just for the season of Lent. But Lent gives us the opportunity to try something different—to seek God in a way we never have before. When we do, we open ourselves to the possibility of connecting with God, hearing God, and loving God in ways we would never have experienced otherwise.

So during this season of Lent, we encourage everyone to seriously consider engaging in some spiritual discipline. To help you do this, we are going to provide some information about different disciplines—the whats, whys, and hows. Every Sunday during Lent, a different discipline will be featured in a short guide intended to help you begin practicing that discipline. If you don't find a spiritual practice that clicks for you until the 3rd, 4th, 5th week of Lent, that's okay. Start where you are and move forward. The most important thing is actively and intentionally seeking God, and seeking to make more space for God in yourself and your life.

Practices create openings in our lives where the grace, mercy, and presence of God may be known to us.

- Craig Dyksta, qt in *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, p. 218



ONE DAY PRAYER RETREAT

Saturday, March 18th, 9am - 4pm.

Come for one Saturday and practice listening to God and discovering new ways to connect with God. Contact Minister Sarah for more details and to sign up.

SUPER SENIORS

Our March Luncheon will be at Beelow's Steakhouse in Lake Zurich on Wednesday, March 15th, at 11:30. Hope you can join us. Please sign up by March 12th. See Lou Ann if you have any questions.



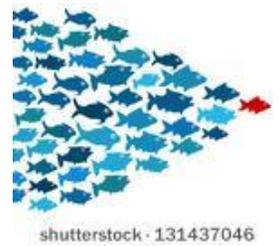
THANK-YOU ON BEHALF OF REFUGEE PORTRAIT PROJECT

Dear Pastors, staff, and congregation of Federated Church of Wauconda,
On behalf of the 19 artists of the refugee portrait project, I want to thank you all for your hosting and generous support of our project on behalf of refugee children. We did not expect to sell four paintings! We never imagined that church staff would do all of the receipt writing and funds management! You are indeed the little church with the great big heart.

With gratefulness,
Dr. Dee Abbate

LEADERSHIP MEETING - March 12

On Sunday, March 12, 11:00am - 1:30pm we will be having a Leadership Meeting. This meeting is for all returning and newly elected members of the Federated Board and is also open to anyone who is interested in learning more about how our church volunteers and staff work together through the leadership of the Federated Board. We do ask that everyone planning to attend please either sign the clipboard or call the church office to RSVP as lunch will be provided. The regular monthly business meeting of the Federated Board will follow the leadership meeting.



SHUT-IN VISITS FROM PASTOR

If you know of a member of our church or a family member that could use a visit from Pastor Jason, please let him know.

PRAYER PARTNER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Joys and Concerns Prayer Partner Email and would like to - or if you have a concern during the week - you can call Louise or email her at lbcats32@gmail.com. Joys and Concerns from the Sunday worship service are emailed each week to all who sign up for them.

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is one of the ways we meet the needs of our congregation and our community. We have been able to provide assistance to members in emergency situations as well as provide gift cards for food, medicine and gas.

If you or someone you know is ever in a time of need, please talk with Pastor Jason. Donations to this fund can be made by writing a check to the church with the words Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the memo line. Donations can also be given in the form of gift cards from local grocery stores or gas stations. We thank you for helping us serve our community. - Pastor Jason

FEDERATED FAITH WALKERS 10th YEAR

Our Relay for Life team, the Federated Faith Walkers, invites you to join them. This is the tenth year the Federated Faith Walkers have committed to the fight against cancer.

There are 3 fund raisers planned for this spring:

May 4th- Fun and music at Strawberry Moon (music by the talented Jeff Trudell)

May 14th- Mother's Day bake sale

May 21st - Night of Hope candle light ceremony

If you have any questions please contact Lou Ann. If you need help signing up for our team please contact Pam Wilson. Last year, with the help of our church, we were able to raise \$8400 toward the fight against cancer!

Thank you so much for your amazing generosity!

The Federated Faith Walkers

"2 SIDES OF A COIN"

In January the Federated Church celebrated our diversity with the singing of the song "Different Is Beautiful". "**Celebrating Our Diversity**" will be a theme that we will be highlighting throughout the year. But the other side of this coin that we must be aware of is "**Celebrating Our Unit**." This was emphasized in the following devotional in Science of the Mind's February Issue of their Guide for Spiritual Living.

