

“Embracing the Dream”

Woodlake’s pastors are active in CLARA, the Christian Leadership Alliance of the Richfield Area. There are sixteen congregations in CLARA, now making final plans for a city-wide observance of Martin Luther King Day.

“Embracing the Dream” is 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 19, at House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 7625 Chicago Ave. So.

The worship service will include community leaders such as Mayor Debbie Goettel and Intermediate School principal Stephen West.

Take part in this city-wide celebration.

Richfield Optimist Club’s

Annual Chili & Salad Dinner

The Optimists’ annual chili dinner is Friday, Jan. 16. Chili, a salad bar, beverage and dessert are served from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Ave.

Tickets are \$8.00 (or two for \$15.00); kids under 12 are \$4.00. Get them at the door or from a Woodlaker in this

service organization:

John Ashland, Dick

Cup o’ chili Franzmeier, Jay
Hermann, Shirley
Stroud or Tom
Rappe.

Introducing Woodlake

■ Meet at 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 11 for an informal session on Woodlake and what its members find “nice to know.”

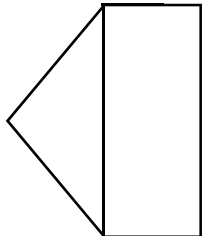
■ Learn about Christian history and doctrine, with emphasis on Lutheran teachings, in two Saturday sessions: Jan. 17 and 24, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

■ 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.

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WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

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Sampling a New Setting

Worshippers at Woodlake’s traditional services (5:00 p.m. and 8:45 a.m.) will begin a multi-week introduction to another setting of Holy Communion this weekend.

Week by week, a portion of liturgy from Setting 1 will replace the same part of the setting that is now in use. Setting 1 is tuneful and flowing, the music for new sections will be printed in worship folders, and Director of Music Brad Schultz will guide worshippers in learning the new elements.

A new Gospel Acclamation, with a proper verse for the day, will be used Jan. 10 and 11, along with the part of the Great Thanksgiving that begins “Holy, holy, holy . . .”

This week only, for the Baptism of Our Lord, the rite of Thanksgiving for Baptism will substitute for the more usual Confession and Absolution.

Of course, reading about music is not the best way to make it into a beloved liturgy. Join the congregation to hear, sing and appreciate it.

Congregation Meets Jan. 18 *Giving Increases Should be Reported*

In order to prepare for the Jan. 18 congregational meeting, members are asked to respond to the request for additional offerings by Jan. 11.

Complete the green card mailed to each household, or fill out one of the blanks available in the church office.

The meeting on Jan. 18 will begin at 11:15 a.m.; there will be no 11:11 a.m. service that day.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

China Service Ventures

Steven Ray, Developer for China Service Ventures, will speak to the Forum at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 11.

CSV is a Lutheran 501 (c) (3) organization, a partner with the ELCA. Its mission includes providing service opportunities in China for those who teach English or serve the rural poor in other ways.

A New Season for Greeters

Scheduling of Sunday morning greeters for February - August is now underway. Look for a table at church this week (and again on Jan. 25) to volunteer for convenient days.

January 10 & 11

The Baptism of Our Lord *The First Sunday after Epiphany*

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:

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-17

Mark 1:4-11

Holy Communion at all services.

Nursery available Sundays.

Interpreted in ASL at 10:00 a.m.



Couples 'n' More

Ice Skates Skate at Centennial Lakes Park Saturday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 p.m. Children are welcome at this kid-friendly venue. Bring skates and an evening under the stars is free, or skates (\$5.00) and sleds (\$7.00/hr.) can be rented. Concessions are available, too. The park is the center of the Centennial Lakes complex at 7499 France Ave.

Senior Fellowship

"Turn Back the Bands of Time" with Jim Berner at the Jan. 15 Senior Fellowship event. The entertainer will provide music and stories from a beloved era of popular music after a noon lunch in Fellowship Hall. Sign up on Sunday morning or in the office (612-866-8449). Cost is \$9.00.

Women of the Bible Cast

Meet at Woodlake at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15, for travel to Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Lunch is at noon, the performance at 1:00 p.m.

Sixth-Eighth Graders

registered for the Recharge at Luther Park will meet at church at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9. Return time is approximately 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Rebecca Circle

The location of the Jan. 14 meeting at 1:00 p.m. is Neomie Reishus' house at 8140 Abbott Ave. So.

Thank Veterans

you meet for their service to our country. They will appreciate it.

From the Pastor

Do you make New Year's Resolutions? What kind?

Most resolutions seem to fall into two categories: 1) Quitting some Bad Habit, or 2) Beginning some Healthy Practice. For example, some decide to quit smoking or overeating while others decide to take up gardening or start volunteering at the crisis nursery.

And then there are those who don't make resolutions at all, not wanting to set themselves up for failure.

Sometimes I am in that category. Without a clear plan to achieve a goal, a list of "resolutions" becomes an exercise in wishful thinking. I also know I will not succeed unless there are people around me who are willing to hold me accountable to my goals.

There is something enticing, even hopeful, about the beginning of a year. If 2008 seemed like a mistake, or if your life seemed to go in a totally wrong direction, it's an opportunity to start over, to make things right, to begin again.

But you know, we followers of Jesus can do that every day. That's what forgiveness is all about: forgetting what lies behind and starting over, becoming a new person.

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old is gone; behold, the new has come."

So—make those New Year's resolutions. Don't just make them today. Make a resolution every time you come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Make a resolution to Live Differently, as a follower of Jesus. Know that here are people who will hold you accountable—other disciples also striving to Live Differently. And know also that here is the person who will pick you up when you fall, calling you, again and again, "new creation," "child of God," "beloved."

That's all we really need, isn't it?

— Pastor Diane Roth

Sunday School Schedule? Check Online at Akaloo

The start of 2009 means that www.akaloo.org has been updated with new calendars and schedules for Woodlake's Sunday School community. If you have not yet used this great resource to enrich your family's interaction with Sunday School, let Children's Ministry Director Tisa Zachau convince you. Reach her at tzachau@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449.

Note that class time is planned for every grade on all Sundays in January. Grade levels will resume taking turns attending a complete worship service next month.

Lutheran:

What Does it Mean?

Retreat for 10th - 12th Grade

Youth in grades 10-12 are invited to spend the weekend of Jan. 16-18 focused on that question—and the many ways to enjoy Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek, Wisconsin.

Confirmation is not the end of growth; questions change as we do. Explore them on this retreat, with a subsidized cost of only \$15.00. Sign up and pay by Sunday, Jan. 11.

A Castle for Cash

Coins Don't be surprised if youngsters ask you to empty your pockets on your way into church.

They are fascinated by Scott Sharpe's handiwork—a church-shaped collection box meant to hold contributions of small change. (Big bills are best brought to the office.)

No word yet on whether the hinged roof is a feature available on the full-size homes the contractor usually builds.

Pure-ly Fun is a Girls-Only Night

Dress-Up Girl

Manicures, hairstyling, a fashion show . . . It's easy to see why the Jan. 24 Pure-ly Fun gathering is limited to girls in K-6. All the girlie fun begins at

6:30 p.m. and includes supper.

Editing your closets for 2009? Bring old formals, bridesmaid dresses, hats, heels and costume jewelry to church by Jan. 23. Our girls can put the items to good use before donating them to a suitable charity.

Don't worry. The boys get their turn in March. Think "Legos."

Linked in Prayer

Woodlake has an active Prayer Chain ministry, praying confidentially for joys and concerns as requested.

Start a prayer along the chain by calling Anita Conlon (612-926-5030) or Alice Lundquist (952-829-5623).

Pastor Diane Roth will soon organize the "links" for another year. Those interested in being a partner in prayer, taking a call from the person ahead of them and making one to the link who follows, should contact her soon.

An online chain operating in the same manner—not with widely distributed emails but passed along one-to-one-to-one—is also under discussion. Indicate your interest with an email to droth@woodlakechurch.org.

Wednesday A.M. - Jan. 14

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group
8:00 a.m. Matins Service
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship
9:00 a.m. "Travels to Utah"

On an extended stay in Utah, Anne Schmiege saw this interesting state as both a visitor and a resident. She will share insights with the group.