

THE NEWS LETTER



January 2018

Liberty Ridge One Year Later

“Was it worth it?” I had a middle school teacher who asked me that from time to time. If I had just tried something new, if I had accomplished some feat, if I had done something that I probably shouldn’t have, he asked that question: “Was it worth it?” As we approach the one year anniversary of the Liberty Ridge Campus, that question comes to my mind again. It’s been a year now. Was it worth it?

On February 5, 2017, Woodbury Lutheran publically launched the Liberty Ridge Campus, bringing WLC’s style and teaching to a new place and a new community of people in SE Woodbury. It was our first “portable” campus, meeting at Liberty Ridge Elementary School, meaning the space needed to be transformed a bit to make it a place of worship, growing, serving, and reaching. When we launched, I was hoping enough people would be willing to help setup and tear down. I was hoping the community would come pouring in to check out the new space. I was hoping for some pretty incredible things.

One year later, I would say it’s been totally worth it. It is worth it every single day. But my reasons why look a little different. We have people dedicated to setting up and tearing down the space every single weekend. The greater win, however, has been the hundreds of conversations that have taken place as people get to know each other and grow in relationship with each other. It comes in the excitement of kids seeing their friends again and learning about Jesus at KidsLINK. It comes in the high schoolers who have taken a leadership role with setup and technology. The community hasn’t come pouring in. It’s probably more accurate to say they come in one or two at a time, but that too has been a blessing from God. It’s reminded all of us that we live in a new day and age. Simply putting a sign out front does not bring people in to hear about Jesus. Relationships do. Conversations do. It requires more intentionality and awareness from disciples like us. It’s a little bit more like the book of Acts. Through it all, God leads the way by His Holy Spirit.

God has changed me a lot over the last year, and I would bet that everyone at Liberty Ridge would say the same thing for them. Going to church means something different now than it did a year ago. Walking as a disciple has a deeper meaning. We’re praying for, and thinking about, our neighbors and co-workers. We’re asking what next steps God is asking us to take as we follow Him. We’re trying to be as generous as possible to a public elementary school staff and to a community around us who still sometimes wonders who we really are. (I mean, what’s a church doing in an elementary school anyways?) But isn’t all of that stuff part of what it means to follow God in multiplying disciples and transforming lives?

We’re not perfect. Things have hardly been sunshine and rainbows. Starting a new church takes hard work and dedication. It’s not easy at all! There have been ups and downs. Some days it seems like we’re still discovering who we are as a community and all that God has planned for us. But it’s worth it. The transformation is worth it. I couldn’t be thankful enough for the servant hearts I see from people every week. I couldn’t be thankful enough for the Liberty Ridge leadership who stand with me leading kids, leading worship, towing trailers, and so much more.

People are coming in from the community. Liberty Ridge is starting to grow. It’s slower than I had dreamed, but it’s better, because people are stepping in not just to hear a message or a cool band. They’re entering a community of disciples looking to walk together through life. They come to wrestle with everything Jesus places before them. Every baptism gets more exciting. Every story of life change fuels the energy.

Liberty Ridge isn’t my church. It’s part of our church—collectively—Woodbury Lutheran Church. The transformation and multiplication that has happened at Liberty Ridge is why we (WLC) plant churches. It’s why we start new campuses. Because when we do, God uses it in a powerful way to multiply disciples and transform lives. And that is undeniably, totally, incredibly worth it.

~Pastor Jon



WOODBURY
LUTHERAN

Another New Year

"But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day."

-- 2 Peter 3:8

It is hard to believe that another year has so quickly passed; I still remember vividly sitting in my sister's living room in Colorado Springs when the year rolled over to the year 2000 - time sure does move quickly! Because time moves so quickly we can have the tendency to easily miss out on all that life has to offer. So I thought I would share some of the really great things that happened in the life of our church last year. Here are just a few highlights:

The Liberty Ridge Campus - It is hard to believe that almost one year ago now we took a step out in faith and started a new mobile campus in a school. Over the year there have been ups and downs but we are starting to reach new people and new families in a new area of Woodbury. Disciples are being multiplied and lives are being transformed.

The Easter Give Back - What an incredible blessing it was to give away our entire Easter offering in a way that impacted organizations that are near to the mission of WLC and our community in some amazing ways. My favorite story was about a single mom who was struggling with bills who was able to purchase a bike for her son - Generosity is the new evangelism and WLC, you are generous!

The Oak Hill Campus - This fall we celebrated the five year anniversary of the merger between Risen Christ and Woodbury Lutheran that birthed our Oak Hill Campus. Can you imagine that at the time of

the merger there were around 50 people in worship. Today more than 225 people gather each and every weekend to praise the name of Jesus - Great is our God!

