



Stepping Into 2021

Sara Mulso | Director of Woodbury Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten

Have you ever thought, "This is the year!" and then you made an audacious New Year's resolution? If I were to guess, I think it's unlikely that any one of us listed our 2020 resolutions as:

1. Become better at doing Zoom Meetings,
2. Have a collection of face masks, or
3. Gain proficiency with online ordering

I would also guess that many of you have become more successful at these things despite never planning to.

When we begin a school year, the same thing can happen. We set goals for children from learning to put on their own coat to writing their name. We expect those skills to develop. What we may not expect is the parent who emails to find out what prayers we say at school because their child now won't eat at home until they pray first.

As we step into 2021, I encourage you to be open to the unexpected. Where are you being called to learn something new, connect with someone you didn't expect, or serve in an area that may be outside your comfort zone?

Many of us have great hopes for 2021! As you go about the adventures of this new year, remember that God is with you each step of the way. Psalm 23:3 reminds us "He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness of his name's sake." And as we remind children each day...today is a great day to learn something new. Pause and see what this something new is that God is leading you towards!

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We Value Movement // Faith Doesn't Stand Still

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..."
1 Peter 2:2

As we enter into the New Year our focus this month is on **Taking a New Step**. Rooted in our value of movement part of living as a disciple of Jesus is to always be praying about our **Next Step** in faith; this is important for us as individuals and for us as a congregation. As we look ahead to 2021 we are trusting that God is asking us to explore two **Next Steps** as a congregation.

Merge with Concordia South St. Paul:

Both Concordia and WLC have had initial town hall meetings that were very positive. On January 17th WLC leadership will be meeting with the people of Concordia and if all goes well they are planning on one more town hall before voting on closing and merging with WLC toward the end of February.

At WLC we will have a second town hall scheduled for **Thursday, January 21st at 7:00PM**. Our hope is to open up a congregational vote to move forward with the merger at our annual meeting on **January 31st**. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers. To join our prayer team, email [Brad Miller](#).

WLC Name and Brand:

In 2012 during the merger process with **Risen Christ (now our Oak Hill Campus)** we started to ask the question; does the name Woodbury Lutheran Church work as our multisite strategy moves us into new communities? At the time and for several reasons it was decided that keeping the name was the best decision for our church.

With the possibility of moving into another community and knowing that there will be more

opportunities for mergers down the road, we believe it is wise for us to once again explore this question. The Church Council has chartered a **Ministry Action Team** led by our incoming President Ben Kehl to lead the process of answering three important questions:

1. How does having "Woodbury" in our name impact us as we move into multiple locations?
2. How does having "Lutheran" in our name impact us in a changing culture?
3. Does the name "Woodbury Lutheran" allow us to best fulfill our vision and multisite strategy?

Our goal is to have a firm direction by next fall. Obviously, the idea of changing our name elicits all kinds of emotions and questions. **You have my word that this team will not be making any final decisions without getting congregational input** and we will do what is best for the future of WLC and our vision of *Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives*.

Peace,
Pastor Tom, Senior Pastor



Fill the Bottles!

This January, we will be filling baby bottles with coins, cash, and checks for New Life Family Services. Just like in past years, there will be physical bottles for you to take and fill, that you can find in the lobby at church.

Did you know that \$24 fills a bottle with nickels? Or that \$48 fills a bottle with quarters? And that \$103 fills a bottle with dollars?

New this year: you can also "fill a bottle" online by [clicking here](#) or by texting "WLCBOTTLE" to 41444."



Joy in the Hurting - Walking Alongside You

Tim Marshall | Pastor for Pastoral Care Ministries

2021... It doesn't seem possible that another year is in the books! If you're like me, having 2020 come to a close is actually a welcome sight, with all of the challenges presented in the previous year. Hopefully you were able to close out 2020 celebrating once again the birth of our Savior and being reminded of the joy that is yours in Christ.

For some of you, however, 2020 may have taken a toll on you like no other prior year. After all, we endured (and are still enduring) a pandemic; this pandemic potentially caused the death of a loved one, or perhaps you experienced financial distress, witnessed civil unrest and poor treatment of others, or a host of other challenges that 2020 threw your way.

Having just celebrated Christmas, ideally your joy has been renewed. But when we are struggling, even that joy can seem fleeting as the weight of our present struggles are heavy upon us.

