

## Kudos to Cooks

and bakers, shoppers and ticket-takers, potato-peelers and meatball-makers!

Compliments came thick and fast to Sandy Engen, Jerry Lund and Anita Conlon, but they want to thank everyone for what was very much a (fun) group effort.

Woodlake's hospitality and menu were even put to the test by a "secret diner," according to Scott Dahlquist. He sat next to Jim "Nordblad" Harris, who maintains the widely-known online list, [www.LutfiskLoversLifeline.com/](http://www.LutfiskLoversLifeline.com/)

## Chairs Reappear with New Upholstery

The four upholstered chairs around the coffee table in the narthex are back from a trip to the furniture spa, freshly upholstered and a bit firmer.

The set has low-slung simple lines that were "the latest" when purchased. Its high quality has updated well, as the retro look is again in style. The wide seats are popular with children—often two at a time—or parents with a child who needs some snuggling.

The work is part of the ongoing updating of the narthex furnishings, paid for with funds that are dedicated to that purpose.

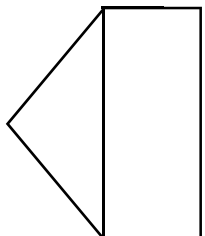
## First Service at Messiah

The new Lutheran Social Service complex, the Center for Changing Lives, will host Messiah Lutheran Church's inaugural service in its new home at 2400 Park Ave. on Sunday, Nov. 30.

The Center was designed to house many social service functions for LSS as well as the congregation that is a neighborhood institution. Woodlake assisted the capital campaign through awards from its Endowment Fund.

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# WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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## Congregational Meeting Sunday; Budget Figures Revised

"Sixty-Seven Thousand Dollars."

That was the dramatic beginning of an open letter from President Bill Bullock and Senior Pastor Mark Wegener that was front-page news last week. It represented the difference between projected receipts and expenses for the coming year.

Now the figure is closer to \$100,000. Circumstances have kept a \$30,000 pledge to the Building Fund from being executed; the difference will now be characterized as mortgage payments and added to the operating budget.

Good attendance at Sunday's meeting will help to reach an outcome that moves Woodlake forward in mission.

Come for a lunch that follows the 10:00 a.m. service; the meeting will be called to order soon after.

## Thanksgiving Services

### Ecumenical Service

Thanksgiving Eve

Nov. 26, 7:00 p.m.

at St. Richard's Catholic Community  
7540 Penn Ave. So.

### Thanksgiving Festival Service

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 10:00 a.m.  
at Woodlake

*Offerings of food and funds for VEAP  
will be received at both services.*

## Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Nov. 23, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

## Update Your Theology

James Limburg, Luther Seminary Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, returns Nov. 23 to offer another 21<sup>st</sup> century reading of scripture. This week's subject is Genesis 2. See it in light of our modern world.

## Devotions for Sunday School

Advent devotions that focus on a Jesse tree and stories from the Old Testament have been prepared for families of Sunday School children. To make full use of this resource, it should be taken home this Sunday, Nov. 23. Look for yours!

## November 22 & 23 Christ the King The Last Sunday after Pentecost



### Services:

In the Chapel:

5:00 p.m. Saturday

In the Church:

8:45, 10:00 a.m. Sunday

### Sunday School:

Begins at the 10:00 a.m. service  
(Threes, fours and Ks attend church)

**Texts:** Exekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

*Holy Communion at all services.  
Nursery available Sundays.  
ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.*

## Help Deck the Halls

Friday morning after

Thanksgiving will be given over to decorating the church for Advent.

Work off that holiday meal by helping out for any length of time between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Nov. 28. Whether you climb a ladder or just help to steady it, your assistance is appreciated.

## Help Spread the Warmth

Woodlake's Prayer Knitters want to provide a prayer shawl (or chemo cap) to everyone who needs a soft, warm reminder of the care and love that surrounds them. To request one for you, a family member or friend, leave word in the church office, call Betty Hassenstab at 952-835-3133, or talk to any of the knitters in the group.

## Help with Hospitality

Take a turn on a Sunday morning preparing and serving coffee to members and guests alike. Gary Nix (952-854-3059) coordinates the schedule and can train newbies.