The 50th Anniversary - Some churches celebrate a big anniversary by wishing things could still be like they used to be in the good old days. What I love about our celebrations is that we looked back and gave thanks for all that God has done at WLC, but we used the past to look forward to where God is taking us next, believing that our best days are still ahead of us.

Multiply - What a blessing it has been to look forward to where God is leading our church over the next 2 years and seeing so many jump on board in supporting the leadership of the church as we seek to be good followers of Jesus.

Baptisms - In our LCMS church body, each year half of our congregations do not baptize a single person, young or old. This past year we baptized almost 100 people as disciples of Jesus Christ! What a blessing to be a part of a church that is alive!

Jesus, unleash Your power in me, in my relationships, in our communities and in Your world! Amen.

Following Jesus,
Pastor Tom



MULTISITE INVESTMENT PRAY...

...that God would show us where He is at work in our communities.

...that He would give us eyes to see opportunities for new campuses.

...that each of us would recognize the call to be His witnesses everywhere.

...for those who will hear the Gospel through new campuses.

FOCUSED MISSIONS PRAY...

...for those who will hear the Good News of Jesus through missionaries sent worldwide.

...for new leaders at home and around the world whom God will call and send.

...for our short-term mission experiences, that God would do His transforming work in the lives of those who participate and those who are served.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES PRAY...

...that the Holy Spirit would bless the ongoing work of Woodbury Lutheran and continue to multiply disciples and transform lives.

...for the staff and leaders of Woodbury Lutheran's ministries.

...that faith would not stand still, but that we, as disciples of Jesus, would take bold steps in following Him.

FOUNDATIONAL EXPENSES PRAY...

...that those who enter our campuses would be blessed.

...that our communities would continue to be welcomed and served by our facilities.

...that Woodbury Lutheran would continue to be faithful in stewardship of God's gifts.

Are You Ready For 2018?

You may wonder why we have youth events, retreats, and serving experiences. All of these are opportunities for our students and leaders to develop strong relationships, to step outside of their normal life rhythms and have some quality Jesus time.

We think of these experiences as the extra boost that helps our young people's faith mature and grow more rooted during such transitional times. If your young person is feeling disconnected or seems like they need a little extra boost, sign up! If they're nervous to go alone, come with them! If they're willing, have them bring a friend to help ease them into these awesome mountain top experiences! You can always find more information at wlcyouth.org and by following wlcyouth on Facebook and Instagram.

Our Middle School students will be heading to the Quad Cities next summer. The Quad Cities are comprised of 5 cities along the Iowa/Illinois border: Davenport, Rock Island, Bettendorf, Moline and East Moline. We'll be partnering with Youthworks again as we serve varied groups around the community. In the past we've served at elder care facilities, kids programs, helped with yardwork, food banks, and community parks. Trips like this are a huge blessing for those we serve, but also for those of us who are able to attend. We learn about how God has gifted us, we're given a chance to intentionally put others first for a week, and we see the Holy Spirit work through us to care for folks who may not know Him. I, Lindsey Schmidt, am grateful that Woodbury Lutheran is so willing to support and encourage middle school students to serve on mission and servant experiences. These types of experiences help shape our students' understanding of what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus, living out their faith, and loving people the way Jesus loved people. I have the privilege alongside other amazing adults to watch students serve fearlessly, listen patiently, play tirelessly, and discover what it looks like to be a bold Jesus follower.

Our middle school students will be serving from July 15-20th, 2018. Registration has begun and will be open until February 1st. The trip will cost each student \$350. Thanks to many of you and your generous donations towards youth missions and for the blessing of the Peach sale, we don't have to turn anyone away who is unable to pay! Thank you so much for your generosity. Please join us in praying for the community of the Quad Cities, the students who will be signing up and the leaders who have graciously committed to serve alongside our students for a week.

Our High Schoolers (8th-12th) will be heading to West Chicago, Illinois this coming summer. We'll be serving through an organization called Lead222. Lead will connect us with various service projects during the day and will guide us through worship, Bible studies, and leadership training at night! Our service will be quite varied and will be clearer as the trip approaches, but expect that we'll be carrying Jesus' love to all kinds of people in many different ways. This trip will be a chance to step out of the normal flow of your life and focus on following Jesus and growing closer to him. It's also a great chance to make new friends, go somewhere new, and have a blast with other believers!