If you are struggling to find joy in your daily living and feel like you might benefit from having someone to talk to about your struggles, a Stephen Minister might be the perfect person for you. At Woodbury Lutheran, we have had Stephen Ministry for nearly two decades, and in that time they have walked alongside hundreds of people in need of a listening ear.

A Stephen Minister is a lay person who has been extensively trained to walk alongside someone who is hurting. That hurt you may be experiencing is most commonly associated with loss, but it can be



a loss of any kind. It could be the loss of a relationship, a friendship, a loss of health, or any other kind of loss that might be challenging to you. Even if you have relatives or loved ones walking alongside of you, you may feel like you need a little more support. Again, Stephen Ministry can help.

If you would like more information about our Stephen Ministry, feel free to examine our website at www.woodburylutheran.org, searching for Stephen Ministry under the resources and media tab, then clicking on pastoral care.

You could also reach out to me (Pastor Tim), Pastor Tom, Pastor Dean from our Oak Hill Campus, or Stephen Ministry Leader Shirley Mertens. All of our Stephen Ministry relationships maintain confidentiality and offer prayerful and spiritual support throughout the relationship.

I'm praying for 2021 to be better than 2020, but even if it isn't, our Stephen Ministers will still be

walking alongside those who are hurting. And if you find yourself among those who are hurting, please reach out.





Upcoming Ministries // Worship & Technical Arts

As 2020 is behind us, we're looking at a fresh start in 2021, and our Worship Department can't help but celebrate all those who contributed in significant ways last year. With more than nine months of pioneering new ways of doing things around here, we have some new opportunities for people to jump into.

If you've enjoyed participating in our online services and you find yourself, with some experience, noticing nuances within the music and production, then we'd love to hear from you. If you're "up and coming" and want to be part of the "upcoming ministry" within the Worship Department, we'd love to hear from you as well. Together we can find out if these opportunities make a good fit!

For more information:

- Worship Music - please connect with Joel Wetzstein wetzsteinj@woodburylutheran.org
- Technical Arts - please connect with Kendall Johnson johnsonk@woodburylutheran.org

Need a Vaccine for Your Weary Soul?

Diana Vander Pas | Multisite Director of Small Groups

Our souls are heavy and burdened: isolation, fake news, fear, injustice, shallow acquaintances and quick fixes that all leave us empty.

We need a vaccine for our souls. Thankfully God knew in advance what we need and has provided it for us. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28 NLT)

These three practices below provide healing for our soul:

1. We need time to hear from our Heavenly Father; to be in the presence of God and personally hear from Him. Our souls need to soak in the healing power of our Creator who loves us and has our best interests at heart.
2. We need other believers; people who provide real, meaningful relationships. Who truly know us and what is going on in our lives. We need a place where it is safe to ask questions, ponder what God is saying, and have someone walk alongside of us when we consider how to live in light of His Word at work in our lives.
3. Research shows that making a difference in this world for the better is another antidote for our weary souls. We desire a purpose that is greater than ourselves. Jesus came not only that we may have eternal life, but to bring the kingdom of God here to earth. The apostle Paul made a

difference in the lives of others even while he was in prison! How do we have a full life? By focusing not on ourselves, but on others. Serving others in whatever way God has equipped each of us. Providing a cup of cold water to our fellow humans.

How do you fit all of this into an already weary schedule? A small group is a place to start! You will spend time reading God's Word and applying it to your life. You will develop a group of friends to walk with you as you follow Jesus, and together your group will look for ways to bring God's goodness to the world around you in serving others.

Groups meet for about an hour and half in a regular rhythm of weekly or every other week. They may be comprised of women, men, co-ed, couples or families. Many groups discuss the Scripture and message from the weekend worship, while others study a biblically-based concept important to the group's current needs.

Take a new step with an antidote for your weary soul. To get into a group, contact Diana Vander Pas at vanderpasd@woodburylutheran.org.



Looking Back and Stepping Out In Faith

Lindsey Schmidt | Director of Middle School Youth Ministry

Looking back over 2020....as a Youth team we are celebrating and so grateful for...

