

# THE NEWSLETTER

Woodbury Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2015

## Greater Serve

The creation of the human eyeball is miraculous! Let me share a simplistic glimpse of it with you, in brief: While you were in your mother's womb, as your little body was growing and forming, approximately *one million* optic nerve endings left the optic nerve center of your brain, while at the same time, *one million* optic nerve endings left your little eyeball, headed for one another. Each of those nerve endings had to meet and match their exact partner, *one million* looking for *one million*. And when they found their exact partner out of a million and matched up together, in that very instant you had sight! Simply incredible!

Surely, God is the Creator and the Giver of sight. As we walk together as a body of disciples, called to follow Christ, we may find that God is creating a new kind of sight in us by His Holy Spirit. This is a sight that begins to move one's view from a focus primarily on one's own selfish wants and desires, to an "others-first" orientation. It's a sight that seeks to love others, even enemies, before oneself; a sight only given from a restoring God. The fancy theological word for this process of receiving new sight is called *sanctification* and it is God's doing in you, His disciple, via the Holy Spirit. In Christ's death and resurrection, God has transformed our vision and begun to show us where His compassions and mercies are to be poured out in hurting communities, in hurting families, and in hurting individuals. He graciously calls us, His disciples, into service and love towards others, not because we ought to, or have to, but because He has restored us to be people of love and service towards the broken and the hurting, to live and to preach His Good News to the poor, His healing to the brokenhearted, His liberty for the captives, and the year of His favor and comfort to all

who mourn (Isaiah 61:1-2, *paraphrase*). These are things we get to do, with the Holy Spirit calling and transforming lives!

God is at work in our lives, giving us new vision by the Holy Spirit! I am an eye witness to this very thing. Recently, nearly 240 disciples in our community at Woodbury Lutheran checked the SERVE box on their GREATER response cards. And that's just the disciples who have committed to SERVE in the recent months. (By the way, if you checked the SERVE box, be expecting a call from us soon!) For years, hundreds of disciples here at Woodbury Lutheran have been serving with transformed eyes, seeing their whole selves and gifts being used to shine Christ's light into others, where darkness has crept in and taken over. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, that He has granted us sight and continues to give us clarity to see others who are in need of the Good News!

To this day, the most technically advanced object on planet Earth is your eye. May God continue to restore your miraculous eyes to see better and act in love towards those who are in need around you.

Jesus' Peace,

Pastor Drew



Serving Him

### In This Issue

- Go and Make Disciples
- Missions 2015
- Questions About Small Groups
- Be Intentional
- Count Your Blessings

**WLC**  
**DISCIPLESHIP PATH**

**WORSHIP**    **GROW**    **SERVE**    **REACH**

Learn about the Discipleship Path of WLC

## “Therefore Go and Make Disciples of All Nations...”

Over the last two years we have talked a lot about how a disciple is someone who is growing more and more like Jesus, but the one question left to be answered is how does this happen at Woodbury Lutheran Church? How is God making disciples in our church? What is the process that He has called us as a church to focus our energies on so that disciples will be multiplied and lives will be transformed? We know that disciples of Jesus are not mass produced, they are handcrafted through the power of the Holy Spirit, but how will that happen at our church?

If you have been paying attention over the last two years to the direction we have been moving, I hope that you have noticed an increased emphasis on the four parts of what we are calling the Discipleship Path: Worship, Grow, Serve and Reach. One of the truths that we have learned is that there is not a correlation between being busy at church and spiritual growth, but there is a definite correlation between spiritual growth and the practices found in the four parts of the Path. In January we will be launching into a 6-week message series titled, “*Walk This Way*,” where we will be taking a deep dive into the Discipleship Path and how God is going to use it to make disciples at WLC.

What I am most excited about is that this is not just another program, but it truly is a process that has grown out of where God is leading our church. The Discipleship Path is our answer to the question of how our vision *Multiplying Disciples. Transforming Lives.* will come to life. We thank and praise God for how He has made disciples at WLC for the last 50 years and are excited to see how He will continue to make disciples for years to come, all for His glory and honor!

Peace,  
 Pastor Tom

### What is the Discipleship Path?

- Woodbury Lutheran Church's defined discipleship process that helps people to grow as disciples of Jesus.
- We desire people to experience the four parts of the path in all areas of their lives.
- Designed to include everyone regardless of where they are in their faith.

