

# THE NEWS LETTER



December 2017

## Woodbury Lutheran Staff Wish You All A Very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Arach Dillman  
Karen  
Barb  
Arend  
Lindsay  
Schmitt  
Laura  
Stemmer  
Mark Sheppers  
Alyssa  
Ponshur  
Mara  
Law

Patrick  
Brener  
Christina  
Jones

Laetia  
Conant  
Cindy  
Frost

Debra  
Wahlund  
Tom  
Ferguson



Marcy  
Schubbe

Jane

Mark  
Sobin  
John  
Sawyer  
Mick

Jan  
Peters  
Mary  
Lehman  
Sara  
Muller  
Sunny  
Marshall  
Jill  
Kohl  
Shera  
Singer  
Molly  
Schulze  
Stacy  
White



WOODBURY  
LUTHERAN

# Multiply

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*  
-- Acts 1:8

It has been quite an amazing fall in the life of our congregation. We have said good-bye to one of our pastors as Pastor Derek accepted a Call to lead the National Youth Gathering in St. Louis. We have experienced the disappointment of having two Calls returned. We have celebrated the amazing faithfulness of God over the last 50 years in our church and we have excitedly looked ahead to where God is leading us next in our Multiply initiative.

As I reflect over the last few months, I have a heart that is full because Jesus is unleashing His power in us, in our relationships, in our communities and in His world. The response to Multiply has been nothing short of amazing; almost 500 individuals and families have committed to Multiply and each week a few more response cards continue to come in. Here is a quick snapshot:

- 493 Response cards have been received
- Of those cards the average increase in giving was 24%
- More than \$6.3 million has been committed to Multiply

When you combine what has been committed to with what we expect to receive over the next two years, we are well on our way to meeting our goal of \$8.4 million. What excites me the most about this number is that we got to it together. There was not one or two huge

givers that pushed us over. It truly was about all of us praying and taking a step on our own Generosity Journey. As we have been saying from the beginning, it is not about the number. The number will allow us to now get about the business of doing **the work** that we believe God is calling us to do over the next two years.

My promise to you is that we will continue to be in prayer; we will be good listeners for the voice of God; we will be good followers of Jesus; we will be wise stewards with the resources He has blessed us with; and we will do what we said we will do by putting all of our resources to work in the mission of being witnesses to the Name of Jesus so that through us, people everywhere will be told about Jesus.

Following Jesus,  
Pastor Tom





“...God was teaching me to see things from His perspective...”

## Living a Missional Life

Perspective. It's a strange thing. We tend to see things through our own lenses... and it can be difficult to look past that.

When I went on my first mission trip to a developing country, it was no different. I saw things from my own perspective. I saw the exhaust that filled the dirty city. I could smell and taste all the fumes as they filled my lungs and caused me to feel physically ill. I witnessed extreme material poverty that I could no longer ignore and pretend didn't exist. I witnessed sadness and hurt, caste systems, children who longed to be held and loved, solemn faces wherever I looked, and survival skills I never could have imagined. It was overwhelming and exhausting and confusing.

But in the midst of all of it, God was teaching me to see things from His perspective – to see people. People who longed to be seen and acknowledged, smiled at, loved, and encouraged. People who want to work together and share their lives with each other and be a part of something bigger than themselves. People who are just like you and me.

God changed my perspective on that first trip, and He continues to teach me how to live a missional life – not only in a developing country but everywhere – in my home, my neighborhood, and my community.

As we prepare for our summer missions at WLC, I invite you to join a team of people who will be going and sharing their love and the love of Christ. Never done anything like this? Don't worry! We have you covered with prayer, training, and others who will walk alongside you.

Here's a look at the WLC Short-Term Mission Experiences for 2018.

- Robin's Nest, Jamaica: June 14-22
- Quito, Ecuador: July 6-16
- Phillips Neighborhood, Minneapolis: July 25-29
- Kake, Alaska: August 8-18

Applications and \$100 deposit due January 31, 2018.  
[woodburylutheran.org](http://woodburylutheran.org) > Resources & Media > Missions

Questions: Contact Regina Kehl at [kehr@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:kehr@woodburylutheran.org).



*As 2017 comes to a close, we want to extend our sincere appreciation for your ongoing support of the ministry of Woodbury Lutheran Preschool. It gives us great honor to partner with families to prepare children for future learning and to share the love of Jesus with them.*

*It is our prayer that your Christmas season be one that is filled with moments of peace as you reflect on the amazing gift that God gave to us through His son.*

*The Staff of Woodbury Lutheran Preschool*



# Woodbury Lutheran Preschool

- 651-739-5146
- [www.woodburylutheran.org](http://www.woodburylutheran.org)
- [mulsos@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:mulsos@woodburylutheran.org)

# You're Invited!



## Join us for The Shepherd's Christmas

Our High 5's Christmas Program will be an opportunity to hear about the shepherd's story of the first Christmas.

Friday, December 8th at 1pm

Valley Creek Campus –Genesis

# OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday, January 9th**  
**6:00-7:30pm**

***Our program offers exceptional faith based early childhood experiences.***

- ***Terrific Three's***
- ***Fantastic Four's***
- ***High Five's***
- ***Extended Learning (7:30-9:00am and 2:00-5:00pm)***

- **Fostering *Growth***
- **Nurturing *Curiosity***
- **Inspiring *Excitement***  
***for Learning!***



## Weddings:

Michelle Henderson & Matthew Price

## Baptisms:

Eli James Browning  
Lincoln Thomas Burrows  
Aubrey Claire Chavie  
Tristan Lee Chavie  
Jack Louis Bailen  
Vivian Claire Huska  
Joseph Douglas Bauer  
Camden Randall Diekmann  
Liam Joseph LeMay  
Theodore Howard Charpentier