- Zoom (that it was already invented and so readily available for us).
- Zoom youth staff hangouts & Friday fun nights.
- Students who showed up to play all the crazy online games (you know who you are...we are so grateful!).
- Our first ever First Communion and Seder Meal at home
- Worship night with youth volunteers & small group leaders.
- Awesome Concordia fieldwork students: Elizabeth Parrish & Anna Reineke .
- New small group leaders stepping into youth ministry in the midst of the craziness of life.
- Growing our social media game.
- Summer Bible study on the book of Psalms with young people and adults.
- Delivering prizes, grad presents, confirmation supplies, and first communion supplies! HUNDREDS of deliveries and so worth it!
- Serventure-families serving together.
- New babies in Youth Ministry: Charlie Stennes, Joanna Dikken, and Blake Stoffel.
- Confirmation Journey students & families continuing to grow in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. 13 who confirmed their faith in 2020 and 50+ who are in the process.
- Volunteers willing to help host our online youth ministry gatherings: Nichole & Paula, and those who helped while Laura Stennes was on maternity leave.
- Amazing leader care & youth hospitality volunteers.
- First ever "Parking lot grad blessings" for graduating seniors at VC and OH....what great nights!
- Having the opportunity to still gather...online, on campus, in small groups. PRAISE THE LORD!
- Parents reaching out with questions, gift ideas, resources, and inviting us to walk closely with them as they raise up their young people as disciples.
- Bible and Friends on campus & on Zoom.
- Leaders who were willing to show up in person and online.
- Youth serving at the Oak Hill Live Nativity.
- End of the year "small group Christmas parties" complete with Patrick and Sarah wrapped up in Christmas lights... (Check out wlcyouth's facebook page to see them in action!)
- The confirmation that no matter what the circumstances are, God is moving and God's people need and want to be connected. We are better together!

What a list! Thank you!



Help Your Kids Know Jesus More!

Nancy Schubbe | Director of Kids Ministry

The Kids Ministry team wants to help kids know Jesus more in some practical ways! Here's what the Bible recommends:

Imagine him. "I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." Psalm 77:12 One way to get to know Jesus better, is to think about him. What does he smell like or look like? Thinking about these things helps me to know him more.

Talk to him. Talk to Jesus every day. It's called praying but you can talk to him when you are walking, standing, or riding in a car. You can talk to him with your mouth or with your mind. He's always there, ready to listen.

Tell him you love him. Jesus loves it when you tell him you love him and mean it. He can feel love in a very powerful way. Don't just sing "Jesus Loves Me" but say to him, "I love YOU Jesus!"

Read about him. Spend time reading the Bible if you want to get to know Jesus. The stories in the New Testament are true stories and many of them are the miracles Jesus did when he was on the earth. Read a verse or two every day!

It's a New Year and I encourage you and your family to take a new step. Make learning about Jesus a family goal and take the necessary steps forward together in your faith!

Hit the RESET Button!

Mike Sabbann | Reach Coordinator

Can you believe how limited, how constrained we were last year? Shut-downs, lock-downs, pauses ... yuck! Now, this January, is the perfect time to re-think our next steps. What can we do - you do - to join Jesus on His mission? Take a few moments right now to pay attention:

- What's He stirring inside you?
- What's going on around you?
- How can you link those things together?
- Are you ready to hit the Reset Button and actively join Him on His mission?

Here are some ways to consider doing just that! **Reset.** Don't be locked-down. Reach others across the street and around the world!

Strike out across the river! Join in prayer for our new church merger with Concordia South St. Paul. [Click here](#) for a map.

- Ask God if this is something he wants for you
- Drive slowly along 5th Avenue and 7th Avenue to see what the neighborhood is like
- Park in the Kaposia Elementary parking lot and pray for the Lord to move mightily in the area.

Pray by name for the five neighbors nearest to you:

- For peace in their homes and marriages
- For their children
- For opportunities to greet them

Keep your eyes open; understand their needs.

Engage with one of these missionaries and:

- Get on their newsletter mailing list (see email address below)
- Pray for their family and their neighbors
- Support them financially

Dario & Juanita Guerrero in Paraguay (dario.guerrero@ntm.org)

Grant & Danielle Hoel on the UMD Campus (dkenow1228@aol.com)

Tim & Lisa Beckendorf in rural Botswana (tim.beckendorf@lbt.org)

Learn about a country WLC is involved in, and pray for people there who don't yet know Jesus:

- Bangladesh - [here](#) or [here](#)
- Botswana - [here](#) or [here](#)
- Ecuador - [here](#) or [here](#)



WL Preschool & Kindergarten Registration

Registration begins for the 2021-2022 school year in mid-January at Woodbury Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten. Our mission is to share the love and Good News of Jesus Christ with young children and families, while providing excellence in early education is at the heart of all we do!