Our High Schoolers will be serving from July 6-14th, 2018. Registration has begun at wlcyouth.org. The trip cost for each student is \$650. Through your support of our fundraisers like the Garage Sale, Doughnut Sales, and the Easter Breakfast we are able to help our youth attend a mission trip. If you have any questions please contact Patrick Brewer at brewerp@woodburylutheran.org.

We'd love to talk to you about these trips. They are awesome and definitely worth your time and resources. We start meeting to prepare for our summer experiences in February, so please register by February 1st.



Weddings:

Susan Lasater & Todd Peterson

Baptisms:

Patricia Claire Marchewka
Wyatt Thomas Crow
Carter Anders Wyeth
Beckett Stephen Wyeth
Riley Marie Rivera
Quinn Everly Sand
Christopher Joseph Londino

Deaths:

Jackie Bambanek ~ grandmother, Cecilia Swanson
Nancy Menge ~ aunt, Fern Gifford
Karl Grant ~ grandmother, Virginia Grant
Will Grant ~ grandmother, Virginia Grant
Arthur Grant ~ grandmother, Virginia Grant
Greg Lewis ~ father, Joseph Lewis
Kathleen Janssen ~ brother, Carl Roberts
Jyl Dunavan ~ father, Leroy Emery
Troy Goetz ~ mother, Carol Goetz
Sandy Peterson ~ mother, Johanna Heining
Donna Jenson ~ mother, Doris Doege
Family of Pam Leonard
Deb Stutelberg ~ mother, Pat Walker

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

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Friday: 9am-3pm

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Sheep

It's January so why not write about the Great Minnesota Get Together, the State Fair! It's kind of a tradition to pick a Grandstand show and plan a date with Nancy and Angie (their names have not been changed to protect the innocent).

We've been doing this for quite a while. In the past there were more of us. Because I'm capable of consuming a massive volume of food on a stick and they (Nancy and Angie) don't gasp or condemn, they are my fair people. We quickly realized that a group of 5 or more traveling down Dan Patch or Underwood is quite the task. So we've kept it to just us 3.

Each year we try something new - a food or a building we've never been to (or we've forgotten we've been there). This time as we were moseying around, we went into the Miracle of Birth building. Although I've been there before, this year was different. We saw the little piglets just as they were, looking for food - as you

would expect (I do tend to avoid thinking of their fate). Right next to them were the sheep pens. If you haven't seen them, let me tell you about it. The mama sheep are huge and were stuck in tiny little fenced-in pens. Their owners were close to tend to their needs and they answered what I assume are the same questions over and over to city folk and their kids. They are the shepherds.

I wondered if the young 4-H people thought of themselves as shepherds or farmhands. My eyes drifted to a pen without the tons of people at the other pens. A brand new lamb was laying in hay napping.

Suddenly, the distance between earth and heaven shrunk and something just washed over or filled me. This was a holy moment. I'm not quite sure how to describe it. As I type this even now, I am emotional. I was looking down at a lamb with long legs, much longer than needed for the baby. It couldn't stand and

“...The Christ child was born weak and helpless...”

didn't even try. The small body and the helpless legs lay in the hay with mother close by. They were both dependent on their Shepherd.

I blinked back tears and knew that this was a sacred moment. I heard a whisper in my mind “See me, Mary. The Christ child was born weak and helpless. I AM called the Lamb of God. I AM your Shepherd. You are mine.” And my heart stilled knowing the Shepherd's presence, strength and protection is ours for all time.

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

Needing Help for a Big Move

The Christian Cupboard could use some help moving all of the remaining food, files and some office furniture to their new location. This is a great opportunity for small groups, youth groups, businesses, basically anyone that can do some physical labor. (No more than 40 pounds and we have equipment to move items long distances).

We need teams from 6 to 12 folks at 6 different time slots at 2 locations across the weekend. If you have a team that is interested (even if it is less than 6), we need you! Here are the details:

- Friday, January 12th, from 1:30 to 4:30 at our Woodbury Lutheran facility
- Saturday, January 13th, from 8 to 11:30 at our Woodbury Lutheran facility
- Saturday, January 13th from 9 to 12:30 at Guardian Angels' site
- Saturday, January 13th from 12:30 to 4 at Woodbury Lutheran facility
- Saturday, January 13th from 1:30 to 5 at Guardian Angels' site
- Monday, January 15th from 8:30 to 12 at Guardian Angels' site
- We will also have a need for a shelving assembly team on Saturday. About 4 or so adults that are good putting things together. That time is flexible.

Also, if you have a van or truck that you would like to volunteer with, that would be appreciated as well.

If you can help, please contact Greig by email or phone at greig@ccefs.org or 651-233-1296. He will review the details and get you connected to our volunteer coordinator.