## Deaths:

Renee Kenow ~ nephew, Steve  
The Family of Eric Leonard  
Kathleen Janssen ~ brother,  
Richard Roberts  
The Family of Marian Snow  
Sally Dunn ~ brother-in-law,  
Clayton Peck  
Kevin Graham ~ uncle, Mark  
Lohmann  
Bob Carlson ~ sister, Judy  
Peterson  
Beth Kothe ~ aunt, Grace

## Service Times at WLC:

Saturdays at Valley Creek:  
Contemporary, 5pm

Sundays at Valley Creek:  
Sanctuary, Blended 8 & 11am  
Sanctuary, Contemporary  
9:30am  
Genesis, Contemporary 11am

Sundays at Oak Hill:  
Blended 9:00am  
Contemporary 10:30am

Sundays at Liberty Ridge  
Contemporary 10:00am

Office & Mailing Address:  
7380 Afton Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125

Office Hours:  
Mon. – Thurs.: 9am–4pm  
Friday: 9am–3pm

Phone: (651) 739-5144  
Fax: (651) 739-3536  
Website: [www.woodbury.lutheran.org](http://www.woodbury.lutheran.org)



“...There must be more to this life...”

## Another 50th Anniversary???

We celebrated WLC’s anniversary last month... just in case you hadn’t heard. The month of October had family fun, people wearing matching shirts and plenty of setting up and tearing down. A lot of memories surfaced.

It was during the 2+ hour worship service when I realized that I was 12 years old when WLC launched! As I sat in the pew, I wondered, “what was I doing 50 years ago while the charter members gathered to worship the only King?” Then it came to me. That year, 50 years ago, I remember walking down Skillman Avenue in No. St. Paul with Brenda. Brenda was my best friend; we navigated the changes that growing up brought. On this walk the topic of church or God somehow came up. It was then that I declared I didn’t believe in God. I went so far as to say, why would anyone believe that? So, it’s in a book. How do we know who wrote it? Some crazy guy probably sat down and made it all up. I don’t believe in God. And so that’s how I lived.

There were moments when I had glimpses of God. But those moments were few and far between. The one moment that I couldn’t explain away is the moment I felt my son on my tummy the day he was born. Something washed over me that was not explainable. Yet, I set it aside...

“There must be more to this life,” I mentioned to Cathy. She knew what I was missing. She was a Christian. My son was 4 when she introduced me to Ruth. Ruth was a gentle, smiling woman of wisdom. We sat together at her kitchen table while my son played in the yard. One day she opened her Bible and shared that God wasn’t mad and he wasn’t interested in controlling me. Nope. But, He was love. “God is love,” she read. It was then when the light went on. GOD IS LOVE? I asked her if that was really true. And it sparked something in me like the flint in old cigarette lighters. And that something was good and pure and complete. Ruth answered my questions of what would I have to do and be? God’s

done it, you are His, and you are who He loves. I was washed in the light and love of God. And let me tell you, there’s nothing like God’s love. I didn’t really know love until I had my son. That crazy ‘all in’ love a parent has for their child helped me understand God’s love.

50 years ago I turned my back on Jesus. But he didn’t turn His back on me. Instead, He knew that 50 years from that walk down Skillman His wayward daughter would be sitting in a pew praising the goodness of our Lord.

Thank you for the gift of serving our congregation and our Savior.

*~Mary Lehman, Director of Small Groups and Women’s Ministry*

# Project VIDEO Mission Update

Technology changes but God's Word does not! Project VIDEO (PV) Proclaims the Gospel through Video in Asia, by partnering with ethnic people groups to produce Gospel videos in their minority languages.

PV provides video equipment and training so our partners (ethnic churches/bible schools) can use the films as discipleship and evangelistic tools. Studios begin by dubbing films and later making original productions. PV travels to the studios throughout Asia to provide hands-on-training in areas such as basic camera skills, scriptwriting, and even animation. By God's grace and provision, PV achieves this by connecting local U.S. congregations with local ministries in Asia. The need is great; Thailand alone has 74 languages!

In 2009, founder Don Leonard established five studios in Thailand, Burma, and China working in seven languages. Today, PV has 20 studios in seven countries making videos in 30 languages potentially reaching over 20 million people. Like Jesus taking five loaves of bread and two fish to feed thousands, PV is experiencing God's multiplication as this simple video technology is used by local Asians to feed many with the words of eternal life and hope.

WLC's own Jerry Morton attended our Building Bridges-themed service volunteer reunion at WLC on Nov. 11-12. This inaugural reunion included reflections on past trips, mission updates, and a "think tank" session on how PV can build capacity and create sustainability. PV is grateful for WLC's support of five projects (packages) since 2011 and for sending Jerry Morton to see the work in 2012 and 2014. Please prayerfully consider becoming a service volunteer to Asia in 2018. Also, will you please join us in asking our great Father for wisdom as this ministry multiplies throughout Asia? May He be known and worshiped!

For more information on PV please see our website [www.project-video.org](http://www.project-video.org).



# Why Should I Go to Church?

It's Saturday night. If you don't usually attend a church service on the weekend, you may be thinking, *Why even bother going to church this Sunday? I don't know or like any of those people. What would I get out of spending two hours sitting in a pew? Wouldn't I be better off watching the game with friends, helping someone in need, or advocating for a cause?*

While connecting with people, helping those in need, fighting injustice, and resting are all necessary things, we should not prioritize them above God himself. God alone is preeminent (Colossians 1:18). These activities should flow from life-giving connection with Christ and his people. When we make good things central we give them God's position, and they become idols.

## Five Reasons to Go to Church on Sunday

Our view of Jesus and his church is often filtered through historical, political, and pop-culture lenses. Many see the church as producing cookie-cutter people who follow dominant power structures rather than as a living organism with discipleship and merciful influence in our surrounding communities.

But why should you go? Here are five reasons for gathering with believers this weekend.

