

THE NEWS LETTER

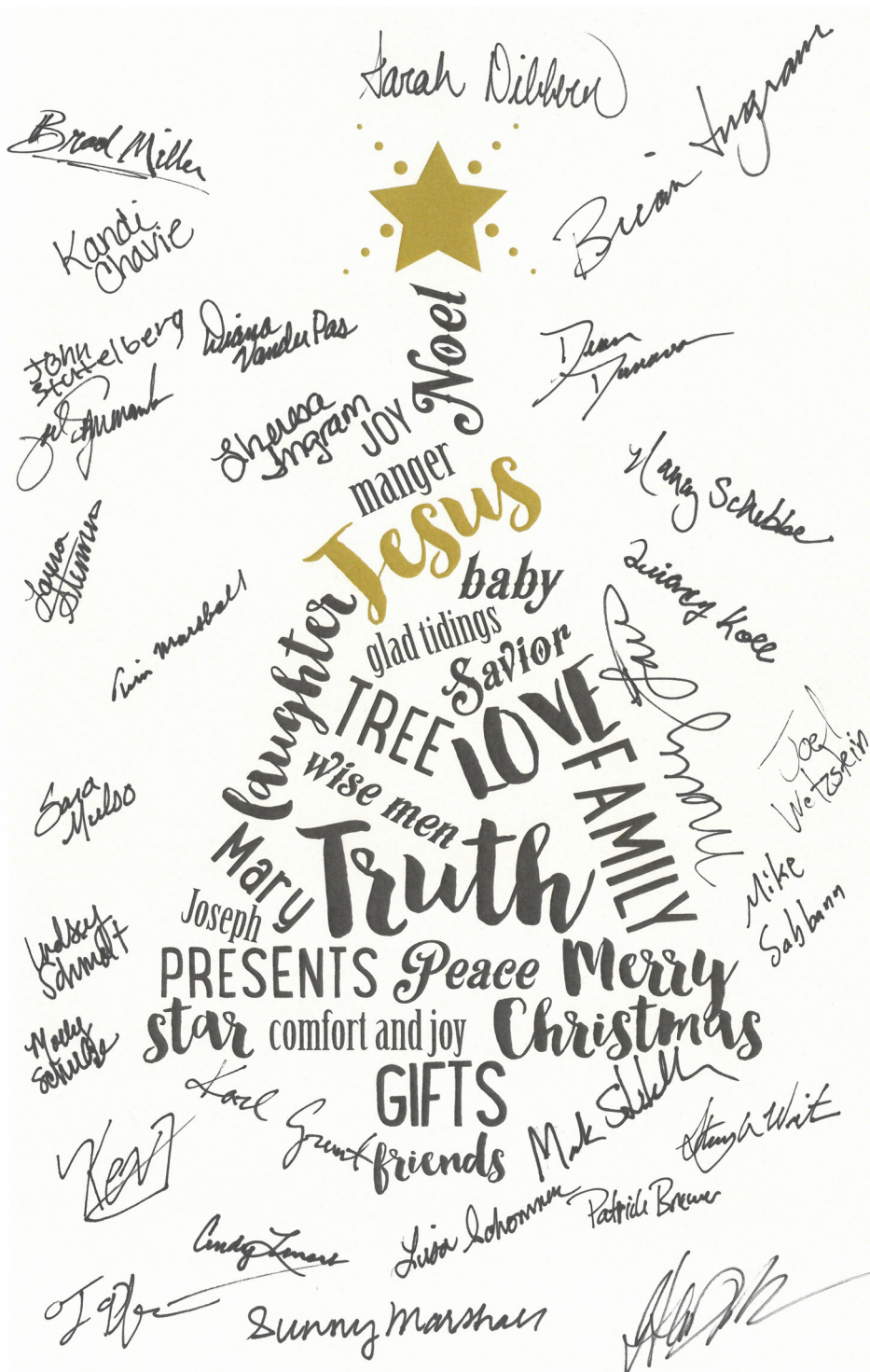
YOU WILL FIND
A BABY
WRAPPED IN
SWADDLING
CLOTHS AND
LYING IN A
MANGER

LUKE 2:12



December 2019

Merry Christmas from the Staff at WLC



WOODBURY
LUTHERAN

Multiply

Using Our Generosity to Unleash His Power

***“Jesus unleash Your power in us,
in our relationships,
in our communities and
in Your world. Amen.”***

Check out the latest Pew Research about the changing religious landscape in the United States,

*“In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, **down 12 percentage points over the past decade.** Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, **up from 17% in 2009.**”*

Of the 65% of Americans who still claim to be Christians, about only about 25% of the total population describe themselves as regular when it comes to worship attendance and of that 25% about 1.4 times a month is how often they come to worship. What that means is that churches are “fighting” over a much smaller percentage of the population to come to us then we used to.

