

## Good Gifts are All Wet

This year, the focus of Woodlake's Alternative Gifts campaign is water. Through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Good Gifts catalog, it is easy to purchase a life-giving gift that can be given in honor of a loved one or family member.

Water projects and supplies that are part of the program are described in the catalog, which is still available at church. Members of the committee encouraging such gifts will be at a table in the narthex once more on Sunday, Dec. 21, to help place your order.

For those who prefer, items from animals to school tuition can be purchased in the same manner.

## Luther Park is Destination

Woodlake will send two groups to this camp near Chetek, Wisconsin, for winter get-aways:

- Grades 6-8: An overnight "recharge" called Wii: What a Ride! is Jan. 9-10. Cost is \$70.00, due by Dec. 21.
- Senior High: A weekend retreat on Jan. 16-18 includes learning and free time. A grant pays all expenses except \$15.00. Sign up and pay by Jan. 11.

Chris Okey (612-866-9449 or cokey@woodlakechurch.org) has info.

## The Icing on the Cake

Woodlake youth report earning \$900 at last Sunday's bake sale.

Adult participation (both baking and buying) helps the kids who work at the sale to pay for mission trips and weeks at Bible camp. They appreciate all the support. Thank you!

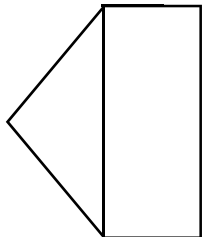
## The Messenger



takes a week off for the holidays. There will be no issue dated Dec. 25. Publication resumes with the Jan. 1 issue.

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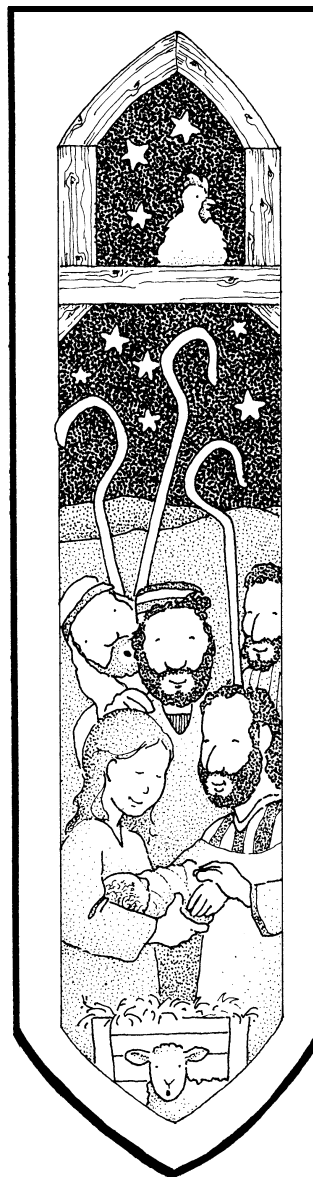


# WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Vol. 62, No. 42

Minneapolis, Minnesota

December 18, 2008



*Peace Love Joy*  
*at Christmas*  
*& God's richest blessings*  
*in the New Year*  
*from Woodlake's Staff*

### Christmas Eve

3 o'clock  
Family Service



5 o'clock  
Service of Lessons & Carols



10 o'clock  
Candlelight Service



### Christmas Day

10 o'clock

*Holy Communion at All Services*



Musicians—vocal or instrumental—are invited to share their gifts during the Christmas season.

Director of Music Brad Schultz,  
bschultz@woodlakechurch.org,  
can tell you more.



## Every Penny Matters, Every Coin Counts

Help close the budget deficit gap. Bring your stash of loose change (you know you've got one) to church on Sunday. A box will

be placed in the narthex for deposit of accumulated pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and the odd Krugerrand, too.

## There's Room on the Bus

Hitch a warm ride downtown to see the Holiday parade on Saturday, Dec. 20. For those not registered, it will be first-come-first-seated on the bus that will leave church at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$9.00, with a family max of \$20.00.

Want to join the group for a light meal at church before departing? Come by 3:30 p.m. for a late lunch. Expect to return around 7:30 p.m.

