

THE NEWSLETTER

Woodbury Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2016



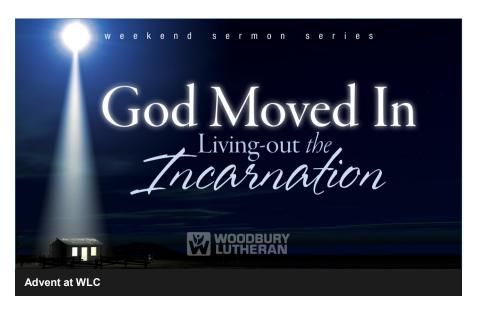
Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!

~ WLC Staff

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God Moved In

Much to my wife Stephanie's chagrin, I really like the snow and cannot imagine a Christmas without the white fluffy stuff. One of the reasons that I love snow so much is because it helps me to relax and take a deep breath. I do not know why this is; perhaps it is the sight of a snowflake slowly floating through the air, but more likely it is the connection to Scripture and the promise that through Jesus my crimson stained sins have been made as white as snow.

This Advent we are going to gather around the theme, *God Moved In* as we look at the Incarnation of Jesus – the truth that in Jesus God took on flesh and became a man. For those who follow Jesus this truth that God came to dwell among us in Jesus makes all the difference in the world.

During the four weekends of Advent we will be sharing some very practical ways for us to respond to the Incarnation by being more intentional in the way we live our lives. In the same way that *God Moved In* we too can Move In to the lives of those around us in such a way that they too can come to hear and know the hope that Jesus alone can offer.

To help make this easier for you we have several easy opportunities where you can invite friends and family to experience Jesus this Season:

- 1. Our annual Christmas Concert held on our Valley Creek Campus on Friday, December 9th at 7:30 pm; Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 pm.
- 2. An expanded Christmas Eve and Day worship schedule. This

- year we will be adding a service the night before Christmas Eve (December 23) at 7:00pm on our Valley Creek Campus as well as a 1:00pm service on Christmas Eve. We will also have a Christmas day service for the first time on our Oak Hill Campus at 10:00am. (See the full Schedule on page 12).
- Grab some Christmas invites on the Welcome Centers and pass them out to anyone who breathes:) You can also follow this handy <u>Link</u> to send an invite electronically.

During this season of great joy and hope may the Holy Spirit be active in and through us, so that others may know the truth that God has moved in.

Peace,
Pastor Tom

Weddings:

Nicole Tobin & Brian Wooton Tabitha Thompson & Patrick Addy

Baptisms:

Lucy Kim Bolles Ethan Paul Gage Evelyn Andrasfi Caden Andrasfi

Deaths:

Kim Sandrock ~ father, Richard Vanderbeck

Lorraine Wohlhuter ~ aunt, Dorothy

Ed Huebsch ~ mother, Ursala

Gene Jones ~ wife, Alice John Swanlund ~ father, Bob

Sherrie Kinmounth ~ father, Thomas Bolstad

Service Times at WLC:

Sundays at Valley Creek:

Sanctuary, Blended 8 & 11am Sanctuary, Contemporary 9:30am

Saturdays at Valley Creek:

Genesis, Contemporary, 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

Phone: (651) 739-5144

Fax: (651) 739-3536

Website www.woodburylutheran.org



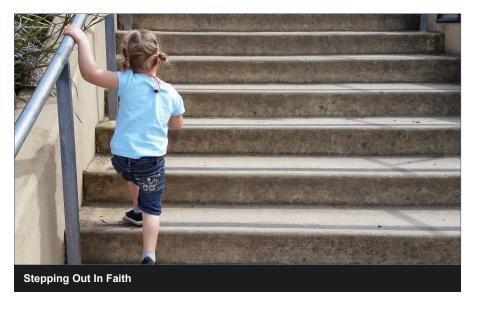
Traveling? Log on and Worship With Us!

And We Are Live...