**“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”
– James 1:2**

Did You Find Joy This Holiday Season?

It can be difficult for some of us to find joy in the holiday season. Was this your experience this year? Sometimes joy isn't found as much as it is chosen. And sometimes the circumstances and memories are just too painful to even go there.

If this speaks to you – come join us at Celebrate Recovery on Thursday night. Here you will find a supportive community to help you on your journey to finding the joy you desire. It is a safe place and you will find new friends to walk alongside you as you process the circumstances that are robbing you of your joy.

God understands our hurts and our pain. However, He doesn't want us to be alone in it. Hope to see you on Thursday night.

- **Dinner served in the Paul Room from 5:30 to 6:15**
- **Worship at 6:30, Small Group at 7:30 and Solid Rock Café at 8:30!**
- **For further information and contacts please visit our website at:
www.woodburylutheran.org/ministries/serve/celebraterecovery**

Campus Updates from Liberty Ridge & Oak Hill



LIBERTY RIDGE UPDATES

Here are some quick updates from our Liberty Ridge Campus:

- We celebrated two more baptisms for the month of December and are excited for more new members coming on in January and February.
- Many families blessed their neighbors with Christmas Cookie Jar gifts (Mason jars that have all the dry ingredients for a cookie mix). The jars included an invite to celebrate Christmas at Liberty Ridge.
- As a congregation, we continue to unify 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.
- Over 15 kids and youth helped lead worship and tell the Christmas story on December 3. We praise God for the blessing these kids are to our community and their families.
- We are so happy to have celebrated our first Christmas at Liberty Ridge on December 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:

- The KidsLINK kids had their annual Christmas Program on December 10th. There is no greater gift than to hear the story of Jesus' birth from the mouths of children.
- We had over 25 Oak Hill leaders and Pastor Tom gather to touch base about leadership teams and ministry areas at our campus. It was a wonderful morning spent in prayer, and discussing how God is working in the lives of those attending Oak Hill.
- Our Prayer Team, which began last fall, is a blessing to many. We are thankful for their dedication as they pray confidentially over requests.
- 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

Here are some quick updates from our Valley Creek Campus:

- Our Annual Christmas Concert, A Light Has Dawned, was an incredible testimony to the musical gifts that God has given to our Church. A special thanks to our Minister of Music, Mark Shepperd, who has led us so well for the last 28 years and who gave us another incredible blessing this year.
- We were blessed with almost 600 people who came out for our Kids Christmas program – A huge thanks to our Kids staff Nancy Schube, Cindy Linert, Sarah Dibbern and the many hands that went into making it so great.
- A huge thank you to Gladys Keopp and her team who decorated our campus so beautifully.
- Our campus continues to be a beacon of light into our community as the building is used by so many different community groups through each week. This January we will be saying goodbye to the Christian Cupboard as they move into their new space at Guardian Angels – what a blessing to have hosted them for over 30 years.
- Christmas services were once again a wondrous time of worship as we welcomed our Savior Jesus in the flesh.
- 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.



It's Time to Enroll For Our 2018-2019 School Year



Our Classes

Terrific Three's

The perfect "first school experience" as children gain confidence in both friendships and foundational cognitive concepts.

Fantastic Four's

This "getting ready for kindergarten year" is filled with learning about letters, numbers, how we are an important part of our community and continued practice in friendships.

High Five's

Designed just for children with summer or early fall birthdays, we build on many concepts introduced in fours and prepare them to flourish in kindergarten.

What Sets Us Apart

Class Variety

We offer both half and full day programs along with extended care options.

Academic Preparation

We utilize standards based early education curriculum to guide children's learning.

Expert & Caring Staff

Our staff foster growth, nurture curiosity and inspire excitement through play based learning.

Foundation of Faith

Sharing with children the love of Jesus is the heart of our program!

What if you could help make a preschool experience at Woodbury Lutheran Preschool a reality for a family? Your consideration of a gift to our scholarship fund allows us to assist families who see the value of a Christian early childhood experience for their child. Contact Sara Mulso at 651-739-5146 or mulsos@woodburylutheran.org to learn more.

Learn More About Us

Preschool.Woodburylutheran.org

Open House & Family Fun Night Tuesday, January 9th

Come from 6pm to 7:30pm and enjoy an evening with us! Have fun with Dr. Seuss themed activities and learn more about our program and class offerings.

Special performances by The Teddy Bear Band!