### Why the Discipleship Path?

- We are called to make disciples.
- The Path reflects the early church model of discipleship.
- We desire to offer a more straight forward process that helps people to more easily take their next step in faith.

## **Weddings:**

Del Anderson & Elizabeth Ofstead  
Eric Bridenbecker & Cassie Rath  
Ron Vogt & Shirley Yates  
Julie Blaisdell & Matthew Crossett

## **Baptisms:**

Charlotte Caosiab Yang Esala  
Leslie "Artie" Arthur Lehtonen  
Na Luo Lehtonen  
Everly Alice Phillipson  
Yuito Caden Arndt  
Caylee Ann Clifford

## **Deaths:**

Ellen Cochran ~ cousin, Mary  
Tad Schmidt ~ mother, Cheryl  
Helga Emrich ~ husband, Albert  
Patrice Baumann ~ mother

## **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

### **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.woodburylutheran.org](http://www.woodburylutheran.org)



**Serving Him with Our Hands and Hearts**

## **Missions 2015**

*'when I was hungry you fed me, when I was naked you clothed me...truly I say, 'whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto Me'" ~ Jesus*

To God be the glory for WLC having the privilege to serve Him through our prayers and letters for our long term servants around the world! Each one of us is called by our Lord to serve, live and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Serving truly can be heart and life changing as you accept His call to be on a Short Term Team.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:15-12:35pm, there will be another opportunity to commit to a team. Pray and listen to God's calling for you. What is your answer? Yes  No  Wait

Remember, teams want to be formed by January 31<sup>st</sup> so training and planning can be completed before "take off" week! The gift of a mission experience for Christians ...What an ideal way to give glory back to God for His blessings.



Small Group Christmas Lunch

## 10 Questions About Small Groups

*Adapted with permission from Destination: Community by Rick Howerton*

Many people have a few questions about small groups before signing up for one. This may help answer some of the more common ones.

### **1. How much of my time is this going to take?**

The get-togethers/meetings are usually 2 hours long, meeting two times a month. One hour split at the beginning and end for snacking, hanging out and sharing prayer requests. One hour for Bible Study. Most groups serve together a couple of times a year as schedules permit.

### **2. What are we going to do with our children during Small Group?**

Before the Bible study portion of the meeting they hang out with the entire group. During Bible Study groups have various answers, i.e. hire a baby sitter for the group, have another home near the host home with a parent keeping them, adults rotate keeping the kids in a bonus room.

### **3. Will there be homework? If so, how much?**

Most Small Groups do not have a lot of homework. A few groups will read a book together then meet to discuss it.

### **4. Am I going to have to talk or can I just sit and listen during meetings?**

Small Group is like family, sometimes you talk, sometimes you listen. No one is forced to talk or to lead the group. We all move at a different pace and you are allowed to do just that.

### **5. Will I have to pray out loud?**

No. Again, you are allowed to move and grow, at your own pace. If the time comes in your life that you feel you need to voice a prayer request, that is well received. If the time comes you would like to lead in prayer, that is also well received.

### **6. Who else is going to be in the group?**

Small Groups are usually formed by the Director of Small Groups or small group leader. You can request to be a group with friends.

### **7. How much do I have to know about the Bible?**

None. Small Groups are about learning the Bible not debating it or being tested on it. There may be an occasion where all Small Groups are studying the same material. During this same time the sermons are on the same subject and scripture. This can lead to deeper growth as an individual and the church body itself.

### **8. How many weeks or months is this group going to last?**

Hopefully, your Small Group is like family. Some small groups last for years, others stop after 4 months or a year.

### **9. If I don't like it, can I leave without people being mad at me?**

Yes, but most people build such community that they do not want to stop being part of the Small Group.

### **10. What are we going to be doing during the meetings?**

Most meetings last a couple of hours. There is time for fellowship, snacking; building community. Then there is time for Bible Study where the group learns and discusses the material and Scripture that has been previously agreed upon. There is always time for prayer and sharing of life issues where others in your group can help you walk through life and not be alone.

