

THE NEWSLETTER

Woodbury Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2015

Serving As a Way of Life

Serving is not always easy. Most times, there is a cost in serving others, with little or no return of the cost to the one serving. Yet, Jesus calls His disciples to serve one another in an ongoing fashion. In fact, serving was how the disciples were to show one another that they possessed and lived in and through the true love of God (John 13). This remains true for disciples of Jesus Christ still to this day. As the body of Christ on earth proclaims the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, they do it not only in words, but also through their deeds.

Serving is a way of life, not an event. Serving may come in event forms, but true serving has to do with the new life given in Jesus; with love for God's creation; with sacrifice of one's time, resources and efforts. We see this in many disciples here at Woodbury Lutheran Church. From a brother and sister in Christ who are passionate about seeing cancer conquered by helping run and organize a gala to raise money and awareness for this cause, to teachers of sorts who help to bring our kids up in the stories of the Scriptures, to the folks who go down into incredibly diverse neighborhoods of our city in order to share a hot meal and a conversation with a stranger. These are just some of the moments that make up a life of service. But serving truly begins with the gift of new life; of a reborn life. The life you now live is not your own; it has become something else because of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul says this about the disciple's life in his letter to the church at Galatia: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Jesus' peace to you as you serve and love in the new life that He has given to you.

Pastor Drew Bayless



Serving As a Sacrifice of One's Time

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- Why I Didn't Terminate
- Casa Gabriel & Adalia
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WLC DISCIPLESHIP PATH



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



REACH

The WLC Discipleship Path

Unpacking the Discipleship Path

This month is the third of four newsletter articles where I will give some further insight into each part of the Discipleship Path. I would also like to strongly encourage you to go back and listen to any of the six messages in the series, *Walk This Way*, that you may have missed. All of our messages are available on both the website and the Woodbury Lutheran Church App.

At the heart of the Discipleship Path is our desire to follow a Biblical model that is led by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the command of Jesus to make disciples. In our complex and quickly changing world this is becoming more and more difficult and we can never do this on our own. In the path we have an excellent balance between what happens as the church gathers and how we live as the church when we scatter back into the world. Here is what it looks like in Serve:



Gathered Church	Scattered Church
Serving in the church using God-given gifts	Serving with the attitude of Jesus in day-to-day life

Both the gathering and scattering are important if we are going to become more and more like Jesus everyday of our lives. Over the last two years through Greater the number of people serving in the ministries of WLC has increased in a significant way. For example, before Greater we had around 30 people serving in our hospitality ministries, that number is well over 200 today. Our Oak Hill campus is leading the way in getting people connected to service with nearly 75% of regular attenders serving in some way. It has been fun to hear the stories of people who started serving for the first time. I had a new Sunday School Teacher share with me the joy of how seeing kids learn about Jesus is impacting his life in a significant

way. We continue to work very hard at building systems where people will not fall through the cracks in service. If you desire to serve or feel like you have not been followed up on, please contact me directly and I will make sure that we get you connected into service.

As we leave our service at WLC and scatter back into our lives we desire that all of us would bring the service attitude of Jesus with us. A disciple is always on the lookout for how they can serve and connect with those in the community around them. This might mean that you actually serve less at church and you know what that is perfectly okay! Several weeks ago I had a great conversation with a young dad who coaches youth baseball. I was so amazed as he talked to me about how his faith informed the way he coached these young boys and just as important, how he was connecting with their parents. This kind of service can impact the Kingdom in a very lasting way as each boy and their parents experience the love of Jesus through his service as a coach. Think about how you can serve your neighbor, and remember it does not have to be elaborate or awkward, when you serve with the same attitude of Jesus, service becomes a joy!

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus may the new life that He has won for us show in the way we live as His disciples.

Walking Together,

Pastor Tom

PS – If you are trying to figure your next step on the Discipleship Path make sure to stop by the connection center after worship!

Baptisms:

Caylee Grace Charlson
Brody Carrick Loeffler
Landon Joseph Graham
Adelaide Rose Lisson

Deaths:

Family of Tim Beck
Kelly & Mady Parker ~ son, Haven
Marianne Eineke ~ father, Robert
Laura Cloose ~ grandmother, Lucille
Rob Krueger ~ mother, Linda
Jon Krueger ~ mother, Linda
Family of Mary Timmers
Joann Zuberbier ~ husband, Orlan
Na Lehtonen ~ grandmother, Asi
Diana Olsen ~ mother, Martha
Drew Rhodes ~ father, William

Service Times at WLC:

Sundays at Valley Creek:

Sanctuary, Blended 8 & 11am
Sanctuary, Contemporary 9:30am
Genesis, Contemporary 11am

Saturdays at Valley Creek:

Journey, 5pm

Sundays at Oak Hill:

Blended 9:00am
Contemporary 10:30am

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Friday: 9am–3pm

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www.woodburylutheran.org



Summer Mission Trips

This summer the Middle school youth are heading to Duluth, MN to serve the community in a variety of ways! We'll be hanging with kids at youth programs, playing games and helping at elder care facilities, serving at local food-shelves, and whatever else the community needs. We have 30 youth (6th-8th graders) and 6 adults. Our trip is June 28-July 3, 2015.

