# THE **NEWS** LETTER



July 2018

# **Serious Business**

It is getting close to that time again.

Every other month or so, I have made the bold decision to shave my head. At first it was for St. Baldrick's at Concordia Seminary. After that it became just a comfortable, cost-cutting solution for my quickly growing, thick head of hair.

Without fail, every buzz elicits at least one or two lovingly made jokes from friends here within WLC, but I do not mind. My whitewalls admittedly stand in stark contrast to what was once my dark brown hair.

I kindly remind jokesters of the prophet Elisha and his account from *2 Kings 2:19-25*. What power lies within the hands of a lowly vicar! Elisha cursed a group of boys who were calling him "baldy" and The Lord sent two she-bears who ( הָנְעֵקַבְּתוֹ ) the forty-two boys.

Pronounced "wat-tə-baq-qa'-nāh," the Hebrew word is to cleave, but it is written as a Pi'el verb form (which means there is extra emphasis put upon the action). In other words, rather than the she-bears feasting upon a perfect cut of steak, they enjoyed a more refined meal: shredded chicken or pulled pork.

On the surface, this historical account would clearly indicate that God's chosen people are, in fact, not Israel, but the freshly shaven and follicly challenged; however, upon further inspection, this account is actually less about Turtle Wax and more about living lives as disciples.

Undoubtedly, Elisha was not the first bald person these boys had seen. Without question, they had probably treated previous bald people the same. The one glaring difference was this: previous bald men did not have the authority to curse the boys with she-bears.

She-bears are a God thing.

If the heart of God was truly set upon elevating the bald above all others, there would be a lot more she-bears wandering around, and the very best theologians of our day would need to exegetically and systematically wrestle with Samson and his hair.

It is much easier to understand that everything that transpired in *2 Kings 2:19-25* was not the direct result of the boys making fun of Elisha's baldness, but instead was the result of them not taking the Word and the work of The Lord seriously.

When you and I read the Word of The Lord, we are studying something that is very precious. It is worth immeasurably more than any other thing in this universe. The Word of The Lord, and the faith that is inspired from hearing it, is a serious thing. It is set apart.

You and I on the other hand, are not so set apart. Having hair (or not), a great summer tan (or not), driving a Maserati (or not), owning washboard abs (or not), impeccable smiles (or not), or an iPhone 10 (or not) has no bearing on your value in Christ.

You and I are not more or less valuable than the body and soul sitting next to us. Therefore, here are some of my final words of encouragement to you before I return to seminary. As disciples we should take the Word of The Lord seriously, but we should not take ourselves too seriously. If we take ourselves too seriously, we forget salvation has nothing to do with the work of our hands.

In all seriousness, salvation is a victory that can *only* be given through the Word, and more specifically the Word made flesh, our Messiah, Jesus.

... but on the other hand, maybe take Vicar Geordie a little seriously... I hear there are bears in Minnesota...

- Vicar Christian Jones



# **Making A Difference!**

"I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." - Matthew 25:35

You will often hear me say that as disciples of Jesus who are waiting for Him to return we get to help make the world more like it was in the beginning and more like it will be when He comes again making all things new. I love this idea that God uses us to actually make an impact in the world around us and all for His glory. Marathon on October 7th, please <u>click</u> <u>here</u> to support our team as we seek to make a lasting difference in providing the living water of Jesus. Amazing, 50 dollars brings clean water to a child for life through the sustainable work of World Vision water projects. Learn more <u>here</u>. (https://www.teamworldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=9687)

Peace, tom

One of the ways that God has grabbed

my heart to do this is to help bring clean water to children. My heart breaks as I think about the astounding truth that every 20 second a child dies simply because they do not have access to clean water. Thankfully this problem can be defeated in our lifetime and areat strides have been made.

This year Stephanie and I will be running 5 total marathons with Team World Vision to help raise funds and bring awareness to this crisis. We are honored to run for kids and we are grateful for the lives that will be changed.

Once again Woodbury Lutheran will have a team running the Twin Cities



# Weddings:

Emily Fisher & Evan Damsgard Sarah Brandmire & Jacob Jeatran

## **Baptisms:**

Penelope Elizabeth Begnaud Elizabeth Marie Christa Gustafson Olivia Elizabeth Rose Krause Zoe Kristen Kost William Wynn Kosanke Mila Renee Lottering Ethan Brian Flotterud

# **Deaths:**

The Family of Joe Allenspach Matt Jorgensen ~ aunt, Ramona Jorgensen Kathy Girgen ~ aunt, Audrey Smith Dan Christiansen ~ mother, Helen Miller Dottie Tillery ~ niece, Cathy Mike & Sue Zabilla ~ granddaughter, Aethelflaed The Family of Mary Albrecht

# Service Times at WLC:

Saturdays at Valley Creek: Contemporary, 5pm

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

Sundays at Oak Hill: Blended 9:00am Contemporary 10:<u>30am</u>

Sundays at Liberty Ridge Contemporary 10:00am

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"...tidbits from that first vear..."

# The History of Our Church WLC Scrapbook

Brad and Sandy Miller were called to serve as WLC youth ministers in September 1987. They led trips to the Boundary Waters, the Canadian Rockies, Haiti, Trinidad, Mexico, and Ecuador – where they would eventually move and work for International Teams. Before Brad and Sandy, several members played an active role in youth ministry:

- The first youth worker was Karen Smith, whose mother was Leona Smith.
- Then came Scott Gilles, who drove the church bus that shuttled young people to local events.
- Scott relinquished his driver seat to Lynnette Rysdahl [photo]. Lynnette married John Mahlke and is still a member.
- Jane (Fisher) Dibbern, whose parents were founding members, was hired quarter-time in 1990 and became synonymous with Children's Ministry [photo]. A decade before her retirement in 2017, she switched to Family Ministries.
- Meanwhile, Brad and Sandy started a monthly contemporary service in the "old" sanctuary. Genesis worship was led by a band --guitars, bass, drums, keyboard-- which was cutting-edge for a Lutheran church in the 90s. Due to its success, the service soon expanded to twice per month. Pastor Todd Stocker was called to lead the service in 1998.