### 1. To remind each other who and whose we are.

In a world offering a multiplicity of viewpoints, there is one place that people can find truth (John 8:26). The church is a lighthouse in an ethical fog (Matthew 5:14-16).

My jazz musician father often said of my elementary educator mother, "She always reminds me where 12:00 is." Who helps you find your bearings when you're unsure how to navigate an increasingly complex world? Are you stumbling your way through life, or do you have a steady compass and anchor for your soul (Hebrews 6:19)? We gather with other saints for discipleship, and then are scattered as salt and light in the world as missionaries where we dwell (Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20).

### 2. To remind us that temporal trials we face will have a joyful end.

One of the most impactful funerals I've attended was to support a brother whose mother passed suddenly. Our pastor preached from Ecclesiastes 7:1-2 (NASB):

- A good name is better than a good ointment,
- And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth.
- It is better to go to a house of mourning
- Than to go to a house of feasting,
- Because that is the end of every man,
- And the living takes it to heart.

In those somber moments of reflection on God's word, we were reminded of our own fragility: we will all die, and it could be sooner than we expect. Yet, in that sweet, grace-filled meditation, we were also encouraged to live purposefully and with integrity, considering ultimate reality. We are not to live our best life now, as proclaimed by the prosperity gospel, but we live soberly and prudently to maximize our brief time on earth (Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:16).

For Christians, our best life is yet to come (Psalm 16:11).

### 3. To encourage growth and fight stagnation.

I am blind to my own blindness, and I need the perspective of others who are further along the road to Christlikeness than I am. We are prone to minimize our own faults and focus on others' (Matthew 7:3-5). Close-knit community lovingly urges us toward maturity (Ephesians 4:13-24; John 8:31-32).

### 4. To spend time with family.

The church isn't primarily a building or a set of programs or strategies. It's a family, with spiritual fathers and sons (1 Corinthians 4:14-17; Titus 2:1-2, 6-8; 1 Timothy 1:1-2), mothers and daughters (Titus 2:3-5). It's a body (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4) whose neediest members find help (Acts 2:42-47; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:9-16), whose generous ones cheerfully contribute (2 Corinthians 8; Philippians 4:10, 15-18). In this family, each member's participation and gifts are essential

for the whole body to thrive (Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-16).

When I trusted Christ at age 18, I was only a serial church attendee. After my college graduation, I focused on my new job and spending time with my parents during my mother's battle with terminal cancer. When my mother passed away, a co-worker (who was also a pastor's wife) gently encouraged me during that season, "You need a church home, Tiffany. You need aunts and uncles, mothers and fathers." Her words resonated in my soul.

A few months later, I was baptized into a local church. They welcomed me with open arms – warts and all. Some of my most precious, poignant, and powerful memories involve the family I've found in church. I grew up away from extended family, but I now have a family in my church.

### 5. To remind us of our living hope.

It's true, some churches have fallen captive to living for the status quo rather than living for the one who undergirds and intertwines himself in human history (Psalm 90:1; John 1:14). This is not the way of the healthy church, however. A church family that is pressing into Jesus's mission is forced to trust God for his presence, power, and provision (Matthew 28:18-20). The church gathers as a reminder that we can only experience fruitful mission when we are tethered to and drawing sustenance from the true vine (John 15). His word is our daily bread.

There are a million good things you and I could do that would hinder us from locking arms with God's people. If you're on the fence: Will you set an alarm with a purpose to join in worshipping God with a local church this weekend? I promise you that as many reasons as you might have not to go, there are even more reasons to trust God, commit, and go every week.

*Reprinted from the website Desiring God. (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-should-i-go-to-church>). Written by Tiffany Johnson, Guest Contributor.*

# Campus Updates from Liberty Ridge & Oak Hill



## LIBERTY RIDGE UPDATES

*Here are some quick updates from our Liberty Ridge Campus:*

- We celebrated two baptisms and one confirmation during the month of November. Two more baptisms are scheduled in December, as well as two people joining as new members.
- Many families saw a great response when they served hot cocoa and extra treats to trick-or-treaters this Halloween.
- As a congregation, we are unifying our prayers asking that God would bring in five families from the surrounding area to become part of the Liberty Ridge campus. We invite you to pray with us as we ask God to move in a mighty way. (Update: 3 out of 5 families are now attending regularly.)
- Our Kids Ministry is excited for the first ever Kids and Youth Christmas program at Liberty Ridge on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 10am.
- We are preparing effective and creative ways for people to invite their friends to church for Christmas Eve. Pray for God to lead many through our doors on Dec. 24.
- We continue to celebrate what God is doing at the Liberty Ridge Campus and we pray that He would bless us to be a blessing to the many people that live near the campus.



## OAK HILL UPDATES

*Here are some quick updates from our Oak Hill Campus:*

- For the 2nd year in a row, we served as a Drop-Off Site for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all those who served with Christ-like hearts!
- It was a joy to watch our campus bring forth their First Fruits offerings as a part of Multiply on November 19th. Kids also brought forward offerings they collected throughout the month of November for Feed My Starving Children.
- Small groups continue to be a vital part of our campus. Please contact Wendy Baumgarn or Diane Hall if you are interested in joining a small group at the Oak Hill Campus.
- Kids Ministry is excited for our Christmas program, The Star of Love, on December 10th at the 10:30am service. We'll have a birthday party for baby Jesus with cake and a craft after the service.
- We thank God for the support of lay leaders and the staff of WLC. Thank you for your encouragement as we prayerfully consider who God is leading to be our next campus pastor.
- We continue to celebrate what God is doing at the Oak Hill Campus and we pray that He would bless us to be a blessing to the many people that live near the campus.