Open House & Family Fun Night

Tuesday, January 9th

6:00-7:30pm

NEW FAMILIES MAY ENROLL FOR 2018-19

Featuring:

Teddy Bear Band

Face Painting Games Craft Activities Treats Tour Classrooms Meet Staff

Questions? Contact Sara Mulso mulsos@woodburylutheran.org 651-739-5146

www.woodburylutheran.org

Friends and neighbors welcome!



I WAS **HUNGRY**
AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT,

I WAS **THIRSTY**
AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK,

I WAS A **STRANGER**
AND YOU INVITED ME IN,

I NEEDED **CLOTHES**
AND YOU CLOTHED ME,

I WAS **SICK**
AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME,

I WAS IN **PRISON**
AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.

WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST
OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE,
YOU DID FOR ME.

SEE THEN SERVE

My daughters sometimes pretend they are animals.

They ask me what animal I want to be, and though I suggest a t-rex or a grizzly bear or something else tough and dangerous, they usually end up making me a baby bunny or a fuzzy kitten. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus is in the middle of talking about dividing people up into two groups: the “sheep” and the “goats.” As I picture myself there with Jesus, I don’t know which group I would want to be in ... neither animal is very intimidating. Thankfully, we get more information. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, speaks of placing the sheep on His right, and the goats on His left. And skipping to the end of the story, the goats go away “to eternal punishment” and the sheep “to eternal life.” So, it’s kind of a big deal which group you’re in. But what determines who is a sheep and who is a goat?

The people are not separated by their wealth, their titles, their race, their attendance at the temple for worship, or even their claims of belief and faith. They are separated by their actions. Now, keep in mind, this is a story Jesus told to make a point. Let’s not get too hung up on searching for meaning in each detail of the story, such as, “Does ‘eternal punishment’ mean the goats go to a fiery hell forever?” or “Is Jesus teaching that we are saved by works?” To do that is to miss Jesus’ point.

So what is His point? It seems that, in this story, just like the two parables right before it, Jesus is calling us to live lives in which we actively wait until He returns. In this waiting time, He’s calling us to look for people in need, and then to serve them out of compassion. We see, and then we serve. He gives examples such as seeing the hungry and feeding

them, and seeing those who need clothes and clothing them. This is part of what it means to follow Jesus, to live out the gospel, the good news. “Are you thirsty? Good news, we’ve got water! Are you lonely? Good news, you can join our family. Do you feel invisible? Good news, we see you!” **For when we see and serve those in need, in some mysterious way, we are seeing and serving our shepherd, Jesus.**

HEAR IT

Have a family member read Matthew 25:35-40 out loud (twice, if it is helpful). Ask for any initial thoughts, feelings, or questions it may have stirred. Explain that in order to serve those in need, we first must have eyes to see them. And though there are countless people around the globe with many basic needs, there also may be friends, family, and neighbors we see every day who have needs we have not even noticed.

DO IT

Pray as a family that God would open your eyes to those in need right around you. Spend a day or two looking to see whom God would have you serve. Then come up with a creative, generous (and maybe anonymous) way to help serve that person or family by meeting their need. Then, thank God for opening your eyes!

by Jason Kliewer

Jason is a husband, a dad of two daughters, and a Community Pastor at ROCKHARBOR in Costa Mesa, CA. He has a Masters in Biblical Studies from Grace University in Omaha, NE.

Taken from the January 2018 HomeFront Monthly Newsletter.