The High School trip is heading to Idaho Servant Adventures Mission, A ministry of Camp Lutherhaven: Shoshone Base Camp. We'll be doing light construction, home repair, and general helping out in the poorest county in Idaho! We have 40 youth (9th-12th) and 9 adults. Our trip is July 30-August 8, 2015.

We need prayer partners for all of these missionaries! It's a big number, but we know that WLC is a praying place. What does a prayer partner do? Pray! Write a letter or two (or more if you'd like) for your prayer partner to read while they are on their trip, and then come to the mission sharing after the trip to hear about how God was at work.

Please email Lindsey Schmidt (SchmidtL@woodburylutheran.org) if you'd like to sign up to be a prayer partner or fill out the form at the Welcome desk on both campuses!



Giving Generously

Generosity Beats Your Idol

I am always amazed by the generous lives that you as the body of Christ at WLC exhibit. I see it in the way you treat and care for one another and in the way that you give of your time, talents and treasures in truly extraordinary ways, WLC truly is a generous congregation.

One of my desires for us as a congregation is that our generosity would always be growing and not just here at church, but in every aspect of our lives. To that end, I found the following article very helpful and thought provoking.

Blessings as you live the generous life in response to the generosity that you have received in Jesus!

*Peace,
Tom*

Tim Keller captures it well by describing how the human heart, my heart, is *"an idol factory that takes good things ... and turns them into ultimate things."*

Both by nature and by family background, I'm a frugal person. My heart doesn't get giddy about cars, hobbies, clothes, or possessions. My deeper satisfaction comes from security that money provides. Financial security is my idol, and that which competes most with my intimacy with God. This greed absorbs my heart and imagination more than any other competitor.

But generosity frees me from this most insipid and false idol.

Generosity is not a random idea or a haphazard behavior, but a basic, personal, moral orientation to life (Smith and Davidson, *The Paradox of Generosity*).

Generosity is a noble, gallant lifestyle of giving good things to others liberally and lavishly without expectation of return or personal benefit. Now, that definition inspires me! The longed-for lifestyle preference makes my naturally greed-inclined heart seem small and without merit.

I prefer generosity. Why?

First, giving transforms me spiritually.

God represents the most enlarged heart for generosity in the universe. As I give, I

model what the Father has shown me. As I give, I release the death grip of greed and false idols that so incessantly whisper in my ear as if my life was utterly dependent on the possessions within my grip.

My most dramatic spiritual transformation has come through giving. It's been a game-changer.

Second, generosity is now the best apologetic we as Christ-followers have to a watching and needy world.

Classic apologetics are in the rearview mirror of the post-modern. How we handle our possessions grabs the attention of those seeking truth as our culture demands we possess more and aspire to greater wealth.

Keller stated is so well: *"The early church was strikingly different from the culture... the pagan society was stingy with its money and promiscuous with its body. A pagan gave nobody their money and practically gave everybody their body. And the Christians came along and gave practically nobody their body and they gave practically everybody their money."*

Our generosity impresses the world. And so it should, as God's generosity is His calling card, quite counter-culturally.

Third, generosity allows me to invest into things that matter.

There is no loss in buying things and enjoying them. There is loss when our money constantly tries to buy us meaning and happiness that will forever be elusive without an eternal perspective.

So I get to be part of God's work, God's expression, and His mission as I invest financially in things that yield eternal results. There's added value of an eternal ROI for me personally that I cannot yet fully comprehend, but scripture indicates we store up treasure in heaven.

If generosity changes my heart, speaks to a spiritually thirsty world, and yields eternal dividends, I'm all in. The idol is screaming in my ear, still, but his voice is not quite as loud and powerful. And that's a good thing

-- Encouragement from
Brad Leeper, President of Generis.



Father Roger & Pastor Tim

Lutherans Beat the Catholics in the First Toilet Paper Bowl

A friendly competition between Woodbury Lutheran and Guardian Angels Catholic church to collect toilet paper for the local food shelves resulted in a win for Woodbury Lutheran. Guardian Angels had done this before and decided to up the competition by challenging us.