Woodbury Lutheran is now live streaming worship services from Valley Creek Campus Sunday mornings at 9:30 am and 11 am. This is an amazing opportunity for us to broadcast God's message of salvation to people all around the world by reaching out to people right from their own computer, tablet, or mobile device.

If you are traveling for the holidays you can still worship with WLC! On Christmas Eve there will be three opportunities to worship with us via live streaming at 3 pm, 5 pm, and 11 pm. Consider taking this opportunity to reach out to your family and friends that may not attend Christmas Eve worship ordinarily.

I encourage everyone to share WLC's Live Worship page with friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors. Take this chance to show your loved ones why you are excited about having Woodbury Lutheran as your home and why Christ is your Lord and Savior. You can visit the Live Worship page at www.WoodburyLutheran.org.



Taking A Bold Step

Four years ago we took a step of faith following what we believed was God's call in launching the Oak Hill campus. Over the past 6 months as we have been preparing for the launch of our 3rd site at Liberty Ridge it has sparked in me a lot of the same emotions and anticipation of how God is going to use us once again to bring the Gospel to those who don't know it. Four years ago 69 people took a risk. Kristin and I joined 73 others to form the Oak Hill Campus.

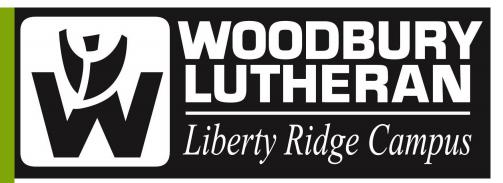
Out of the original 69, 22% headed back to Valley Creek and the other 78% are still active and every one of them is active in serving in some capacity. I am thrilled that 18% of them are taking another step and will be a part of their 2nd campus launch at Liberty Ridge. I have noticed for each person that has taken this step of obedience in the midst of uncertainty, of what this will look like, has grown tremendously in their discipleship walk. I see families more invested, individuals more committed, and bolder steps taken in the discipleship path. What really excites me is how the Holy Spirit continues to use this campus that at one point was 3 months away from closing. In the past 4 years the Holy Spirit has brought 173 new people to be a regular part of our campus.

It's exciting not only to see this growth in numbers but also seeing more and more people take their next step in the discipleship path. Over the past 3 years 8 new small groups have started with over 60% of this campus involved in small groups. Over that same time we have had 78 new servants take on new leadership roles. We have seen our Sunday morning Kids Ministry double and a growing and thriving youth program with an average of 14-16 here each

youth night.

I am filled with great gratitude for the Holy Spirit's movement. Conversations in four years shifted from shutting the doors to trying to solve parking problems on Sunday morning. And, it all started with a request 4 years ago for a group of people to take a risk for the sake of the Kingdom. I can't wait to hear and celebrate what God is going to do at Liberty Ridge. I want to challenge you to consider taking a risk and be a part of something much bigger than your comfort zone. I promise you this, your discipleship will grow and you will have a greater appreciation for God's Kingdom movement. As I look at the pictures on the walls of those who have committed to go, I get excited for each of them knowing how transformational an experience like this will be for them and their family. I along with the 173 new people who have joined us in the discipleship walk at Oak Hill, love that we are a part of a church willing to take risks and get uncomfortable for the sake of the Gospel.

Pastor Derek



Being A Part of Something Bigger

It's hard to believe that the Liberty Ridge campus will start meeting together in less than two months. Time flies. I've been encouraged to see so many people consider Liberty Ridge. We have a group that is right around 90 people right now (adults and kids). It's definitely not too late to start considering being a part of the Liberty Ridge campus. A couple months ago I shared an article with you written by the Sweet family on why they're going to Liberty Ridge. This month I'd like to share with you a short paragraph written by Jack Shaw, a high schooler who is also going to Liberty Ridge. Here's his thoughts on why Liberty Ridge is important:

"God led me from a completely atheist household to the church through his disciples. Not only has He brought me to the church, but He has given me an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself and has given me the opportunity to be a part of Liberty Ridge. This is a chance to help spread the Gospel, and that's something I just can't pass up. 'We walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Corinthians 5:7)."