During this same time period of time Woodbury Lutheran has continued to grow, but for that to continue we must wrestle with two very important questions:

1. *What are we doing to remove roadblocks for those who are interested in Jesus?*
2. *What are we doing to go to the 75% who will never come to church?*

Over the past two years we have seen the incredible blessing of God at work in **Multiply**. He has used our generosity to unleash His power in ways that are making it easier for

people to come and better equipping us to go and tell. As we go forward, we must wrestle with difficult questions around our multisite strategy, our name and how we can best reach the 75%. It will not be easy!

Much of this wrestling will be done by our leadership teams, but let me assure you that no major decisions around land, building, new campuses or our name can or will be made without congregational input. I would not be carrying out my Call to lead this Church, if we were not asking hard questions, just look again at the stats on the left. We have to be asking these questions because there are thousands all around us who are separated from God, because they do not know Jesus and if there are ways we can better reach them then we must be willing to be challenged, all while remaining faithful to Jesus and the Word.

As we near the end of our **Multiply** journey, I want to thank you for your generosity and I want to challenge you to help us finish strong, so that we can then consider what God has in store for us next. For now, let us be filled with gratitude for we have seen the Goodness of God in Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Tom



Baptisms:

Denver Grace Fleury
Ava Adele Nelson
Harper Jean Weisbrich

Deaths:

Tyler Peterson ~ brother, Kevin Peterson
Pastor Jon Kuehne ~ father, Rev. Steve Kuehne
Virginia Becker-Langan ~ mother-in-law, Lucile Becker
The Family of Rocky Johnson
Laverne Krummel ~ granddaughter, Sharon
Donna Igaszewski ~ brother, Doug Jacobs
Janis Myers ~ brother, Richard Sexe
Vicki Smith ~ uncle, Richard Sexe
Sheri Lewis ~ uncle, Kenny Kivi
Greg Lewis ~ cousin, David Lewis
Greg Lewis ~ cousin, Robert Lewis
The Family of Steve Spaudie

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 10:30am

Sundays at Liberty Ridge
Contemporary 10:00am

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Woodbury, MN 55125

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Friday: 9am-3pm

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Church Council Monthly Update

In order to continue to grow in our communication to the congregation, each month in the Newsletter we will share an update from the previous Council meeting. Full minutes for the Council can be found by [clicking here...](#)

Woodbury Lutheran Church - Council Meeting Tuesday, November 12th 2019 6:30am - 8:00am	
Call to Order & Quorum Determination	November 12, 2019
Devotions/Prayer	
Consent Agenda	Approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none">October Meeting MinutesOctober Financial ReportPre-school budget update	
Information	Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senior Pastor report2020 Budget DraftReview Risk Management & Internal Controls	
Discussion	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on Liberty Ridge Home ProjectUpdate on strategy for endowments and long term giving	
Closing Prayer	
Adjourn	

Meeting Highlights:

- As we look ahead to 2020 the budget will be based roughly on 2019 giving at this point we need a strong November and December to reach our 8.4 million dollar Multiply goal. The 2020 budget will not account for the 375k that we have in income for 2019 through Multiply first fruits giving.
- The Pre-school budget is right in line to finish budget neutral for 2019.
- The Liberty Ridge Action Team has had several meetings and looks forwarding to updating the congregation at our annual meeting in January. Troy Wenck is heading up the team and the congregation will be updated as we have new information.
- The Council is taking steps to get the Endowment Team back up and meeting as we work toward a new strategy around legacy and long term giving for WLC.