During the month of February we competed and received 823 pounds to their 730 pounds. Guardian Angels has been raising food in their garden for the food shelves for years and advised Woodbury Lutheran on our own garden. Food provided to the food shelves can be discounted from Second Harvest as well, but toilet paper cannot and is expensive. Therefore, every roll donated saves more cash for food.

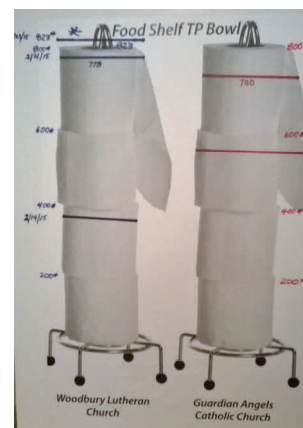
A traveling trophy was presented to Woodbury Lutheran in April by Father Roger of Guardian Angels.

Thank you to all who donated to the cause and helped with this community service.

From New Life Family Services

\$5,803.94 has been given to date from our baby bottle campaign! What an amazing blessing for our ministry! I am overwhelmed by the continued generosity shown to New Life and the families we serve.

We are grateful to be partnering in God's work with Woodbury Lutheran.





McGladdery Family

Why I Didn't Terminate My Child with Down Syndrome

Printed on March 19, 2015 in Lutheran Witness, Web-Exclusive Stories

by Ellen McGladdery

In a recent article on Yahoo! Parenting, pseudonymous Sophie Horan wrote about her decision to abort her baby who was diagnosed with Down syndrome. I haven't been able to stop thinking about this article since I first read it last week. Two years ago, my husband and I found out that the baby we were expecting, Samuel, would be born with Down syndrome, so this article felt personal.

In a handful of rebuttal articles and Facebook posts I saw in response to the article, people focused on how misinformed this woman was about life with Down syndrome. I've seen people make excellent points about the way the medical community handles Down syndrome diagnoses (Hint: It's poorly.) and the many misconceptions in the Yahoo! article about the abilities (or lack thereof) of those with Down syndrome.

But what has really gripped my mind since reading this woman's story is how she ended her article: "Only then, after I'd gotten to know my baby as well as I possibly could [by learning the baby's sex], did I feel I was ready to make the hardest decision of my life — terminate the pregnancy."

If Sophie thought that she had gotten to know her baby by two facts — its sex and an extra chromosome — then she truly has no idea what she has missed. It's not that I'm unsympathetic to the fears and worries that Sophie faced. My husband is the only person who has even close to an idea of what a dark and difficult time my pregnancy with Samuel was for me. In hindsight, I wish we hadn't had a prenatal diagnosis. Finding out that our baby had Down syndrome at 17 weeks along meant that I had a long, long time of being terrified without the benefit of knowing who Sammy is aside from Down syndrome.

I worried I'd only see Down syndrome when I looked at him; instead I see beautiful blue eyes and blonde hair and a remarkable resemblance to his sister. I fretted about things like how he might not be able to breastfeed; one-hour-old Samuel would put any other one-hour-old baby to shame with his killer latch. I worried I wouldn't love him as much as I love my daughter, but, oh! This boy has my heart. I love him so much that it takes my breath away. I didn't know he would immediately start bopping his head when he hears The Jackson 5 or that he'd be ticklish under his chin. I didn't know that "The Wheels on the Bus" would be a fail-proof way to snap him out of fussing or that sitting through church with him would be far easier than it ever was with his sister, because he's so content for me to just hold him. Nineteen months in, and I'm still scratching the surface of getting to know Sammy. I can say with the utmost of confidence that I did **not** know him when I received his prenatal diagnosis.

Sophie said that she was making the best decision for her baby in order to prevent him or her from suffering, but there is no escaping trouble and hardship and heartache in this life. I wish desperately that I could shield both of my children from difficulties, but I cannot. Bringing a child into this world is an enormous risk without any guarantees. You can have a perfectly healthy newborn who later goes on to be in an accident and require extensive care, or your child could get cancer, or he or she could grow up to wrestle with addiction or suffer through a terrible divorce. If it's truly in a person's best interest to be spared difficulty, then nobody should be born, Down syndrome or not.

How can we, from our limited vantage point, even begin to understand the purpose of and value of suffering? Should we euthanize the elderly if they are in physical pain or have dementia? Should we close down all of the intensive care units in the hospitals because it's better to just let people die if they're that sick or injured? Does anybody who is a "drain on society" (as I noticed several people mention in the comment section of Sophie's article) not deserve to live? Is this truly the level to which our culture has descended? Lord, have mercy! God creates each and every life, and He doesn't make mistakes. Even people who require extra care and are not "productive" by our society's standards — or perhaps especially these people — are created for God's own glory and pleasure. Who are we to decide that the lives these people lead are not worth living?

