

April 2016

# THE NEWSLETTER

Woodbury Lutheran Church Newsletter

## **Relationships Matter**

In February, we had the privilege of taking a team to Ethiopia and participating in home visits. And there is nothing guite like them.

Sometimes there is so much joy when the family of the sponsored child meets the sponsor. As a Westerner with so much materially, we walk into the - often times - one room homes with dirt floors and no furniture and wonder how anyone could live in these conditions and be happy. They can barely feed their children. Sometimes... they can't. And yet they are so lit up, appreciative, and hospitable.

But sometimes, there is an overwhelming sadness that just hangs in the house - a hopelessness.

Last year we experienced that with one of the children our daughter, Grace, sponsors. The mom has three sons and her mother to support. We learned on that trip that two of the boys are twins and both attend Ekklesia School. There are no adult males and the mom works as a daily laborer doing various jobs. And sometimes there are no jobs - with five mouths to feed. It was a very difficult home visit - there was so much hopelessness. No smiling... just an overwhelming sadness.

When we returned home from that trip, our oldest daughter, Hannah sponsored the twin which allowed us to return this year for a second visit.

What a change! We were welcomed in and offered coffee, which is a great honor in Ethiopia. The mother seemed more hopeful, filled with more joy, and a whole lot of smiles. She thanked us for sponsoring her boys which allows

them the luxury of going to school and eating a meal. But what surprised me more than anything, she let us know she has the picture our family sent in one of the boys' letters.

We are convinced these relationships matter.

We are not sure this woman knows Jesus. But in just a little under a year, things have changed. God is doing work in Sendafa, Ethiopia through the school director, Sister Almaz, and all her amazing staff.

To learn more about our recent trip, join us for an information session on Sunday, April 10 at 12:30pm at Woodbury Lutheran's Valley Creek Campus.

Ben and Regina Kehl benandreginakehl@gmail.com



### In This Issue

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- Welcome New Staff
- 5 Ways to Teach

The Kehl Family in Ethiopia



# Thank You!

# "I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus." ~ 1 Corinthians 1:4

Well we just wrapped up a very busy time in the life of our congregation, the Season of Lent culminating with Easter. As I spent some time reflecting over the past couple of months and over all that has taken place my heart was postured into a position of thanksgiving and specifically thanksgiving for all those who make the ministry of WLC possible.

One of the things that was very near and dear to the founder of the Lutheran Church, Martin Luther was the belief in the Priesthood of all believers; the belief that each and every person plays a valuable and important role in the body of Christ and that in fact God can be praised as much by the changing of a dirty diaper as by a well written sermon.

When I look around at WLC I see the Priesthood of all believers alive and well, from the hundreds who serve in very up front ways to the hundreds who serve behind the scenes in ways that will hardly be noticed – they all work together to bring our vision to life, Multiplying Disciples :: Transforming Lives.

It really is hard to describe all that goes into a Holy Week at WLC! On Maundy Thursday more than 250 people gathered to celebrate the Passover Meal and the first communion of almost 40 of our students. Over four days we offered 14 worship services all filled with amazing music and worship. On Good Friday we had a wonderful family event at Oak Hill allowing families to walk through Holy Week together. On Holy Saturday 50 men gathered together to walk the stations of the cross and all along the way literally hundreds of you spent time making it all happen!

As I looked out on Sunday morning and saw my neighbor sitting near the back, his first time in our church, I was overcome with joy knowing that because of all you and the grace given to you in Jesus, he had the opportunity to hear about Jesus – so let me say, "Thank You."

Blessings, Pastor Tom



# THE PEANUTS MOVIE



### WOODBURY LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL FAMILY EVENT

# Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM

\*\$20 per family / \$5 per person

-Free movie with unlimited popcorn and beverage

**\***Bid on exciting <u>SILENT AUCTION</u> Items

-Disney Park Passes, Science Museum, Waterpark, Local Restaurants, MN Zoo, Lookout Ridge, Oak Marsh Golf, Stages Theatre, Sporting Events MN Renaissance, Grand Slam, YMCA, and MORE!