Campus Updates from Liberty Ridge & Oak Hill



LIBERTY RIDGE UPDATES

Here are some quick updates from our Liberty Ridge Campus:

- Two Sundays in November, our attendance was just short of 140 people! We're excited to see the growth happening at Liberty Ridge!
- We hosted another Carnival of Crafts on November 20 in Stonemill Farms. While we had lower attendance due to a busy time of year and some illnesses, there were great conversations and a few families may check out the Liberty Ridge Campus as a result!
- Once again this year the kids of the Liberty Ridge Campus will bring the Christmas account to life during worship on Sunday, Dec. 15. This is a great time for the children to help lead worship for our community!
- Did you know? Almost every Thursday Pastor Jon hangs out in the morning at Dunn Brothers in Woodbury to connect and pray with people (he even buys people coffee!). If you want to connect, drop by or send him an email at kuehnej@woodburylutheran.org.
- The church council has a Ministry Action Team explore options for a permanent future for the Liberty Ridge Campus. This is an exciting time! Please pray that God would open the doors that need to be opened and close the ones that need to be closed. Questions? Contact Council member Troy Wenck, Council President Renee Boeheme, Pastor Jon, or Pastor Tom.
- 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:

- What a joy it is to see the unity of our congregation on mission. We are praying as cross campus members are serving together in Ethiopia and will be returning Nov. 25th. Mitten sales for Robin's Nest Jamaica, Honey Sunday supporting North Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and Operation Christmas Child are all in full swing. The Oak Hill choir is thrilled to be joining as a mass choir with our Valley Creek and Liberty Ridge campuses on December 6th MasterPeace Christmas celebration at the Valley Creek Campus.
- We've had an awesome fall with the youth ministry at the Oak Hill campus! We are forever grateful for how much our youth love to be together and how much they value doing life together. Youth are plugged in all over the Oak Hill campus! We are so thankful because of the heart of service that has been instilled in our youth.
- We have the biggest youth ministry volunteer team that we've ever had in the history of the Oak Hill campus and are thankful for the love, joy, encouragement, and leadership they bring to Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.
- Join us on December 15th, as the kids and youth of the Oak Hill Campus celebrate the birth of our Savior. Live animals and an outdoor Nativity scene will bring the Christmas story to life! 4:30pm- Kids Performance & 6:30pm- Youth Performance. After each performance come warm up inside with hot chocolate and cookies and visit outside with the animals.
- Questions? Contact Molly Schulze at schulzem@woodburylutheran.org.
- 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:

- We welcomed 13 students across campuses as confirmed members on the weekend of November 2 and 3.
- Our team of coffee volunteers rolled out a new coffee service in the lobby on Sunday mornings.
- Sharing Your Story workshops were held equipping attendees to recognize God's work in their personal story and equipping them to share it.
- The first NEXT class was held for those new to Woodbury Lutheran. Next shares WLC's story and helps people explore ways to see and discover who God has made them to be.
- 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.



Thankful

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." Phil. 1:3

We all feel thankful to be able to come to Woodbury Lutheran for worship, bible studies, fun events and more. But not many of us are able to stop in on any given work day and see what goes on in the office of WLC as we conduct the business side of the church and prepare for all these great events. The office can be a very busy place with staff coming and going and people stopping in for help. If you have ever found yourself stopping in during the day you may have noticed we have a team of volunteers at our reception desk to greet you. Each day you might see someone new, but you will always be greeted with a smiling face and welcoming words.

Our volunteers work a variety of shifts and though they help us out with office projects, their main job is to greet/direct guests that come in the office and answer the phones. They are a very important part of our office staff and we are so grateful that they share their time and talents with us. We asked our volunteers what it is that drew them to volunteer and what keeps them here. Colleen Johnson said, *"Having been a member of WLC for 26 years, I know a lot about the history, programs and values of our Church. I love seeing old friends and meeting new folks as they come into the office. I love to be useful and helpful, and feel that I am serving the Lord as I serve our wonderful, dedicated Pastors and Staff; and also in doing so I am fulfilling our mission to both Serve and Reach for the cause of Christ in our Church and community."* Kris Carlson said, *"I like knowing that what I do helps everyone in the office concentrate on their important work. I enjoy helping the people who call or come in to the office... and with every question I learn something new! Plus, it's been fun getting to know our church staff better!"* One of the greatest gifts we can give to others is our time and this great group of ladies have done just that! We are so blessed by their service. If you get a chance stop by and tell them thank you.



Pictured left to right: Julie Schuessler, Marj Starner, Colleen Johnson, Brenda Mammenga, Nancy McDonagh, Kris Carlson, Lois Plath (Nancy Schultz and Elaine Schlenner not pictured).



YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Middle School & High School 2020 Mission Trips

During the summer of 2020 the youth of WLC are headed out to serve in some pretty awesome ways!