**Sign up for a small group online or at the Welcome Desk on Sundays.**



Small Group Serving at Feed My Starving Children



## This Year's Family Resolution: Be Intentional

Welcome to 2015! Many of us are thinking of things we want to do to make our families stronger and closer, rather than chaotic and separated. Many times when we want to incorporate new thinking into our families we are met with eye-rolling and push back. You have to decide to be intentional when you want to implement change, but you also have to be smart. ***THE INTENTIONAL FAMILY*** by William Doherty is a great read that will bolster your confidence at being a more intentional family. Doherty asserts that family life in America is "slowly moving toward diminished connection, meaning and community." He uses the word entropy (tendency in physical system to lose energy and coherence over time) to describe these types of families. Entropic Families do not pay attention to such important things as community ties or cohesion to the point that the family gradually loses energy and dissipates.

The Entropic Family has been created by its environment. There has been tremendous pressure on the family to meet high expectations. In other words, the family is under stress to perform. Adults or parents need to perform at work to keep the family's lifestyle intact; kids need to perform in school, sports, music, dance, and gymnastics. Then there are the community, church, and extended family responsibilities and what you have is a family with no energy left to be a family.

Families need to be intentional about spending time together. When families spend time together they are creating connection, meaning and community. To do this Doherty says rituals are important. In fact, he goes so far as to say "rituals are the glue that holds families together." Examples of rituals could be bedtime stories, family meals, or game night.

Why are they so important? Because it gives families and individuals predictability, connection, identity, and a way to enact values. I think that you realize that our world is not very predictable or connected, many lack identity, and children learn values through the media.

So what should you do? Well, first read the book, I've purchased two copies for our church library. Then, as in all things, pray that the Lord will help you decide the changes you could make to make your own family more intentional. Don't try to make drastic changes at first, because you could set yourself up for failure. Maybe dinner together only one night a week or a game night once a month is all you can do, that's a great place to start.