A few reminders on the Liberty Ridge campus:

- The Liberty Ridge campus is a new campus of Woodbury Lutheran. You'll often hear us talk about it as "A new gathering of Woodbury Lutheran meeting in a new place." That's because Liberty Ridge is still part of Woodbury Lutheran, just like the Valley Creek and Oak Hill campuses.
- The Liberty Ridge campus will be a portable campus meeting at Liberty Ridge Elementary School in southeast Woodbury; yet, the space won't feel portable. Working with a company called Portable Church Industries, we've gone to great lengths with details and planning to create an atmosphere that feels permanent and worshipful.
- Liberty Ridge will begin with a worship service at 10 am. It will be the contemporary style that many of you are familiar with, and it will follow the same sermon series as the other Woodbury Lutheran campuses.
- Kids Ministry will take place from 9:00-9:45 am, separate from worship because of the smaller group. A nursery for children 5 and younger will be available during worship.
- People committing to Liberty Ridge are asked to make the Liberty Ridge campus their regular place of worship and to serve at least once a month (although we realize that some of you simply aren't in the season of your life where you can do that).

If Liberty Ridge isn't your next step, I invite you to think about what God is calling you to next. As some key leaders leave our Valley Creek and Oak Hill campuses, there will be many opportunities for worship and service. However, if you have any questions about the Liberty Ridge campus or are still contemplating helping launch that campus, feel free to talk to me, email me (kuehnej@woodburylutheran.org), or call me (651-739-5144). I'd love to hear from you!

Peace, Pastor Jon

THE UNGONFORTABLE CHRISTMAS



Taken from the December HomeFront Monthly Magazine

GOD'S WORD

Let me paint you a picture of my favorite Christmas Eve tradition: With bellies full of Christmas ham and hearts full from the Christmas Eve service, we make our way to the living room. The fire roars, the hot apple cider steams, and everyone opens a new pair of ridiculous Christmas pajamas. We take way too many pictures, then everyone's phone goes into a box in the kitchen. Distractions removed, we open the Scriptures to Luke and read through the Christmas story. It's a familiar passage, to be sure, but it never ceases to build our sense of longing for the coming King. Under the glow of the Christmas tree, we create our own silent night as we reflect and ultimately give thanks for Immanuel, the God who is truly with us. It's a magical night, really. It's nostalgic, it's cozy, and it is incredibly comfortable.

The irony of my family's tradition struck me recently. In the most comfortable way possible, we remember and celebrate a story wrought with anything but comfort. The more I've looked at the people who played a part in the first Christmas, the more I've realized how each one took significant leaps out of their comfort zones.

Perhaps most noteworthy is Mary, whom we know was a virgin and engaged to be married to a descendant of King David. We can assume that Mary probably came from a hardworking family of humble beginnings. I imagine they probably kept to themselves, a law-abiding clan that did right in the eyes of the Roman Empire and steered clear of all real danger. One Nazareth evening, their behindthe-scenes lives flipped upside down with the angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary would conceive and give birth to a son-the Son of the Most High. Now, if what we've assumed about Mary is true—that she happily flew under the radar-could anything require more faith, more risk, more dependence than miraculously carrying the most polarizing baby in the world's past, present, or future? And yet she responded simply by saying, "I am the Lord's servant. ... May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38).

Then there's Joseph, the descendant of King David we mentioned above. We know Joseph was a righteous man and we can follow his logic in deciding to break his engagement to his virgin-yet-pregnant fiancée. Assuming the worst, Joseph planned to quietly part ways from Mary, not wanting to disgrace her publicly. Considering the options, this surely would have felt like the most comfortable, appropriate course of action. But then an angel of the Lord visited Joseph, too, and God brought this humble man into his role to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.

In the face of every human instinct, of all that was comfortable, and the countless implications that would surely follow, Joseph said, "Yes," to what God asked of him.