It's been my observation that many people in the Down syndrome community want to reason with people such as Sophie by talking about the many wonderful aspects of life with someone with Down syndrome, about how people with Down syndrome report being very happy with their lives, about the many capabilities of people with Down syndrome. While those arguments have their place, I understand the skepticism of someone without experience with Down syndrome, because I once shared their skepticism.

I would say something a little different: I would acknowledge that life with Down syndrome is really, really hard as a parent. Maybe it won't always be so challenging, but the last two years have been emotionally, physically and financially draining for our family. Most days, I'm still terrified of raising a child with Down syndrome. But I'm also terrified of having a teenage daughter someday. Parenting, like life, is hard.

But I would also say, without hesitation, that it's worth it. Sammy is worth it. And he, like every other child disabled or not, has dignity simply because he is a person created in the image of God. And that is why, when offered the option to "terminate" or "interrupt" my pregnancy with him (or any other euphemism that you'd like to use for the stark reality that I was given the option to kill my child), my husband and I chose not to see Samuel as disposable. I'm so thankful for a faith that informs my worldview in such a way that there was really never even a choice to make. I'm so sorry that Sophie lost the opportunity to know her precious baby, and I'm so thankful that we didn't miss out on Sammy.



From Pastor Tim & Family

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and well wishes upon my mom's release from her earthly prison. My family was very blessed by all of you! We also have a new address, for those whose cards were returned to sender:

3299 Hazel Trail Unit D
Woodbury, MN 55129



Need to Clean Your Closets?

Garage Sale Treasures Needed!

Is it Spring Cleaning Time at your house yet? Please hang on to your things a little while longer! The youth will be collecting those slightly used "treasures" for the upcoming Lions Garage Sale held on May 7-9.

Collection dates will be May 5-6 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. We ask that you have all clothing sorted and bagged in the following categories - men, boys, women, girls or infants. It helps tremendously - thanks! Sale proceeds support youth missions.

If you have any questions call Shanna Salzman at [612-859-1365](tel:612-859-1365).



Jesús R. content in God's Plan

Casa Gabriel, Spotlight on Jesús R.

Seeing the boys of Casa Gabriel graduate and become disciples and disciple-makers is a great privilege. Jesús R. came to be a part of Casa Gabriel years ago, after having realized that a future of living on the streets didn't hold much promise. He had run away from a difficult home life and been in and out of a couple of group homes before deciding to commit to the program of Casa Gabriel, which exists to provide holistic training to former street boys, enabling them to achieve their God-given potential as leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Last year, Jesús graduated high school and felt God leading him to say yes to an opportunity to do mission work for six months with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Part of Jesús's time was spent doing mission training in Chile before going to the streets of Brazil to work with youth. Jesús was deeply impacted by his time there, writing about how much it meant to have people support him in his ministry, and how that experience is helping shape his future.

Friends and brothers in Christ,

The reason for this letter is to thank everyone who has given donations and prayers to my time doing mission work with YWAM (Youth With A Mission). The Bible says 'it is better to give than to receive'. I know that every step could not be possible if God had not placed people like you in my life. Through many difficulties and blessings, I understand the purpose God had for my life in Chile and Brazil.

Working with Brazilian youth, I learned they think their destiny is to either be a football player or a drug dealer. The goal of my team and I was to help the youth learn of God's greatness and love and how He has a perfect plan for their lives. During my time with those youth and seeing once again God's incredible mercy made me fall in love with this work. I want to know different cultures and be a part of God's grace in action. I know that God's mercy crossed my life in order to express all the love He gives to sinners like myself. I believe God continues to love me because He showed mercy from the beginning. As Jeremiah 1:5 says -

5 "Before I formed you in the womb,
I knew you;

Before you were born,
and you had departed;
I appointed you as a prophet to
the nations. "

When I was in Chile I understood that nothing is coincidence and everything is a part of God's plan. Returning home, I wish to continue to honor His name wherever I am. I know that the work which God started in me during my time in Chile and Brazil is not yet finished. God places every rule and authority for all things from Him and for Him, and I will not forget this.

My plan is to get a job so I can save money to study political science at a university here. I want to work in this area because eventually, I want to return to Brazil and help those young people to become strong Christian leaders in their nation. God has given them the authority to change the corruption in their country and to bless and glorify our heavenly Father. I believe that they can come together for this good purpose and I desire to encourage them to be partakers of the kingdom of God on earth.

Thank you very much and many blessings,

Jesús R.



Jesús R.



From WLC Pastoral Care

If you are aware of an upcoming hospitalization or find yourself or a loved one hospitalized, we would like to visit you. The hospitals are no longer required to inform us of your hospitalization, so please contact us with the details of your hospital stay and you will be visited!