Our High School youth will be flying to Washington state and then driving to Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Northern Idaho to serve the surrounding community. We'll be sharing the love of Jesus while swinging hammers, painting homes, splitting firewood, and caring for the young and elderly. This isn't the first time high school students from WLC have ventured off to Idaho on a mission to serve and grow as disciples of Jesus. It's going to be a powerful week! If you have an 8th-12th grade young person in your life who's interested in serving, worshipping by a fire, and playing in the wilderness of Idaho...this could be a great way to connect! June 12-19th, 2020. Look for more information at wlc youth.org or by connecting with Patrick Brewer.

The middle school crew is heading to Duluth, MN with Youthworks. Our 6th-8th graders will be serving all around the Duluth area. We partner with youth programs, elder care facilities, thrift stores and foodshelves as well as serving individuals with home needs. Duluth is one of our favorite places to head to serve and play. We'll be serving from July 19-24. Look for more information at wlc youth.org or by connecting with Lindsey Schmidt.



WLC Value In Action

Serve



One of my favorite things about WLC is how willing our faith family is willing to generously share time and gifts with each other and our community. The impact of that generosity is multiplied as God uses these offerings to transform us, to remind us of His work in the world around us, and as He reveals to us and our children how He's weaving our gifts together into something that will help the world to know Him. There are many stories of how serving has led to growth and transformation, but this month, I'd like to share with you one family's story of how serving as a family in a new ministry area has led to both individual growth as disciples and deep joy.

When John and I said yes to teaching Bible & Friends (Sunday small group with young people of varying abilities) as a family, I was unsure how our 6th & 7th grade sons would take to it. I knew I was excited about it, but the unknown can be scary for anyone at any age. Would they participate? Would they connect with our students & teach alongside us or just be additional students in the class?

Watching our now 8th & 9th graders bond with the students in our class has been one of my favorite things from the last couple years. Whether it's learning about hockey so they can talk stats & arenas with one student or talking super heroes with another student (a favorite topic in our house as well), it's been amazing as a parent to watch them strive to get closer to our students each week that we teach and make real, true connections.

Looking back on our first couple of weeks teaching, I remember very stilted prayers. I remember uncomfortable looks that said, "Mom, how can you make me do this?". That changed quickly and our weeks of teaching are favorite Sundays in our house. Sharing joys and concerns with the group on Sunday has become second nature and, as our 3rd son joined us in teaching this year, it was great to see the older boys guide him with great insight on how to interact with each student.

I think the impact that volunteering has had on the boys' lives is huge. It's great to put the struggles in your life in perspective and there is no better way than by volunteering your time & energy with people in different life situations than you're in. Our boys have gotten comfortable praying in front of groups and responding in a meaningful way to the prayer requests of others. We're still working on singing out loud with a couple of our boys, but we'll get there! -Mindi Wolsky

Young people of all ages have gifts that they can share with others. Have you considered looking for a consistent and ongoing way for your family to serve? Helping your young people to discover how the gifts God's given them can bring joy or hope to those around them. Research has shown that high school students who have a connection to a personal ministry, especially in intergenerational settings, are more likely to seek out a faith family and continue growing as disciples as they transition into adulthood. We'd LOVE to help your family discover a personal ministry! -Lindsey Schmidt





Disciples Are Learners Disciples Are Encouragers

Disciples are learners. Disciples are curious. Disciples encourage others.

Did you know the missionaries WLC supports provide us with prayer requests on an ongoing basis? As disciples, we can learn what their needs are, and about their concerns and joys! This article highlights the latest prayer requests from the **two missionary families we support in Africa**.



Please take time to learn about these folks - each of the Missions Displays at our campuses has information about them. They are delighted that our church cares enough to ask them for prayer items. They are encouraged by your prayers. They're even more encouraged when they receive an email with a note that you've prayed for them! Their email addresses are included in the tables below.

Africa		
Ray & Paula Yoder	Mozambique, but moving to ...	Church-planting; World Team
<i>Pray for:</i> 1) their forced move ... Yoders had to leave Mozambique early this year due to loss of "residency status"; 2) God's leading - they believe He is leading them to minister to a Muslim people-group in Europe; 3) their January trip to Europe as they seek a new home base for their evangelistic work Ray.Yoder@globalcomz.net		
Tim & Lisa Beckendorf	Rural Botswana, Africa	Bible translation for the Khwe people; Lutheran Bible Translators
<i>Pray for:</i> 1) protection from spiritual attack for their local translation team (their names are Moses, Moronga & Splash), who face significant discouragement; 2) successful re-adjustment for Beckendorfs after returning from a recent furlough in the U.S.; 3) Tim's work on his doctoral thesis, and hoped-for Ph.D. degree next spring Tim.Beckendorf@LBT.org		

Be a learner. Be an encourager. **Jot an email** to the Yoders or the Beckendorfs (or both!) They're WLC's ambassadors to the world, taking the gospel to places you and I aren't able (or willing) to go. For more information contact Mike Sabbann (sabbannm@woodburylutheran.org).

multiply

UPDATE
Fall 2019

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..."