Our preschool offers two, three, and five day a week options for children ages 3-5. Our kindergarten program is five days a week from 8:30am-2:30pm. Teachers strive to provide excellence in early learning experiences based in small classes with intentional relationships that are developed with children and families.

If you'd like to learn more, you can visit our [website](http://www.woodburylutheran.org) or contact Sara at mulsos@woodburylutheran.org or call the school office at 651-739-5146.

Shaped by God's Love

Brad Miller | Director of Discipleship & Reach

The New Year is a wonderful time to stop and reflect, to see where we've come from and what we've been learning along the way...time to notice God's faithfulness. In the midst of a tumultuous year, time to focus on the ways He has poured out His goodness and love in 2020.

It's also a time to do a bit of a reset. Here are some questions I'm asking myself:

- How do I simply receive God's love in 2021?
- How can I respond to His love?
- What might it look like to be shaped by His love, shaped by loving Him?

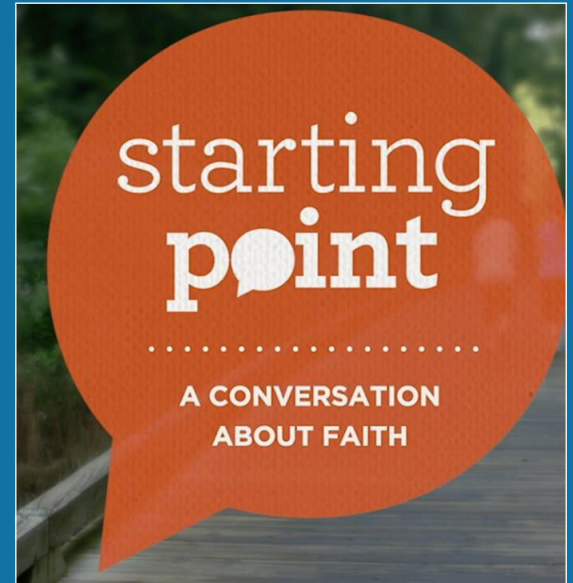
[One of the teachers of religious law asked Jesus] "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." -Mark 12: 28-31 NLT

I've been reflecting on Pastor Jon's message from December 27. He challenged us with 3 great questions. Questions that require some simmering. Questions that can help us in the reset. I'm reframing the questions around the Scripture above.

As I think about being shaped by His love: (1) What would God have me **STOP** doing? (2) What would God have me **KEEP** doing?; and (3) What would God have me **START** doing?

Here's a challenge...set aside some time to sit with these, ask God and then write about it. Please don't create a long list for each question. That can potentially be so discouraging that some of us will just give up! As you pray and listen to God, choose 1 or 2 things for each question. Then choose a trusted friend, another disciple of Jesus, to share this and to pray with. We were not created to "go it alone with Jesus". We're better together! We need each other as we are learning to follow Jesus.

Remember...THERE IS SO MUCH GRACE!



Join Us for Starting Point!

Brad Miller | Director of Discipleship & Reach

What is Starting Point?

Starting Point (SP) is an 5-week online opportunity to explore faith. It's a conversational environment where you'll experience real community. Each week, prior to the time together online, you'll watch an engaging video online (that we'll provide and we will talk about together).

How do I know if Starting Point is for me?

Starting Point is for people who are brand-new to Christianity, who are processing things having been away from church for a while, or just have questions or doubts about faith, spirituality and Jesus.

When is it?

- Tuesday evenings, starting January 12.
- 6:30 to 7:45pm on Zoom
- Amazing drinks and snacks will be served, well, in your own home! :)
- Cost? Not a thing, zero, zilch, nada. AND you'll get a free, yes free, paper Conversation Guide after you register.

Do I need to Sign up?