100% of Proceeds Benefit the Families & Teachers of WLP!

TUITION ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIPS for WLP families and TECHNOLOGY TO AID our TEACHERS in providing early education excellence!





Limited Space – Don't miss it! Reserve your Spot Today!

Contact Lisa Schommer schommerl@woodburylutheran.org





# SHINE

Transition can be one of the most exciting and challenging things in life. It stretches our faith to a goal ahead while simultaneously pulling us back into what was. Reminders and memories swirl in our thoughts and effect and influence the new direction. This has been our story as a family for the last four months. After serving in campus ministry at the Universities of Minnesota, St. Cloud State, Mankato, River Falls and others, we have reached the end of that journey and are now embarking on a new phase. We have passed on our responsibilities with Campus Missions International so that it may continue to influence lives on college campuses. The road that we are currently on is in tandem with SHINE in the World Ministries. SHINE exists to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to communities around the world through high impact partnerships and evangelistic events and to equip church and business leaders with tools for servant leadership. The international and local ministry was founded 10 years ago in the Twin Cities by Sammy Wanyonyi, a Kenyan evangelist with a fire and passion for the Gospel and bringing it to others. We were prompted by the Lord through much prayer over the last year and a half to join his team as Grant became the Director of Discipleship and Follow-Up as well as a Festival Director for events in Asia. The first international trip in January brought us to India and was a glorious success!

The beauty of the mission was the two-fold impact to both large venues and speaking opportunities and more personal ministry in homes and communities. We were invited to speak to a crowd of over 50,000 one day and during the ministry time over 15,000 gave their lives to Jesus for the first time. Most of the people in the crowd were non-Christian but regularly attend Christian events because of the spectacle and because of the Lord's prompting. Another aspect of evangelism took shape as we were invited to share to thousands at 8 different Universities, colleges and primary schools. Sammy and Grant worked as a unified team, with Sammy sharing challenging evangelistic messages and Grant ministering through testimonies and music. There were also many thousands of students from these events that the Lord moved upon and they responded to Him with hearts of repentance and were born again. How exciting it is to be able to talk with and pray with new believers from completely different cultures and origins! It is always encouraging to see the impact of Christ across any cultural or linguistic landscape. What an amazing Lord we serve and know!

Although large events are indeed exciting and a blessing to behold, we know that the Lord moves from relationship to relationship. One aspect of Grant's role in India was

going from house to house by invitation and ministering to many families and individuals. As Sammy prepared for the big events, Grant was able to minister to hurting hearts and bring hope and prayers to those that needed the touch of God. One day, we were able to meet with a principal that oversees 4 schools in Southern India. His wife had recently been involved in a car accident and needed to be calmed and praved for. We visited their home and prayed together. We sang songs and sought the Lord together. They were all so blessed by the care that they received that they invited us to speak at their schools that following week as well as future trips to India. This small example is a great look into the community culture of India. Whereas we in the US may be more prone to digital and text message interaction, the engine of relationship in India is going house to house and bringing Christ's love. It is encouraging to all of us as we have a mission field staring at us each day.

Be encouraged this Easter season to see God resurrect relationships and restore things that have been broken. All it takes is for us to seek Him, respond to His summons and reach out with hands of fellowship and care to the many multitudes that all of us already know and burn for with Christ's love. Thank you Woodbury Lutheran for continuing to join us on a new mission field and vocation. We are very blessed as a family and walking in the Lord's freedom and joy like never before! May the joy of the Lord also be your strength as you reach out to others. "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25)."