We could go on to discuss the shepherds leaving their flocks, the wise men pilgrimaging across great distance, and Jesus' eventual followers willingly abandoning their lives and all they'd known. The point is clear: Jesus was and is not concerned with anyone's comfort. He was not even concerned with His own as He willingly left the Father's side to put on flesh and bone only to pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

In light of this, as Christmas draws near, gather with your loved ones and embrace your familiar traditions of this season. I know I will. But do so remembering the faith, risk, and dependence woven beautifully and consistently throughout this story.

HEAR IT

- Read Luke 2:1-20 together as a family. As you read, stop and talk about each person in this familiar part of God's story. Discuss how they must have felt stepping out of their comfort zones. Share with your children that Luke 1 also tells us that when the angel appeared to Mary she was confused and a little frightened. She even asked, "How will this be?" But as she began to understand what God was asking of her, Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled" (v. 38).
- As a family, do you feel God is calling you to get out of your comfort zone in a specific way?
- If so, how might Mary's response inspire you to action?

DO IT

Inviting people to church can sometimes feel risky and uncomfortable. This Christmas, consider stepping out in faith and inviting others to attend the services at your church—make sure to meet them there, sit with them, and engage them in true friendship moving forward!

by Jeff Gideon

Jeff is the Storytelling Director at ROCKHARBOR Church in Orange County, CA. He also freelances as a storyteller for ministries, non-profits, and other organizations committed to celebrating God's presence in the here and now. He lives with his wife, Cindy, in Dana Point.





Fostering GROWTH

Nurturing **CURIOSITY**

Inspiring
EXCITEMENT
FOR
LEARNING

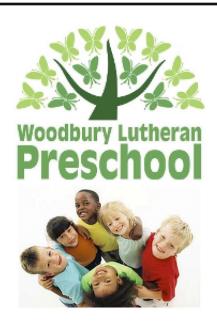
Exceptional Faith based Early Education for...

Terrific Threes
Fantastic Fours
High Fives
Extended Learning (Care) 7:30 AM-5 PM

2017-2018 ENROLLMENT BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 3



651-739-5146 • Call for info. www.woodburylutheran.org



OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 10th 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Learn more ● Tour classrooms ● Meet teachers ●
 Jumpity Jump Bouncers ● Face Painter ●
 Cake Walk ● Popcorn and treats ● Family fun



www.woodburylutheran.org

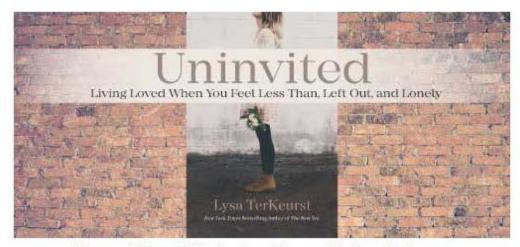


Inspirational music, carols old and new, & classic songs

Friday & Saturday; December 9 & 10 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm

Featuring the Woodbury Lutheran Chorale, Celebration, Praise Band, JuBELLee Ringers, Children's choir, and 30 piece orchestra

Ticket Envelopes (freewill offering) will be available at the Welcome Center (both campuses) beginning November 13



Women's Open Bible Study - Uninvited by Lysa Terkeurst

Starts January 3rd—Tuesday Evenings—6 Weeks

6:30-8:00 Meets in the Paul Room Lower Level

Uninvited reminds us we are destined for a love that can never be diminished, tarnished, shaken, or taken--a love that does not reject or uninvite.

In Uninvited, Lysa shares her own deeply personal experiences of rejection--from the perceived judgment of the perfectly toned woman one elliptical over to the incredibly painful childhood abandonment by her father. She leans in to honestly examine the roots of rejection, as well as rejection's ability to poison relationships from the inside out, including our relationship with God.

Study Guide \$12.99—Register by calling Mary Lehman 651-739-5144 x201 or lehmanm@woodburylutheran.org



Women's Open Bible Study Wednesday Evenings Seamless by Angle Smith Starts February 16...7 Weeks

In seven sessions, Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. You will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God's Word. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies.