"It is important to feel, sense and know that, though we are diverse in many ways, we are all in this together. No matter what the appearance may be, we are all united. There is no getting around this. Whether living in Australia or Alaska, people breathe air. We all drink water. We all eat food. We all want to feel love and be loved. This is what unifies us."

Celebrating unity is seeing God in everyone and everything. Celebrating unity is knowing that all must work together for the good of life. Celebrating unity is like enjoying a piece of music, aware that there are many different parts making up the one song. One of my favorite pieces of music is Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major.

What makes this piece so beautiful is how the many different instruments play their special parts. Without the French horn, the concerto would not be the same. It is all the parts coming together as one to produce a beauty that stirs the soul.

Celebrating unity is also celebrating your own uniqueness, and we are here to work together as a unified whole, to bring about the glory, beauty and perfection of the Divine.

Pastor Fred Berchtold

MEETING CHANGE

The regular monthly meeting of the Federated Board will follow the Leadership workshop on March 12. There will be no Board meeting on March 20.

NEW EDITOR

As of this issue, the Beacon has a new editor. Sylvia Chen has been editing the publication for many years and, sadly, is anticipating a move back east to be closer to family. She has graciously taken on the task of teaching the new editor the “ins and outs” of putting out the monthly newsletter. Over the years, Sylvia has reminded us of Beacon deadlines, extended deadlines for late material, begged and pleaded for articles to include each month and always come through with a publication each month. She did this whether or not she was in town—thanks to email and traveling laptops. If you see her, thank her for her many years serving as our editor. As for me, I am happy to have her stay a long, long time so I can call on her expertise and enjoy her friendship. Thank-you, Sylvia.

YOUTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCES SUMMER MISSION TRIP

The Youth Ministry is excited to announce the “Redbird Mission Trip.”

It has been nearly nine years since the youth department sponsored a mission trip. This year, they will attend Red Bird Mission which is a work camp that strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds .It is located in Beverly, Kentucky, one of the poorest areas in all of the United States. Our group will be partnering with the youth at the Community Church of Barrington and accompanied by Pastor Crystal, Dan Fiscus and Dr. Sami as well as other adults. Some examples of work projects include roof replacement, small room additions, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping.

The youth will be traveling to Beverly Kentucky on July 1-8, 2017. If you would like to support here are ways to assist:

1. Sponsor a youth for \$375.00 which includes (shelter, food and registration cost)
2. Sponsor a youth outing “water rafting” \$100 per person (the youth will experience one day of fun)
3. Donate money to go toward our traveling expensive (van rental, gas cards, visa cards)
4. Prayer- Please begin to pray that each youth/ youth worker will have a safe and rewarding experience.

PREPARING FOR A MISSION TRIP FROM A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

This will be my second time experiencing a one week mission trip with our beautiful church. At first I was very apprehensive to attend a mission trip because I would be away from my family even though Olivia (Cousin) would be with me. I was very worried because Olivia and I were not as close as we are now. Nevertheless, my aunt's (Cindy) confidence in me gave me strength to go out of my comfort zone and go on this trip. I allowed myself to be open-minded to those I would meet before and after the trip. The preparation for the mission trip was awesome, yet demanding. I remember there were several levels to prepare for a mission trip which were:

Level One (How can we/I pay for this trip?)

- Fundraising which included the youth selling candy. (Which I discovered our church really like sweets)

Level Two (What do you take on a mission trip?)

- Packing party which included everyone bringing their clothing items to church. As a group, we packed our clothes to ensure each person did not forget important items. This party included pizza and fun. We also made friendship bracelets that evening.

Level Three (Are we there yet? Where are we going?)

- Travel – I remember a five-hour travel to Grand Rapids Michigan. Meanwhile, I remember getting lost and hearing the same Katie Perry song over and over.

Once I returned home from my mission trip, I remember my relationship with my cousin (Olivia) changed for the best. This happened when Olivia and I were on the trip. This was the first time we actually talked for real. We had always been together because we are the same age. Mostly we never really talked because I felt that Olivia was really cool and smart. I just had to learn that Olivia and I have different God given talents. Olivia is polite, smart, humble and a very strong leader in religion. I struggle with my faith in God knowing what is out in the world. I have learned many things from Olivia. I have learned that when life throws problems I should not become impatient and rush to find a solution; but, slow down and look at the big picture. My first mission trip taught me that people express their love in different ways. Olivia expressed her love for me by staying with me when I was worried or became angry and helped calm me down.