This Year's Family Resolution: Be Intentional

Welcome to 2018! 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 systems 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. There are two copies in 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 2018.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Greg Jensen PJ Johnson Ellise Krypel Jane Ogren Lisa Schaefer Evangelyne Souza	8	Karl Stensvad Livia Vislisel Kris Amundson Noah Heintz Jack Carlos Lauren Holsing	14	Jenna Severson Spenser Arneson Shirley Mertens Anabelle Robinson Spencer Cowley Harper Vossen	Kay Banitt Grace Bystrzycki Angie Crane Janet Erickson Tyler Anderson Deborah Burandt	27	Liam Powell Jamie Anderson Alexandra Finnegan Judy Goetsch Tom Harrold Brooke Bunge	
2	Kimberlee Seltz Amy Wutke William Young Julie Nelson Matt Noblett		Amy Huebner Angie Lauderbaugh Doug Mackey Tim Nelson Donna Retter	15	Anthony Conant Kristin Esboldt Jim Hayden Cheryl Hohenstien Tanner Johnson	Mady Parker Phil Johnson Robin Brown Tom Nelson Dustin Nystel Gavin Browning	28	Maya IntVeld Horst Kraft Jenni Panek Michael Steffen Grayson Young Bryan Hughes	
3	Sang Albrecht Aaron Everson Grace Hafner Izzy Kordosky Natalie Lewis	9	Mike Rosin Aaron Sieling Nancy Schubbe Sharon Wolfram Jennifer Alford-Beck	16	Liam Powell, Jr. Shirley Rubbert Larry Ryle Barbara Rosemann Margaret Claugherty	23	Jim Salava Mike Huber Lindsey Weiler Lee Fischer Joyce Jenkins Ben Lower Aaron Stadt Brett Corrigan	29	Alexandra Leonard Elijah Cronin Brenda Haut Judy Behnken Madeline Lorence Kevin Stifter Amya Torres Paul Johnson Nancy Hoffman Joel Mohlenhoff Tammy Price Delana Searles Emily Thommes
4	Lynne Blass Brian Fong Samuel Howard Lily Juliano Chase Klusmann Joe Droel Jessica McMahon Eric Perry Daniel Wright	10	Timm Spindler Tina Stebbing Bev Faust Sara Kowalke Emma Perlt Adam Voth Louis Bernier Angela Coffey Timothy Olson	17	Reagan Esboldt Juli Feldkamp Julie Wolfgram Alyssa Meyer Connor Price Avery Horacek Owen Kreutzfeldt Joseph Mahlke Gayla Pleggenkuhle	24	Tony Boyd Ray Merle Sue Meyer Eric Helander Aiden Johnson Teri Trachy Parker Knutson Eleanor Morrison Marlene Otterson Angie Spates Geoff Boyd Rachel Brockner Elijah Nystel Don Arndt Fanny Daniels Erik Dinsmore Harry Gurrola Melody Haines Gavin Bertram Mary Matasovsky Bill Rengstorf Mark Willie	30	Joel Mohlenhoff Lori Costello Shirley Engen Kyle Engen Chuck Jones Brian Herian Toni Lindahl Joel Mba-Ngu'e Sonya Mertens Jeffrey Schaefer Stephanie Ruzich Phyl Burger Barb Dunn Brad Miller Isaac Reyes Marnie Andrews Bev Hintz Leah Huebner Natalie Klasinski Adelaide Lisson
5	Blake Boehme Emma Cloose Ross Dahlin Jacqueline Konop Joshua Peterson Donna Peters Bob Zick Julie Duffy Lori Golden Krista Hobot Nate Jones Melia Mackey Susan Rose	11	Trenton Lutterman Hal Schmidt Elaine Schlenner Scott Zuehlke Janet Jacobson Lauryn Schutz Gunnar Edlund Melissa Larsen Rhoda Pfothenhauer Renee Schneider Debbie Eddy Alayna Scibak Leroy Longworth	18	Kaye Montgomery Bob Petrich Parker Goerlitz Joann Willhite Rick Petrich Milan Hruby Lucia Drevlow John Eineke Susan Gerver Kate Groth Cristian Link Emmit Luther David Frost Joslyn Fitzgerald Abby Krueger Mary Jo Young Dick Rowan Gwen Froseth Ethan Bloom John Mitterholzer Jill Colton Alex Schuenke Max Meyer	19	25	26	31
6	Arthur Lensegrav Joseph Seltz Lainie Steffen		Grace Lavers Jacob Rome Jyl Dunavan Jack Anderson Mavis McGorman Linda Wilford Sarah Yonkovich Lainey Anderson Mindy Follett Marlys Parker	20	21				
7	Joe Bradshaw Cheryl Butz Julia Cordes Carolyn Howard Jenhua Juan Thomas Pashina Amanda Ramin	12							

AND ANNIVERSARIES

2	Dennis & Linda Laue Chris & Dawn Kroohn Brian & Megan Nelson Dennis & Janice Wenker	9	Dick & Jan Rowan Adrian & Joann Kjelsush Craig & Cheryl Wasko Roger & Shirley Rodgers	18	Jim & Joy Nassios Brad and Sharon Fong Tad & Lindsey Schmidt Justin & Jill Taylor
4	Dave & Rebecca Martini Kyle & Sara McConaughy	11	Arthur & Marian Lensegrav	20.	Chris & Angela Ginkel Phillip & Wendy Baumgarn Ponmalar Ramesh & Ramesh Krishnanmani
6	Rajesh Kulandesu & Ruth Premiah	14	Brandon & Heidi Crist Steven & Ann St. Jacque	22	Mike & Vicki Hunst Todd & Bonnie Rizzardi
7	Tom & Terasue Grimm Ben & Regina Kehl	15	Dan & Nancy Oehlke	26	
		16	Brad & Kris Sweet	28	



Things Jesus *Actually Said...*



It seems like everyone has an opinion on Jesus these days, so much so that it can become easy for the real Jesus to get lost. Over the next 6 weeks we will examine a few of the things that Jesus actually said and look at why it still matters today.