# An Update On Multiply

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

2018 is off to a strong start financially around the *Multiply* initiative, but it is important to remember that *Multiply* is a two year 8.4 million dollar initiative that includes everything in our budget. Remember *Multiply* is a one fund, meaning that everything we do ministry wise is included in *Multiply*.

Here are a few updates from each bucket:

# **MULTISITE INVESTMENT - \$1.1 Million**

We will be proactive in using the blessings God has given us to multiply new campuses for His glory.

- We continue to pay the operating expenses of Liberty Ridge and Oak Hill.
- We are setting aside funds for future multisite ministry as well as for a future permanent location for Liberty Ridge.
- God is continuing to open doors for conversations that could lead to new ministry sites for WLC.

# FOCUSED MISSIONS - \$1.1 Million

We will support the work of God's Kingdom by multiplying new church plants and leaders, partnering with developing communities and feeding the hungry.

- We are excited to be partnering with the Makane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia in a Discipleship and Leadership development initiative over the next two years at a level of 20k.
- Dean Dunavan will be starting into the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) process in the fall.
- We are excited to be a part of sending the Moody Family through WMPL as missionaries to an unreached part of the world.

# **TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES - \$4.5 Million**

We will be faithful to the ongoing ministry of WLC so disciples will continue to be multiplied and transformed.

- Over the summer all three of our campuses will be hosting a variety of Kid's Camps designed to strengthen the faith of our Kids as well as Reach into our community.
- The Strategic Planning process is continuing to move forward and we are excited about the focus on Reach that God is placing on our hearts.

# FOUNDATIONAL EXPENSES - \$1.7 Million

We will accelerate the payment of debt and make needed investments in our facilities so that we can effectively say "yes" to what God has in store for our future.

- Our debt is now under 1.7 million dollars.
- Both the Valley Creek and Oak Hill Sanctuaries have been updated.
- The last part of the roof at Valley Creek will be replaced this summer yay!

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





"...Others of us find that a certain chapter speaks clearly..."

# Summer Book Read

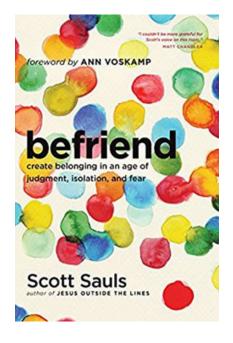
"The more we walk the narrow path, the wider our communal embrace will be. The more convinced we are of the exclusive claims of Jesusthat he is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through him-the more inclusively kind and compassionate we will be. The more attuned we are to Jesus' bleeding love toward us, the more our hearts will bleed for those who don't know his embrace." Those are words from Scott Sauls' book. Befriend-a book that many of you have committed to reading together over the summer months.

Cassie and I have been going through the book with our small group, and I've come to see just how much conversation helps make the words of Sauls hit home. While our small group is similar in many ways, we are also different individuals with different stories and different 'baggage'. Some of us read a chapter and don't have much reaction. Others of us find that a certain chapter speaks clearly to something we're going through right now. Yet no matter our story, this book has led us in rethinking what relationship looks like as we follow Jesus.

If you purchased the book, I hope you've already been able to dig in deeply. In many ways, Sauls has written a simple book. Yet, I also hope you've noticed that the book deals with some big topics. The questions at the end of each chapter help tie us back to Scripture and remind us that our relationships are part of following Jesus.

Coming up on Wednesday, July 18, we will have our first large-group discussion on the book. There will be a mid-day session at 1pm at the Valley Creek campus, and an evening session at the Oak Hill and Valley Creek campuses at 7pm. During this time we will have a short teaching followed by a general discussion over the first 13 chapters of the book. I hope you will be able to make it! God's blessings as you continue to read *Befriend* by Scott Sauls.

Peace, Pastor Jon







# Campus Updates from Liberty Ridge & Oak Hill

# LIBERTY RIDGE UPDATES

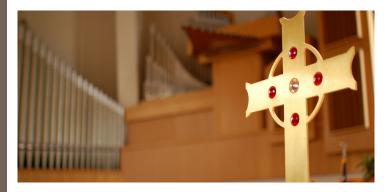
# Here are some quick updates from our Liberty Ridge Campus:

- This summer we have a goal to knock on 3,000 doors to invite people to the Liberty Ridge Campus. Even Pastor Paul is getting involved! If you would like to help, email Pastor Jon at <u>kuehnej@woodburylutheran.org</u>.
- On June 13, we hosted a Carnival of Crafts event for families with young children around Liberty Ridge. 68 kids were in attendance! We are thankful for this great connection to the community!
- Serving with the Stonemill Farms 5k has led to a small partnership with the Stonemill Farms Community Center. We are so thankful to partner with this organization for community events. We are even more thankful that we are free to talk about the Liberty Ridge Campus, wear WLC gear, and invite people to church at these events!
- We are excited for our Summer Activities Camp coming up in late July/ early August. Please pray for the relationships that will be formed in that process.
- We continue to celebrate what God is doing at the Liberty Ridge Campus and we pray that He will 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:

- It was a joy to celebrate the baptism of Bohdi Bradley Lemke. Welcome to the family of God!
- The new sanctuary seating and carpet is complete. Thank you for your patience throughout the month.
- We are looking forward to our Summer Camp (VBS) happening during the week of July 23rd. Contact Molly Schulze if you are interested in helping (<u>schulzem@woodburylutheran.org</u>). She would love to find a place for you to serve that week.
- 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 Kids ministry Day Camp Amped was a huge success; we saw lots of new faces from the community!
- Thank you for your patience and encouragement as we step into our next phase of worship at WLC.
- We continue to see large numbers of Baptism's; it is such a joy to welcome both young and old into our family!
- The Sanctuary remodel is nearly complete; we will be getting new lighting later this summer.
- The last remaining piece of original roof over the sanctuary is set to be replaced later this summer.
- Please keep the staff in your prayers as we work through our Strategic Planning Process.
- 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.