-The Buse Family (Grant, Beth, Allie, Tony, Ryan, Melody, Ezekiel and Benedict) Learn more about SHINE at shineintheworld.org

#### **Baptisms:**

Georgiana Odette Rothchild Madden Sawyer Koger Elena Ann-Marie Srep Samuel Thomas Opitz Guinevere Yvonne Marth Ryan Wegner Daniel Wegner Grace Marion Howard

### **Deaths:**

Lynn Blass ~ sister-in-law, Sandy Hunter Vicki Strong ~ uncle, Jack Sorenson Charlie Wesser ~ father, Ralph Wesser Mike & Renee Murray ~ brother-inlaw, Mike Boyden Family of Bruce Dibbern Jay Ignaszewski ~ grandmother, Beatrice Brandt Family of Jim Maves Family of Lorraine Hayek Blake Score ~ father, Archie Score Family of Grace Howard Gloria Johnson ~ sister, Delores Glader

# Service Times at WLC:

Sundays at Valley Creek: Sanctuary, Blended 8 & 11am Sanctuary, Contemporary 9:30am Genesis, Contemporary 11am

Saturdays at Valley Creek: Journey, 5pm

Sundays at Oak Hill: Blended 9:00am Contemporary10:30am

Office & Mailing Address: 7380 Afton Road Woodbury, MN 55125

Office Hours: Mon. – Thurs.: 9am–4pm Friday: 9am–3pm

Phone: (651) 739-5144 Fax: (651) 739-3536 Website: www.woodburylutheran.org



Walking the journey with you

### At Your Side When Cancer Strikes

With lifetime cancer rates approaching 40%, we all know someone who has been personally impacted by cancer. Through Cancer Companions, Woodbury Lutheran provides ministry specific to people with cancer and/or their caregivers. The ministry is facilitated by trained volunteers who have personally walked the journey either as cancer survivors or caregivers.

Cancer Companions has many resources for our congregation and the community. These include:

- Monthly meetings. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month from 7-9 pm in the Family Center (lower level, kids' ministry area. Prayer, devotional Bible study, videos, discussion. No registration required.
- Home visits for newly diagnosed. Our volunteers will be matched to the situation as closely as possible. We make an initial visit that includes delivery of a list of church and community resources, prayer, and a devotional book.
- A closed Facebook support page with daily devotions. Email <u>vickistrong@comcast.net</u> if you wish to be added to the page. Page members must be either patients, survivors or primary caregivers.
- Assistance with practical solutions to managed care including help with setting up a Caring Bridge site or an online calendar for delivery of meals, rides to treatment and other supports.
- **Regular prayer.** Our facilitators connect frequently and pray for the needs of people in our congregation with cancer and their friends and family. Let us know if we can pray for you!

For more information on Cancer Companions, contact Vicki Strong, <u>651-730-5049</u>, or Pastor Tim in the church office.



Kandi Chavi & Kendall Johnson

## Welcome New WLC Staff

We've been blessed to have two new staff members join the team this spring. Kendall Johnson joins us as the Technical Arts Coordinator. His is a big job, making sure all of our sound and projection equipment across campuses is kept in working and up-to-date condition and that servants are trained and supported as they use the equipment in ministry. In addition he does the video recording and editing for numerous projects including weekend announcements and testimonies. Kandi Chavie comes on as one of our worship leaders, moving between venues and campuses as a leader and band member. Kandi brings lots of experience and talent as a leader, keyboardist, and singer. We are thankful to have both of them on staff and sharing their gifts with us!

**KANDI CHAVIE:** My husband Jake and I moved from Zimmerman, MN to Cottage Grove 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years ago and we absolutely love living in this area and community. We have been married for 13 years and have 3 children: Brooke (11), Lauren (6) and Austin (4) and we are so excited to meet our 4th baby who is due in early June.

I am thrilled to be part of the worship team at Woodbury Lutheran! I started singing in church at 5 years old and have been singing, playing keys or leading worship in some capacity for 20+ years. I was classically trained in voice and piano, and my passion is joining a congregation in offering praise to our incredible God and encouraging others in their musical endeavors. I'm honored to have the opportunity to worship with you all and I look forward to meeting more of the wonderful congregation at WLC!

**KENDALL JOHNSON:** My family and I have been members here at WLC for the past two years and have fallen in love with every aspect of the church. I am originally from Canada and have been married to my wife Sheila for almost 10 years. We have two boys, Henrik (Hank) and Frank. I have been involved with music and audio for most of my life. It all started as a lead guitarist in a band playing all over western Canada with the hopes of becoming the next big thing. As God led us in different directions, I began to feel a passion for music and film. In 2008 I graduated from Vancouver Film School with a degree in sound design for interactive media. This degree covered many different areas such as film scoring, live sound, location sound, and much more. Over the past 8 years I have worked on various projects for film, TV, and video games and have started my own studio, Blue Aux Productions.