## Jesse Tree Awaits Decor

Those making use of the Advent devotions prepared for Woodlake families are reminded to bring their completed ornaments to church.

The "Jesse Tree" in the narthex is intended to hold the creations of Woodlake's youngsters. Use the pre-printed outlines in the devotions or your own imagination; deliver ornaments soon.

## Sunday School: Party On!



Sunday School children will meet this Sunday, Dec. 21. They will have in-room Birthday Parties for Jesus during their regular class time.

After a two-week break for the holidays, classes resume on Jan. 11.

## From the Pastor

This is a little late in the season to be making suggestions for Christmas gifts, but here's an item that may interest you: In connection with our church's *Book Of Faith* initiative, Augsburg Fortress Press will release the *Lutheran Study Bible* early next year. Orders placed before Dec. 31 will receive a 30-35% discount. Hardcover copies are \$22.75 (instead of \$34.99); paperbacks are only \$17.50 (regularly \$24.99).

If you would like a copy, just call the church office and place your order. We'll send it in before the deadline.

The new *Lutheran Study Bible* will include the text of the New Revised Standard Version as well as notes, introductions, and articles written by sixty Lutheran pastors and theologians. The notes are of four kinds: those which explore the historical, cultural and geographic background of the biblical world, those which explain keywords and themes, those which highlight Lutheran perspectives and catechetical connections, and those which provide commentary and questions which encourage life application.

The *Lutheran Study Bible* is reader-friendly. It features an attractive page layout and easy-to-read notes in plain language. The publicity promises that "the combination of biblical text and study notes will enable readers to learn about the Bible's content and to hear God's Word as it was encountered by people in the Bible as well as how it now encounters us."

OK, that's a lot to promise, I know. But I have previewed samples of some of the biblical books, and do think you'll like it. This will be a great resource for small group study. If you want to read the Bible together with a few others, and you don't want a traditional study guide or lesson plan, this could be what you're looking for. Order yours today.

— Pastor Mark Wegener

## Not-Yet-Members Invited

■ The basics of membership at Woodlake will be presented in a session on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Attendance is recommended for everyone interested in joining, as the topics cover the details about this particular congregation.

■ "A Time of Inquiry" is scheduled for two Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lutherans with transfers are welcome, but the material is also suited for those with experience in another church, or none at all.

Register for either opportunity with Starr Carriere, Outreach Coordinator. Reach her at church, 612-866-8449.

## A Practical Plea

Ah, the Magic of Christmas. . . when visions of ushers and greeters and scripture readers dance in your head.

That's pretty weird. They'd be less troubling if they volunteered for holiday roles at church. Ask your friends (just the real ones) to sign up in the Usher's Room (ushers), the office (worship help) or with Don or Betty Hassenstab at 952-835-3133 (greeters).

December 20 & 21

## The Fourth 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:

Begins at the 10:00 a.m. service

**Texts:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

*Holy Communion at all services.*

*Nursery available Sundays.*

*ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.*



## Wednesday A.M. - Dec. 24/31

No morning activities are scheduled for Dec. 24, when Matins will not be conducted. The usual schedule, minus a program, will be followed on Dec. 31: 7:30 a.m. Prayer Group 8:00 a.m. Matins Service 8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship 9:00 a.m. Next program is Jan. 7.

## Planning a Year-End Gift?

Those who itemize tax deductions and intend to contribute for 2008 are reminded that money must be received in the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 31.

## Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Dec. 21, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

## Author Julie Dinsmore

Dinsmore is a master storyteller and author of *My Name is Child of God . . . not "Those People."* Her first-person experience of poverty, augmented with poetry and song, is especially meaningful at Christmas.

After this session, Sunday Morning Adult Forums resume on Jan. 11.

December 27 & 28

## The First Sunday of Christmas

### Services:

In the Chapel:

5:00 p.m. Saturday

In the Church:

8:45, 10:00, 11:11 a.m. Sunday

**Texts:** Isaiah 61:10—62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

*Holy Communion at all services.*

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