Study Guide \$12.99—Register with Mary Lehman 651-739-5144 x201 or lehmanm@woodburylutheran.org

- Julie Fett Elaina Hane Emelia Johnson Robert Kamrath Joseph Kroohn Madeline Taylor
- Mike Anderson Rachel Carr **Edward Dicke** Joel Feldkamp Alison Kurth Samuel Nassios Dillon Kindom Alexandra Retica
- Roxy Bjornson Benjamin Beucler Tatum Brigl Landon Graham Jordan Holmquist Casey Jahn Alen Jepson Jan Karlstrand Ashley Leadens Scott McNally Kimberly Koreltz Shirley Schelling Ethan Stork
- Rich Ahlauist Marie Haukland Lindsey Woods Trinity Hobot Haidyn Kennedy James Manship Nicholas Haut John Horner Parker Krause John Rothchild
- Chelsey Rosemann Carlos Carmona Jake Hove Maxwell Danner Joshua Mertens Jana Moore Katie Peltier Jerry Swanson Catherine Winters
- Ann Crist Beverly Herr Laurel Hannula Kaden Hanson Charles Herian Steve Lindeman

- John Bystrzycki Pixie Anderson Marcie Anderson Lucy Beane Cindy Carmona Keegan Deilke Travis Ginn Joyce Moran
- Fransico Penaloza Matt Christopherson Michelle Devine Scott Tuman Tom Danner Elli LeClair Jerry Rowe Markus Schull Mayonne Benson Kevin Esboldt Jennifer Hamann Lisa Lodermeier Mary Maroney Allison Lyden Mary Zamke Katie Whitemarsh Carol Hadrits Eric Leonard Jan Braun Elijah Bohren Susan Wildman Evan Korsgren Scott Rizzardi Jennifer Achterling Parker Theis David Sabbann Joseph Salava Eric Sandrock Sally Dunn

Mackenzie Gierke

Samuel Larson

Peg Albrecht

Derek Hegna

Shirley Holland

Diann Lindeman

Dick Lindemeier

Charley Pugmire

Brenda Bertram

Becca Hohenstein

Guinevere Marth

Jerry Schmidt

Julie Rist

12

James Iliff

Alyssa Fuller

- Marissa Jagger Carter Kush Steve Lauderbaugh Jan Lyson Sandi Bloomquist Nancy Scanlan Austin Schletty Jacky Stoddard Len Neutz Larry Smith Phyllis Hanggi Lois Carlson Derek Fong Jill Connolly
- Steve Retter Tom Vaaler Mark Wilkie Myia Schuessler Joey Murphy Connor Charlson
- 14 Sue Chad **Brandon Crist** Kenna Bass Katie Dailey Paul Grizzell Elizabeth Leis Chris Kroohn Richard Stehr Don Thaemert Alexander Trujillo Ella Wesser
- Mary Emerson Wes Bolin Gavin Cowles Elise Dittmann **Brad Fisher** Callie Kiedrowski Connie Johnson Lucy Whitemarsh Henry Gimble
- Betty Fockler Charlotte Sonn Aaron Voth Steve Porter Thomas Dahlstrom
- Brad Johnson Gerald Bohrer John McKinley Dawn Radecki Charles McDonald Mark Benshoof Dana Carlson

- Karen Dopson Nicole Gutzmann Gavin Hall Becca Skadsberg Mark Lodermeier Robert Hall Jeff Linert Lila McKinley
- Steven Affield Nancy Dittmer Jessica Jechort Steve Hall Ivy Laney Lucy LeMay Natalie Mack Jonah Niere Marvin Rosen **Kevin Tacheny** Athena Stifter Donna Ignaszewski Francis Oehlke **Brian Cartier** Caden Schlattman Robert Ulrich
- Vonnie Liljedahl Dan Anderson William Conway Gina Kibble Luke Symmank Alexandra Amt **Brody Cattell** Bella Brown Jason Schuldt Joel Lopez
- 21 Shelly Ahlquist Frederick Anderson Sandra Engen Jacob Engen Sharon Fitzenberger Pete Olofson Samuel Opitz Axel Rogotzke Lisa Smith James Jensen Jeffrey Zelinsky Timothy Wolfgram Mackenzie Illiff
 - Eric Fernandez Wayne Franzen Madden Koger Susan Kristiansen Bob Schlichenmaier

