

## “Embracing the Dream”

Monday, Jan. 19, Noon  
at House of Prayer  
7625 Chicago Ave. So.



The sixteen member churches of CLARA, including Woodlake, will host a community-wide worship service to celebrate the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Hon. Debbie Goettel, Richfield's Mayor, will be among the speakers. An offering will be received for VEAP and the Richfield Foundation. All Woodlake members are invited to participate. Refreshments will follow the service.

The Christian Leadership Alliance of the Richfield Area (CLARA) sponsors joint acts of worship and service that bless and strengthen the community.

## Coordinator Sought for Baptism Ministry

Families with children baptized at Woodlake are enrolled in a program that brings resources for Christian growth right to their mailboxes.

A volunteer sends out the mailings periodically, with postage and materials supplied by the church.

The job has both spiritual and clerical (i.e. office) aspects. Contact Children's Ministry Director Tisa Zachau.

## Optimists' Chili Dinner

Friday, Jan. 16, 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
at Oak Grove Lutheran Church,  
70th & Lyndale Ave. So.

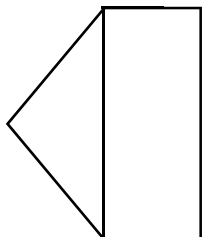
Tickets at the door: Adults \$8, Kids \$4  
Proceeds benefit Richfield youth

## Office Closed for MLK Day

While pre-arranged meetings will go on as usual, the church office will be closed on Jan. 19 for the observance of Martin Luther King Day.

PERIODICAL

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# MESSENGER

## Congregational Meeting Jan. 18, 11:15 a.m.

At last November's meeting of the congregation, it was decided to meet again after allowing time to request and receive pledges of additional

support for the 2008-2009 budget.

This is the meeting, and members are encouraged to attend. It will take place in Fellowship Hall. Care for children will be provided.

There will be no 11:11 a.m. service.

## Sign Ups Start for Host Week

Woodlake will host homeless moms, dads and kids when Families Moving Forward arrive Feb. 1 to spend a week as guests of the congregation.

These families are enrolled in FMF's program to obtain stable housing, finding meals and sleeping quarters for a week at a time in a network of churches.

Christian hospitality moves volunteers to take part in this ministry. There are tasks for those who can cook, move furniture, wash clothes, serve a meal, join families in play-and-leisure time, wash dishes, provide groceries, or sleep overnight. Some volunteer spots are perfect for children who are close in age to the guests.

FMF liaison Wayne Schmiege will be recruiting volunteers this Sunday, or reach him by phone at 952-881-4213.

## Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Jan. 18, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

## Our Companion Synod

Kris Perry will introduce the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, a companion synod of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

A Diaconal Minister and coordinator of the companion synod program, Perry recently led a group of 17 on a visit to Nigeria. While their trip was peaceful and joy-filled, a church and pastor's home in Jos, Nigeria, were burned to the ground in election-related violence shortly after they returned.

Come to learn about a program that nurtures relationships with congregations and ministries of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, which is growing at the rate of 10,000 monthly.

January 17 & 18

## The Second Sunday after Epiphany



### 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

**Texts:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

*Holy Communion at all services.*

*Nursery available Sundays.*

*Interpreted in ASL at 10:00 a.m.*

## Faith & Fiction

*In the Bleak Midwinter*, by Julia Spencer-Fleming, is the title to be discussed at the group's Thursday, Jan. 22, meeting. Meet in the Heritage Room at 7:00 p.m.

## Senior Fellowship

Upcoming fellowship events include lunch with entertainment at church on Feb. 19 and Mar. 19, and then a show at the Chanhassen on Apr. 19 for which early sign-ups are needed. Plan to attend all three.

## "Time of Inquiry"

A two-part class for adult learners will study Christian history and doctrine with special attention to Lutheran teachings. It meets from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 17 and 24. Contact Outreach Coordinator Starr Carriere, 612-866-8449, for details.

## Pure-ly Fun

is girls-only Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dress-up, make-overs, manicures and dinner are all included. Girls in Kindergarten-Grade 6 are welcome; grown-up girls can help by sharing old prom dresses, heels, costume jewelry, etc. Deliver it to church by Jan. 23; its final destination is a charity thrift shop.

