

VOLUNTOUR

SUN, November 22, during the 11:15 AM service @ both campuses

Get a hands-on tour of many of our volunteer opportunities at either of our campuses. Your tour guide will take you to various places where you'll be introduced to some leaders and volunteers and learn a bit about their ministries. Reserve your spot at westgatechurch.org/volunteer or email volunteer@westgatechurch.org.

EXPLORE: DOUBT, QUESTION, SEARCH

SUN, November 15, 9:30–11 AM @ WestGate Saratoga

If you feel like the church is a foreign place, and would appreciate a comfortable and open place to doubt, question, and search for answers, come hear Jay Kim discuss the story of God and what it means for us today, as well as some of the confusing language and culture of the church. Learn more and sign up at westgatechurch.org/explore.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 16 & 17, 2016

Beautiful Day 2016 will be on April 16 and 17. Help make Beautiful Day happen! We are looking for project managers, marketing team members, and volunteer team members. If you, or anyone you know, would like to lend their skill to us, please let us know! Contact Grace Chen at gchen@westgatechurch.org for more information.

CAFÉ NOEL

FRI, December 4, 7-9 PM @ WestGate Saratoga

Cafe Noel is coming! One of the highlights for women during the year! It will be a night of joy and courage, and a great opportunity to invite your friends, co-workers, neighbors, family, etc. Tickets are \$15 per person. Includes dinner, carols, fun and more. Hurry and sign up because last year sold out! Sign up at westgatechurch.org/cafenobel.

PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES MEET & GREET

Attention parents of teenagers! Come to a 30-minute "Meet and Greet" with WestGate's new Pastor of Student Ministries, David Tieche.

Saturday, Nov 7 at 6:15 PM in the Saratoga Theater

Sunday, Nov 8 at 10:45 AM in the Saratoga Gym

Sunday, Nov 22 at 10:45 AM at the South Hills campus (Main Lobby Lounge)

Dave will briefly introduce himself, share a bit about his dreams for the ministry, share with you some ways parents can be better connected with HSM and JHM - and answer any questions you might have.



BECOMING MORE

ADOPTION CONVERSATIONS

When I was 15 years old, I made some bad decisions and found myself pregnant. Initially, I planned to raise my child because I felt there were only two options -- abortion or giving up my life for my son. Abortion was not an option for me. My grandmother, lovingly telling me that keeping "my" child was selfish, convinced me to look into adoption.

I didn't want my child to grow up like me, in a single parent home, with a struggling mother and limited resources. So I relented. Looking into adoption, I realized that hundreds of people wanted and were ready to have a baby in their life. I narrowed down the list and, when I finally met the family I had picked, I knew it was right. Years later I'm still involved in my son's life. He knows I'm his birthmother and he understands why I chose open adoption. He even ushered in my wedding.

This was the hardest decision I ever made, but also the best one. My son has the chance to lead a life full of opportunities, and so have I. I went on to earn my Masters degree, and now have the opportunity to work as a social worker with young women who struggle in life.

I thank God for the life my son and I have now. It started with taking the time to really consider my options and the life I wanted him to have.

– Katie



UPCOMING EVENT:

If you've built your family through adoption, or you're hoping to adopt, come join us for "Adoption Conversations."

SAT, Nov 21, 9 AM—Noon in The WestGate Saratoga Theater.

Come to share and receive information, support, encouragement and prayer.

WEEKLY SERVICES

Day	Event
SAT	Worship Services, 5 & 6:40pm, Worship Center JHM (Jr. High Ministry), 6:40pm, Gym
SUN	Worship Services, 9:30 & 11:15am, Worship Center & Theater HSM (High School Ministry), 5pm, Gym
THURS	L2 (College & Young Adults), 7pm, Theater

COMING UP

Find more info under "More" and "News & Events" on our website. Questions? Email staff@westgatechurch.org.

Newcomers Reception - SUN, Nov 15, 10:45-11:14 AM @ WG South Hills
Explore - SUN, Nov 15, 9:30am @ WG Saratoga
Café Noel (for women) - FRI, Dec 4, 7-9 PM @ WG Saratoga
Fair Trade Fair - Dec 5/6 @ WG Saratoga. Dec 13 @ WG South Hills
Discover WestGate - SUN, Dec 6, 1-4 PM @ WG Saratoga
Baptisms - SAT/SUN, Feb 20 & 21, both campuses

GIVING

UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF 11/01/15

General Offering:
Received: \$112,522
Budgeted: \$108,000

Fiscal YTD: (09/01/15—11/01/15)
Received: \$980,502
Budgeted: \$1,012,000

WestGate Water: (09/01/13—11/01/15)
Weekly Recycling Total: \$244.93
Inception to Date: \$58,686.26

13.7% toward well #15: Chamakanga Primary School in Kenya

LOUD Compassion/Missions YTD:
11/01/15 - Current Received: \$181,066

Pledge Cards: 227

Please note: any designated missionary gifts will be applied to the LOUD fund.