January 6/7

Title: About Love
Reading: Matthew 5:43-48
Verse: Matthew 5:43-44
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
Focus: In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught on a variety of subjects including love. Throughout the sermon Jesus raises the bar for His followers. When it comes to love He really ups the ante by calling us to love even our enemies and to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect. In a world where people often decide who is worthy to be loved, what if we loved others even our enemy? What if that was the mark followers of Jesus were most known for?

January 13/14

Title: About Judging
Reading: Matthew 7:1-6
Verse: Matthew 7:1-2
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
Focus: It is always easier to see the faults in others rather than looking at our own issues. Jesus is very clear that when it comes to judging others the standard we use to judge them will also be used to judge us. Both Jesus and Paul flesh out the point that we should not be spending our time judging those outside of the faith. Instead we should worry about ourselves, and helping one another to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

Multiplying Disciples. Transforming Lives.

To follow Jesus Christ, grow as His disciples, serving and telling others, so that all may know Him as Savior and Lord.

January 20/21

Title: About Salvation

Reading: Matthew 10:32-42

Verse: Matthew 10:32-33

2nd Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Focus: Before sending His Disciples out Jesus uses some very difficult language to make the point that acknowledging Him as the Lord of our lives will lead to some very challenging circumstances. Even in the midst of the most difficult of circumstances real life can still be ours as we learn to cling to Jesus.

January 27/28

Title: About Forgiveness

Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Verse: Matthew 18:21-22

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-23

Focus: The topic of forgiveness brings out all kinds of emotions and questions. Jesus is clear that when a person comes seeking forgiveness from us that we must learn to forgive sincerely, in the same way that we have been forgiven freely by Him.

February 3/4

Title: About Greatness

Reading: Matthew 20:20-27

Verse: Matthew 20:25b-27

2nd Reading: Romans 7:1-6

Focus: Our world is all about finding greatness in our own accomplishments. Jesus says something totally different, "If you want to be great, then you must learn to be the servant of all." How will you find greatness by serving someone today?

February 10/11

Title: About the Future

Reading: Matthew 24:1-14

Verse: Matthew 24:14

2nd Reading: Revelation 22:7-13

Focus: Are we living in the last days? Is the world going to end soon? Jesus warned His disciples about the signs of the end times and the challenges that all believers will face in those days. We cling to the very word of Jesus in Revelation 22:7, "*Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.*"



Worship

HEALING SERVICE

Our Healing Service is held at the Valley Creek Campus every third Sunday. For prayers of healing, attend our service on January 21 at 12:15pm, in room 1-250 (VC Fireside). Questions, call Pastor Tim at 651-739-5144.

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

NEW SUNDAY CLASS STARTS JANUARY 7 AT WOODBURY LUTHERAN!

"JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION: HOW to Be an Everyday Missionary" Description: As we walk the Discipleship Path, we are called to reach out to those around us. But what does that look like in your life today? Join facilitators Regina Kehl (VC), Dan Peterson (OH), and Mike Sabbann (LR) for this seven-session study as we dig into what that question means for each one of us in the different circumstances of our lives. Based on author Greg Finke's book, *Joining Jesus on His*

Mission, Pastor Jon's video teaching will focus on topics like: the current state of Christianity, our fear of sharing the Gospel, recognizing God's work in your neighborhood, and joining Jesus as an everyday missionary.

Sunday Times and Locations:

- 9:30-10:30am - Genesis Room (VC)
- 9:15-10:15am - Church Office (OH)
- 9:00-9:45am - Back Hallway (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.

OAK HILL GAME NIGHT (6-12TH)

Game night the first Thursday of every month, 7-8:30pm. Join us on January 4. Meet at Caribou Coffee, 1830 Market Dr. Stillwater, MN 55082. Come hang out with Sarah and play games!

SKI TRIP (9TH-12TH)

High School youth are planning a Ski Trip to Lutsen Ski Mountain in MN, March 23-25. Registration opens January 4 at wlc-youth.org and space is limited! Cost is \$225 (\$300 w/rental).

LIBERTY RIDGE YOUTH BONFIRE, SLEDDING, & BOOT HOCKEY (6TH-12TH)

All youth are invited to an afternoon of winter fun on Jan. 20, 1-3pm at the Jones' house. We'll start off with a bonfire, s'mores and hot chocolate. Then, we'll enjoy sledding and a game of boot hockey. Register for this event at wlc-youth.org. Contact is Laura Stennes at 651-503-6768 or stennesl@woodburylutheran.org

ALL CAMPUS MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN AT OAK HILL (6TH-8TH)

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, and is open to all campuses! The cost is \$10/person. Come ready to eat snacks/piz-

za, make some new friends, and have a great time! Register at wlc-youth.org. Friends are welcome!