Casa Adalia

Casa Adalia Update

Shelter—Adalia in Hebrew means, “God is my refuge.”

Thank you so much for including Casa Adalia in your May mission update! The past weeks have been extra busy after adding a 22 year old mom and her four small children who had escaped domestic violence and poverty, then two days later another girl who escaped trafficking and sexual exploitation. Casa Adalia was full to the brim.

Since last fall we have been working hard to raise the funds to purchase a home. We are about 3/4 of the way to reaching our goal of \$120,000. The home we are hoping to purchase has a yard, wonderful security, six bedrooms and is in a central location. We had actually inquired about the availability of this house when we first started searching for a home for the girls. It was not available. A year and half later the owners, retired missionaries, contacted us to say they would like to sell their home to the ministry of Casa Adalia. Recently the house was vacated and they agreed that we could rent the home while we raise the rest of the funds. So last Saturday we moved three girls, five little ones and the house mom. We cannot stop thanking God. It feels like we have come "home."

Thank you for your prayers and gifts of support. God is faithful! His mercies never end. He frees the captive with His love.

For His glory in Ecuador,
Debbie Douce

Quito Street Kids Home Renovation

Phase Two

Renovating the kitchen facilities and upgrading computer network, study room will vitally enhance the educational and health aspects of our training program.

The Project

Upgrade the kitchen area to meet health and safety codes and provide a renovated computer and study space

Duration of Project

June 1—September 30, 2015

Project Leader

Phil Douce, Director of Casa Gabriel

Budget

\$12,840



"Please help this boy. He is living in a bus station and trying to go to school. He is so smart, but without help, he's not going to make it."

Quito School Social Worker

Alejandro M. came to Casa Gabriel when he was 15. He was socially awkward and trying not to get behind in school. Yet he was smart and motivated. With the structure and support Casa Gabriel

offered, Alejandro caught up quickly and found his confidence. Last year, he took his college entrance exams, testing in the top 10 percent. This former street boy was given a full scholarship to the college of his choice in Ecuador. Currently, Alejandro is studying to become an environmental engineer. When he can, he comes to events at Casa Gabriel and is a role model for the other boys.

The mission of Casa Gabriel is to provide holistic training to former street boys, enabling them to achieve their God-given potential as leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ. Our program includes cognitive, physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and missional training. Partner with us to improve the boys' home, giving them the resources they need to succeed.

PROJECT DETAILS		ANTICIPATED RESULTS
Create a secure computer network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a secure network for the students' computers 	<p>For former street boys to even dream of graduating from high school can be incredible. It is an honor to help them grasp their potential and move towards the dreams God has given them. The renovation of the Casa Gabriel study space and kitchen will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make study time more efficient and effective Network the computers for security and monitoring Upgrade the health and safety quality of the sink area Increase safety in the cooking area with a government-approved stove <p>This will allow our team to provide a safer study space for the boys who live at Casa Gabriel—and even some outside the home who join us for studying and tutoring. This project will pave the way for further academic success and improve our home environment.</p>
Improve study environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase five custom-made, lockable computer desks; eight chairs; paint the study area 	
Provide new school books and training resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase educational resources—books and teaching tools for personalized learning styles and levels 	
Upgrade the kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install government-required stove, cabinets, plumbing, counter tops, two new sinks 	

Partnership Opportunities

Give

- \$1,900—New kitchen cabinets
- \$445—1 custom-made, lockable, computer desk (5 needed)
- \$1,200—Government-required electric stove

Go

Short-Term Teams—10-14 day trips to renovate the kitchen and study areas; help the boys paint Casa Gabriel; set up computer network.

Short-Term Individuals—Eight months to one-year service opportunities for people with intermediate Spanish and experience in social work, youth therapeutic intervention, spiritual or discipleship training.

Long-Term Workers—Minimum two years, individuals or couples with intermediate Spanish or willingness to learn prior to leaving for the field. Previous experience in working with at-risk youth and a heart and passion for youth discipleship.

Pray

- For the renovation to be completed before fall classes
- For an all-around safer environment with better resources
- Sign up for regular prayer updates by emailing phil.debbie.douce@gmail.com

Use of Funds	
Computer Network Installation	\$1,000 • Network, software and hardware installation
Kitchen Safety Renovation	\$6,915 • New government-required electric stove • Two new sinks, cabinets, counter tops, plumbing, paint, vinyl flooring
Study Area Furniture and Supplies	\$3,000 • Five custom-made, secure computer desks • Eight chairs • New paint for study area • Books and other resources
Management / Administrative Costs	\$1,925
Total	\$12,840



With these upgraded facilities, we can offer Casa Gabriel's former street boys a better opportunity to successfully pursue their dreams.