— Acts 1:8

FOUNDATIONAL EXPENSES

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

- Continued payments above principle on our debt
- New Soundbooth areas at both Oak Hill and Valley Creek Campuses
- In ear monitors at Valley Creek Campus



MULTISITE INVESTMENT

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

- Conversations with the MN South District about how we can help struggling congregations
- Ministry action team in place to look for permanent home for Liberty Ridge campus
- Money set aside for future ministry



TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

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

- Record number of Kids at our summer camps and Youth Servant events - 935 kids and youth
- Two baptism weekends with 33 baptized and 89 total baptisms for 2019 (as of 11/17/19)
- Diana Vander Pas brought in as Multisite Director of Small Groups



FOCUSED MISSIONS

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

- Closing in on our goal of 1 million meals packed through Feed My Starving Children
- 458 children sponsored in Tongi, Bangladesh
- Funded training for 3 pastors to plant and lead churches near Ashewa Meda, Ethiopia



Multisite Investment + Focused Mission + Transformational Ministries + Foundational Expenses
= MULTIPLIED IMPACT

CHRISTMAS MASTERPIECE PEACE

December 6th
@ 6:30pm

All-Campus Woodbury Lutheran Church Family-Fun Christmas Celebration

December 6th
@ 6:30pm

JOIN US FOR:

- Christmas Song Sing-Along
- Ornament Decoration Station
- Christmas Masterpiece Art Gallery
- Cookies, Hot Chocolate, & Cider
- and more...

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY:

- Woodbury Lutheran Church Choir
- House Band
- Handbell Choir
- Mouse Choir
- Kids Link Kids
- and YOU!



**WOODBURY
LUTHERAN**

WoodburyLutheran.org

Woodbury Lutheran Preschool Christmas Celebration

JOIN US FOR:

- Christmas Song Sing-Along
- Ornament Decoration Station
- Christmas Masterpiece Art Gallery
- Cookies, Hot Chocolate, & Cider
- and more...

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY:

- Preschool Classes
- and YOU!

December 8th
@ 4:00pm

**CHRISTMAS
MASTERPIECE
PEACE**

December 8th
@ 4:00pm



**WOODBURY
LUTHERAN**

WoodburyLutheran.org

w e e k e n d s e r m o n s e r i e s

Christmas ENCOUNTERS



Christmas Encounters

DATE RANGE :: 12.01.19 - 12.29.19

Week #1 | November 30/December 1, 2019

- Title :: **Our Magnificent Response!**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Luke 1: 44-55; Key Verse :: Luke 1: 46-47
 - Secondary Reading :: Luke 1:26-33 (this is the first reading)

The power of the Holy Spirit moves in unexpected and profound ways as we see in the life of Mary. Mary's magnificent response is an example for us as God's compelling presence moves in His people.

Living It Out : Mary wastes no time declaring what God has done for her. Who could you share what God has done for you with this week? Here's a challenge...pray and make a plan, and then do it.

WLC Value Movement

Week # 2 | December 7/8, 2019

- Title :: **An Obedient Response**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Matthew 1:18-24; Key Verse :: Matthew 1:24
 - Secondary Reading :: Revelation 2:10 & Philippians 2:6-8

Just like Mary, Joseph finds himself in a frightening situation of uncertainty, emotional pain and disappointment. God tells Joseph to trust Him and not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. God calls us to rely on Him and His faithfulness as His plans to advance His kingdom supersede our comfort and self-serving security.

Living It Out: In the midst of a very challenging situation, Joseph obeys the angel. Is there an area of your life where God is nudging you to obey? Ask God for His power and then do it.

WLC Value: Truth

Week #3 | December 14/15, 2019

- Title :: **A Joyful Response**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Luke 1:39-45; Key Verse :: Luke 1:41
 - Secondary Reading :: Luke 1:13-15

Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting and immediately responds with praise and celebration to what God is doing. Has the truth of what God has done become dry routine in your faith life, lacking a spirit of true celebration? What will you do to revive the Joy of your salvation? Remember, John leapt in his mother's womb and was filled with the Holy Spirit even in utero. **WLC Values?**

Living It Out God is always inviting us into more, including more joy. Ask Him to fill you with the Spirit and with joy overflowing. Don't be afraid to talk about that this week.