# **Staffing Update**

## VALLEY CREEK ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

After Pastors Derek and Drew moved on from WLC we were essentially down two pastors in addition to launching our Liberty Ridge Campus. The Search Team is so excited that Dean Dunavan will be coming on board to lead our Oak Hill Campus as he starts the Specific Ministry Pastor process this Fall through St. Louis Seminary. Even with Dean coming on we are still thin, so following the Ministry Planning Process (roughly June) we will again start the search for a Valley Creek Associate pastor. We are waiting so that we have a better idea of exactly the gifts we need to carry out our mission most effectively. Please continue to lift up this process in your prayers.

### **UPDATE:**

We are excited to announce that Brad Miller has accepted the opportunity to (re)join our staff at Woodbury Lutheran as the Director of Discipleship and Reach. This new position is an important step as we continue to pursue our vision to Multiply Disciples // Transform Lives. Brad's focus will be to continue to develop our culture of discipleship as we walk the Discipleship Path. Specifically, Brad will direct our Growth Ministries team and its staff, covering Small Groups, Adult Education, and Men's and Women's Ministries. Brad will also direct our Reach Team and its staff, covering our Reach Ministries. both local and global. This position allows us to increase our efforts at disciple making at each of our campuses, locally in our communities, and around the world.

This position brings together some of the work that Pastor Drew and Pastor Derek were doing before being called elsewhere. You may recall that after their departures search teams were put together and two calls were extended to pastors to join us at Woodbury Lutheran. In both cases the pastors received and accepted calls to other LCMS congregations, illustrating the shortage of available pastors in our church body. As we have continued to seek God's will and direction to fill this ministry need (the plan was to look for another ordained LCMS pastor) He led us to Brad in a pretty amazing way.

The Reveal study showed us that we can do a better job of raising our level of accountability around implementing our discipleship process and our strategic planning has shown us that the biggest area of attention our church needs is in developing a stronger culture of outreach and evangelism. Both of these areas are strong fits for the gifts that Brad has been given.Many of you remember that Brad served with us for 12 years before being sent by our congregation to the mission field in Ecuador in 2001. Brad brings with him a wealth of experience in discipleship and missions from his years as Executive Director of Youth World in Quito, Ecuador, and as a Discipleship Catalyst with One Collective (ITeams).

Please join me in thanking God that He has led us to Brad and that the Holy Spirit has made His will clear to Brad and his wife Sandi to join us at Woodbury Lutheran, may God's kingdom continue to expand as more and more hear Jesus' call to, "Come, follow me."

Serving Him,

The Church Council & Pastor Tom

### WLC DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP:

The Church Council has recently approved a job description for a Director of Worship. The Director of Worship will not be a clone of the role that Mark Shepperd filled; rather they will take a more global look at designing and staffing all WLC worship services across our campuses. The description was developed from feedback through a survey given to our current musicians, conversations with other worship leaders throughout the country and from current best practices. Let me reassure that the organ and classical music will continue to be an important part of the ministry at WLC. Also know that worship at WLC will also be different as this new person will no doubt bring unique gifts just like Mark did 28 years ago. We will be interviewing candidates this spring with the hopes of having a new person in place by the summer.

### UPDATE:

A team made up of Pastor Tom, Joel Symmank, Kendall Johnson, Dawn Osladil (Lay member) and Beth Kothe (Lay Member) have had the opportunity to interview two very strong candidates for our Director of Worship position and some of you had the opportunity to meet one of them as well in a Q & A session. We are currently in the process of seeing if making an offer to that candidate is viable.

I have gotten some questions from people so I hope the points below will help to clarify a few things:

- This team functions differently from our "call committees" of the past, per our new governance structure. This position does not need a congregational vote of approval, because it is already in the budget, so it simply needs Church Council approval.
- 2. The position of Director of Worship is not a one for one replacement for Mark Shepperd.
- 3. Chorale, Mouse Choir and Handbells will all continue on our Valley Creek Campus.
- Karl Grant will be our organist and will be leading the Chorale this fall; ultimately it will be the responsibility of the Director of Worship to ensure that we have proper staffing in all our worshipping venues.
- 5. We have a bright and exciting future around all varieties of music, thank you for being an important part of this ministry!





"... greater lesson has been to trust people..."

# Trust

I've had roommates for about 17 years. They have consisted of single gals, my son and his family and a friend of my family. My current roommate is a member here living in my basement for a couple of years. They have all taught me something about me and I have learned things about them. They have taught me to try new things, to share my space, to keep confidences, and the knowledge that some people can actually put up with me. It's encouraging that people will stay and not run away from my quirks and habits.

A greater lessen has been to trust people. As a child, my family never knew what the evening would bring. My dad had a drinking problem and if he was late coming home from work, we had a problem. While he was one I couldn't trust my mom was one I could. She did her best for us and loved us the best she could.

One of the definitions of the word trust is to rely on someone or thing; to depend on something or someone.

I've been reading a book titled Ruthless Trust by Brennan Manning. I should say I am trying to read it. Manning was a deep thinker and writer that had such insight and truth I sometimes have to read and reread before I think I understand him. Why would I read a book like that? Well, it challenges me and he was transparent, intellectual, and humble. As his writing was. He also had a past of darkness, depression and addiction. God and AA pulled him out of the filth of alcoholism. Now that he's with the Lord, I'm sure he's having deep discussions with other saints.

I hope you caught that it was God and AA that pulled him out. He had tried to do it himself and worked as hard as he could. But there were just short seasons of sobriety. Surrender and the first step of trust was the catalyst that began the healing. As hard as it could be, he had to trust someone other than the bottle or himself. He had to trust God and the other ragamuffins that shared this illness.