## Campus Update from Valley Creek

### WELCOME NEW WLC MEMBERS!

Erik Dikken  
Cheryl Hart  
Robert & Jennifer Drayton

### *Here are some quick updates from our Valley Creek Campus:*

- It was a joy to host our 50th Anniversary celebration service and seeing folks from all three of our campuses coming together to celebrate and rejoice over God's goodness to our church over the last 50 years.
- We are looking forward to our Annual Christmas concert on December 8, 9 and 10th. This year's concert will be very special because it will be the last to be led by our Minister of Music Mark Shepperd. He will be retiring at the end of May.
- If you look closely at the outside of our campus you will notice that new signage is slowly beginning to appear.
- We are excited about our Christmas worship opportunities this year – ***Please note that there will not be Sunday morning worship on any of our campuses on December 24th.***
- Our Saturday evening worship leader Laurie Ross is now leading full time at our daughter church TheAlley in Cottage Grove, so she will no longer be on staff at WLC. We are so grateful for her gifts and service to WLC. We are excited to announce that Karl Grant will now be leading worship in our Saturday evening contemporary worship. We look forward to his service!
- We continue to celebrate what God is doing at the Valley Creek Campus and we pray that He would bless us to be a blessing to the many people that live near the campus.

**JOIN US FOR  
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP!**

Friday, December 23:  
7:00pm (V)

Saturday, December 24:  
1:00pm (V); 3:00pm (L, O & V);  
5:00pm (O & V); 11:00pm (V)

Sunday, December 25:  
10:00am (O & V)



# 7 Christmas Traditions to Try

Christmas is a great time to gather, reflect, look forward, and make amazing memories with your family. If your family is like mine, it can get a little, well, stale, I guess, to do the same thing over and over. What we decided to do with our family is experiment with some unique Christmas ideas. The crazy thing about Christmas is that kids don't really remember what they got for Christmas, but they do remember the experiences we created that Christmas.

Read on to discover a few fun, meaningful ideas for Christmas traditions you can start with your family this year.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

One year we went all-out for a birthday party for Jesus: cake, candles, hats. We made Jesus the center of the holiday. Our kids were a little younger (three to five years old). Birthday parties are fun, and putting the focus on Jesus really made the point stick. Christmas is about celebrating the birth of our Savior—not Santa, not Rudolph, but Jesus. You can also get an Advent calendar and build up the excitement to the birthday party. The Advent calendar helps build anticipation for the day.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS TO SOLDIERS

We did this last year. We talked about how a lot of mommies and daddies weren't able to spend Christmas with their families because of their commitment to serve our country. Sometimes we can take for granted that we get to see our families on Christmas when many don't. A simple note that says, "Thank you for serving," "Thinking of you," or "You are loved" can go a long way. This is also a great way to teach kids respect—respect for our country and respect for our fellow citizens.

## GO SEE A MOVIE

I wish I could say Christmas was this magical time when all our kids played well with each other and didn't fight, but, well ... we decided that we'd head to the theater on Christmas Day and break up the environment. What was great about this is that it was exciting (going to the theater is always exciting for us) and gave the kids some time out of the house. When we got home, it was almost like Christmas morning again. They were excited to play with their gifts and to play with each other.

## LOOK BACK AND LOOK FORWARD

Christmas is a great time to talk about all the good, the bad, and the ugly moments of that year. One idea is to go through your Facebook feed and look at all the fun times you had together.

Christmas is also a great time to look forward. I'm a big fan of setting goals with your family. Think about the new year. What are some activities you want to do together? What are some skills you or your kids want to acquire (learning to ride a bike, writing a book, taking a vacation together)? I wrote a book called *Creating a Family Brand*. It has a step-by-step guide to doing this with your family. You can download it for free at [parentingacademy.com/familybrand](http://parentingacademy.com/familybrand).

## MAKE A JERUSALEM MEAL

One way to travel back in time is to make the meals that Joseph and Mary may have eaten at the time of Jesus' birth. When I was in Israel this year we ate a lot of fresh vegetables, hummus, falafel, pita bread, schnitzel, shawarma, tahini, and baklava. You can Google some of these recipes and make them together with your kids.

## HANDMADE GIFTS FOR NURSING HOMES

Roughly 60 percent of nursing home residents do not have regular visitors. That fact blows my mind. What a great opportunity to reach out to those who need love. Make some simple handmade crafts (find ideas on Pinterest) and go door-to-door at a nursing home and make someone's day.

We did this with our kids and passed out roses on Valentine's Day. To see everyone's faces light up was priceless. By the end we felt like celebrities. Folks were coming out of their rooms and following us around. Be sure to ask the residents questions. "Where did you grow up?" "What did you do for a living?" Be ready to listen. Making someone else's day will make your day.

## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Why do we do the things we do on Christmas? Pick one tradition each year and trace its history. What's nice about this is that there are movies, books, and YouTube videos that help explain the history of certain traditions. Why do we have candy canes? Where does Santa come from? Why do we put baby Jesus in a barn? Why do we put a tree in the house and cover it in lights? There is a great book from Ace Collins called *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*. Pick one tradition each year and trace its beginning.

The goal with these traditions is to help families value experiences over gifts. I've tried to list traditions that kids can participate in. We'd love for you to share some of your family traditions with us on social media using the hashtag #homefrontmag.

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by Mike Ruman

Mike is the founder and CEO of Parenting Academy ([parentingacademy.com](http://parentingacademy.com)). Parenting Academy is a digital learning community equipping moms and dads to be rockstar parents. Mike also founded the Swipe It app ([swipeitapp.com](http://swipeitapp.com)) that helps connect families together through fun table-top questions and challenges.

***Taken from the December 2017 HomeFront Monthly Newsletter.***



## Christmas

### God Speaks

We live in a world that is filled with the clutter of noise and busyness. Even for those of us who follow Jesus it can be hard to hear the voice of God. In the sending of Jesus the author of Hebrews declares that God has spoken. The question is, will we listen?