Got questions about giving, OR want to set up online giving?
Visit: www.westgatechurch.org/give

Love, Love, Love Share—Getting Beyond Our Excuses

What A Day!

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-40; Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-13

1. Hears of John the Baptist being beheaded - Matthew 14:1-13
Now that John is dead, Herod wants to see Jesus - Luke 9:9
2. Tries to get to a solitary place to pray - Matthew 14:13
3. Crowds follow him. He has compassion on them and heals the sick - Matthew 14:14
4. Disciples show up - Luke 9:10, Mark 6:40
5. Wants to get away with them alone - Luke 9:10
6. Leaves in a boat to a solitary place - Mark 6:32
7. People come - Luke 10:11, Mark 6:33
8. Christ teaches, heals, and feeds them -
Matthew 14:18-21, Mark 6:39-44, Luke 9:14-17, John 6:10-13
9. Christ send disciples on ahead and he dismisses the crowd -
Matthew 14:22, Mark 6:45, John 6:16
10. They try to make him king - John 6:15
11. Christ gets away in the mountains to pray -
Matthew 14:23, Mark 6:46
12. Christ walks on the water -
Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:47-51, John 6:16-21
13. Crowd follows them -
John 6:22-24, Mark 6:53-56, Matthew 14:34-46
14. Day begins again

John 6:1-14

PRAYERCAST—

10-15 minute guided prayer experience.

Updated on Tuesdays by 3 PM at westgatechurch.org/podcast

Exposing Our Excuses

It's rarely a good time to serve

- There are times to retreat
- Waiting for when there is plenty of time is not a good strategy for growing your faith
- Get good/trusted counsel

Just bring what you have and who you are

- Needs are beyond our skill
- Needs are beyond our resources

Someone packed a lunch

- Every act of service for Jesus is sacred
- All service in Jesus' name is honorable

Jesus' strategy to grow your faith is to put you in situations you can't handle

- When was the last time you were totally over your head for the cause of Jesus?
- When was the last time that your faith was the only good explanation for what you were doing?

Volunteer Opportunities—westgatechurch.org/volunteer

For info or to volunteer—Fill out a MatchMe card and put it in the offering basket, or email volunteer@westgatechurch.org.

Get more...

WATCH, LISTEN TO, and get the NOTES & DIGGING DEEPER for the sermons online at www.westgatechurch.org/teaching [updated on Sundays at 3pm]

Watch current and past sermon videos online at vimeo.com/westgate

Use iTunes? Go to www.westgatechurch.org/podcast and subscribe to the sermons for free.



**LIFE GROUP
MATERIAL**

Week of November 8, 2015

Love, Love, Love Share—Getting Beyond Our Excuses

QUESTION 1:

Have you ever asked for help from others and felt the disappointment of excuses? One common example might be asking people to help you move from one house to another. People usually come up with pretty good excuses to get out of that one. What are some of the lamest excuses you've ever heard from people wanting to get out of lending a helping hand? Better yet, what is the lamest excuse you've ever given?

QUESTION 2:

A heart willing to serve is at least, if not more, important than able hands. In what ways do you agree and/or disagree with this statement? Why?

QUESTION 3:

Galatians 5:13 says this: *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.* Break this verse down, piece by piece, even word by word. What does it reveal to us about how we ought to approach the idea of serving and about overcoming obstacles to serving?

QUESTION 4:

The writer Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, *It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.* What do you think he meant by this? Do you agree or disagree? Have you ever experienced this in your own life?

QUESTION 5:

This is a conversation you may have already started last week but spend some time brainstorming ways you can explore getting involved in serving at WestGate. For those who are already serving in some capacity, spend some time sharing what your experience has been like and what you've enjoyed most about it.

*During this fall teaching series, we will be taking a break from **Digging Deeper** in order to focus on the **PrayerCast**. Digging Deeper will return this winter.

Find the PrayerCast online at westgatechurch.org/podcast.