We all have a ragamuffin side. Alone we can't fix ourselves and trying harder is not the answer. We need to lean into the Truth of God's grace. We need community that understands. We need to radically trust God one day at a time. For those who have been trying to fix your lives, you don't have to try so hard. Lean on God, walk with God, love like God, follow God. Trust God.

By Mary Lehman, one of God's ragamuffins

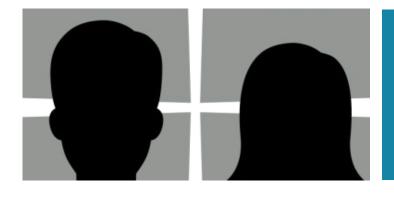
# Quito, Ecuador Meet the Zook's

Josh and Hannah Zook (formerly Miller, daughter of Brad and Sandi Miller) work with One Collective, Youth World in Quito, Ecuador. Josh participates in relational youth ministry in a school setting and Hannah works with women and their children who have come out of situations of abuse and human trafficking. They are currently visiting the Woodbury area and would love to connect with as many people from the Woodbury Lutheran Church family as possible while they are here. They will be attending services at WLC on August 5th, and will be having a special gathering in the fireside room at 12:15 on that day. All are invited to attend, and they will be available to meet with and share about their ministry and their lives. If you would like an opportunity to meet them this would be a great time to do so.

Brad, Sandi, Sarah and Hannah moved to Quito when she was 7, sent out from WLC. At age 17, she joined a small group focused on justice which exposed her to the stories of people involved in human trafficking and prostitution around the world. God starting growing in her a passion for those women. She attended Cornerstone University and received her bachelor's in social work. Josh also arew up in Quito. His parents were missionaries with HCJB world radio and moved him and his two brothers there when he was 4. Throughout his time at the Alliance Academy, Josh had many mentors and teachers who poured into him. Those teachers and mentors inspired a heart to serve Jesus and exemplify his unparalleled grace and love. When Hannah and Josh got engaged, they decided the place God was leading them was back to Ecuador. Hannah now works with End Slavery Ministries Ecuador in three different branches. The first is Casa Adalia, a residential home for women and their children who come out of vulnerable situations such as abuse or human traffickina. Second is a non-residential initiative to support women who are not in the house but have experienced the same kinds of abuse. Third is a street outreach program to people currently in prostitution. Josh has the opportunity to work with youth at the Alliance Academy. He is the Student Support Specialist and participates in building programs that give students the opportunity to serve others and learn skills in mentorship, youth ministry, and outreach. His vision is to train the next generation of

leaders who serve, live and above all LOVE like Jesus. He also participates in personal mentorship relationships with students at the school and mentors the children at Casa Adalia.





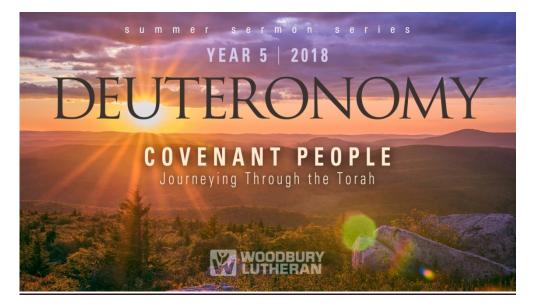
"...hear from a young couple whose lives God transformed..."

# Multiplying Disciples in Asia - July 8

On Sunday, July 8, at 12:15 pm we have the opportunity to hear from a young couple whose lives God transformed. How transformed? To the point of moving their family from the Twin Cities to Central Asia next month! **Hear from Jenny and Nick** about Woodbury Lutheran's part in God's call on their lives to bring the Gospel to a Muslim people group. You'll be inspired as you listen to God's work of multiplying disciples among people who are oppressed in lots of ways.

This family will be depending on prayer to carry out the mission God has for them in this culture that is so different from ours. They will face significant challenges they can't overcome on their own. Please consider supporting them in this way. World Mission Prayer League is their sending organization.

Please meet in the Paul Room on the lower level. A light snack will be served.



# Deuteronomy: Covenant People

The title of the book of Deuteronomy in Hebrew simply means "these are the words." The book is largely filled with speeches from Israel's leader, Moses. With the Promise Land in sight, Moses knew his death was coming soon; in this fifth and final book of the Pentateuch, he shares his final words with the people of Israel. Moses' mission was simple and still speaks to us today: Let us prepare the next generation of Israelites to live as faithful servants of The Lord, their God.

Context of the book: As we journey through Deuteronomy, it is important to recall the combined narratives of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers which precede it. Consider again the motif that was laid out in Genesis during the 2014 summer series. The story pattern is:

# Creation $\rightarrow$ Rebellion $\rightarrow$ Redemption $\rightarrow$ Restoration

In Genesis the story's focal point was on the good Creation and the Rebellion, with the promise given that YHWH will Redeem and Restore His good creation that has fallen under the curse of death. The Exodus then was centered squarely on the Redemption aspect of this motif. The Exodus of YHWH's people from Egypt into the Promised Land was a covenantal promise made by YHWH, foreshadowing the Redemption of Christ's Church into new life in Him. Leviticus is then set primarily in the motif aspect of Restoration (because of the Redemption). Leviticus deals with what it means to be the people of YHWH, in His presence. Numbers continues with how the people of Israel would live out the Redeemed and Restored relationship with YHWH. God shaped them all along the way, upholding his promises in his ways. Now, as they stand on the border of the Promised Land we see Moses reminding the people of their story as God's people, calling them to be faithful to the covenant of YHWH as they follow him.