### December 23, 24

Title: God Speaks  
Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4  
Verses: Hebrew 1:1-2  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Focus: In the sending of His Son Jesus, God has spoken. Jesus is the exact representation of God, greater than angels; His life, death and resurrection have brought us forgiveness and life. On this Christmas may we hear Him speak once again!  
Living it Out: Read Luke 2 with a friend or family member.  
Value: Compassionate Care: Bringing Hope to the Hurting

### December 24 (Midnight)

Title: God Speaks  
Reading: Psalm 96  
Verse: Psalm 96:3  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 2:1-20  
Focus: Because God has spoken through His Son Jesus, now as His disciples we speak!

### December 25 (Christmas Day)

Title: God Speaks  
Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10  
Verse: Isaiah 52:7  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 1:1-14  
Focus: God has spoken to us in the sending of His Son Jesus. Now He speaks through us as He unleashes His Holy Spirit in us so that we can tell people about Him everywhere.

# December

1	Julie Fett Elaina Hane Emelia Johnson Bob Kamrath Joseph Kroohn Madeline Taylor	7	John Bystrzycki Pixie Anderson Marcie Anderson Lucy Beane Cindy Carmona Keegan Deilke Travis Ginn Francisco Penalosa Joyce Moran	13	Lois Carlson Derek Fong Jill Connolly Steve Retter Tom Vaaler Mark Wilkie Myia Schuessler Francis Shugg Joey Murphy Connor Charlson	18	Karen Dopson Nicole Gutzmann Gavin Hall Becca Skadsberg Mark Lodermeier Robert Hall Jeff Linert Lila McKinley	24	Anna Cartier Michelle Anderson Nancy Erickson Jared Goerlitz Oliver Herian Lucille Johnson Brian Mueller Evelyn Peltier Debra Varin Holly Rome Miki Schneider Ron Vogt Carol Doyle Tara Huppert Marissa Montgomery Thomas St. Jacque Marj Starner Shaina Strong Tom Tibbetts Rhonda Topp Elliott Walther	28	Tim Buchholz Justin Gehring Drew Lanz Dawn Osladil Laura Harelstad Cassidy Huebner Steve Knutson Harry Rensenbrink Danielle Hoel Arline Kenow Dan Moris Jamie Linert Liz Thompson Annamarie Gibbs Nev Crowther Trecie Horner Cara Lutes Aiden Loeffler Alicia McGuire Herb Morsching Curtice Rohlfing Tom Roehling Norah Wesser Dean Nadasdy Paula Grohs Beth Heintz Amy Lanz Peter Miner Jerry Moran Maureen Nelson Benjamin Nesvig Jeannie Parks Paul Pflieger Dave Reynolds Taelyn Albrecht Logan Delaney Adrian Kjelshus Sheri Lewis Mary Brandmire Natalie Feldkamp Rick Hoffman Gavin Johnson Peyten Pfotenhauer Marilyn Ruzich Logan Delaney Jim Schuster
2	Mike Anderson Rachel Carr Joel Feldkamp Alison Kurth Samuel Nassios Dillon Kindom Alexandra Retica	8	Scott Tuman Tom Danner Elli LeClair Jerry Rowe Markus Schull Mayonne Benson Kevin Esboldt Jennifer Hamann Lisa Lodermeier Mary Maroney Allison Lyden Mary Zarnke Katie Whitemarsh	14	Sue Chad Brandon Crist Kenna Bass Katie Dailey Paul Grizzell Elizabeth Leis Chris Kroohn Richard Stehr Don Thaumert Alexander Trujillo Ella Wesser	19	Steven Affield Nancy Dittmer Jessica Jechort Steve Hall Ivy Laney Lucy LeMay Natalie Mack Jonah Niere Kevin Tacheney Athena Stifter Donna Ignaszewski Francis Oehlke Brian Cartier Caden Schlattman Robert Ulrich Vonnie Liljedahl Dan Anderson William Conway Gina Kibble Luke Symmank Brody Cattell Jason Schuldt Joel Lopez	25	Mark Carlson Emmanuel Choragudi Gerald Coates Michele Atkinson Rajesh Kulandesu Scott Larson Brent Meissner Hunter Parker Steven Spaudie Kristin Retica Linda Tank Lauren Trachy Brooks Anderson Max Buchholz Troy Hanisch Nathalie Hauge Rachel Eastenson Julie Fisher Amy Schlichenmaier Andrew Dolan Larry Knoepfel Nick Moody Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Darlene Vezzoli	29	
3	Roxy Bjornson Benjamin Beucler Tatum Brigl Landon Graham Jordan Holmquist Casey Jahn Alen Jepson Jan Karlstrand Ashley Leadens Scott McNally Kimberly Koreltz Shirley Schelling Ethan Stork	9	Jan Braun Elijah Bohren Benjamin Clappier Susan Wildman Evan Korsgren Scott Rizzardi Jennifer Achterling Parker Theis David Sabbann Joseph Salava Eric Sandrock Sally Dunn Samuel Larson Peg Albrecht Derek Hegna Shirley Holland Diann Lindeman Dick Lindemeier Charley Pugmire Brenda Bertram James Iliff Becca Hohenstein Guinevere Marth Jerry Schmidt Marissa Jagger	15	Mary Emerson Wes Bolin Gavin Cowles Elise Dittmann Brad Fisher Callie Kiedrowski Connie Johnson Lucy Whitemarsh	20	Shelly Ahlquist Frederick Anderson Sandy Engen Sharon Fitzenberger Pete Olofson Samuel Opitz Axel Rogotzke Lisa Smith James Jensen Jeffrey Zeliensky TimWolfgram Mackenzie Illiff Eric Fernandez	26	Mark Carlson Emmanuel Choragudi Gerald Coates Michele Atkinson Rajesh Kulandesu Scott Larson Brent Meissner Hunter Parker Steven Spaudie Kristin Retica Linda Tank Lauren Trachy Brooks Anderson Max Buchholz Troy Hanisch Nathalie Hauge Rachel Eastenson Julie Fisher Amy Schlichenmaier Andrew Dolan Larry Knoepfel Nick Moody Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Darlene Vezzoli	30	
4	Rich Ahlquist Marie Haukland Lindsey Woods Trinity Hobot Haidyn Kennedy Jim Manship Nicholas Haut John Horner Parker Krause John Rothchild	10	Jan Braun Elijah Bohren Benjamin Clappier Susan Wildman Evan Korsgren Scott Rizzardi Jennifer Achterling Parker Theis David Sabbann Joseph Salava Eric Sandrock Sally Dunn Samuel Larson Peg Albrecht Derek Hegna Shirley Holland Diann Lindeman Dick Lindemeier Charley Pugmire Brenda Bertram James Iliff Becca Hohenstein Guinevere Marth Jerry Schmidt Marissa Jagger	16	Henry Gimble Betty Fockler Mark Reagan Charlotte Sonn Aaron Voth Steve Porter Nicholas Wolsky	21	Shelly Ahlquist Frederick Anderson Sandy Engen Sharon Fitzenberger Pete Olofson Samuel Opitz Axel Rogotzke Lisa Smith James Jensen Jeffrey Zeliensky TimWolfgram Mackenzie Illiff Eric Fernandez Wayne Franzen Madden Koger Susan Kristiansen Bob Schlichenmaier	27	Brooks Anderson Max Buchholz Troy Hanisch Nathalie Hauge Rachel Eastenson Julie Fisher Amy Schlichenmaier Andrew Dolan Larry Knoepfel Nick Moody Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Darlene Vezzoli	31	
5	Chelsey Rosemann Carlos Carmona Jake Hove Max Danner Joshua Mertens Katie Peltier Jerry Swanson Catherine Winters	11	Jan Braun Elijah Bohren Benjamin Clappier Susan Wildman Evan Korsgren Scott Rizzardi Jennifer Achterling Parker Theis David Sabbann Joseph Salava Eric Sandrock Sally Dunn Samuel Larson Peg Albrecht Derek Hegna Shirley Holland Diann Lindeman Dick Lindemeier Charley Pugmire Brenda Bertram James Iliff Becca Hohenstein Guinevere Marth Jerry Schmidt Marissa Jagger	16	Henry Gimble Betty Fockler Mark Reagan Charlotte Sonn Aaron Voth Steve Porter Nicholas Wolsky	22	Wayne Franzen Madden Koger Susan Kristiansen Bob Schlichenmaier	27	Brooks Anderson Max Buchholz Troy Hanisch Nathalie Hauge Rachel Eastenson Julie Fisher Amy Schlichenmaier Andrew Dolan Larry Knoepfel Nick Moody Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Darlene Vezzoli	31	
6	Ann Crist Beverly Herr Laurel Hannula Kaden Hanson Charles Herian Steve Lindeman	12	Jan Braun Elijah Bohren Benjamin Clappier Susan Wildman Evan Korsgren Scott Rizzardi Jennifer Achterling Parker Theis David Sabbann Joseph Salava Eric Sandrock Sally Dunn Samuel Larson Peg Albrecht Derek Hegna Shirley Holland Diann Lindeman Dick Lindemeier Charley Pugmire Brenda Bertram James Iliff Becca Hohenstein Guinevere Marth Jerry Schmidt Marissa Jagger	16	Henry Gimble Betty Fockler Mark Reagan Charlotte Sonn Aaron Voth Steve Porter Nicholas Wolsky	23	Gavin Graham Tyler Kinmouth	27	Brooks Anderson Max Buchholz Troy Hanisch Nathalie Hauge Rachel Eastenson Julie Fisher Amy Schlichenmaier Andrew Dolan Larry Knoepfel Nick Moody Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Darlene Vezzoli	31	

