



Visit a women's Circle for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship:

- Dorcas:** Jan. 6 for a rescheduled holiday luncheon
Bring a bag lunch
- Esther:** Jan. 6, 12:30 p.m.
Host: Clarice Anderson,
7500 York Social Room
- Leader: Pastor Wegener
- Faith:** Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
- Lydia:** Jan. 12, 12:30 p.m. at church
Host: Kathy Larson
- Rebecca:** Jan. 14, 1:00 p.m.
- Sarah:** Jan. 8, 12:30 p.m. at church
Host: Ann Miller
Leader: Phyllis Holm

A Boost to Donations

When the International Harvester retirees' group held its holiday party at a local restaurant, attendees brought food-pantry items.

A Woodlake member in the group knew of a convenient way to handle them. She volunteered to bring the food to Woodlake, where it was then delivered to the food shelf operated by Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People. Her awareness of the ministries of Woodlake helped increase donations to VEAP.

Canine Cuties: A Suggestion

The Star Tribune is soliciting on-line votes in its "Canine Cuties" contest. There's a Woodlake favorite to support, if you are interested.

"Meeting Baby Brother" is a photo of Rascal the black lab and Asher Leland, grandson of Jan Hallet.

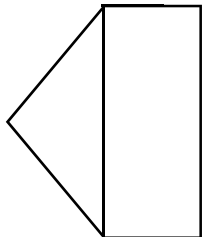
Go to StarTribune.com/Contests and vote (often) for entry #3256.

Next FMF Stay

Woodlake will host Families Moving Forward Feb. 1-8. Plan ahead to help.

PERIODICAL

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WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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Responses Needed from Recent Mailing

Woodlake households received an important communication in their mail recently. The letter and enclosed card asks for increased offerings in the coming year. The goal is to devise a balanced budget for consideration at a special meeting on Jan. 18 without cuts that impact the congregation's ministry.

A commitment to make a modest increase (around \$2.00 a week if all confirmed members participate) is important, but advising the Leadership Board of that decision is important, too. They will work with the responses received by Jan. 11.

Please be generous—and prompt.

Every Coin Counts

The campaign to collect "spare" pocket change continues. Look for a container on Sunday. So far, \$222.79 has been added to the bottom line.



Just for Not-Yet Members

- Meet at 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 11 for an informal session on Woodlake and what its members find "nice to know."
- Learn about Christian history and doctrine, with emphasis on Lutheran teachings, in two Saturday sessions: Jan. 17 and 24, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Those who chose to join Woodlake will be recognized on Feb. 1.

Outreach Coordinator Starr Carriere can guide those who are interested in church membership. Reach her at 612-866-8449.

Adult Forums Planned

Sunday Morning Adult Forums resume on Jan. 11 with a presentation by Steven Ray from China Service Ventures. CSV works to place ESL teachers and nurses in China.

Forums are held in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. on most Sundays. Adults are encouraged to devote time to education on Sunday mornings, much as we expect from the younger members of the parish.

Upcoming Forums include:

- Kris Perry will introduce the Minneapolis Area Synod's Nigerian companion synod on Jan. 18.
- Scott Dahlquist will talk about crime prevention on Jan. 25.
- Julia Dinsmore presents her postponed talk about personal experiences of poverty on Feb. 1.

January 3 & 4

The Sunday of The Epiphany

Services:

In the Chapel:

5:00 p.m. Saturday

In the Church:

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

Sunday School: Resumes Jan. 11

Texts: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Holy Communion at all services.

Nursery available Sundays.

ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.



From the Pastor

The Richfield Historical Society recently asked pastors of our city's churches to place a letter in a time capsule. Here is what I wrote:

For over 60 of Richfield's 100 years, Woodlake Lutheran Church has been an active participant in the life of our community. The congregation first met in the auditorium of the Woodlake Elementary School on 66th Street. Later it built a church on the corner of Penn Avenue and 73rd Street. It relocated to the block bounded by Oliver and Newton Avenues and 74th and 75th Streets in 1954. Our main sanctuary was dedicated in 1962, and a major remodeling and expansion program was completed in 2000.

After the Second World War, when Richfield was a fast-growing suburb, thousands of people of German and Scandinavian descent built homes here, many of them moving from south Minneapolis. A majority of them were either Lutheran or Catholic, and as a result five Lutheran congregations and three Catholic parishes were established and thrived, along with Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Congregational, Covenant and other churches.