I'm excited to have experienced the joy of helping others and learning to understand others in a new way.

Nicole Powers

**MARCH 2017
USHERS & ACOLYTES**

DATE	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Greeter for February - Ron & Sharon Rovner		
Mar. 5	Dick Bode	
	Sandy Gendusa	
	Heidi Leo	
	Mindy Taylor	
Mar. 12	Paul Bacon	
	Dave Fehlman	
	Jim Hill	
	Joyce Hill	
Mar. 19	Paul Bacon	
	Ann Petersen	
	Tony Rake	
	Ruby Thacker	
Mar. 26	Jutta Culbertson	
	Dave Fehlman	
	Peggy Martin	
	Tom Martin	

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Mar. 5	Pastor Crystal
Mar. 12	Tony Rake
Mar. 19	Mary Steffen
Mar. 26	Ruby Thacker

MARCH NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Mar. 5	Linda Vrabec
Mar. 12	Madison Jensen
Mar. 19	Geraldyn Carr
Mar. 26	Val Whitman



**APRIL 2017
USHERS & ACOLYTES**

DATE	USHERS	ACOLYTES
Greeter for March – Val Whitman		
April 2	Paul Bacon	
	Mary Taylor	
	Ted Tremont	
April 9	Dick Bode	
	Sandy Gendusa	
	Heidi Leo	
	Mindy Taylor	
April 16	Paul Bacon	
	Ann Petersen	
	Tony Rake	
	Ruby Thacker	
April 23	Paul Bacon	
	Dave Fehlman	
	Jim Hill	
	Joyce Hill	
April 30	Dave Fehlman	
	Jutta Culbertson	
	Peggy Martin	
	Tom Martin	

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April 2	Pastor Crystal
April 9	Peggy Martin
April 16	Linda Vrabec
April 23	Lou Ann Kozderka
April 30	Youth

APRIL NURSERY ASSISTANTS

April 2	none
April 9	Linda Vrabec
April 16	Madison Jensen
April 23	Geraldyn Carr
April 30	Val Whitman



Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30am

Sunday School (Sept.-May) - 9:45am

Fellowship - 10:30am

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Jason Hladik

Pastor Jason's cell phone.....630-673-0492

Pastor Jason's email:

pastorhladik@icloud.com

Family Pastor..... Crystal Calhoun-Johnson

Pastor Crystal's cell phone.....630-901-8540

Pastor Crystal's email:

pastorccalhoun@gmail.com

Pastor of Accessibility and Acceptance:

Pastor Fred Berchtold

Pastor Fred's cell phone.....815-529-1725

Pastor Fred's email;

godslvestories@comcast.net

Minister of Worship Arts.....Sarah Becker

Sarah Becker's cell.....281-635-5416

Sarah's email.....imgatiger@yahoo.com

Church Phone.....847-526-8471

Email.....federatedchurch200@sbcglobal.net

Beacon editor.....Sylvia Chen

Sylvia Chen's email.....azuresbc@gmail.com

Church Web Site:

www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org

Custodian.....Panuncio Gonzalez

Director of Music/Organist.....Geri Meyer

Nursery Attendant.....Nancy Lucius

Secretary.....Judy Pinkonsly

Youth Coordinator.....Valerie Lucius

☺ Become a greeter at Federated and make a difference! Anyone interested in sharing a smile, a hug, a handshake or just making someone feel welcome, contact Mary Taylor at 847-526-7151.

☺ Please remember to notify the church office if you have a change of address, phone number or a new email address.

☺ Recordings of our Sunday worship services are available on our website. Go to our website to view the latest worship service:

www.federatedchurchofwauconda.org

☺ Our Beacon newsletter is also on the website. If you no longer wish to receive a copy by mail, please drop us a note or call the church office at [847-526-8471](tel:847-526-8471) and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE

Federated Church of Wauconda

Committed to God through Christ to enrich the world through worship, mission, witness, and service.

The **BEACON** gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following sponsors:

phone 847-526-2115

fax 847-526-6251

Wauconda Funeral Home
235 North Main Street
Wauconda, IL 60084

Mark A. Kisselburg

Craig A. Kisselburg



Remember that all monetary gifts to the church are tax-deductible. Just make sure we know your name and address, and attach your name to your contribution each time!

Thank you for your generosity!