# June 30 & July 1, 2018 - Week 5

Title:	The Privilege of Holiness: It's a Privilege, Not a Right
Reading:	Deuteronomy 7:1-11
Verse:	Deuteronomy 7:7-8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	Luke 1:68-75
Focus:	Being chosen as the Lord's holy people is not a right, but a privilege. Israel did nothing to deserve it. God chose Israel because he loved them and sought to reveal himself to the rest of the world through them. Jesus comes as the
	fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham. Though we have done nothing to deserve it, through Jesus sacrifice we
	are made holy.

# July 7 & 8, 2018 - Week 6

Title:Tithing: It's Much More Than Just a LawReading:Deuteronomy 14:22-29Verse:Deuteronomy 14:262<sup>nd</sup> Reading:Luke 11:37-42

Focus: Like the Judaic Pharisees, for most people tithing has become purely about fulfilling the Law of Moses; however, Jesus is not interested in you merely fulfilling a law. To Him, it is far more important that you would know why you are supposed to tithe: it is about *honoring* the name of The Lord and *celebrating* how He has provided for your every need. Through our thankful generosity, Jesus unleashes his power in us, in our relationships, in our community, and in his world.

# July 14 & 15, 2018 - Week 7

Title:Release for Debtors: Your Debt Has Already Been PaidReading:Deuteronomy 15:1-11Verse:Deuteronomy 15:1-22nd Reading:Luke 4:14-24Focus:In Deuteronomy 15, Moses reminds YHWH's command to cancel debts every seven years. Greed has always been a<br/>problem for humans – it affects our lives and the way we treat others. Instead of trying to what others owe, Jesus<br/>demands that we selflessly share his Good News because he has already taken care of our every need – that even if<br/>you do not receive what is owed, Jesus has already taken care of your every need – just as He has done for them as<br/>well.

# July 21 & 22, 2018 - Week 8

Title:True and False Prophets: Even Preachers and Teachers Will be Held AccountableReading:Deuteronomy 18:15-22Verse:Deuteronomy 18:182nd Reading:John 8:21-31Focus:The Lord promised that through Moses and others He would raise up leaders among the Israelites, that would speak<br/>His truth while human leaders stumble and fall, Jesus comes to be the Ultimate Leader, bringing the full power and<br/>truth of God to us.

## July 28 & 29, 2018 - Week 9

Title:	Laws Concerning Witnesses: There Must Always Be Two or Three
Reading:	Deuteronomy 19:14-21
Verse:	Deuteronomy 19:15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	John 8:12-20
Focus:	The Law of the Torah demands that for someone to make an indictment, he or she needed to be accompanied by at least two or three witnesses. The Pharisees tried to deny Jesus's personal testimony about Himself because of this law, but The Father also witnessed about His Son at the Baptism of Jesus <i>(See Corinthians 15:6)</i> . How does the truth about Jesus lead us to testify about what he has done?

# August 4 & 5, 2108 - Week 10

Title:	Those Excluded from the Congregation: All Are Welcome in His Temple
Reading:	Deuteronomy 23:1-6 NKJV
Verse:	Deuteronomy 23:1-3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	Acts 8:26-40 NKJV
Focus:	The Torah strictly forbade certain groups from entering into the temple and worshiping The Lord: those whom could no longer receive the covenantal marker, those born outside of marriage, and those not faithful to The Lord's covenant. Through His apostle Philip, The Lord shows that no matter what someone how someone looks, how they were born, or their spiritual background, all people are able to receive the new covenantal marker as they are baptized into Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

## August 11 & 12, 2018 - Week 11

Title:	Laws Concerning Divorce: Yes, It Is a Big Deal
Reading:	Deuteronomy 24:1-4
Verse:	Deuteronomy 24:1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	Matthew 19:1-12
Focus:	The Torah left vague guidelines which, for generations, allowed men to abuse the Law and divorce their wives for reasons as heartless as boredom. During His earthly ministry, Jesus strongly and publicly condemns this practice; and, instead calls for men and women of all generations to be faithful to one another in their marital vows, just as The Lord is faithful to His covenantal vow.

# August 18 & 19, 2018 - Week 12

Title: The Covenant Renewal: Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Reading:Deuteronomy 29:9-21Verse:Deuteronomy 29:14-152<sup>nd</sup> Reading:Matthew 5:17-20Focus:The Lord renews His control

The Lord renews His covenant with Israel and promises to remain faithful to it for all future generations of followers, which means that, even today, you and I remain legally bound to His Covenantal Law; however, as a testament to His faithfulness, The Lord sent His Son, Jesus, to satisfy the righteous judgments and sacrificial demands on our behalf when we fall short of His Law.

# August 25 & 26, 2018 - Week 13

Title:	The Death of Moses: His Work is Not Finished
Reading:	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Verse:	Deuteronomy 34:4
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading:	Matthew 17:1-13
Focus:	Even though he was forbidden from entering the Promise Land, The Lord showed mercy to Moses and allowed him
	to see it before he died. Yet this is not the last time we see Moses. At the Transfiguration, Moses is present and
	actively worshiping Jesus who came to accomplish the Law on our behalf. This important moment also gives us a

glimpse of the pure splendor and awesomeness of the Kingdom that you and I will one day inherit.



# JOIN OUR DYNAMIC TEAM FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

We currently have part-time position openings for:

# \*4 Year Old Lead Teacher (M-W-F)

# \*Teacher Qualified Afternoon Extended Learning Teacher (Monday-Friday)

\*Aide Positions (hours may vary)

More information can be found at preschooljobs.woodburylutheran.org or by contacting Sara Mulso at mulsos@woodburylutheran.org

# ENROLL TODAY!

# LIMITED OPENINGS REMAIN FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

Our faith based program which helps children learn through a variety of child and teacher directed activities is a great place for kids! We have a limited number of openings that remain for the upcoming year. If you or someone you know still is considering preschool for the next year, we invite you to learn more about our program. Information can be found at preschool.woodburylutheran.org. Tours can be arranged by contacting the preschool office at 651-739-5146.