## Help Set a Holiday Table

VEAP will again sell food certificates in area congregations. Buying them allows VEAP to give its clients gift cards to purchase the perishables that round out holiday meals. The certificates will be for sale in \$5.00 denominations from a table in the hall on Sunday, Dec. 7.

## Holiday Hours

Wednesday night supper, WWYGs, and children's choirs will not meet on Wednesday, Nov. 26. Adult Choir reports to St. Richards at 6:00 p.m. for the Ecumenical Service.

## From the Pastor

When I was a child, I used to love to read the back of our church bulletins. We had the Sunday lessons, all three of them, printed on the back every week. I must have noticed that sometimes the readings would follow in order from week to week. I remember thinking, "Wouldn't it be cool if I could save all of the church bulletins for a really long time? Then I could paste them together and make a WHOLE Bible."

I did have my own Bible. My grandparents gave me a Revised Standard Version. I carried it to Sunday School every week. I took it to church camp. I memorized Psalm 23. But there was still something intriguing to me about the possibility of building my own Bible, taking all the stories I heard on Sundays and piecing them together.

Of course, we can't build our own Bible. But it's true, the Bible is our book. It's our family story. We are Abraham's children, learning about Jacob's deceit, Joseph's coat, David's smooth stones. We are Abraham's children, as we learn about Jesus' disciples: Peter, who walked on water, Mary, who came to the tomb, James and John, who wanted to be great. It's our book, full of stories and promises.

On Sunday, I saw children all clutching slightly used Bibles. They have begun their own process of pasting the pieces together. They've looked up the stories they already know, and found where a few of them are located. They've underlined important verses. They've played games and looked at maps. But they are just at the beginning of a journey that never ends.

I pray for these children that they will continue to cut and paste and make the Bible their own. And I pray for us as well, that we will discover anew that the Word that we hold dear keeps us and holds us each day and for eternal life.

— Pastor Diane Roth

## Christmas Pageant News

Parents and kids are reminded to pick up the packets from outside the Sunday School Office (Room H).

Inside are parts and other paperwork needed for the Dec. 14 Christmas program. Roles are available but must be spoken for by Nov. 23.

A more general notice asks for loans of quilted/patch-work style items: vests, bathrobes that will fit children, stuffed animals, quilts, etc.

A few items are sought as donations, to be added to the Sunday School's stock of seasonal items. Three full-size fake Christmas trees and any number of battery powered hand-held candles are on the wish list.

## FMF Nets New Volunteers

Woodlake hosts Families Moving Forward a few times a year and each time new volunteers appear. The recent FMF week was no exception; the 75 who signed up for a job included 15 who were first-timers.

Katie Woolever brought fellow Augsburg College students when she was an evening host. Jacob Rappe took his cooking to a new level by taking complete control of the first night's dinner right down to his home-baked apple pies. Woodlake WWYGs were among those who spent time with the 18 guests from four families. Despite some unfilled weekend spots, Wayne Schmiege calls it "a smooth week."

An entirely different opportunity exists for those who want to support FMF and can read music. Sing in the choir that will serve up holiday favorites at a concert on Friday, Dec. 5. Schmiege (952-881-4213) has details on the benefit at Colonial Church of Edina.

## Mission Trip for Youth Announced

The location and scope of a youth mission trip for the coming summer have been finalized. Youth Ministries Director Chris Okey is ready to take reservations from interested 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

The group will travel to Booneville, Arkansas, the week of Aug. 1-7. In an opportunity arranged by Youthworks, they will volunteer in a kids' club program and a home improvement project. Both efforts serve the low-income population of Booneville, a small town in the scenic Ozark Mountains.

The cost to youth who participate will be \$300.00. Registration (along with a \$75.00 deposit) is due by Jan. 11.

An informational meeting about the trip will be held in the Fireside Room after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 7. An overview of fund raising opportunities will be part of agenda. Both youth and parents should attend.

## Only 125 to Go

Contributions to VEAP's food shelf now total 875 pounds. Help to make it a "Thanksgiving Thousand."

Cash donations to VEAP are partially matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through November.

## Wednesday A.M. - Nov. 26

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
8:00 a.m. Matins Service  
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship  
9:00 a.m. "150 Reasons to Be Proud of Minnesota"

Minnesota is celebrating its sesqui-centennial this year and the Minnesota Historical Society is focused on the state's first 150 years. The Society's Karen Humphrey will share one of its popular programs.