YES!! Hit this link: woodburylutheran.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/318/responses/new

For more information contact Brad Miller at millerb@woodburylutheran.org

Pick up an invitation card at the Connection Center (and share it with others)

Enemies of the Heart Sermon Series

January 10-February 14, 2021

In a world where we have been taught that the most important thing is outward behavior, what if we are forgetting that what happens on the outside always starts with the inside? What if there really is a way to heal the brokenness of our hearts and not by trying harder, doing more or being better? What if Jesus can take our hearts of stone and transform them into beautiful hearts of flesh?

Week # 1 | January 9/10 :: Out of the Heart

- Primary Reading :: Matthew 15:1-20
- Key Verse :: Matthew 15:18

What is the heart? Pastor Tim Keller describes the heart this way, *"Biblically the heart is the control center of the entire self."* Jesus teaches that it is out of the heart that all of our actions flow. Could it be that we in the church have focused too much on outward behavior and not enough on inward transformation?

Week #2 | January 16/17 :: Guilt | I Owe You

- Primary Reading :: Luke 19:1-10
- Key Verse :: Luke 19:8

The only way for a guilty heart to experience relief is for the guilt to be paid for. The problem is as much as we try and work it off, serve it off, give it off or pray it off, we are still left screaming, "I owe you!" What if Jesus has something different to say?

Week #3 | January 23/24 :: Anger | You Owe Me

- Primary Reading :: Matthew 18:21-35
- Key Verse :: Matthew 18:35

An angry heart screams, "You owe me." We can use anger to fuel our lives to accomplish great things, but the thing about anger is it will always be busy alienating us from others. The incredible grace of Jesus shows us a better way, releasing our hearts from anger.

Week # 4 | January 30/31 :: Greed | I Owe Me

- Primary Reading :: Luke 12:13-21
- Key Verse :: Luke 12:21

A greedy heart clamors, "I owe me." What if the real way to satisfy the heart is not to get, but to give?

Week # 5 | February 6/7 :: Jealousy | God Owes Me

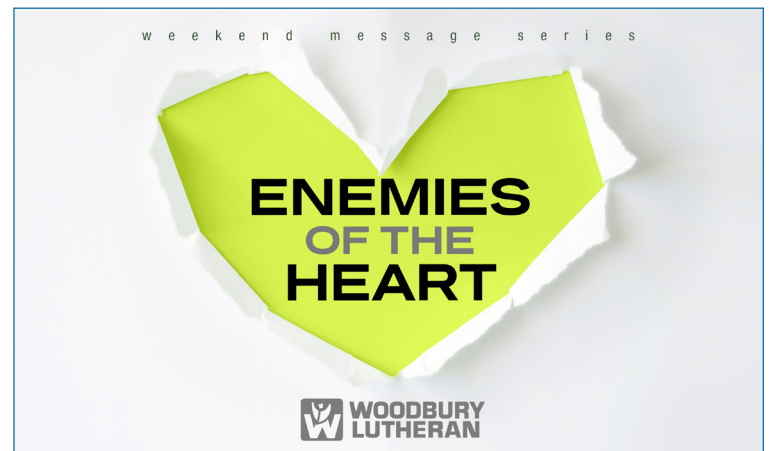
- Primary Reading :: James 3:13-18
- Key Verse :: James 3:16

A jealous heart says, "God owes me." On the surface this seems absurd, but deep down don't we believe all of our issues are really God's fault, after all He has the power to change them and He hasn't? Perhaps we are just asking for the wrong things?

Week # 6 | February 13/14 :: A New Heart

- Primary Reading :: Ezekiel 11:14-21
- Key Verse :: Ezekiel 11:19-20

We have looked at four of the greatest enemies of the heart - each of them seeks to callous our hearts leaving us hardened toward God. In the midst of the enemies, God has promised to do something spectacular through the work of His Son, He has promised to change our hearts of stones into hearts of flesh.



WLC Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting on **Sunday, January 31st**. The format will be different this year, but we are still excited to share about all that happened in 2020 and what our plans are for 2021!

Watch for more information coming soon. We'd love to see you there!