ALL CAMPUS ARCTIC BLAST RETREAT (6TH-12TH)

All MS and HS students be sure to register for this awesome weekend at Camp Lebanon February 9-11. Registration and required camp form is online at wlc-youth.org. Cost is \$100 before Jan. 15, then \$115 until full. Friends are welcome!!! Broomball, camp, great worship and snow tubing! We will meet at VC campus on Feb. 9, 4:30pm (please eat dinner before arriving). We'll return to the VC campus on Feb. 11, approx. 2:30pm.

FEBRUARY CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Students who are planning to confirm their faith on February 3/4 be sure to complete the THREE sign up forms at wlc-youth.org by January dates requested. We need your completed online registration, check-in sheets and your Worship notes & Service hour sheets by January 10. Contact Lindsey Schmidt at schmidtL@woodburylutheran.org if you have any questions or to register for your confirmation celebration interview. Save the date: Saturday, February 3, 9:30-11:30am, Confirmation brunch for students, parents & loved ones. We will take pictures, rehearse, and have a blessing and prayer service.

FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION CLASS (6TH-12TH)

Sign up has begun for the Family Holy communion class. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at the Valley Creek campus 6:30-8pm beginning on February 20 through March 20. We have an alternative class time on Sundays from 1-2:30pm at the Valley Creek campus running February 18 through March 18. Holy Communion classes are a parent(s) and child experience. Find out more and sign up at wlc-youth.org or contact Lindsey Schmidt with questions. SAVE THE DATE: First communion will take place on Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter), March 29.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING (6TH-12TH)

Getting Connected

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). Register at 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 their faith and grow as a disciple. If you're interested, set up a Confirmation Launch meeting with Lindsey Schmidt.

CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION

We welcome Tony Rubin as he presents, "Career Transition: Are You Financially Prepared?" on January 11 at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and CTC check out the website at www.careertransitionconnection.org.

CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION

We welcome Michael Sunnarborg as he presents, "Finding Clarity: Optimize Your Career Search," on January 25 at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and CTC check out the website at www.careertransitionconnection.org.



Reach

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

Registration for the 2018 Summer Mission trips has begun. Middle School will be going to the Quad Cities, on the border of IA & IL, July 15-20, 2018 (this one is

almost full). High School will be going to West Chicago, IL, July 6-14, 2018. Go to 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 7-18

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



Serve

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 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.

January 2018 Calendar

1 (V & O) Offices Closed
All Day

2 (V) Cancer Companions
Tuesday, 7:00pm
Contact: Vicki Strong,
651-208-4353

3 (V) Women of the Word
Wednesdays, 9:15am
Contact: Mary Lehman,
651-739-5144

3 (V) Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Tuesdays, 7:00pm
Contact: Mike Zenner,
651-592-9435

4 (O) Women of the Word
Thursdays, 9:15am
Contact: Mary Lehman,
651-739-5144

4 (V) Celebrate Recovery
Thursdays, 6:30pm
Contact: Larry Smith,
651-308-9113

6 (V) Baptism Class
Saturday, 9:30am
Contact: Rachel Symmank,
651-472-1975

6 (O) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study
Saturdays, 8:00am
Contact: Molly Schulze,
651-739-5144

6 (V) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study
Saturdays, 6:30am
Contact: Jeff Linert,
651-387-9428

8 (V) Monday Morning Men's Bible Study
Mondays, 10:00am
Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall,
651-739-5144

8 (V) Monday Afternoon Women's Ministry
Mondays, 12:00pm
Contact: Tamara Karlstrand,
651-734-3974

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

15 (V & O) Offices Closed
All Day

20 (V) Respite Care
Saturday, 5:00pm
Contact: Cheri Frost,
651-730-7052

21 (V) Healing Service
Sunday, 12:15pm
Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall,
651-739-5144

21 (V) 2018 Budget Meeting
Sunday, 12:15pm
Contact: Mark Stutelberg,
651-739-5144

28 (V) 2018 Annual Meeting
Sunday, 12:15pm
Contact: Pastor Tom Pfothenhauer,
651-739-5144

29 (V) Grief Class
Mondays, 6:30pm
Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall,
651-739-5144

THE NEWS LETTER

Want more events?

Visit 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

Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives

Woodbury Lutheran Church
7380 Afton Road
Woodbury, MN 55125