## Calling all Carnivores



The Southtown Timber Lodge Steakhouse will once again donate 15% of all Woodlakers' tabs on Monday, Jan. 19.

You only need to tell your server that you are from Woodlake and they will do the rest. Make it an even better deal; pick up a coupon for a free appetizer from Woodlake's church office while they last.

## From the Pastor

Our friends over at Berea Lutheran Church have come up with a new wrinkle in their worship. It's not a big change, but it has meaning. In fact, it's not really a change in what they *do*, just an adjustment in what they *call* it. When they pass the collection plates, instead of referring to this as their "Offerings," they are now calling it their "Investments."

Pastor Randy Sherren explains that this will "highlight that what we bring to God is certainly our 'offering,' but what we offer is given as an 'investment' in the things God is trying to do among us and through us."

That's not a bad idea. Shortly before Christmas we all received yellow letters and green response cards which invite us to increase our giving during the coming months. We want to bridge the \$100,000 gap between our anticipated income and our expected expenses. We may be thinking of this in terms of "balancing our budget," as though our gifts were for a budget.

Budgets are what it's all about if you are running a business and you want the bottom line to show a profit. But a Christian congregation is really not a "business" in that sense. We are not about making a profit. Rather, we are all about sharing the Gospel of Christ Jesus with our families, with our neighbors, with the world.

So, as Berea's pastor puts it, "when we offer our time, talent, and financial resources, we do so as investments of what God has given us to enrich the lives of others." You see, it's all about people—our children, our young people, our fellow-members, our older adults, our unchurched friends, our hurting neighbors, our overseas missionaries. We want to invest in them so we can all share in God's blessings together.

— Pastor Mark Wegener

## Alternative Gifts: Water and Much, Much More



Woodlakers made Christmas meaningful and touched lives around the world with nearly \$6,200 in alternative gifts this year. The total topped last year's by \$600, with an increase in the average amount given that made up for a smaller number of participants.

Thanks to donors there are 15 more goats, 11 more pigs, 5 more turkeys and 12 more broods of chickens giving milk, bacon, meat, eggs and income to farmers in Africa, Central America and elsewhere today. Reflecting a special appeal for water projects, \$3,700 of the total was directed toward those. Other gifts went for training, education, health care, disaster relief (here and abroad) and the hunger projects of Lutheran World Relief.

Groups that took part included two of Woodlake's Circles and the Couples 'n' More group, which collected donations at its Christmas party.

The world is a better place because of these alternative gifts. Thank you!

## VBS Dates Set for June

After just one false start, the real, true and correct dates for this summer's Vacation Bible School are:

June 15-19 For K-Grade 6 and pre-school ages 3-5  
June 22-26 For K-Grade 6

There is a price break for children who are registered by Feb. 15, but Tisa Zachau is hoping to get feedback even from those who are not able to attend. It is helpful to have an idea of how big the crowd will be. Sunday School parents can reach the Director of Children's Ministries at 612-866-8449 or tzachau@woodlakechurch.org.

## Mission Trip Officially "Full"

All the spots have been reserved on this summer's high school mission trip to the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas.

Twenty-five 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will take part in a program administered by YouthWorks! that will see them staffing a Kids' Club and assisting residents of Booneville, Arkansas, with home repair projects. The trip is Aug. 1-7.

While no new spaces will be booked for the trip, it is possible to join a waiting list that will be tapped in case of a cancellation. The same travel form and \$75.00 deposit are required of those on the waiting list, as is the preparation the travelers will do. Youth Ministries Director Chris Okey has the details.

## Luther College Student at Work for J-Term

Stephanie Schauer, a sophomore religion major at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, is interning in Woodlake's youth program this month. She is spending the month of concentrated study that occurs between semesters assisting Youth Ministries Director Chris Okey.

Schauer helped to plan the Senior High Retreat underway this weekend; she will present a lesson in the WWYGs program of confirmation instruction, and she has developed a Bible study for use by adult mentors and youth.

## Coming to the Box Office

Tickets will soon be available for the next performance in Woodlake's concert series on Feb. 15 and the Mardi Gras Brunch on Feb. 22. Watch for details.

## Wednesday A.M. - Jan. 21

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
8:00 a.m. Matins Service  
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship  
9:00 a.m. Speaker Molly Olson will tell her story, "Hanging In There."