Blessings to you as you consider being intentional in 2015.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Kelly Cadwallader	8	Kristin Amundson	Shirley Mertens	Richard Rowan	Bill Rengstorf	
	Greg Jensen		Noah Heintz	Britt Edlund	Gwen Froseth	Mark Willie	
	Ellise Krypel		Jason Esala	Anabelle Robinson	Ethan Bloom	Jane Dibbern	
	Janeth Nicandro		Amy Huebner	Spencer Cowley	John Mitterholzer	Andrew Rhoades	
	Jane Ogren		Angie Lauderbaugh	Harper Vossen	Joleen Colton	Gary Halleen	
	Lisa Schaefer		Doug Mackey	Trey Bertram	Jill Colton	Greg Lewis	
	Evangelyne Souza		Tim Nelson	Anthony Conant	David Claphan	Rachel Mergens	
	Eric Zager		Donna Retter	Kristin Esboldt	Alex Schuenke	Scott Meyer	
2	Coralynn Fischer		Mike Rosin	Jim Hayden	21	Mackenzie Moquist	
	Kimberlee Seltz		Aaron Sieling	Cheryl Hohenstien	Maxwell Meyer	Liam Powell	
	Amy Wutke		Nancy Schubbe	Tanner Johnson	Kay Banitt	Judith Goetsch	
	William Young		Sharon Wolfgram	Kris Krueger	Grace Bystrzycki	Thomas Harrold	
	Julie Nelson	9	Jennifer Alford-Beck	Amy Lund	Angie Crane	Brooke Bunge	
3	Sang Albrecht		Heather Hampton	Liam Powell, Jr.	Bryant Moquist	Jonah Davison	
	Elizabeth Anderson		Timm Spindler	Shirley Rubbert	Janet Erickson	Alexandra Hansen	
	Chad Curran		Christine Stebbing	Larry Ryle	Tyler Anderson	Maya IntVeld	
	Grace Hafner		Bev Faust	Barbara Rosemann	Ana Fritze	Lynn Johnson	
	Isabella Kordosky		Sara Kowalke	16	Deborah Burandt	Horst Kraft	
	Natalie Lewis		Christopher Cornwell	Cynthia Lopez	Jennifer Lonergen	Emily Trone	
	Sheila Perera		Emma Perlit	Anna Behnken	Mady Parker	Andrea Gazdik	
4	Lynne Blass		Matthew Ambriz	Margaret Claugherly	Molly Slaughter	June Roerick	
	Samuel Howard		Adam Voth	Reagan Esboldt	Blake Schwartz	Michael Steffen	
	Chase Klusmann	10	Angela Coffey	Juliane Feldkamp	Phillip Johnson	Bryan Hughes	
	Joe Drael		Connor Klos	Michelle Krueger	Robin Brown	Alexandra Leonard	
	Eric Perry		Timothy Olson	Kara Hayden	Tom Nelson	Elijah Cronin	
	Daniel Wright		Trenton Lutterman	Julie Wolfgram	Jaxson Hill	Brenda Haut	
5	Lindsay Ahlquist		Hal Schmidt	Alyssa Meyer	Gavin Browning	Landon Huonder	
	Blake Boehme		Ben Hebert	17	Jim Salava	Judy Behnken	
	Emma Cloose		Elaine Schlenner	Nicholas Grizzell	Mike Huber	Madeleine Lorence	
	Jacqueline Konop		Scott Zuehlke	Ted Buehring	Liz Bieze	Catherine Markgraf	
	Joshua Peterson	11	Janet Jacobson	Lisa Frydenlund	23	Randy Barnett	Kevin Stifter
	Donna Peters		Lauryn Schutz	Connor Price	Lee Fischer	Paul Johnson	
	Robert Zick		Gunnar Edlund	Avery Horacek	Joyce Jenkins	Matthew Hawkinson	
	Julie Duffy		Jessica Ellison	Owen Kreutzfeldt	29	Ben Lower	Joel Mohlenhoff
	Lori Golden		Austin Kuhrmeyer	Joseph Mahlke	Aaron Stadt	Al Krummel	
	Krista Hobot		Melissa Larsen	Gayla Pleggenkuhle	Brett Corrigan	Christopher Porter	
	Tessa Homuth		Rhoda Pfotenauer	24	Cynthia Haukland	Tammy Price	
	Nathaniel Jones		Renee Schneider	Kaye Montgomery	Anthony Boyd	Shirley Engen	
	Aaron Kruse	12	Christina Barnett	Robert Petrich	Raymond Merle	30	Kyle Engen
	Melia Mackey		Debbie Eddy	Michelle Fog	Sue Meyer	Charles Jones	
	Parker Moquist		Alayna Scibak	Parker Goerlitz	Eric Helander	Brian Herian	
	Susan Rose		Leroy Longworth	Joann Willhite	Aiden Johnson	Joel Mba-Ngu'e	
	Thomas Tradup		Grace Lavers	25	Teri Trachy	Sonya Mertens	
6	Evelyn Reed		Jacob Rome	Milan Hruby	Parker Knutson	Jeffrey Schaefer	
	Arthur Lensegrav		Jyl Dunavan	Emily Schommer	Kelly Skadberg	Stephanie Ruzich	
	Joseph Seltz		Andrea Kieffer	Nicole Anderson-Klute	Angie Spates	Phyl Burger	
	Lainie Steffen		Jack Anderson	Lucia Drevlow	Geoff Boyd	Barbara Dunn	
7	Ian Bardeauz		Mavis McGorman	John Eneke	Rachel Brocker	Judson McLaren	
	Joe Bradshaw		Linda Wilford	Susan Gerver	Elijah Nystel	Brad Miller	
	Jacob Davison		Sarah Yonkovich	25	Don Arndt	Isaac Reyes	
	Carolyn Howard	13	Melinda Follett	Kate Groth	Fanny Daniels	Charlie Devine	
	Jenhua Juan		Alexander Gardner	Robert LeMay	Erik Dinsmore	Marlene Andrews	
	Thomas Pashina		Jenna Severson	Cristian Link	Harry Gurrola	Beverly Hintz	
	Ann Lavers		Leah Triebold	Emmit Luther	Melody Haines	Leah Huebner	
	Amanda Ramin		Spenser Ames	20	Noreen Haukland	Natalie Klasinski	
	Karl Stensvad	14	Diane Ablan	David Frost	Gavin Bertram		
				Hans Heggernes	Mary Jo Young		
				Abby Krueger	Mary Matasovsky		
				Mary Jo Young			

