

CIRCLE
December
MEETINGS

Note some changes to time and location as Circles gather to mark the holidays.

- Dorcias:** Dec. 2, 11:30 a.m. for Lunch at the Light House Grill; join us!
- Esther:** Dec. 2, 12:30 p.m. for Lunch in the 7500 York Social Room
- Leader:** Barb VanDrasek
- Faith:** Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
- Host:** Marilyn Odefey, 7109 Morgan
- Leader:** Mickey Larson
- Lydia:** Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m. at church
- Host:** Lois Gantriis
- Rebecca:** Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. for Lunch at Pearson's Edina Restaurant
- Sarah:** Dec. 4, 12:00 noon
- Hosts:** Phyllis Holm, Dorothy Bailey, 7500 York
- Leader:** Ann Miller

Thank You

Organizers of
October's Craft
Sale extend thanks

to everyone who helped with "every little thing." The hospitality in evidence when you bake treats, assist vendors with set-up or greet shoppers warmly sets Woodlake events apart.

Don't Rush Out

for a Christmas wreath. Pack #384 has them for sale starting Sunday, Dec. 7.

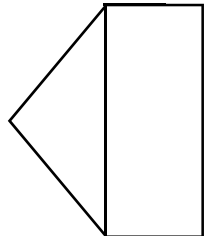
Annual Meeting (from page 1)

In other business, JoAnn Blanchard was elected Secretary, Chris Anderson will join the Leadership Board, Dick Franzmeier was re-elected to the Endowment Fund Committee and Mike Sokolski will serve on the Auditing Committee. Tex Johnson, Judy Strand and Tom Rappe were chosen for the Nominating Committee.

A constitutional amendment clarifying some terms of office was passed at a second reading and officially adopted.

PERIODICAL

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WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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Congregation Votes to Extend Budgeting Process

Rather than pass an unbalanced budget or attempt to reconcile a \$100,000 difference at Sunday's annual meeting, the congregation voted to allow more time for the process. The motion that passed set a new date in the second week of January for further action.

Some speakers voiced the desire that more church members be informed of the situation and take an active part in seeking solutions. Expect detailed information about the parish's financial position to be widely distributed in the coming weeks.

Annual Meeting (cont. on page 4)

Mid-week Advent Worship Starts Dec. 3

Advent is a journey from the long night of yearning for the Messiah to the light of God revealed in the baby Jesus.

Mark the steps of the journey in a way that confronts the culture of busy-ness with the active waiting of a quiet heart.

Join Advent services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning Dec. 3.

Texts from the Old Testament, music and dramatizations will help to prepare for God's gift of grace. Serving hours for Wednesday suppers will extend to 6:30 p.m. during Advent. Light refreshments will follow the evening service.

Bishop Craig Johnson invites you to join him in reading the Gospel of Mark in its entirety during Advent. Learn more on Sunday.

Advent Devotions Available

Two Versions on Hand

Two devotional booklets can enrich the observance of Advent.

Families with Sunday School children are invited to take home a copy of "The Jesse Tree" for each child. For each day, the red-or-green booklets offer a scripture passage along with a brief devotion, a question to talk about, and the outline of an ornament. Children can color and decorate the pre-printed ornaments or create their own. The finished ornaments, returned to church, will gradually fill Woodlake's Jesse tree.

The second Advent booklet has been provided by On Eagle's Wings. The mission-themed meditations relate to the work of this agency that brings the gospel to people of the far north.

Look for complimentary copies of both resources in the narthex.

November 29 & 30 The First Sunday in Advent

Services:

In the Chapel:

5:00 p.m. Saturday

In the Church:

8:45, 10:00, 11:11 a.m. Sunday
 Sunday School does not meet.

Texts: Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Holy Communion at all services.

Nursery available Sundays.

ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.

Woodlakers

Enjoy a traditional Christmas potluck in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12. Woodlakers is a fellowship group that welcomes all adults. Come to this event prepared with a small gift to exchange, either a white elephant or a *bona fide* gift.

7th - 9th Grade

Play "Bigger & Better" on Saturday, Dec. 6. Start with a paper clip (attached) and see how far up you can trade. Pizza's included in the \$5.00 cost and friends are welcome. Sign up by Dec. 3. Questions? Call Chris Okey (612-866-8449) or email cokey@woodlakechurch.org.

High School Mission Trip

Ninth-to-twelfth graders thinking about traveling on this summer's mission trip to the Ozarks have an informational meeting in the Fireside Room on Sunday, Dec. 7. Bring a parent or two and meet following the 10:00 a.m. service.