To give to this project go to:
www.iteams.org/give
on behalf of "Casa Gabriel Home Renovation, Phase Two"

About the Project Leader

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador to missionary parents, Phil Douce grew up with a deep love for Ecuador and its people. His experiences growing up developed a unique ability and passion for cross-cultural ministry to children and at-risk youth.

Phil and his wife Debbie left teaching careers in 1986 to become the first house parents at a not-for-profit emergency shelter for abused and neglected children in Columbia, Missouri.

They were "parents" to more than 250 children ages 0-18 during their first two and a half years, and then served as foster parents the next twelve years. During the last eight of those years, Phil was the Executive Director. Little did he know that God had been carefully lay-

ing the groundwork for a powerful ministry with children and young people who are forgotten and discarded on the streets.

In 2002, Phil and his family of six moved to Quito, Ecuador to work with ITeams affiliate, *Youth World*. Their family developed a special friendship with a group of street boys.

What started as a weekly pizza night turned into a full-time ministry in 2003, when Phil was led to launch what we know today as Casa Gabriel.

With a strong passion for a 24/7 creative discipleship training ministry, God is using Phil Douce to help transform lives in this community.



For more information:

Contact Scott White, Director of Global Connections—864.905.5576
scott.white@iteams.org

www.iteams.us

Your gift will be used where and when most needed for the Casa Gabriel Home Renovation Project.