# AND ANNIVERSARIES

2	Dennis & Linda Laue	10	Adrian & Joann Kjelshus	Ryan & Ashley Leadens
	Chris & Dawn Kroohn	11	Craig & Cheryl Wasko	18 Jim & Joy Nassios
	Brian & Megan Nelson	12	Roger & Shirley Rodgers	19 Brad and Sharon Fong
	Dennis & Janice Wenker	12	James & Evelyn Reed	20 Tad & Lindsey Schmidt
4	Dave & Rebecca Martini		Arthur & Marian Lensegrav	21 Charles & Emily Aldean
	Kyle & Sara McConaughey	13	Joel & Heather Hampton	Chris & Angela Ginkel
5	Derek & Julie Fritze	14	Brandon & Heidi Crist	22 Phillip & Wendy Baumgarn
6	Rajesh Kulandesu & Ruth Premiah		Steven & Ann St. Jacque	26 Ponnalar Ramesh & Ramesh Krishnanmani
7	Tom & Terasue Grimm	15	Peter & Lynn Johnson	27 Matt & Jodi Kelsey
	Ben & Regina Kehl		Dan & Nancy Oehlke	28 Mike & Vicki Hunst
9	Dick & Jan Rowan	16	Brad & Kris Sweet	Todd & Bonnie Rizzardi

# Count Your BLESSINGS



When we choose to be content, it really just means that we're thankful for what we already have in life. Many times we look at others' lives and make comparisons that rob our joy. We may be experiencing a season of pain but look at others whose lives seem free from trials and suffering. It's important to remember that we all experience times of our courses being corrected by God.

One way we can worship God is to remain in a posture of gratefulness, choosing contentment and choosing to count our blessings. We can get our thinking back on a corrected path by focusing on the good things in our lives instead of the negatives.

In 1897, Johnson Oatman Jr. penned the words to the hymn "Count Your Blessings":

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Refrain:*  
*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will keep singing as the days go by.*

*When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings. Wealth can never buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.*

*So, amid the conflict whether great or small,  
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.*

This year, as an act of worship, count your blessings. Start on January 1 with an empty jar. Throughout the year, write the good things that happen on small pieces of paper and put them in the jar. Every so often, open the jar, read the amazing things God has done, and worship Him.

by Debbie Guinn

**Taken from the January HomeFront Monthly Magazine**

- |           |  |           |  |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| <b>2</b>  | (V) Middle School Mania<br>Friday, 6:00pm<br>Contact: Lindsey Schmidt,<br>651-739-5144 x219    | <b>13</b> | (V) WLPK Open House<br>& Family Fun Night<br>Tuesday, 6:00pm<br>Contact: Dorothy Blaisdell,<br>651-739-5144 x207 |
| <b>3</b>  | (V) Baptism Class<br>Saturday, 9:30am<br>Contact: Jane Dibbern, 651-739-5144                   | <b>18</b> | (V) WLC Financial Report<br>Sunday, 12:15pm<br>Contact: Mark Stutelberg,<br>651-739-5144 x202                    |
| <b>5</b>  | (V) Women's Gathering Group<br>Mondays, 12:00pm<br>Contact: Tamara Karlstrand,<br>651-734-3974 | <b>25</b> | (V) WLC Annual Meeting<br>Sunday, 12:15pm<br>Contact: Pastor Tom, 651-739-5144 x217                              |
| <b>8</b>  | (V) Open Doors Thursdays<br>Thursday, 5:00pm<br>Contact: Pastor Tim,<br>651-739-5144 x221      | <b>26</b> | (V) Cancer Companions<br>Mondays, 6:30pm<br>Contact: Pastor Tim, 651-739-5144 x221                               |
| <b>8</b>  | (V) Celebrate Recovery<br>Thursdays, 6:30pm<br>Contact: Larry Smith, 651-735-7725              |           |  |
| <b>8</b>  | (V) Career Transition Connection<br>Thursday, 7:00pm<br>Contact: Tom Colosimo, 612-386-3715    |           |  |
| <b>12</b> | (V) Grief Support<br>Mondays, 6:30pm<br>Contact: Pastor Tim,<br>651-739-5144 x221              |           |  |

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

Multiplying Disciples. Transforming Lives.

Woodbury Lutheran Church  
7380 Afton Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125

## January 2015 Calendar Highlights

Want more events?  
Visit [woodburylutheran.org](http://woodburylutheran.org).

**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](http://www.woodburylutheran.org)