# AWE AND WONDER

# Wonder. Awe. Respect. These aspects of our

**relationship with God are rich and deep.** As we listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we can find opportunities to tell stories and offer perspectives that will help communicate the magnificent awesomeness of our heavenly Father to our grandchildren.

# Here are some things I share with my grandchildren:

- He is the One who hangs the stars.
- He is the original designer of the kangaroo's pouch.
- He is the artist who colored your eyes and graced them with sparkle and fire!

When I stop marveling at the wondrous cycles of life God created, He reawakens me. Opening my back door, the soft early morning glow of sunlight floats into my kitchen, accompanied by the regular "dawn chorus" of songbirds. Auditions are underway! The newest members of the chorus have arrived: BABY BIRDS!

# Every time I touch His WONDER, I am changed.

By age 34, I was the mother of eight children (three were mine naturally and five little girls were with us part-time when I married their father). Eight is great! I adored every day. It was a fast, busy season.

Grandparenting is slower and more "concentrated"—think powerful like a laser beam.

My grandmother had a lovely flower garden full of peonies, irises, roses, etc. Grandmother walked me through the garden talking to me about God and flowers, sharing her heart. Now, I've traveled to many countries and read great books, but the experience I would never trade was the moment my grandmother gently pushed my little four-year-old nose deep into a giant pink peony so I could smell the rich, indescribably sweet scent of this gift from God. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see!" We are designed so that even our senses teach us of His goodness. One morning my four-year-old granddaughter Elle asked, "Nanny, are your fingernails real?" I assured her they were. She asked me, "Why?" (The difference between her Momma's perfectly manicured nails versus Nanny's no-polish nails caused her to wonder why I would settle for LESS!)

I responded, "Because God made my fingernails this way, and He made your beautiful fingernails too." I held her little hand and showed her how sweet her fingernails were. She was elated! She took a deep sigh and exclaimed, "God is SO AWESOME! I want to be Him for trick or treat!"

Now, regardless of your doctrinal beliefs regarding trick or treat, I can safely say ... God's WONDER was transferred in that moment!

# Children's curious little hearts are primed to be stirred by well-timed questions regarding God's greatness. Here are some prompts to help develop conversations with your grandchildren:

- What was God thinking when he decided to make a fish with BIG lips?
- 2. How does a tree stand so very tall against wild winds and crazy storms? (Deep roots are needed to stand against storms of life.)
- Do you think God did his BEST JOB ever when He made the earth? (God's Word tells us He did.)

Have fun using your laser-like grandparenting skills to share the wonderfulness of our Father God with your grandchildren!

# by Deborah Freeman

Deborah is sweet on Jesus and is a crazy-in-love mom and grandma, a frustrated gardener, a slow bike rider, and a novice sailor. She thinks "kindness to all" is a vastly underrated aspect of the Christian faith. Deborah resides in Tulsa, OK, and has taught the wonders of God's love for over 37 years in Bible schools, living rooms, churches, and various women's conferences.

# Taken from the July 2018 HomeFront Monthly Newsletter.

# July Birthdays

Maeve Zilka

Ashley Boyd

Iban Drevlow

17 Kylee Bass

- 1 Paxton Anderson Gretchen Crist Bob Everson Matthew Gage Melani Hanisch Jynessa Hughes Shaylee Kamp **Diane Kuhrmeyer** Donna Lorenz George Malloy Vincent Mueller Vincent Polaski Evan Rones Aubrey Spates Lowell Zeller 2 Jordan Berg
- Gail Field Brayden Holmgren Beth Kothe Mike Smith Robert Olson Grayson Petrich
- 3 Jacob Anderson Bob Benson Josh Boyd J.J. Brusewitz Jeanette Butcher Julianne Gage Emily Law Cynthia Mertens Todd Muellner Kay Noennig Dan Rose Steven Stensvad Rachel Sweet
- 4 Kirsten Benke Steve Braun Carolyn Carlson Rachel Krueger Zachary Roth John Schoenewald 5 Jules Butcher
- Brandon Conway Luke LeMay Doug McMahon

**Rick Pieper** Cindy Schmidt Kathie Widen 6 Maris Hall Lisa Karcher Heather Meek Nick Sabatke Emma Williams 7 Lucas Cronin John McLean Dave Schindler Callie Sirovy Liliane Wilford 8 Katie Barker-Sieling David Brandmire Ann Carlson Steven Conlev Daniel Hammerstrom Laurie Helgason Pat Kyndberg Muriel Lindeman Lori Nixon 9 Grant Anderson Jori Bernier Del Howard Gary Isakson **Dillon Peterson** Robbie Rizzardi David Smith Andrea Sobaski 10 Kelly Bass Wendy Baumgarn Jason Brusewitz Casey Charlson Lauren Froseth James Reed Beniamin Reinhard Paul Runge Sara Norton Alice Schultze Chris Tveit 11 Tammy Ablan Garett Horn Megan Petrich

Maxwell Moris

Ron Roesler Layla Turner 12 Eric Huska Patti Johnston Kenley McMahon Paul Niezgocki Renae Omdahl Lois Plath Kristal Treadway Harold Voth

> Hide Sudoh 16 Zoe Dittmann

William Young 13 Rachel Breiholz Larry Edwards Penelope Lindberg Sally Meyer Stella Schmidt Shirley Yates 14 Lynne Arneson Karina Barabash Brandon Dowdall Michael Dowdall, Jr. Parker Field Evan Myers Patti Nelson Dorothy Olson John Sakizadeh Sandra Southward

Marci Speckhard Preston Widen 15 Ginny Anderson Audrie Bauer Elsie Corrigan Erik Dikken Grace Dunavan Robert Durfee Luke Featherstone Emily Fisher-Damsgard Karen Grovender Scott Loula Jackson Norring Graham Sanneh