MAY

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|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Jack Atchison
Jaren Aunan
Deborah Cain
Ben Kehl
Kole McKinley
Katherine Meryhew
Erik Pieper
Emil Quasabart
Diane Theissen
Claudia Wolfram
Karen Wright | Jessica Swanson
Kelsey Schultze
Aaron Weixel
5 Jonathan Arend
Alessandra Benson
Aksel Drevlow
Peggy Krause
Melissa Kucharski
Katie Mueller
Alexis Scholten
Stephanie Sadowski
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Logan Wahl | Ted Ginkel
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Deborah Morgan
Nathan Nelson
Jane Pashina
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Giada Rothchild
Gage Stehura
Keri Stifter
Cindy Thompson
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Nathan Fong
Melisaa Goerlitz
Zachary Nelson
Kay Peltier
Diana Peter
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Tana Voge | Tracy Evanoff
Ashley Faeth
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Caitlin Foley
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Megan Obermueller
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Chris Schrachta
Ryan Welsh |
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Lorraine
Holmstrom
Theresa Ingram
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Lydia Runge
Lois Starks
Dale Thompson
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Greg Bailen
Rachel Conant
Margaret Fett
Daniel Lanz
Richard Ross
Robert Scholz
Andrew Stakston
Isaac Tepe
Jennifer Weixel
David Wende
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Jacqueline Johnson
Stephen Krampe
Mavis Rubsam
Makayla Shugg
Benjamin Zuehlke
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Jewel Jeske
Luke Sabbann
Evan Pfiieger | 20 Doreen Atchison
Debra Berg
Matthew Jenkins
Kati Kanne
Devin McAlpin
Abigail Pashina
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Jaime LaVenture
Christopher Madden
Ashley Salzman
Jack Schrachta | 30 Jenna Cordes
Eddie Carlson
Lucy Clappier
Matthew Dunn
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Tyson Klusmann
Carley Ogren
Tricia Powers
Kim Sandrock |
| 3 Dan Behnken
Anna Bettmann
John Blaisdell
Julie Blaisdell
Zachary Golla
Carly Slusser
Peyton Browning
Tanya Gahler
Jay Ignaszewski
MaryEllen
O'Connor
Ryder Rogotzke | 7 Jeffrey Arndt
Leah Gage
Bernise Giefer
Justin Grinstead
Eric Landgrebe
Peggy Lund
Barbara McCarthy
Cynthia Matejka
Maryllis Oehlke
Matthew Stoffel | 11 Daniel Amundson
Patricia Arneson
Myron Baumann
Hunter Bell
Mark Dokmo
Gerald Ehlers
Joycelyn McDonald
Diane Miller
Ydyli Salcedo
Gregory Wilson | 16 Emma Christopherson
Abigail Jenkins
Kathryn LaMott
Mike Law
Sara Lower
Sarah Ochiagha
Carter Price
Darlene Rengstorf
Jan Rygh
Rachel Sandstrom
Sophia Sandstrom
Jill Taylor
Allison Weiss
Bob Wuggazer
Tahua Yu | 21 Tim Becken
Ella Biederman
Julie Bloom
Renee Boehme
Theresa Leis
Larry Tschaeokfske
Julia Charron | 26 Todd Breiholz
Ernest Ginn
Nathan Howard
Brian Janacek
Ryan Johnson
Rhonda Jones
Dale Kjelskus
Sandi Miller
Cameron Rhoades
Evelyn Ratzloff
Marsha Voss
Hanna Wiebold
Jim White | 31 Lucas Ingram
Kate Holmquist
Payton Johnson
Mark Lagerstedt
Casey Linert
Kenzie MacLeod
William O'Keefe
Denise Pieper
Char Les Stohlmann
Jean La Shomb
Jennifer Strange
Isabella Ratzloff
Esther Kumpula
Brad Zinke |
| 4 Kory Eastenson
Miles Hane
Sydney Watanabe
Kira Iverson
Timothy Kelsey
Lisa Lien
Ben McCrady
Mary Murray
Nancy Menge
Scott Perala
Amy Peterson
Sarah Rothstein | 8 Barb Arend
Joan Converse
Hannah Cowles
Michelle Schoenecker
Carolyn Krampe
Ashley Parker
Peter Rogers
Micah Symmank
Ethan Symmank | 12 Deborah Baran
Marcas Cronin
Rachel Gage
Herb Goetsch
Nicholas Hobot
Colleen Johnson
Colleen Johnson
Tom Karlstrand
Andrea Krause
Mark Knoff
Taya Moran
Dana Pederson
Bailey Roloff
Thomas Wilson | 17 Andrew Betts
Andrew Baumgam
Debbie Brocker
Ben Brocker
Elizabeth Campbell
Larrisa Colvin
Lucas Cronin | 22 Chloe Boon
Janet Rohlfing
Allie Conant
Steve Johnson
Jake Knupp
Noah Neumann
Jonathan Randt
Kimberly Wilson
Brenda Score
Joe Traynor
Annalisa Wessel
Megan Blomquist | 27 Joel Arend
Matt Fowler
Grady Jensen
Kellie Clappier
Catelyn Corredor
Avery Jilek
Caryn Meyer
Isabella Mishacoff
Olivia Mischacoff
Sarah McKinley
Benjamin Ratcliff
Elliott Sieling | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Larry & Nancy Tschaeokfske | 10 Mike & Connie Sabbann | 17 Gabriel & Andrea Sobaski | Robert & Jennifer Strange | 28 Brian & Tanya Daniels |
| 3 Chauncey & Carly Charlson | Ed & Vicki Huebsch | 18 Bob & Mary Albrecht | 23 Jim & LaVonne Liljedahl | Jack & Doreen Atchison |
| Larry & Dorothy Wolfram | Doug & Norma Mackey | Steven & Simona Awiszus | 24 John & Marilee Schoenewald | Steve & Amy Meyer |
| 4 Kevin & Kay Moquist | 11 Jules & Jeannette Butcher | James & Virginia Langan | Christopher & Shelli Burns | 29 Rick & Ann Gibbs |
| Thomas & Jane Pashina | Will & Colleen Grant | Daniel & Eleanor Meyer | Scott & Rachel Homuth | Bob & Sally Kolb |
| 5 Steve & Jan Skadsberg | 12 Jay & Renae Holthaus | 19 Mike & Jennifer Spreigl | Tim & Toni Loeffler | Joseph & Melissa Traynor |
| Glenn & Lois Rogers | 13 Brad & Colleen Johnson | James & Susan Finell | Rob & Rachel Krueger | Robert & Jude Scholz |
| Konnie & Mark Harstad | Leroy & Karen Longworth | Pete & Cheyrl Olofson | Eli & Naveena Spitz | 30 Charles & Ruth Stakston |
| Dan & Sally Meyer | Scott & Tracie Tuman | Scott & Pat Stevens | 25 Ronald & Bev Faust | Robert & Jileen Cowley |
| Eric & LeAnn Perry | Scott & Shari Zuehlke | 20 Richard & Carolyn Carlson | Tim & Mary Wess | Kemal & Jessica Munn |
| 6 Todd & Annette Ratcliff | 14 Zachary & Gina Vogelsberg | David & Cheri Frost | 26 Ross & Melissa Dahlin | 31 Geoff & Allie Boyd |
| Myron & Patrice Baumann | 15 Jaime & Kathy Hegna | Jeff & Karen Miner | 27 Greg & Donna Jensen | Rich & Dena Petrich |
| 7 Jeffrey & Sandra Southward | Gregory & Laura Cloose | 21 Jeff & Melody Haines | Dan & Sheri Anderson | Jim & Sandra Hayden |
| Eric & Sarah Host | Doug & Suzanne Mortenson | Steve & Kenya Skytte | Brian & Jennifer Aspen | Daniel & Mary Matasovsky |
| Harry & Dotti Rensenbrink | John & Marvel Mitterholzer | 22 Bob & Mayonne Benson | Jeff & Jacqueline Konop | Marilyn & Michael Myers |
| Gary & Carmen Wells | Morgan & Denise Jenkins | Bob & Shirley Hensel | Alex & Lisa Thao | Chris & Lisa Peterson |
| 8 Ron & Donna Bargsten | 16 Dean & Lorraine Wohlhuter | Patrick & Pamela Riley | Holly & Jeffrey Zelinsky | Mike & Stacy Winter |

REDEFINING Family Worship

What do you think of when you hear the words “family worship”?