## BIRTHDAYS

## & Anniversaries

2	Todd & Sheryl Breiholz Owen & Nancy McDonagh	12	Jerry & MaryAnne Linser	27	Dave & Krista De Zeeuw Mike & Debbie Brocker Jim & Madelon Button Don & Janet Harrison Tim & Nancy Schubbe	30	John & Marna Uebler Robert & Jo Youngquist David & Beth Johnson Justin & Kelly Mack Steven & Yvonne Neils
4	Dan Quiros & Joyce Biagini	13	Eric & Cassie Bridenbecker Eldon & Sandra Engen Del & Liz Anderson	28	Larry & Pamela Hall Casey & Kristin Charlson Mike & Jan Rygh	31	Jerry & Jeannie Backlund Gerald & Kristine Bohrer Austin & Megan Dyck Matthew & Julianne Gage
5	Gerald & Joyce Moran Patrick & Margaret Claugherty	15	Michael & Lori Charron	29	William & Kristi Weichert Jerry & Jan Rowe Joel & Rachel Symmank		
6	Roger & Cheryl Olstad Rick & Diane Theissen	17	Todd & Jodee Watanabe				
9	Tom & Sara Murphy Jim & Kathie Widen	18	Joel & Lucy Mba-Ngué				
11	Daniel & Lyn Foley Ron Vogt & Shirley Yates	20	Skip & Kay Peltier				
		22	Bob & Suzanne Horning				
		23	Larry & Kally Lombard				
		26	Marvin & Karen Heaton				



## Worship

### HEALING SERVICE

Our Healing Service is held at the Valley Creek Campus every third Sunday. For prayers of healing, attend our service on December 17 at 12:15pm, in room 1-250 (VC Fireside). Questions, call Pastor Tim at 651-739-5144.

### LIBERTY RIDGE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

All are invited to come to the first Liberty Ridge Kids and Youth Christmas Program! It will be on December 3, during the 10am worship service. Please contact Laura Stennes at [stennesl@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:stennesl@woodburylutheran.org) or 651-503-6768 with questions.

### READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

The WLC Connection Center is available to help you determine what your next step might be on the Discipleship PATH. Whether you want to explore options or you already know what your next step will be, our Connectors would love to help! The Connection Center staff is available each Saturday before and after 5pm worship and each Sunday from 9-9:30, 10:30-11 and 12-12:15 in the lobby, or from 10:45-11 and 12 outside of the Genesis room.

### IS STEPHEN MINISTRY FOR YOU?

This "caring" ministry provides confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to those who are experiencing difficult life challenges. Need someone to talk with? At Valley Creek, contact Larry W. (men) 651-458-0147, or Linda W. (women) 651-458-0147. For other information: Shirley M. 651-276-7224.



## Grow

### BEHOLD, BE READY: A STUDY OF ISAIAH

Isaiah was sent to prepare Israel for their coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. As we enter the season of Advent, you are invit-

ed to come and learn exactly what the prophet Isaiah foretold: who the Messiah would be, why He would enter into the world in which we live, and what His life would mean for God's chosen people. Join us on Sundays as we dig into this powerful book over seven weeks. Times and locations: 9:30-10:30am, Genesis Room (VC), 9:00-9:45am, Back Hallways (LR).

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us for this low pressure DVD bible study where all ages, genders and relationships are welcome. The topics focus on God's continuous presence and promises in our lives. Contact: Michael Zenner, 651-592-9435.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MANIA

All 6th-8th graders join us on Friday, December 1. We have a fun night of big church games planned and you should be there! 6:30-8:30pm. It's free. No need to register, just show up! Friends are welcome. You won't want to miss it! This is an all-campus event that will be held at the Oak Hill campus. Be sure to eat before you come. Contact: Lindsey Schmidt.

### OAK HILL GAME NIGHT (6-12TH)

Game night the first Thursday of every month, 7-8:30pm. Join us on December 7. Meet at Caribou Coffee, 1830 Market Dr. Stillwater, MN 55082. Come hang out with Sarah and play games!

### HIGH SCHOOL WHIRLYBALL (9-12TH)

HS youth join us on December 20, 5:45-10 pm, for this ALL CAMPUS EVENT! If you're not familiar, Whirlyball is a game that combines basketball, hockey, lacrosse, and bumper-cars, and it's amazing! You don't want to miss it, and it's the perfect event to bring a friend! Cost is \$20 and includes pizza! Sign up and get the required waiver at [wlc youth.org](http://wlc youth.org). For more information please contact Patrick Brewer at [brewerp@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:brewerp@woodburylutheran.org) or 651-739-5144.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (6TH-8TH) SAVE THE DATE!

On Friday, January 26 we are going to have a Lock-in! What's a lock-in? It's an event where we are locked in the

building and we play games, goof off, talk about Jesus, and have a ton of fun. The lock-in will take place at the Oak Hill campus from 8pm (eat before you come) to 7:30am on Saturday morning. The cost is \$10/person. Come ready to eat snacks, make some new friends, and have a great time! Registration will open soon. Friends are welcome!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING FOR 6TH-12TH

All Youth ministries take place on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:15pm. The night looks like this: 6-6:30pm, Game time; 6:30-7pm, Opening worship/games; 7-7:30pm, Large group teaching; 7:30-8:15pm, Small groups. We meet at both the Oak Hill and Valley Creek campuses (Liberty Ridge meets at VC campus). REGISTRATION is now open at [wlc youth.org](http://wlc youth.org) for Sixers, Foundations and Roots.

### CONFIRMATION JOURNEY

A year long, devotion led, family-based experience for students (7th-12th grades) designed to prepare to publicly confirm their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This process is for mature students who want to explore their personal relationship with Jesus and grow in their understanding of what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus for a lifetime. The process involves Worshiping, Growing, Serving, and Reaching (sharing their faith with others) and is a great opportunity for students who want to personalize and grow as a disciple. If you're interested, set up a Confirmation Launch meeting with Lindsey Schmidt or attend a group launch meeting (dates are posted at [wlc youth.org](http://wlc youth.org)).

### LIBERTY RIDGE YOUTH BONFIRE, SLEDGING, AND BOOT HOCKEY

When: Saturday, January 20th from 1:00-3:00 pm; Where: The Jones's House; What: Liberty Ridge middle school and high school youth are invited to an afternoon of winter fun at the Jones's house. We'll start off with a bonfire, s'mores and hot chocolate. Then, we'll enjoy sledding and a game of boot hockey on the big hill and pond in their back yard. RSVP for this event by contacting Laura Stennes at 651-503-6768 or [stennesl@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:stennesl@woodburylutheran.org).

# Getting Connected

[lutheran.org](http://lutheran.org).

## CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION

We welcome **Carmen Croonquist** as she presents, "Mastering Your Inner Game to Maximize Your Potential" on **December 14** at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and CTC check out the website at [www.careertransitionconnection.org](http://www.careertransitionconnection.org).



## YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Registration for the 2018 Summer Mission trips is now open. Middle School will be going to the Quad Cities, borders IA & IL, July 15-20, 2018. High School will be going to West Chicago, IL, July 6-14, 2018. Go to [wlc youth.org](http://wlc youth.org) and click on mission experiences to sign up for one of these great service opps!

## SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS!

Have you considered living out the Discipleship path through missions? Join a WLC Short-Term Mission Experience in 2018:

- Robin's Nest, Jamaica - June 14-22
- Quito, Ecuador - July 6-16
- Phillips Neighborhood, Minneapolis - July 21-28
- Kake, Alaska - August 8-18

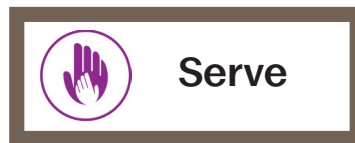
Applications (<http://www.woodburylutheran.org/resources-media/missions/short-term-mission-experiences/>) and \$100 deposit due 1/31. Email [Kehlr@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:Kehlr@woodburylutheran.org) with questions.