I am excited to contribute all I have learned, and continue to learn, to the growth of WLC.

### Garage sale Treasures Needed!

Is it Spring Cleaning Time at your house yet? Please hang on to your things a little while longer! The youth will be collecting those slightly used "treasures" for the upcoming Lions Garage Sale held on May 12-14. Collection dates will be May 10, 5:30-8:30pm and May 11, 4:30-8:30pm. Please drop donations at the East entrance of the Valley Creek campus. We ask that you have all clothing sorted, bagged and labeled in the following categories - men, boys, women, girls and infants. It helps tremendously - thanks! Sale proceeds support youth attending mission trips and NYG. If you have any questions call Shanna Salzman at 612-859-1365.



Clean out your closets and storage!



One question catches my attention quite often—from the little girl in the cart behind us in the grocery checkout line to the boy observing our family from the end of the aisle where his mother selects baby food.

#### "Why does that baby look like that?"

Our daughter Brenna was born in December 2011 with a severe genetic skin disorder called Harlequin ichthyosis. Brenna's skin condition gives her the appearance of a red, peeling sunburn covering her entire body. What it means is that her skin doesn't do the jobs for her body that most people's skin does ... jobs like keeping her hydrated, protecting her from bacteria, and regulating her body temperature. She doesn't even have the ability to sweat.

What it also means is that she gets a lot of stares from kids, teens, and even adults who wonder why she looks the way she does.

Visual differences can be found everywhere, and teaching our children about differences is essential to helping them become accepting, kind, and respectful individuals who live out God's command to love others. Understanding difference begins at home; parents can choose many ways to foster a better understanding of physical differences so children can learn and fully appreciate that everyone was uniquely made by a wonderful Creator.

#### **BE UP FRONT ABOUT DIFFERENCES**

Kids learn by asking and seeing and experiencing. Children will inevitably ask questions about something they see that is different than what they are used to, and it's important that difference not be a taboo subject. Be open to discussions with your children and teach them how to ask questions about other people in a respectful manner with kind words. While it may feel uncomfortable, frantically removing yourself from situations where a child asks a question about how someone looks or speaks could give your children the impression that people who look different are frightening and should be avoided, instead of simply people.

If you're worried about them blurting out something offensive that may hurt someone's feelings, teach them how to whisper a discreet and polite question in your ear. If it's an extremely sensitive subject, then you can tell them you'll discuss it later.

#### READ TO THEM ABOUT DIFFERENCE

Many wonderful children's books celebrate looking different or being yourself, and reading with your child can open up opportunities to discuss different feelings and interests, and uniqueness in general.

Some of our family's favorite children's books about being different include:

The Colors of Us by Karen Katz

Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

Not Your Typical Dragon by Dan Bar-el

Different Is Awesome by Ryan Haack

Extraordinary Friends by Fred Rogers

#### LIVE IT

Take your children to parks, activities, and events where people aren't necessarily mirrors of them. If they are frequently around other people of various

ages, colors, and abilities, they will be much less intimidated by visual differences. In fact, seeing others who look different on a regular basis means they probably won't even notice the differences!

### Taken from the April HomeFront Monthly Magazine



Benjamin Feldkamp

- 01 John Kuhrmeyer Kathryn Brusewitz Mireille Fenelon Steve Fog Stuart Priest Kayley Pokrandt Jason Schubbe Benjamin Stevensen
- 02 Richard Betts Vicki Hogeboom Paul Jeske Madeline Meyer Layla Schmidt
- 03 Thomas Bystrzycki David Ferguson Karin Davidson Kristin Broten Kally Lombard-Kutz Jacob Meek Gary Nelson April Ferguson Ponmalar Ramesh Kristin Reed Lorraine Rogers Leanne Bloom
- 04 Tony Engen Angella Fish Joel Hampton Eva Hane Logan Huber Barbara Jackson Chesney Klusmann Bonnie Pollock Jill Radabaugh Olivia Ramin Eliana Stork John Tepe Jennifer Thelen
- 05 Herb Lyson Sue McNally Tyler Anderson Joshua Granlund Grace Wright Taylor Karrow Margorie Prestegord Shelagh Stoerzinger
- 06 Lee Jorgensen Diane Mergens Lisa Horacek Quinn Horacek Haley Carlson Donna Jensen Esther Adalikwu
- 07 Elden Banitt