Anna Young

Wesley Eggers Mia Hodne Piper Hodne Na Lehtonen Nancy Oehlke Andrew Parks Hailey Rhoades Sarah Rodgers 18 Jeanette Black Shervl Breiholz Ryan Duffy Rylan Lange 19 Steven Awiszus Cheri Frost Mary Jeske Ben Koch Janice Loula 20 Greg Cloose Tyler Cowles Lincoln Gehring

Jack Lavers Cheri McKusky Cole Schuessler Molly Smith Anna Terzian Tanner Thomson Jeff Yonkovich 21 Ethan Blakeman John Clappier Marty Coughlin Anders Dahlin

Cary Charlson James Conway Katie Dinsmore Addie Michlitsch Brenda Mammenga Mike Wolterstorff Francile Cummings 24 Patricia Marchewka Mitchell Monson Michael Wegner 25 26 Clark Dailev

Jenna Kurth Fiona Mingus Barbara Riehle Sarah Tveit Sophia Vitela Ella Wenck 22 Roxane Becken Tim Bystrzycki Isaiah Clauson Bev Esala Mary Hitzemann Mitchell Hobot Caden MacLeod Anna Rauscher Jackie Sprenger Valory Tessmer Jack Uebler 23 Stephanie Claugherty Brady Burns Lucille Dalbec **Thomas Deverell** Barb Fleming Lauren Mortenson Elle Peterson Mary Powers Lori Raebel Lisa Vitela Joseph Bauer Lee Bunge Scott Homuth Roger Olstad Riley Rivera Wyatt Shugg John Colton Allisa DeCoteau Dean Huska Aaron Raebel Kelsey Deverell Jake Droel Chris Edwards Kaitlvn Ginkel Pamela Hall Cal Janacek Adela Lopez

Makenzie McCuskey Blake McNeill Tanner Theis Jean Wendlandt Isaac Wuotila 27 Caden Andrasfi Jana Beck Keith Buchanan Linda Bystrzycki Jayden Carr Collin Flanagan Emmanuel Johnson Evelyn Lillesve Billy Mzenga Vida Miles Lucy Morrison Eileen Reinhardt **Baylee Scholz** Jennifer Stevensen-Waldo 28 Whitney Berkman Dale Bjorkman Alex Dailey Marvin Hammer Marlene Ingvalson Terri Kanne Gabriella Nassios Scott Schank Jesse Vislisel 29 Susan Boon Jenny Bouthilet Ethan Gage Justin Hall Tristan Jeffers Rob Krueger Dan Meyer Isabelle Olek Grea Opheim

Heidi Sorgert

Tom Stork

30 Deb Anderson

Scott Stebbing

Mary Timmers

Diana Wende

Howard Boatman

Colleen Dokmo Amy Graham **Owen Heggernes** Hunter Kirby Emma Klinzing Mary Kolb Danielle Retica Ron Unneberg 31 Addison Baty Jared Brandvik Lucas Dailev Ethan Johnson Meghan Konop Julie Kordosky Davin Morri Jessica Norring Jimmy Salava Jonathan Schulze Zaidyn Wagner Tanner Zuehlke



- 1 Patrick & Jenny Brewer Robert & Coralynn Fischer Duane & Angela Johnson Tom & Mary Karrow Bob & Arlene Schindeldecker
- 3 Duane & Valory Tessmer
- 4 Roy & Joy Klasinski
- 6 David & Mary Brandmire
- 8 Bruce & Lori Nixon
- Blaine & Teresa Raymer 10 Dean & Mary Galvin
- Bryan & Kim Hughes Jason & Kathryn LaMott Tom & Stephanie Pfotenhauer Andrew & Julie Rhoades John & Vivienne Rothchild
- Robert & Gabrielle Baty 11 Robert & Sue Chad Mike & Julie Huber Chris Medin & Mary Murray-Medin
- 12 Rico & Elizabeth Bohren

Jon & Sara Carson Larry & Vicky Smith

- 13 Devin & Amanda Gervais **Bill & Michele Jacobus** 14 Cory & Kimberly Bauman
- John & Jenelle Rodemeyer 15 Joe & Dawn Droel
- Roger & Marie Haukland Alejandro Trujillo & Nancy Brezina
- 16 David & Naomi Golnitz Mark & Jane Jechort John & Alicia McGuire 17 Brian & Kelly Schmidt
- 18 Eli & Angela Coffey Joel & Stacey Schuessler Jeff Sieling & Katie Barker-Sieling Jesse & Jenna Vislisel Dan & Kavla Wesser
- 19 Pat & Jenny Bouthilet Scott & Jean Shriver
- 20 Jeff & Denise LaFontaine Lawrence & Stephanie Sadowski

- 21 Mike & Laura Anderson Kyle & Maria Engen Jonathan & Molly Schulze Nathan & Jenni Xiong
- 22 Gerald & Colette Miller Jim & Barbara Riehle
- 23 Jim & Lynne Blass Paul & Deborah Burandt Kevin & Mary Landgrebe Herb & Judy Goetsch Charles & Laurie Helgason Tom & Peggy Novak
- 24 Zach & Courtney Barringer 25 Cary & Patricia Arneson
- Robert & Sharon Heck 26 Phil & Sandy Johnson
- Dustin & Molly Nystel Ellis & Geraldine Swanson 27 Dean & Jvl Dunavan
- John & Nora Foster 28
  - Dave & Heidi Hove Stanley & Michelle Schoenecker

Reed & Kathy Siegling

- 29 Brian & Kristi Delaney
- 30 Matt & Lisa Noblett Zachary & Jennifer Singleton Jason & Brenda Sirovy
- 31 BJ & Robin Brown Luches & LaVonne Hamilton Tim & Erin Lamkin Todd & Toni Muellner



& Anniversaries





### **HEALING SERVICE**

Our Healing Service is held at the Valley Creek Campus every third Sunday. For prayers of healing, attend our service on July 15 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.



### 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.

### **CONFIRMATION JOURNEY**

What is 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. Our next confirmation weekend is November 3/4, 2018.

# SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY - WHO CAN COME TO WHAT?

Welcome new 6th graders and new freshman! The summer is a great time to move up into the new ministry areas and get to know other students! When an event says Middle School (MS), it's for all new 6th graders through outgoing 8th graders. When an event says High School (HS), it's for all new 9th graders and graduating 12th graders. New 9th graders, y'all get to do everything!!! (Summer Stretch is the only middle school ministry that isn't available to new 6th graders). Go to wlcyouth.org to find summer events.

### YOUTH SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

This summer 6th - 12th we will be exploring the first 5 books of the Bible (Torah). Summer Bible study is a great way to continue growing in your faith, seeina your friends, and eating weird foods! 6:30-8:30pm. Bring your Bible! June 13-August 15. Look for more details at wlcyouth.org. This months Youth Bible Study schedule: July 4: No Bible Study; July 11: MS meets at Rodemeyer's (7174 Lydia Ln, Woodbury) - No HS or OH; July 18: HS @ Patrick's (1220 Silverwood Court, Woodbury), OH @ OH, No MS; July 25: MS at VC, OH @ OH, HS @ Patrick's; Aug. 1: MS @ Rodemeyer's, OH @ OH, HS @ Patrick's.

### **HIGH SCHOOL KAYAKING DAY TRIP**

Coming August 9, 10-5pm. Cost is \$20. Check out details at <u>wlcyouth.org.</u>

### **CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION**

We welcome Christine Wisch as she presents, "How to Work with Recruiters--Insider Tips" on July 12 at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and CTC check out the website at <u>www.careertransitionconnection</u>. <u>org</u>.

### **CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION**

We welcome Charlie Bever as he presents, "FRANtastic Executive Opportunities for Business Ownership" on July 26 at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and CTC check out the website at <u>www.careertransitionconnection.org</u>.



### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - NEW ITINERARY (OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 5, 2019)

Special information meeting will be on Monday, October 15th in the Fireside Room beginning at 7:00pm. Led by Pastor Paul & Rhoda Pfotenhauer. Contact Pastor Paul at 651-261-3416 or <u>paulrhoda@comcast.net</u>



### SUMMER STRETCH (6TH-8TH)

Students who've completed 6th grade as of the summer of 2018 are welcome to join us on Thursdays during the summer for service and fun. The cost is \$20 per date, Valleyfair is \$30. Sign up required as least 7 days before each event date. Go to <u>wlcyouth.org</u> for more information about service activities, fun events and to sign up. Scholarships are available and friends are welcome. Questions: Contact Lindsey Schmidt.

### **YOUTH MISSION TRIPS**

Please pray for the group of 68 youth and adults who will be in Quad Cities and Chicago on mission trips this month. Pray for their hearts to be open and willing to serve him and safe travel for the groups.

### YOUTH SERVE THIS SUMMER:

There are a lot of places for youth and anyone to serve this summer around WLC! Help with Kids Summer Day Camp (VBS) and Sports camp. Serve at the Community Garden. Help in the nursery. Set up chairs at the Liberty Ridge

# **Getting Connected**

campus. Participate in Summer Stretch. Serving is a great way to bless others and grow in your faith!

## YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP MEETING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL QUAD CITIES

Mission Trip will hold their last meeting on July 8, 6-8pm at the Schmidt home. Contact Lindsey at <u>schmidtL@wood-</u> <u>burylutheran.org</u> with questions.

## HIGH SCHOOL SERVE AT MIRACLE LEAGUE

HS youth will be volunteering with the East Metro Miracle League! EMML is a baseball league for kids with special needs and it looks like a super fun way to serve! On Miracle League nights we'll help our buddies play the game and cheer them on! It's going to be great! Join us from 5:45-8pm on Monday's, August 6 and 13. Sign up and information at wlcyouth.org.

### 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 at the Valley Creek Campus. If interested, please contact Delores Fitzgerald at 651-738-1812.

# COLORADO PEACH FUND RAISER

Colorado Peaches are coming in 2018! Our annual fundraiser for our Youth Scholarship Fund is taking orders for peaches, until July 15, to be delivered in early August (our best guess). Price per crate is \$31, or half crate for \$15.50 (one crate is 18 pounds, approximately 40 tree ripened, juicy peaches). Forms are available online or at the welcome desk. You can also stop by the table at Valley Creek campus on Sunday mornings or call the Retter's at 651-739-5326. Thanks for supporting our youth!



# July 2018 Calendar

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

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

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

4 (L, O, V) Offices Closed for the Independence Day Holiday Wednesday, All Day

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

7 (V) Baptism Class Saturday, 9:30am Contact: Rachel Symmank, 651-472-1975 7 (O) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study Saturdays, 8:00am Contact: Molly Schulze, 651-739-5144

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

**9-12 (V) Sports Camp** Mon-Thur, 9:00am-12:15pm Contact: Nancy Schubbe, 651-739-5144

**9-12 (V) Art Camp** Mon-Thur, 12:30-3:00pm Contact: Nancy Schubbe, 651-739-5144

12 (V) All Campus MS Summer Stretch Thursdays, 8:00am Contact: Lindsey Schmidt, 651-739-5144

**12 (V) Career Transition Connection** Thursday, 7:00pm Contact: Tom Colosimo, 612-386-3715 **15 (V) Healing Service** Sunday, 12:15pm Contact: Pastor Tim Marshall, 651-739-5144

8 (O, V) Befriend Book Discussion Wednesday, 1-2:30pm (V only) 7:00-8:30pm (Both) Contact: Pastor Jon, 651-739-5144

23-26 (O) Summer Day Camp Mon-Thur, 9:30am-12:00pm Contact: Molly Schulze, 651-739-5144

**30-2 (L) Camp in the Park** Mon-Thur, 9:00am-3:00pm Contact: Laura Stennes, 651-739-5144

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