WWYGs in Advent

Woodlake Wednesday Youth Gatherings (the local version of confirmation instruction) meet for 6:00 p.m. class as usual on Dec. 3 and 10, but then worship together at the 7:00 p.m. Advent services. On Dec. 17, they will depart from church at 6:00 p.m. for Christmas caroling and return at 7:30 p.m. after visits to 7500 York and Edina Care Center. There will be no WWYGs on Dec. 24 or 31. Class resumes on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



Attention, Santas:

Gifts for Ebenezer residents are due at church on Sunday, Nov. 30.

From the Pastor

This year we celebrate Thanksgiving during one of the worst economic downturns in decades. The stock market has tanked. Businesses are going bankrupt. Jobs are being lost. Homes are being foreclosed. Nevertheless, we dare to give thanks to God for all the blessings we *do* enjoy.

This Sunday we begin a new Church Year. The "blue season" of Advent is upon us. It is something of a turning point. Perhaps it will coincide with an upward turn in our fiscal fortunes. Who knows? We will wait and see.

I recently came across a story about a hard winter in the Appalachian mountains. The snow had piled up deeper and deeper; the mercury dropped; rivers froze; people suffered. The Red Cross used helicopters to fly in supplies. One crew had been working long hours day after day. They were on their way home late in the afternoon when they saw a little cabin submerged in the snow. They saw a thin whisper of smoke coming from the chimney.

The rescue team figured the people down there were probably about out of food, fuel, perhaps medicine. Because of the trees they had to put the helicopter down a mile away. They put on heavy packs with emergency supplies, trudged through waist-deep snow, and reached the cabin exhausted. They pounded on the door.

A thin, gaunt mountain woman opened the door, and the lead rescuer gasped, "We're from the Red Cross." She was silent for a moment, and then she said, "It's been a hard winter, Sonny. I just don't think we can give anything this year."

There's a lesson here for us, if I could just figure it out. Maybe you can find a way to apply it to Thanksgiving, Advent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and the Index of Leading Economic Indicators.

— Pastor Mark Wegener

Tip for Sunday School Shoppers

Looking for the battery-operated candles that figure in this year's Christmas pageant?

The kid-safe candlesticks come in a two-pack and are for sale at Michael's.

With the customary discount (find a coupon or just ask for the 40% off at the register) they run about \$2.50 each.

Buy a pack to outfit two children, split a pack with another cast member, or buy and donate several packs because Sunday School folks would like a supply to use again and again.

Costume Party with a Twist

Woodlake Sunday School students are having a costume party—but to make them, not wear them.

After regular class time on Sunday, Dec. 7, children will spend the hour from 11:00 a.m. to noon in their classrooms making their costumes for the Christmas pageant on Dec. 14.

There is a Plan B for those who must be absent on Dec. 7. Costume-making materials will be stored in a classroom so that work can be done at church or at home. Questions? Let Tisa Zachau (tzachau@woodlakechurch.org) know.

Bring a Photo to Pure-ly Fun

There's a new "must-have" item to bring along to Pure-ly Fun on Dec. 6. Kindergartners - sixth graders will need a photo of themselves to complete the Christmas gifts they will be working on.

Lunch will be served at this month's event, which runs noon to 2:00 p.m.

In the News. . .

Nikki Tiedeman and Kalie Johnson are captains of Richfield High School's girls hockey team for 2008-2009. See their pictures (from last week's Sun Current) on the church bulletin board.

Camp Dates, Programs Set

Luther Park / Luther Woods Bible Camp near Chetek, Wisconsin, will again host Woodlake youngsters for summer Bible Camp.

"Trading Spaces" is designed for kids in grades 3-8 and runs July 12-17 in 2009. Youngsters in grades 6-8 could instead choose "Power of Faith," held July 5-10.

An informational brochure has been sent to families with children in those grades. There are several discounts for early sign-up; the first is a \$40 reduction that expires Dec. 28. Cut costs by acting soon.

VEAP Programs in Progress

The holiday season puts extra stress on needy families; gifts to Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People can help bring Christmas peace and joy to all.

- Stock the Holiday Toy Program with new items in 40+ categories. Get a shopping list at church this Sunday. Return unwrapped gifts by Dec. 14.
- Supplement holiday meals with fresh foods like milk and produce. Buy food certificates (in \$5.00 increments) from a table in the narthex on Dec. 7.
- Celebrate achieving the goal set for a November food drive. As of Nov. 24, driver Carol Hall had delivered 955 pounds of food to VEAP for distribution by the food shelf. With a Thanksgiving Day service still ahead, the 1,000-pound mark should be reached easily.

Wednesday A.M. - Dec. 3

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group
8:00 a.m. Matins Service
8:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
9:00 a.m. Construction Update

Transportation Engineer Tom Foley is that rare person who doesn't just talk about road construction, he actually does something (in his job with the City of Richfield). Get the latest news.