WLC Value: Relationships

Week #4 | December 21/22, 2019

- Title :: **A Terrified Response**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Luke 2: 7-18; Key Verse :: Luke 2:9
 - Secondary Reading :: Rev. 4:8-11

The work of the God of the universe and His glory should terrify (awe) us. At times, we are far too casual and flippant with God. Reverent Awe should be the response of those who encounter the living God. How have you encountered God in life/worship and been filled with awe, wonder or terror? The Shepherds are an audience to a multitude of heaven's angels proclaiming and worshipping the Son of God.

Living It Out: Invite God to awaken you to the awe and wonder of Jesus. Let worship flow from your heart and mouth.

WLC Value: Truth

Christmas Eve | 12/24/2019

- Title :: **Our Honest Response!**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Luke 2:15-20; Key Verse :: Luke 2:15b
 - Secondary Reading :: Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7

The love of God has come to you personally. God has revealed His goodness and glory to us in the gift of His Son Jesus. The truth of this event calls us to respond just like the Shepherds. 17 *"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,"*¹⁸ *and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."* 20 *"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."* On this Christmas Eve you too have heard and seen the love of God in Jesus. What will your honest response be?

WLC Value: Community

Christmas Day | 12.25.2019

- Title :: **A Telling Response**
- Readings
 - Primary Reading :: Isaiah 52:6-10; Key Verse :: Isaiah 52:7
 - Secondary Reading :: Romans 10:8b-17

What an amazing privilege to tell people that they are loved by God. In a world that lacks peace and hope, YOU get to declare true peace and hope to a frightened and broken world. Pay close attention to those around you; family and friends, maybe even strangers. How will you be prepared to tell them of the love of God in Jesus? By the way, your feet are beautiful.

WLC Value: Community

Week #5 | 12.27/28.2019

- Title :: A Transformed Response
- Readings
 - Primary Reading ::Matthew 2:1-12; Key Verse ::Matthew 2:11
 - Secondary Reading ::Isaiah 60:1-6

King Herod had sent the wise men to find Jesus with a plan. But after seeing Jesus they were transformed so much that they disobeyed Herod. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Living It Out: Take some time to evaluate the plans and hopes you have for the upcoming year and how might Jesus be leading you into a different route.

WLC Value: Truth

Surprise!
Grace!



Taken from the December 2019 HomeFront Monthly Newsletter.

GOD'S WORD

“LEAVING NAZARETH, [JESUS] WENT AND LIVED IN CAPERNAUM ... TO FULFILL WHAT WAS SAID THROUGH THE PROPHET ISAIAH:

‘LAND OF ZEBULUN AND LAND OF NAPHTALI, THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES—THE PEOPLE LIVING IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT; ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH A LIGHT HAS DAWNED.’”

MATTHEW 4:13-16

The prophet Isaiah paints a bleak picture of Israel that came about because their worship of God didn't lead to genuine life change. Israel had become so rebellious that in Isaiah 5:30 he basically says that de-creation is occurring in the culture. Where God created the world with order, now there is chaos (Genesis 1). Where God created light, there is now moral darkness.

Yet, in some of the darkest spots of the book, God's grace surprises the reader. This is especially clear in Isaiah 9:1-21 when Isaiah declares that one day people will see “a great light.... For to us a child is born ... and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (vv. 2, 6). Out of nowhere, Isaiah looks to a day when a Person will be born who will restore order by bringing light from darkness and God's reign from chaos. We know this Person to be Christ Himself.

This is Jesus' motivation for starting His ministry in Capernaum in Matthew 4. Capernaum was modern-day “Zebulun” and “Naphtali” (v. 15). Due to the borders around it, Capernaum was surrounded by pagan cultures, and the Jews who lived there were more aware of the need for a Savior, for the Person described in Isaiah 7, who would bring God's reign. It was also an area where Jesus' message of the coming Kingdom could take root and build momentum before the religious leaders in Jerusalem could squash it.