January Birthdays

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Shannon Fields
Greg Jensen
PJ Johnson
Ellise Krypel
Jane Ogren
Lisa Schaefer
Evangelyne Souza | Amanda Ramin
Karl Stensvad
Livia Vislisel | Marlys Parker
Jenna Severson
Katie Young | Dick Rowan
Alex Schuenke
Mary Jo Young | Scott Meyer
Hudson Peltier
Liam Powell |
| 2 Amanda Aalderks
Julie Nelson
Matt Noblett
Kimberlee Seltz
Amy Wutke
William Young | 8 Kris Amundson
Noah Heintz
Amy Huebner
Angie Lauderbaugh
Tim Nelson
Donna Retter
Mike Rosin
Nancy Schubbe
Aaron Sieling
Sharon Wolfgram | 14 Spencer Cowley
Shirley Mertens
Harper Vossen | 21 Tyler Anderson
Kay Banitt
Deborah Burandt
Grace Bystrzycki
Angie Crane
Janet Erickson
Marco Howard
Phil Johnson
Max Meyer
Mady Parker | 27 Jamie Anderson
Brooke Bunge
Alexandra Finnegan
Judy Goetsch
Maya IntVeld
Horst Kraft
Mila Lottering
Jenni Panek
Michael Steffen |
| 3 Sang Albrecht
Aaron Everson
Grace Hafner
Jake Hasapopoulos
Izzy Kordosky
Natalie Lewis | 9 Penelope Begnaud
Bev Faust
Sara Kowalke
Emma Perl
Georgiana Rothchild
Timm Spindler
Tina Stebbing
Adam Voth | 15 Reese Brandt
Anthony Conant
Kristin Esboldt
Jim Hayden
Cheryl Hohenstien
Tanner Johnson
Hazel Phillipson
Liam Powell, Jr.
Shirley Rubbert
Gabriella Tyler | 22 Robin Brown
Gavin Browning
Mike Huber
Tom Nelson
Dustin Nystel
Ally Stoffer
Lindsey Weiler | 28 Elijah Cronin
Brenda Haut
Bryan Hughes
Paul Johnson
Alexandra Leonard
Madeline Lorence
Kevin Stifter |
| 4 Lynne Blass
Joe Droel
Brian Fong
Samuel Howard
Lily Juliano
Chase Klusmann
Jessica McMahon
Hannah Mewhorter
Eric Perry
Jack Usalis | 10 Louis Bernier
Angela Coffey
Trenton Lutterman
Timothy Olson
Bailey Perryman
Nolan Salzmann
Steve Schach
Hal Schmidt
Elaine Schlenner
Scott Zuehlke | 16 Margaret Claugherty
Reagan Esboldt
Juli Feldkamp
Alyssa Meyer
Cameron Ochiagha
Julie Wolfgram | 23 Brett Corrigan
Lee Fischer
Joyce Jenkins
Ben Lower | 29 Nancy Hoffman
Joel Mohlenhoff
Tammy Price
Delana Searles
Emily Thommes |
| 5 Blake Boehme
Emma Cloose
Ross Dahlin
Julie Duffy
Lori Golden
Krista Hobot
Nate Jones
Jacqueline Konop
Brittany McCarty
Joshua Peterson
Donna Peters
Bob Zick | 11 Gunnar Edlund
Janet Jacobson
Melissa Larsen
Rhoda Pfothenhauer
Renee Schneider
Samantha Schumaker | 17 Charlotte Everson
Avery Horacek
Regina Kehl
Owen Kreutzfeldt
Joseph Mahlke
Anna Pillman
Gayla Pleggenkuhle
Connor Price | 24 Mary Jean Bannert
Geoff Boyd
Tony Boyd
Rachel Brocker
Eric Helander
Aiden Johnson
Parker Knutson
Ray Merle
Sue Meyer
Eleanor Morrison
Elijah Nystel
Marlene Otterson
Angie Spates
Teri Trachy | 30 Phyl Burger
Barb Dunn
Kyle Engen
Shirley Engen
Chuck Jones
Brian Herian
Toni Lindahl
Joel Mba-Ngu'e
Stephanie Ruzich
Jeff Schaefer |
| 6 Lainie Bailen
Barrett Rothchild
Joseph Seltz | 12 Jack Anderson
Jyl Dunavan
Debbie Eddy
Alayna Larscheid
Grace Lavers
Leroy Longworth
Mavis McGorman
Jacob Rome
Linda Wilford
Sarah Yonkovich | 18 Parker Goerlitz
Kaye Montgomery
Bob Petrich
Rick Petrich
Gordon Spindler
Joann Willhite | 25 Don Arndt
Gavin Bertram
Fanny Daniels
Harry Gurrola
Melody Haines
Mary Matasovsky
Bill Rengstorf
Rosemary Tongen
Mark Willie | 31 Bev Hintz
Leah Huebner
Natalie Klasinski
Adelaide Lisson
Brad Miller
Abigail Wiebe |
| 7 Joe Bradshaw
Cheryl Butz
Julia Cordes
Carolyn Howard
Jenhua Juan
Ann Lavers
Thomas Pashina | 13 Lainey Anderson
Spenser Arneson
Mindy Follett
Everett Jurek | 20 Ethan Bloom
Jill Colton
Joslyn Fitzgerald
David Frost
Gwen Froseth
Hans Heggernes
Abby Krueger
John Mitterholzer | 26 Jane Dibbern
Gary Halleen
Greg Lewis
Rachel Mergens | |

January Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 2 Chris & Dawn Kroohn
Dennis & Janice Wenker | 11 Howard & Elyse Ko
Roger & Shirley Rodgers | 22 Phillip & Wendy Baumgarn |
| 4 Dave & Rebecca Martini
Kyle & Sara McConaughy | 14 Brandon & Heidi Crist
Steven & Ann St. Jacques | 26 Ponmalar Ramesh & Ramesh Krishnanmani |
| 5 Aaron & Tristan Wesser | 15 Dan & Nancy Oehlke | 27 Patrick & Maggie Svoboda |
| 6 Rajesh Kulandesu & Ruth Premiah | 16 Brad & Kris Sweet | 28 Mike & Vicki Hunst
Todd & Bonnie Rizzardi |
| 7 Ben & Regina Kehl
Kevin & Kelli Redington | 18 Jim & Joy Nassios | |
| 9 Adrian & Joann Kjelshus
Dick & Jan Rowan | 19 Brad and Sharon Fong | |
| 10 Craig & Cheryl Wasko | 20 Tad & Lindsey Schmidt | |
| | 21 Chris & Angela Ginkel
Charlie & Donna McElveen | |

Church Council Update November

In order to continue to grow in our communication to the congregation, each month we will share an update from the previous month's Council meeting. Full minutes can be found [here](#) after the 10th of each month.

Woodbury Lutheran Church - Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6:30-8:30am

Meeting Highlights

Financially:

2020 will end up as a very positive year for WLC financially. In conjunction with strong giving we were able to manage expenses in such a way that will lead to a surplus.

The Council also approved paying down \$500,000 on our existing \$1 million mortgage contingent upon getting final notice of relief from the SBA of our \$517,000 loan received in the PPP Cares program, this will free up roughly \$10k a month in 2021.

Concordia, South St. Paul:

Concordia had a town hall on December 6th and decided that the congregation would like to meet with the leadership of WLC on January 17th; they are targeting a late February date to vote on a merger. We will have a second town hall on January 21st with a goal to open a congregational vote to approve a merger at our annual meeting on January 31st.

The WLC Council determined that a "Call Committee" would not be created for now as we explore the best way to staff the possible merger.

WLC Name:

Ben Kehl (our Council President-Elect) will lead the team exploring our name and brand. The target is to have a plan in place by September 2021 at the time we would officially launch the Concordia Campus.

Liberty Ridge:

The decision was made to formally close the Liberty Ridge campus.

Annual Meeting:

The dates are January 24th for the Budget Meeting and January 31st for the Annual Meeting; the time and the format for these meetings will be announced.

Council Member Changes for 2021:

Renee Boehme, Troy Wenck and Larry Hall all go off at the January 2021 meeting, with Sheryl Breiholz, Todd Watanbe and Wade Amundson all coming on pending congregational approval.



Meeting Agenda

Call to Order & Quorum Determination

Devotions/Prayer

Consent Agenda

- November Meeting Minutes
- November Financial Report

Information

- Sr. Pastor Report
- Update on St. Paul Concordia Merger discussions
- Pastor Jon transition

Discussion

- Proposed 2021 budget
- Risk Management and Internal Controls Update
- Closing of Liberty Ridge and Next Steps
- Naming Initiative update
- Thoughts on Annual Meeting Venue(s)

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Worship

Online

Saturdays @ 5:00pm
Sundays @ 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am,
3:00, 5:00 & 7:00pm
Mondays @ 7:00pm

In-Person

Sundays @ 9:00 & 10:30am

Please visit our website for up-to-date in person worship information.

