

CIRCLE  
February  
MEETINGS

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

- Dorcas:** Feb. 3, 12:00 noon at church  
Bring a bag lunch
- Esther:** Feb. 3, 12:30 p.m.  
Host: Nancy Hoon,  
7500 York Social Room
- Leader: Pastor Roth
- Faith:** Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Host: Bev Johnson, 6432 Ryan
- Leader: Bev Erickson
- Lydia:** Feb. 9, 12:30 p.m. at church  
Host: Anne Romstad
- Rebecca:** Feb. 11, 1:00 p.m.  
Host: Rachael Hayford, 7229 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Sarah:** Feb. 5, 12:30 p.m.  
Host: Gert Franzmeier,  
7532 Garfield
- Leader: Marlys Ensrud

### Winning Sculptor has Woodlake Ties

Chris Swarbrick, together with Greg Smotzer, carved "Fountain of Unicorns" to win top prize and \$3,000 in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Ice Carving Contest. He's the husband of Michele and father of Ella and Griffin, Woodlake members all. Ella confided to other church-goers on Sunday that her dad was busy working on "Pegasus," as she called the elaborate creation.

Swarbrick is a professional ice carver. To see his winning entry, go to <http://www.winter-carnival-photography.com/2009albums.htm>.

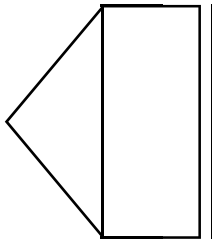
### Considering Luther College?

Youth Ministries Director Chris Okey has information about scholarships from Luther College available only to those who will be freshmen this fall.

If the Decorah, Iowa, college of the ELCA is one you are considering, see Okey for information. Application deadline is Feb. 27.

PERIODICAL

Woodlake Lutheran MESSENGER USPS 690-540  
Editor: Susan Olmnesorge, 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  
PHONE: 612-866-8449 FAX: 612-866-3103  
E-mail: [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org)  
Pastors: Mark I. Wegener, Diane M. Roth



# WOODLAKE LUTHERAN MESSENGER

Vol. 63, No. 5

Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 29, 2009

### Music Series Presents

Jack  
Brass  
Band  
**Jack Brass Band**  
Feb. 15, 4:00 p.m.

Get tickets Sunday for the chill-chasing sounds of Jack Brass Band, in concert Feb. 15 as part of the "Arts in the Afternoon" music series. Tickets are \$10.00. Tell neighbors, coworkers, friends and family.

### Do We Have a B • I • N • G • O ?

Worshippers at 10:00 a.m. services will be treated to that exciting possibility on the Sundays remaining before Lent.

As classes take turns attending the entire service (Grades 1-2 on Feb. 1), they will be observing carefully, hoping to fill in a BINGO on cards marked with phrases, actions, and sights that occur during the service.

Cards and markers will be handed out by the ushers. Parents, if it is your child's turn to stay in church, be sure they receive the supplies. Winners can choose a prize in the church office. And don't forget to yell "BINGO!"

### Mardi Gras Prep Continues

All kinds of gift baskets will be in the Silent Auction that ends at the Mardi Gras breakfast on Feb. 22, from simple to simply fabulous. Get instructions on creating one, volunteer to help staff the breakfast, sign up to bring a cake for the cakewalk, and buy breakfast tickets (\$6.00), all at a table on Sunday.

Rather do some of this by phone? Call Patty Norgaard (612-861-5909).

### Sunday Morning Adult Forum Feb. 1, 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 by poetry and song, is eye-opening and involving. Hear her in the Fireside Room at 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 1, with a talk that was moved from December due to harsh weather.

### Members to Be Welcomed

Those who have recently joined Woodlake will be received on Feb. 1. A brief rite of welcome will take place at services where there are new members in attendance.

### January 31 & February 1

### The Fourth Sunday after the 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  
*Grades 1 & 2 remain in church*  
**Texts:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

*Holy Communion at all services.  
Nursery available Sundays.  
ASL interpreted at 10:00 a.m.*

## Senior Fellowship

Reserve now for lunches at church and an outing to the Chanhassen:

- Feb. 19 - with the Bloomingtones and "Women of the Bible"
- Mar. 19 - with the Velvet Tones
- Apr. 19 - a Sunday matinee of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

## Youth Activities

- 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Graders: Snow Tubing at Eco Baken on Feb. 21. Sign up and pay (\$16.00) by Feb. 18.
- 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders: Skiing at Welch Village on Feb. 16. Sign up and pay (\$50.00 + 30.00 if renting) by Feb. 11.

## Cherub Choir

sings on Feb. 1. Meet in the Choir Room at 9:40 a.m. Wear a little red, if possible.