At the dawn of the 21st century, however, things have changed.

Bag Lunch Bible Study

will not meet Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Meetings resume at 12:00 noon on Jan. 14. Join the group for a preview of the next Sunday's lessons over a bring-your-own-lunch in Room 2.

Women of the Bible Cast

The next performance is Thursday, Jan. 15, at Transfiguration Lutheran in Bloomington. Leave Woodlake at 11:30 a.m. to be on time for the lunch to which the cast has been invited.

Richfield's population as well as our churches' membership rosters have declined, and our city's residents now include increasing numbers of people of Hispanic, African and Asian ancestry. The rich diversity of our neighborhoods is both a blessing and a challenge.

We are blessed by the influx of new traditions, customs, view points, talents and skills, with the result that we and our children can boast that we are living in a more cosmopolitan community. We are challenged by the opportunity to expand our congregation's ministry in new directions, so that we can become a more inclusive fellowship, one in which we can experience the embracing nature of the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

So, in Richfield's centennial year we are able to celebrate six decades of effective ministry to and with the citizens of our city. And we now face challenges not only to embrace the cultural diversity in our community but also to be intentional about serving the needs of all our neighbors.

— Pastor Mark Wegener

Mission Travelers

Deadline to sign up (with a \$75.00 deposit) for this summer's trip to the Ozarks is Jan. 11, but registration will end if the trip fills earlier. Don't delay.

Tenth-Twelfth Graders

Broomball, football, the 95 Theses—it's all part of a great weekend retreat at Luther Park on Jan. 16-18. Learn what it means to be Lutheran . . . at a super price of \$15.00 thanks to church sponsorship. Turn in your form and money by Jan. 11.

Greeting Program Revitalized

Now Scheduling for 2009

Betty Hassenstab says that, halfway into a year of rebuilding for Woodlake's Greeter program, she is pleased that volunteers have responded so enthusiastically. The success of this ministry is due to their reliability and faithfulness. She and Don, her husband and co-coordinator, extend their sincere thanks. They are especially grateful to the families who have enjoyed being greeters at the 10:00 a.m. service, where they help to set the tone for the family-friendly service.

Greeters are now asked for their help in scheduling for February-August. Hassenstabs will be at a table between services on Jan. 11 and 25, ready to "fill in the blanks." Miss them at church? Call them at 952-835-3133 and arrange to serve on Sundays that fit your schedule.

Senior Fellowship Lines Up a Winter Menu

The next several "outings" for Woodlake's Senior Fellowship are really "in-ings," as the group will gather at church at noon on the third Thursday of January, February and March for lunch and a program.

January 15 features Jim Berner's entertaining musical program, "Turn Back the Bands of Time." Enjoy a delicious lunch and then hear songs and stories of the music legends. Cost is \$9.00.

Reservations can be made for this and upcoming Senior Fellowship events by signing up in the master notebook found at a table in the hall on Sundays and in the church office during office hours. Payment is due at the time of sign up.



Salad Luncheon

Eve, Noah's wife, Ruth, Mary, Martha and Sarah will have lunch with Naomi, St. Peter's mother-in-law and St. Paul's mother on Friday, Jan. 9. The guest list also includes women known only as "narrator." That's right, the entire cast of *Women of the Bible* is gathering for a pot-luck salad luncheon.

Bring a small salad to share and any left-over goodies from the holidays to the Fireside Room for the 10:00 a.m. meal. Everyone involved in the play—including substitutes—is welcome.

Faith & Fiction Picks Titles

Woodlake's book discussion group, Faith & Fiction, has chosen books for the next quarter. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. The role of discussion leader is pre-assigned and rotates among the members. New participants are always welcome. Titles ahead are:

- Jan. 22 *In the Bleak Midwinter*, Spencer-Fleming
- Feb. 26 *Little Heathens*, Kalish
- Mar. 26 *The Cape Ann*, Sullivan
- Apr. 23 *The Shack*, Young

CDs Available

Worshippers at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve were treated to the guitar music of John Roth. "December Dreams," his recording of seasonal music, is for sale in the church office for \$15.00. Roth is donating 10% of each sale to Woodlake.

Wednesday A.M. - Jan. 7

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group
8:00 a.m. Matins Service
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship
9:00 a.m. Visiting Angels provides living assistance in the home. Sue Clark will share a presentation on their services, "It's All About Marge."