HEAR IT

Jesus intentionally went where there was darkness and the need for the light of the good news He proclaimed. Where I live, we have identified six of the most critical areas in need of Jesus' light and truth. These six include:

- Fatherlessness
- Unemployment and homelessness
- Racism
- Women's equality
- Sexual brokenness
- Spiritual emptiness, loneliness, depression

DO IT

I am wondering, have you ever identified the critical needs in your family and community and sought out ways to bring the light of Christ to those areas? Just like in Jesus' day, people in these dark places are more aware of the need for God's love. A few practical ideas for bringing light to your community this season:

- Find a foster event in your city that serves families with foster kids.
- Serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
- Ask your pastor about hosting a community dinner with a Christian congregation of another ethnicity and culture.
- Bring Christmas cookies to a senior living home with your kids.

As we enter into this season, may we worship the true Light that shines in the darkness.

by Aaron Ophaug

Aaron serves as the Pastor of Local and Global Engagement at Rockharbor Church in Costa Mesa, CA. Aaron found a personal relationship with Christ at age 20 and is passionate about seeing God's people living out the good news of Christ in community. He and his wife, Krista, have been married for 10 years and have two kids. Aaron is an avid trail runner and outdoor adventure enthusiast.



Worship

HEALING SERVICE

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

MAKING GENEROSITY SIMPLE!

We love to be innovative here at WLC. We are always looking for ways to make life a little easier for you. With that, earlier this year we began a partnership with Pushpay, a great new system for our on-line giving. We are excited about how this new giving solution is providing a simpler and more engaging experience for you. For more information, go to: give.woodburylutheran.org. Or text "WLCGIVE" to 77977 and get set up today! If you have questions, please contact Sunny Marshall at marshalls@woodburylutheran.org.

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 at each of our campuses, is available for each worship service. Come and say hi!

STOCK DONATIONS

There are many different ways we can donate our time, talents and treasures to Woodbury Lutheran Church. One way some members choose to donate is through the transfer or donation of stocks. A donation form is located by the welcome desk. If you have questions or want more information on how to donate stock, please contact Trecie Horner at 651-731-3349.



Grow

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are one of the ways that God draws us to deeper connection with Him and with others who are learning to follow Him.

- NEW small groups are forming this fall
- Some existing small groups are welcoming new people

Sign up for more information at the Connection Center.

MN CROSSROADS CAREER NETWORK (FORMERLY CAREER TRANSITION CONNECTION)

We welcome Carmen Croonquist as she presents, "Why You're Stuck and What to Do About It" on December 12, at 7pm, room 1-250 (VC). For more information about this event and MN Crossroads Career Network, check out the website at mncrossroads.com.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Wednesday night ministries for 6th-12th meets at the VC and OH campuses (LR youth attend at VC) from 6:30-8:15pm. We meet on Wednesdays for games at 6pm, Bible teaching at 6:30pm, and then small group community. Register online: wlc youth.org. There will be no small group programming on December 25 & January 1. Classes will resume on Jan. 8. Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH PROGRAMMING

- Liberty Ridge Sunday Donut and Devotions meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.
- Oak Hill Sunday Youth Bible Study gather at 9:15 am in the youth room (1-106).
- Valley Creek Sunday Small Group is available at 11am for students who aren't available on Wednesday nights.
- Bible and Friends class for youth with special needs, 9:30-10:30am in room 1-301 (VC).
- No small groups on Dec. 22 & 29.

ALL CAMPUS YOUTH NIGHT AT VALLEY CREEK

On Wednesday, December 11th youth from ALL 3 campuses will gather at the Valley Creek campus for a fun night together! We'll play ridiculous games, decorate cookies, and celebrate the LIGHT of Jesus! Throw on a Christmas sweater or favorite festive apparel and be here from 6:00-8:15pm. All students should meet and get picked up at Valley Creek.

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. To set up a meeting to start your confirmation journey contact Lindsey Schmidt.



Reach

HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY HOME

A shelter in Oakdale serving homeless families is seeking volunteers. To be eligible to serve in this safe, family friendly environment you will need to have completed a Safe Church training and have a criminal background check. For details or to sign up contact Trish Brokman (651-503-3380) or go to: guardian-angels.org/hope.



Serve

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION EXPERIENCE

Getting Connected

(6TH-12TH)

High School (HS) Summer Mission Experience will be June 12-19, 2020 for 8th-12th graders. We will be going to Idaho! Contact Patrick Brewer with questions. Middle School (MS) Summer Mission Experience will be July 19-24, 2020 for 6th-8th graders. We will be going to Duluth, MN! More information and registration at wlcyouth.org. Space is limited, sign up soon. Contact Lindsey Schmidt with questions.