Perhaps you have an image of a family reading the Bible together at bedtime, or praying together in the morning, or singing a song of worship as Dad strums a slightly out-of-tune guitar. Many books have been published on the subject of “family worship,” and most of them focus on how to read Scripture, pray, and sing songs together to God.

All of these things are good things to do, but is that a complete picture of what it means to worship God as a family?

NOT JUST UPWARD, BUT ALSO OUTWARD

The truth is that worship is not simply to be directed upward. Genuine love for God cannot help but result in a desire to obey Him. Jesus says it plainly: “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching” (John 14:23).

When a teacher of the law asked Jesus which commandment is most important, He didn’t hesitate. He says that the most important commandment is to love God, and that the second is to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). Sadly, so many family worship guides focus solely on the first commandment and very little on the second. **Yet to truly worship God, we must not only love and serve Him, but we must also love and serve others.** We must direct our love and service both upward to God and outward to others.

IDENTITY OVER ACTIVITY

Sometimes, when a family hears this call to worship through service, what they actually hear is that they need to “do more things.” And if the calendar is already full, as it often is, the message to love your neighbor can feel like a heavy burden rather than the easy yoke that Jesus promises in Matthew 11:30.


A full calendar simply means that you have plenty of opportunities to obey Jesus by loving your neighbor. You don’t need to find a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter to serve in. Your son’s soccer team, your daughter’s theater class, your PTA meeting, your child’s Gymboree class, your neighborhood—these are all mission fields ripe for the harvest. What most families need is not to do more things, but to live out their calling as a servant in the things they are already doing. To be on mission, families don’t need a shift in activity, but a shift in identity.

Once we see ourselves as servants and missionaries, our eyes will be opened to see needs we can meet and people with whom we can share the gospel. And as we do this as a family, we will be showing our kids what outward love and service to others looks like.

My hope is that my kids will understand family worship to be more than simply one night a week where we sing songs and read the Bible, but that they will see all of life as worship through loving God and serving others. And by God’s grace, that they would continue this life of upward and outward worship long after they leave my home.

by John Murchison

John is the Executive Director of Children’s Ministry at The Austin Stone. John writes regularly on the Verge Network Family Channel. vergenetwork.org/category/family

 Twitter @johnmurk

TO BE ON mission,
FAMILIES DON’T
NEED A activity,
SHIFT IN
BUT A **SHIFT IN**
identity.

Taken from the May HomeFront Monthly Magazine

2 (V) **Baptism Class**
Saturday, 9:30am
Contact: Jane Dibbern, 651-739-5144

4 (V) **Women's Gathering Group**
Mondays, 12:00pm
Contact: Tamara Karlstrand,
651-734-3974

4 (V) **Cancer Companions**
Mondays, 6:30pm
Contact: Pastor Tim, 651-739-5144

6 (V) **Women of the Word Brunch**
Wednesday, 9:00am
Contact: Mary Lehman, 651-739-5144

7 (V) **Youth Garage Sale**
Thursday, 12:00pm
Contact: Lindsey Schmidt,
651-739-5144

7 (V) **Celebrate Recovery**
Thursdays, 6:30pm
Contact: Larry Smith, 651-735-7725

8 (V) **Youth Garage Sale**
Friday, 8:00am
Contact: Lindsey Schmidt,
651-739-5144

9 (V) **Youth Garage Sale**
Saturday, 8:00am
Contact: Lindsey Schmidt, 651-739-5144

10 (V) **Open Doors Thursdays**
Thursday, 5:00pm
Contact: Pastor Tim, 651-739-5144 x221

10 (V) **Career Transition Connection**
Thursday, 7:00pm
Contact: Tom Colosimo, 612-386-3715

25 (O & V) **Offices Closed for Holiday**
Monday, All Day

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 2015 Calendar Highlights

Want more events?
Visit myWLC.org and click on
Calendar

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

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

St. Croix Campus (S)
Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144

Visit us on the web at
www.woodburylutheran.org

Multiplying Disciples :: Transforming Lives

Woodbury Lutheran Church
7380 Afton Road
Woodbury, MN 55125