Mary Lou Krengel Linnea Lundervold Brock Lundervold Emma Moris Joyce LeMay Jennifer Jechort 08 Jim Blass Sawyer Crist Joey Matejka Christy Mertens Benjamin Retter Robert Fischer Bobbi Nibbe Miles IntVeld Connie McCoy Peter Fleming 09 Barb Brammer Barbara Cavanaugh James Gland Karen Johnson Jason LaMott Alex Ledo Mike McGrath Samuel Ratcliff Soraya Rothchild Karsen Schlattman Bernie Spaudie Logan Traynor 10 Jon Bloemendal Avery Carr **Richard Gibbs** Emma IntVeld Phyllis Letendre Monica Monson

a

Carver Charlson

Henry Reinhard 11 Victoria Drasher Christian Bettram Faye Coffey Jadyn Norring 12 Joanne Arndt Avery Burger Erik Fog Jason Haberman Alice Jones

Patricia Noren

Jim McCoy Shirley Rodgers Evan Roepke Jesse Stone Deb Stutelberg Daniel Timmers 13 Dan Arend Scott Daniels

Kirsten Holthaus Vicki Hunst Krista de Zeeuw Mia Morgan Sandy Lewis David Mammenga Emily Odegaard Sheila Olson Colin Schlattman 14 Sheryl Arend Peter Cavanaugh Karl Grant Gary Kanne Shanna Salzman 15 Henry Adams Lisa Bloomer Kyle Duffy Alison Glatzmaier Diane Nelsestuen Eric Welsh Jennifer Schmidt Janis Steffel Reighe Nagel Elsie Riehle Larry Wolfgram Debrah Firkus 16 John Wutke Madelon Button Corinne Clifford Collin Hemberger Parker Hines **Boh** Jensen Cameo Kosanke Elizabeth Mortenson Grant Monson Cameron Clarkson Nathan Price Matthew Price 17 Terri Bay Marian Cunningham Christina Dawit Danny Woods Jack Krueger Breck Meissner Karly Shriver 18 Todd Albrecht

- 19 Ann Goodell Devin Gervais Gina Vogelsberg Dick Peterson Christopher Smith Charles Stakston Ellis Swanson 20 Tonya Smith Diane Wollner Tom Crist Edward Allen Stacey Loula Kelly Mack Norma Mackey Rachel Scholz Amanda Schreiner
- 21 Morgan Jenkins Janice Belmonte Zack Beyers Megyn Gillard Lou Greengard Cynthia Gustafson Tracey Jensen Eric Stifter Paul Pfotenhauer Olivia Schouveller Juliana Ruud 22 Jennifer Boudreaux Thomas Freeman Dave Hove Dvlan Jackson Sara Murphy Tom Novak Allayna Pennington Sean Kristiansen Isaac Smith John Waldo Cyprin Wright 23 Jess Blaisdell Tyler Reed Nicholas Reed Kari Robinson Roger Rodgers Mark Rygh Emily Schulze Tessa Score Vivian Thiesse Makayla Peterson 24 Jenna Blass Gwendolyn Bolles Brian Follett Nutzy Golnitz Jan Rowan