LIBERTY RIDGE KIDS AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

All are invited to join us as the kids and youth of Liberty Ridge Campus share the account of Jesus' birth. It will be on December 15, during the 10am worship service. Please contact Laura Stennes at stennesl@woodburylutheran.org with questions.

HEARTS AND HANDS MENTORS

Like to meet interesting people? Help us share the love of Jesus with individuals who have developmental disabilities by being a mentor at our monthly outreach events. (September-March/Valley Creek). Simply be a friend. Join in. Have fun. A great service opportunity for individuals, small groups or families. No experience necessary. We will train you. You will be blessed by the experience. Contact Jeanne Dicke 651-704-9464 or Steve and Donna Retter 651-739-5326, to learn more.

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.

CHRISTIAN CLOSET

A clothing ministry of Woodbury Lutheran Church. The closet is open every Friday 8:30am-12pm, at the VC Campus. All clothing is free to those in need in our community. We accept donations of clean seasonal clothing (all ages), shoes, bed linens, towels and blankets (please no more hangers and if possible smaller bags to minimize lifting weight for volunteers). Donation tax receipts are available. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Gloria Johnson at 651-253-5416.

Starting Point

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, or the Bible? Church might not seem like the best place to voice your doubts or ask questions about God, but we think it should be. If you are new to faith, just checking it out, or coming back to church after some time away, Starting Point is a great first step. To find out more or to register, please visit our website. woodburylutheran.org/next-steps/starting-point/



Mark Your Calendars!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Friday, Dec 6 @ 6:30pm - All-Campus Woodbury Lutheran Family-Fun Christmas Celebration @ Valley Creek
- Sunday, Dec 8 @ 4:00pm - Preschool Christmas Celebration - A Christmas Master-PEACE
- Sunday, Dec 15 @ 4:30pm - Living Nativity @ Oak Hill
- Sunday, Dec 15 @ 3:00pm - Sing We All Noel, A Community Choral Christmas Concert @ Valley Creek

CHRISTMAS SERVICES (By Campus)

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

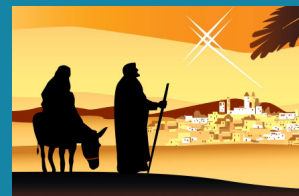
- Tuesday, Dec 24 @ 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

Oak Hill Campus (9050 60th Street North, Stillwater, MN 55129)

- Tuesday, Dec 24 @ 3:00 & 5:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Valley Creek Campus (7380 Afton Road, Woodbury, MN 55125) - All Services (ASL) (Live Stream)

- Thursday, Dec 19 @ 7:00pm - ALL CAMPUS Pre-Christmas Service
- Tuesday, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services
 - 1:00pm, 3:00pm & 5:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 - 11:00pm - ALL CAMPUS Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Wednesday, Dec 25 @ 10:00am - ALL CAMPUS Christmas Day Service



December 2019 Calendar

2 (V) Monday Men's Bible Study

Mondays, 10:45am
Contact: Pastor Tim,
651-739-5144 x221

2 (V) Monday Afternoon Women's Ministry

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

2 (O) Women of the Word

Mondays, 9:30am
Contact: Jane Dibbern,
612-239-0258

3 (V) Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 1:30pm
Contact: Karl Grant,
651-739-5144 x241

4 (O) Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00am
Contact: Vicar Quincy,
651-739-5144 x223

4 (V) Women of the Word

Wednesdays, 9:15am
Contact: Brad Miller,
651-739-5144 x209

4 (V) Mitten Ladies

Wednesdays, 12:15pm
Contact: Lyndis Vander Louw,
(651) 459-3313

5 (V) Celebrate Recovery

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

7 (O) Men's Bible Study

Saturdays, 8:00am
Contact: Vicar Dean,
651-739-5144 x331

7 (V) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

Saturdays, 7:00am
Contact: Jeff Linert,
651-387-9428

7 (V) Baptism Class

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

12 (V) Career Transition Connection

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

19 (V) All Campus Pre Christmas Service

Thursday, 7:00pm
ASL & Livestreamed

24 (L) Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, 4:00pm

24 (O) Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, 3:00pm & 5:00pm

24 (V) Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, 1:00 pm, 3:00pm
& 5:00pm
ASL & Livestreamed

24 (V) All Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, 11:00 pm
ASL & Livestreamed

25 (V) All Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, 10:00 am
ASL & Livestreamed

25 (L, O, V) Offices Closed for Christmas Day

Wednesday, All Day

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

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Woodbury, MN 55125