## Mission Trip Participants

The twenty-six students journeying on this summer's mission trip to the Ozarks will prepare for the adventure at four required meetings:

- Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Mar. 15, 11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.

The first gathering is next week. If you are unable to attend, contact Chris Okey prior to the meeting.

## Dining for Dollars

Timber Lodge Steakhouse has set two more opportunities to eat at the Southtown restaurant and have 15% of your tab donated to Woodlake: Feb. 10 and Mar. 12. Have a night out and help out at the same time.

## Woodlakers

Something's up for this fellowship group on the evening of Feb. 20. Save the date and watch for details.

## From the Pastor

I remember standing by the sanctuary door after my very first Christmas Day sermon, back in 1994. I had spoken eloquently about Jesus Christ as the light of the world. It may be dark now, I told them, but the days are getting longer now. We have turned the corner on the darkness and the cold.

After the service, one of my farmers shook my hand warmly and said, "My pappy always told me, 'when the days begin to lengthen, why, the cold begins to strengthen.'"

So much for turning the corner on cold and darkness.

It's been a cold, dark January around here and to some of us, Christmas is a faint memory. The light came into the world, but it is still dark and cold, not just outside but in other places, too. It's dark and cold for people who have lost their jobs; it's dark and cold for people who are hungry; it's dark and cold for people who have lost their homes.

And yet we still say, "The light shines in the darkness. The darkness did not overcome it."

The truth is, the light came into the world, and for awhile, it got colder than ever. And while he brought the light of healing and love with him, that light was snuffed out by the cruelty of the cross. That's the story we have been hearing in Epiphany, and the story we will continue to hear during Lent.

There is a lot of bad news these days. There is a lot of darkness, and it's cold. But the light that lit the world on Easter still shines. The darkness did not overcome it. He lives.

He lives in us. Even though it's been a dark, cold, January, I see God's light in each of you, young and old, who gather to worship even on the coldest days.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And by the way, the days are getting longer, too.

—Pastor Diane Roth

## Do Try This at Home

Woodlakers will share their skills in a series of how-to demonstrations meant for all ages. Each will meet on selected Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

"Bread Making" is the topic of the first session on Feb. 14, led by expert bread-bakers Scotty Andrews and Tex Johnson. There is no fee and no sign up is needed. Just come and get inspired to try this at home.

"Scarf Tying" is scheduled for Feb. 28 and "Knitting/Crocheting" for Mar. 14.

Have you a hobby or skill to share?

## Pure-ly Fun Joins FMF

Kids in kindergarten through sixth grade share their next fellowship event with Woodlake's guests from Families Moving Forward.

Plenty of games, activities and prizes are planned for Feb. 7, including dinner.

## News About New Pledges

Givers who responded to the recent invitation to raise their pledges of financial support—indeed, anyone who makes an adjustment—should know:

- New pledges were not entered into Woodlake's financial software until after end-of-year statements were calculated and mailed. New pledges are assumed to be in effect now and will be reflected on future statements.

- Simply Giving Participants need to provide a new signature every time the amount they have authorized changes. To safeguard control of their accounts, a new enrollment form must be used.

Forms are available at the receptionist's desk or by mail. Only the new amount and a signature are needed, since other information is unchanged.

Request a form by calling the church office at 612-866-8449. Use the same number to reach Financial Coordinator Julie Windler with other questions.

## Ovens 101 Held Wednesday

Manufacturers' rep Jim DeRoma visited during his working hours Jan. 28 to instruct all comers on the use and care of the new range and ovens.

Since that coincides with a lot of parishioners' working hours, a weekend or evening session will be planned, too.

Soup cookers, breakfast makers, funeral volunteers, Families Moving Forward cooks, and everyone else who might make use of the kitchen and its equipment should find time to attend.

## Roth Attends Training

The end of this week will find Pastor Diane Roth in the St. Louis area participating in Ntosake, a training offered by the Gamaliel Foundation.

The three-day course is designed for Gamaliel-affiliated women who are leaders; "Ntosake" is a word from Africa that describes such a woman.

## Receptionists' Hours to be Adjusted in Summer

The budget adopted at Jan. 18's congregational meeting identified savings from decreasing the hours worked by part-time receptionists.

Those cuts will come primarily in the summer. The season's lighter work load will allow the office to be closed on summer Mondays and open mornings only on Saturdays. Those changes should account for \$2,000 in savings with a minimum of inconvenience.

## Wednesday A.M. - Feb. 4

7:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
8:00 a.m. Matins Service  
8:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship  
9:00 a.m. "Unknown & Forgotten Sites"

David Nystuen is a popular speaker with slides and stories about Twin Cities places that have faded from view for one reason or another.