woodburylutheran.org

Baptisms

Abigail Ranae Finnegan
Blake Taylor Stoffel
Charles Joseph Stennes

Weddings

Allison Marshall & Joshua Miller
Amanda Dixon & Andrew Rose

Deaths

Arlene Holst - sister-in-law, Aletha Brase
Wendy Ellwein - mother, Sylvia Hulke
Steve Matejka - father, Glenn Matejka
Dawn Osladil - mother, Val Osladil
Greg Carlson - sister, Michelle Benolkin
Dave Mazzaresse - uncle, Sam Mazzaresse
Brad Miller - sister-in-law, Robyn Miller
Elton Cunningham - brother, Merle Cunningham



Staying Connected

Giving at WLC

Thank you for your ongoing generosity that keeps the ministries of Woodbury Lutheran functioning. Giving may be done by texting WLCGIVE to 77977, through our [website](#), and through the WLC app ([iOS](#) | [GooglePlay](#)). Checks may be mailed to the church office at 7380 Afton Road, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Stock Donations

There are many different ways to donate time, talents, and treasures to Woodbury Lutheran Church. One way some members choose to donate is through the transfer or donation of stocks. If you have questions or would like more information on how to donate stock, please contact Trecie Horner at 651-731-3349.

Stephen Ministers

If you are going through a difficult time—whether it's losing a loved one, having relationship struggles, financial hardships or any number of challenges one might face—WLC has Stephen Ministers who would like to walk with you through these trying times. Contact [Pastor Tim](#) or [Shirley Mertens](#) for more information.

Weekly youth ministry on Wednesday nights is such a gift

If you know of young people who are looking for a place to grow as disciples, goof off a little, and just be social, all are welcome on Wednesday nights, 7-8:15pm on campus at both Valley Creek and Oak Hill as well as online via Zoom. Looking for a little encouragement each

week? Follow [wlcyyouth](#) on Instagram and Facebook.

Summer Youth Mission Experiences!

Registration will open for both the High School & Middle School Mission experiences on January 6th! Check out [WLCYOUTH.org](#) for more info!

First Communion classes for families of 6th graders

Beginning after Ash Wednesday (2/17/21), there will be both online and on campus options. Classes are 4 weeks long, pick the day and format that works better for a parent and the young person. Registration is now open! [Click here](#) to register today. Questions? Contact [Lindsey Schmidt](#).

- Tuesdays 6:30-8pm, Online over zoom: 2/23, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23
- Sundays 1-2:30pm, On campus @ the Valley Creek campus: 2/21, 2/28, 3/21 & 3/28



Looking for more information
to stay connected?
Scan the
QR code above!

January 2021 Calendar

1 (O,V) WLC Offices Closed
Friday, All Day

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

2 (V) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study
Saturdays, 7:00am
Contact: Jeff Linert
651-387-9428

2 (O) Men's Bible Study
Saturdays, 8:00am
Contact: Vicar Dean
651-739-5144 x331

3 (O,V) Kids LINK
Sundays, Varying Times
Contact: Nancy Schubbe
651-739-5144 x203

4 (V) Monday Men's Study
Mondays, 10:45am
Contact: Pastor Tim
651-739-5144 x221

6 (O) Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays, 10:00am
Contact: Vicar Andrew
651-739-5144 x223

6 (O,V) Youth Mid-Week Classes
Wednesdays, 7:00pm
Contact: Lindsey Schmidt
651-739-5144 x219

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

12 (Online) Starting Point
Tuesdays, 6:30pm
Contact: Brad Miller
651-651-739-5144

14 (V) Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, 9:00am
www.redcrossblood.org/

18 (O,V) WLC Offices Closed
Monday, All Day

21 (Online) Merger Town Hall
Thursday, 7:00pm

24 (Online) Financial Meeting
Sunday, Time TBD

3 (Online) Bible University for Third Graders
Tuesdays, 6:30pm
Contact: Nancy Schubbe
651-739-5144 x203

31 (Online) Annual Meeting
Sunday, Time TBD

WLC NEWS LETTER

Looking for something else?

Visit woodburylutheran.org

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

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

St. Croix Campus (S)
Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144
Visit us on the web at
www.woodburylutheran.org

Woodbury Lutheran Church
7380 Afton Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives