

Celebrate Chinese New Year at a "Friendraiser"

The Hospitality Center for Chinese is a ministry that shares the love of Christ with Chinese students, scholars and their families at the University of Minnesota. Woodlake has long supported this outreach through contributions from our Global Mission Partners.

Meet Chinese students you have impacted and take part in a distinctive celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Center on Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35.00 per plate or \$250 for a table of eight. RSVP to Phyllis at 651-639-8226 or rsvp@hcchinese.org.

Music, Music Everywhere

- Friday, Jan. 23, 7:00 p.m.
Augsburg Centennial Singers at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 84th and France Ave. Free will offering.
- Sunday, Jan. 25, 4:00 p.m.
Composers Abbie Betinis and Jocelyn Hagen with "21st Century Art Songs" at Bethlehem Lutheran, 4100 Lyndale Ave. Pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 25, 4:00 p.m.
The Choir of the West from Pacific Lutheran University at Luther Seminary, 2481 Como Ave. Call 651-641-3432.
- Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:00 p.m.
Great Northern Union (Barbershop) and Twin Cities Show Chorus (Sweet Adelines) at United Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 Xerxes Ave. Tickets (\$10.00) at 612-866-0069.

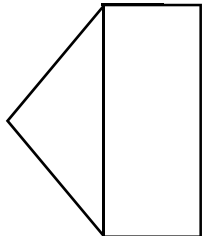
Every Coin Counts (Up)

Empty your piggy bank and bring the take to Woodlake. The model church in the narthex is designed to collect spare change that piles up on the dresser or fills pockets. The total donated thus far exceeds \$600.00.

Piggy Bank

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Woodlake Lutheran MESSENGER USPS 690-540
Editor: Susan Ohnesorge, 612-866-8449
Copy Deadline: Sunday, noon
Published weekly except monthly in July & August.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Woodlake Lutheran Church
7525 Oliver Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423
Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, MN.
Subscription Rate: \$1.00 per year
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WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Vol. 63, No. 4

Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 22, 2009

Congregation Passes Revised Budget

The congregation revisited the 2008-2009 budget at its meeting on Jan. 18, passing a revised, essentially balanced (within \$165.00) version.

The figures presented were achieved by the inclusion of \$78,000 in additional pledges and reductions of \$20,000 in the support forwarded to the Minneapolis Area Synod and \$2,000 in wages for Monday receptionists. (See the *Pastor's column* on pg. 2 for more.)

Discussion was wide-ranging and driven by questions and suggestions from the floor before ending with a nearly unanimous vote to accept the budget.

Start Building a Basket

Organizers are lining up donations for Woodlake's Mardi Gras Breakfast and Silent Auction on Feb. 22.

They will be at church on Sunday, Jan. 25, hoping to hear from those who can donate cakes, time, or gift baskets. Generous bids on attractive baskets, a spirited cakewalk, and a hot and tasty breakfast all contribute to the success of this event.

Breakfast tickets will be for sale, too.

Get Music Series Tickets

Jack Brass Band will perform as part of Woodlake's Music Series Sunday, Feb. 15, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets (\$10.00) will be on sale Sunday. Don't miss a rousing experience in the spirit of Mardi Gras. Check out jackbrassband.com.

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Jan. 25, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Officer Scott Dahlquist

Woodlake member and Minneapolis Police Officer Scott Dahlquist will lead Sunday's Forum on "How to Keep the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing Outside Your Door."

There are simple and effective ways to decrease the chances of becoming a victim of crime. Dahlquist will share his professional insight into the topic.

Volunteer for FMF

Volunteers are reminded to sign up to help during Families Moving Forward's visit to Woodlake Feb. 1-8. A chart of tasks will again be available at church on Sunday. If you miss FMF liaison Wayne Schmieg there, reach him at 952-881-4213 to sign up by phone.

January 24 & 25

The Third Sunday after Epiphany



In the Chapel:

5:00 p.m. Saturday

In the Church:

8:45, 10:00 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School:

Begins at the 10:00 a.m. service

Texts: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

Mark 1:14-20

Holy Communion at all services.

Nursery available Sundays.

ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.

Senior Fellowship

Upcoming programs for older adults include:

Feb. 19 - A performance of "Women of the Bible" and music by the Bloomingtones along with lunch. \$9.00.

Mar. 19 - The Velvet Tones will entertain at a noon luncheon. \$9.00.

Apr. 19 - The group will travel to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater for the Sunday matinee of *Seven Bridges for Seven Brothers*. \$60.00.

Reservations and payment for all three events are being accepted. Look for a table in the hall Sundays or stop in the church office weekdays.

Senior Single Women

The group will gather in the Fireside Room for a meal together on Friday, Jan. 30, at 11:00 a.m. Bernice Deike, 612-866-6239, is taking reservations and can answer questions. New attendees are welcome, as always.

New Members

Those who have recently joined Woodlake will be officially received at services where they are in attendance on Sunday, Feb. 1. For information about becoming a member of Woodlake, contact Outreach Coordinator Starr Carriere, 612-866-8449 or scarriere@woodlakechurch.org.

Pure-ly Fun: Girls Only

Fellowship and fun happens monthly for Woodlake's kindergarten through sixth grade children, but on Jan. 24 it's just for girls. The 6:30-8:30 p.m. event includes dinner and plenty of opportunity to fuss with hair, nails, cosmetics and dress-up clothes. Grownups are invited to drop off girly gear (old formals, impossibly high heels) that will be donated to charity after use at Pure-ly Fun.

From the Pastor

Two things happened on Sunday. Balancing the budget was the easy part, even if we did have a \$100,000 gap to jump. \$78,000 in additional pledges, plus \$2,000 in savings by eliminating our Monday receptionists, and a \$20,000 reduction in our commitment to the work of the church at large did it. That last part really hurts, because it represents saving ourselves at the expense of others. We agreed that if we get additional increases in giving, we will restore some of the funds lost to our church body. But all in all, that was the easy part.

The harder job will be to follow through on our commitment to shape our congregation's ministry in ways which will place us more intentionally in the life of our community. We need to recognize clearly that God has placed us here, in Richfield. And Richfield in the 21st century is not the same as Richfield in the 1960s. Ours is now a more richly diversified city. And if our church is to reflect the changes in our neighborhoods, we will likely have to change some of the ways we do business.

Did I tell you the story about the woman who came home from a yard sale with a beautiful inspirational mahogany plaque? In lovely carved letters it read: "Prayer Changes Things." She hung it over her kitchen sink. When her husband came home he took one look at it and asked her to take it down. "I really don't like it," he said. "What?" she said, "You don't believe in prayer?" "Oh, I believe in prayer," he said. "I just don't believe in change."

The question for us in coming months will be to see how creatively we can change to minister to and with our neighbors in our changing community.

—Pastor Mark Wegener



Greeters Asked to Schedule

A warm "hello," maybe a handshake and directions to the coat room are ways that demonstrate the hospitality with which Woodlake welcomes guests to Sunday services. And to be sure it is evident, individuals and families are asked to be responsible for those actions on Sundays of their choice.

Betty and Don Hassenstab will be at church between services this Sunday, recruiting volunteers to fill in a schedule that extends through August. Summer is a good time for choir members and Spirit Singers to take a turn while their other duties are less.

Hassenstabs also welcome phone calls from potential greeters. Find out what is involved in the task or choose Sundays that are convenient for you by calling them at 952-835-3133.

Help Wanted: Part-Time

A Sunday School teacher for the fourth grade class is needed. The job is shared and there are Sundays where large-group activities involve the fourth graders so that "on duty" time is one Sunday a month or so. Tisa Zachau (tzachau@woodlakechurch.org) would like to hear from interested volunteers.

Thanks for "Gifts of Love"

If only the smiles on the faces of Ebenezer residents could be captured and sent as thanks! Woodlake folks, with their willingness to select names, buy and wrap Christmas gifts and return them in a timely way, are much appreciated. Congregational reps Helen Sokolski and Martha Pechauer say "We need you!" Talk to them about the many opportunities to volunteer in this meaningful ministry.

A Day on the Slopes for Grades 10-12

Skier

Students are invited to ski Welch Village on President's Day (Feb. 16) with Woodlake.

Transportation and an all-day lift ticket are included in the \$50.00 cost. (Rentals are an additional \$30.00.)

A sign-up form and payment (\$50.00 or \$80.00) are due by Feb. 11. Youth Ministries Director Chris Okey can answer questions: 612-866-8449 or cokey@woodlakechurch.org.

Tubing for Grades 7-9

Seventh, eighth and ninth graders can take a trip to Eco Backen for snow tubing on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The group will depart from church at noon and return around 5:00 p.m. Cost for the day is \$16.00.

A completed registration form and money are due by Feb. 18. Contact Chris Okey (see above) with questions.

30-Hour
Famine
Logo

Woodlake youth in grades 10-12 can take part in a metro-wide 30 Hour Famine Feb. 6-7, spending part of that time at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie with others

fasting to benefit this program of World Vision. There is also a "getting ready" meeting on Jan. 29 for those who can attend it. Chris Okey has forms and details. Sign up (\$25.00) by Jan. 25.

Wednesday A.M. - Jan. 28

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group
8:00 a.m. Matins Service
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship
9:00 a.m. Woodlake Seminary Intern
Barbara VanDrasek will host the morning's presentation.