Katelyn Ross

Cathy Swenson-Goetz Gladys Keopp Joann Kjelshus Donna Robertson Beverly Manship

- 25 Madonna Barnett Roger Hopke Katie Johnson Anna Severson Mason Aldean Vi Natt Brynley Olafson Jerry Panning Emmit Roepke Cameron Rud Gil Thoele
- 26 Liviah Anderson Tom Charley Derek Decker Taylor Hegna Derek Landsverk Austin Ledo Nicole Nelson Abbey Schwarzenbach Shelby Sadowski
- 27 Julia Burns Kevin Ostrom Tim Reberg Perry Eggers
- 28 Jennifer Carlson Bailey Engen Laura Finell Daniel Matasovsky Michele Murray Grace Nixon Wellington Rothchild Stormi Wood
- 29 Samuel Ankrah Kevin Moquist Sandra Hayden Diana Jensen Nathan Schouvieller Luke Stebbing Steven Vandinburg
- 30 Richard Burt Kelli Isakson William Lund Laurie Muenstermann Annette Ratcliff Pat St. Germain Kallie Spates

- 1 Mark & Debra Benshoof
- 3 Tom & Kaye Christianson
- Wayne & Sharon Fitzenberger 4 Greg & Cindy Johnson
- Richard & Michele Starr
- 7 Wilmer & Louise Holz
- 8 Shawn & Diane Norton
- 9 Gary & Sonya Anderson
- 10 Kelly & Mady Parker
- 11 Harold & Lori Voth
- 12 Randy & Madonna Barnett
- Michael & Laurie Muenstermann 14 Michael & Lisa Karcher
- Tom & Carol Roeller
- 15 Paul & Mary Jeske Don & Mavis McGorman
- 16 Jan & Tamara Karlstrand

Robert & Sandra Petrich Michael & Sue Zabilla Jerry & Terri Swanson Jim & Patricia Noren

Mark Jelinek

Amy Pflieger

Duane Johnson

Kaden Longworth

Alexandra Johnson

& Anniversaries

Mary Law

Brvan Vik

- 17 Jim & Patricia Noren
  18 Jason & Melanie Haberman
- Dick & Janis Maguire Dave & Deb Reynolds Victor & Vivian Thiesse
   Satoru & Hide Sudoh
- 20 Satoru & Hide Sudon
- 21 James & Melissa Butzler22 Tom & Ruth Camilli
- Timothy & Jennifer Beck 23 John & Sharon Baranick
- Ron & Pat Gehring
- 24 John & KC Swanlund
- 25 Joe & Kaye Bradshaw Judy & John Pirkl

- 26 Kevin & Janna Duban Jim & Connie McCoy Tom & Gail Mullaney Matt & Allison Weiss
- 28 Gary & Lee Jorgensen Charles & Renee Kenow Neil & Mary Beth Schwartz Ryan & Brooke Hansen Barrett & Jill Connolly
- 29 Steven & Melissa VanderLouw30 Nathan & Katherine Williams
  - Nathan & Katherine Williams Jean & Bob Everson

- 2 (V) Baptism Class Saturday, 9:30am Contact: Rachel Symmank, 651-730-0847
- 4 (V) Women's Gathering Group Mondays, 12:00pm Contact: Tamara Karlstrand, 651-734-3974
- 6 (V) Women of the Word Wednesdays, 9:15am Contact: Mary Lehman, 651-739-5144
- 6 (O) Wednesday Morning Study Wednesdays, 10:00am Contact: Pastor Derek, 651-739-5144
- 7 (O) Women of the Word Thursdays, 9:15am Contact: Jane Dibbern, 651-739-5144
- 7 (V) Celebrate Recovery Thursdays, 6:30pm Contact: Larry Smith, 651-308-9113
- 14 (V) Open Doors Thursdays Thursday, 5:00pm Contact: Pastor Tim, 651-739-5144 x221
- 14 (V) Career Transition Connection Thursday, 7:00pm Contact: Tom Colosimo, 612-386-3715

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(V) WL Preschool Fundraiser Event Friday, 6:00pm Contact: Lisa Schommer, 651-739-5146

	Su	М	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### April 2016 Calendar Highlights

Want more events? Visit myWLC.org and click on Calendar

Valley Creek Campus (V) 7380 Afton Road Woodbury, MN 55125

Oak Hill Campus (O) 9050 60th Street North Stillwater, MN 55082

St. Croix Campus (S) Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144

Visit us on the web at www.woodburylutheran.org

Woodbury Lutheran Church 7380 Afton Road Woodbury, MN 55125