## WANTED: YOUR HOME!

Want to make a difference from the comfort of your own home? Invite a Japanese college student studying at Bethel University this winter (February 17th - March 13th) to be a part of your family! Share your love and faith with your student, and you'll plant a seed. Your student takes classes during the day and spends the evenings with you. Transportation help to/from Bethel is provided as well as a stipend. For information contact Lisa Bekemeyer, [lbekemeyer@me.com](mailto:lbekemeyer@me.com) or 651-253-9498.

## JOURNEYS OF PAUL TOUR/CRUISE (APRIL 21-30, 2018)

A Biblical tour of Greece - e.g. Athens, Philippi, Corinth, Thessalonica, Isle of Patmos, Ephesus - where Scripture is read and explained at each Biblical site - Grecian Island Cruise included! Contact Rev Darold Reiner, retired LCMS pastor & former International LWML Counselor, for a brochure: 406-890-1149 or [imhis38@gmail.com](mailto:imhis38@gmail.com)



## SERVANTS NEEDED! CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLEBEARERS(VC)

All youth 6th-12th and adults, we need 32 Christmas Eve (December 23) and Christmas Eve (December 24) candlebearers this year! It's a great way to serve our church family and create an incredible worship environment for those who come to worship with us. Candlebearers carry in candles at the beginning of the service and read a brief prayer before helping light the congregation's candles before we sing silent night. We need 8 folks at all 4 of the service times. Dec 23: 7pm, Dec 24: 3, 5, 11pm. Rehearsal will be on Sunday, December 17 at 12pm in the lobby outside of the Sanctuary at the Valley Creek Campus.

## MONDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Would you be willing to knit or crochet shawls, soft chemo/Neuro surgery caps or baby caps/afghans which would be given to someone who is experiencing a life trauma, an illness, or loss? We would love to have you join us on Monday afternoons at the Valley Creek Campus, or bring your completed items to us at the Valley Creek Campus. Call Tamara (651)734-3974 or [tskarl@comcast.net](mailto:tskarl@comcast.net) for more info on how to be connected with this ministry.

## EAGER HANDS QUILTERS

We are seeking volunteers who enjoy sewing to sew and assemble quilts for the Salvation Army on Tuesday mornings (34 N. Farrell, Maplewood). If interested,

please contact Delores Fitzgerald at 651-738-1812.

## MITTEN MAKERS

Come create mittens from sweaters with us! If you can cut, hand sew, or sort, join us at the VC campus on Wednesdays at 12:30pm in room L-900 (VC Paul). All proceeds benefit Robin's Nest Orphanage.

## DRAWSTRING BACKPACKS

Our small group is assembling school kits containing basic school supplies which Lutheran World Relief ships to children in Africa. We are seeking donations of gently used lightweight drawstring backpacks. Contact Lauren Danner at 651-739-2328 for more information.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CONCERT

*Inspirational music, carols old and new, and classic songs.*

**Friday & Saturday, December 8 & 9 at 7:30pm; & Sunday, December 10 at 4:00pm**

Featuring the Woodbury Lutheran Choral, Celebration, Praise Band, JuBELLee Ringers, Children's Choir and 30 piece orchestra.

Ticket envelopes (freewill offering) are available at the Welcome Center (all campuses).



# December 2017 Calendar

## **1 4 (O) Middle School Mania**

Friday, 6:30pm  
Contact: Lindsey Schmidt,  
651-739-5144 x219

## **2 (V) Baptism Class**

Saturday, 9:30am  
Contact: Rachel Symmank,  
651-472-1975

## **2 (O) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study**

Saturdays, 8:00am  
Contact: Molly Schulze,  
651-739-5144

## **2 (V) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study**

Saturdays, 6:30am  
Contact: Jeff Linert,  
651-387-9428

## **4 (V) Monday Morning Men's Bible Study**

Mondays, 10:00am  
Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall,  
651-739-5144 x221

## **4 (V) Monday Afternoon Women's Ministry**

Mondays, 12:00pm  
Contact: Tamara Karlstrand,  
651-734-3974

## **5 (V) Cancer Companions**

Tuesday, 7:00pm  
Contact: Vicki Strong,  
651-208-4353

## **6 (V) Women of the Word**

Wednesdays, 9:15am  
Contact: Mary Lehman,  
651-739-5144

## **6 (V) Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

Tuesdays, 7:00pm  
Contact: Mike Zenner,  
651-592-9435

## **7 (O) Women of the Word**

Thursdays, 9:15am  
Contact: Mary Lehman,  
651-739-5144

## **7 (V) Celebrate Recovery**

Thursdays, 6:30pm  
Contact: Larry Smith,  
651-308-9113

## **8-10 (V) Christmas Festival Concert**

Friday-Sunday, Various Times  
Contact: Mark Shepperd,  
651-739-5144 x209

## **14 (V) Career Transition Connection**

Thursday, 7:00pm  
Contact: Tom Colosimo,  
612-386-3715

## **17 (V) Healing Service**

Sunday, 12:15pm  
Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall,  
651-739-5144 x221

## **23 (V) Day Before Christmas Eve Worship**

Saturday, 7:00pm

## **24 (L, O & V) Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, 1:00pm (V); 3:00pm (L, O & V); 5:00pm (O & V); 11:00pm (V)

## **25 (O & V) Christmas Day Worship**

Monday, 10:00am

## **25 (O & V) WLC Office Closed**

Monday, All Day

# THE NEWS LETTER

Want more events?

Visit [woodburylutheran.ccbchurch.com](http://woodburylutheran.ccbchurch.com)

Valley Creek Campus (V)  
7380 Afton Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125

Oak Hill Campus (O)  
9050 60th Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Liberty Ridge Campus (L)  
11395 Eagle View Blvd  
Woodbury, MN 55129

St. Croix Campus (S)  
Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144

Visit us on the web at  
[www.woodburylutheran.org](http://www.woodburylutheran.org)

Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives

Woodbury Lutheran Church  
7380 Afton Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125