- Gavin Graham Tyler Kinmounth Janeth Nicandro Dan Peterson Andrew Treadway Michael Myers
- Anna Cartier Michelle Anderson Nancy Erickson Jared Goerlitz Oliver Herian Brian Mueller Evelyn Peltier Debra Varin Holly Rome Michelle Schneider Deb Varin Ron Vogt
- Carol Doyle Tara Huppert Marissa Montgomery Thomas St. Jacque Marj Starner Shaina Strong Tom Tibbetts Rhonda Topp Elliott Walther
- **Gerald Coates** Michele Atkinson Rajesh Kulandesu Scott Larson Brent Meissner Hunter Parker Steven Spaudie Kristin Retica Linda Tank Lauren Trachy Max Buchholz Nathalie Hauge
- Larry Knoepfel Karen Rheinberger Wendy Sikorski Tim Buchholz Ian Foley

Julie Fisher

Andrew Dolan

Amy Schlichenmaier

- Mark Carlson Rachel Eastenson
- Darlene Vezzoli Justin Gehring Midori Howard

- Drew Lanz Dawn Osladil Laura Harelstad Cassidy Huebner Steve Knutson Harry Rensenbrink Danielle Hoel Arline Kenow Dan Moris Jamie Linert Liz Thompson Ashley Bayless Annmarie Gibbs **Nev Crowther** Trecie Horner Cara Lutes
- Asia Baggenstoss Aiden Loeffler Alicia McGuire Herb Morsching Curtice Rohlfing Tom Roeller Norah Wesser Dean Nadasdy Luke Esala Keelan Gadwa Paula Grohs Beth Heintz Amy Lanz Peter Miner Gerald Moran Maureen Nelson Benjamin Nesvig Jeannie Parks Paul Pflieger Dave Reynolds

30

Julie Gunther Taelyn Albrecht Adrian Kjelshus Sheri Lewis Mary Brandmire Eric Colvin Natalie Feldkamp Rick Hoffman Gavin Johnson Peyten Pfotenhauer Marilyn Ruzich Logan Delaney

Jim Schuster

erso

- Todd & Sheryl Breiholz Owen & Nancy McDonagh
- Dan Quiros & Joyce Biagini 5 Gerald & Joyce Moran
- Patrick & Margaret Claugherty Roger & Cheryl Olstad
- Rick & Diane Theissen 9 Tom & Sara Murphy Jim & Kathie Widen
- 11 Daniel & Lyn Foley Ron Vogt & Shirley Yates
- Jerry & MaryAnne Linser Eldon & Sandra Engen
- 13 Del & Liz Anderson
- 15 Michael & Lori Charron Todd & Jodee Watanabe 17
- 18 Joel & Lucy Mba-Ngué 20 Skip & Kay Peltier
- 22 Robert & Suzanne Horning 23
- Larry & Kally Lombard 26 Marvin & Karen Heaton Dave & Krista De Zeeuw
- Pastor Drew & Ashley Bayless Mike & Debbie Brocker Jim & Madelon Button Donald & Janet Harrison Tim & Nancy Schubbe
- Larry & Pamela Hall Casey & Kristin Charlson Mike & Jan Rygh Jerry & Phyllis Hanggi
- William & Kristi Weichert Jerry & Jan Rowe
- Joel & Rachel Symmank John & Marna Uebler Robert & Jo Youngquist William & Laurie Fredregill David & Beth Johnson Justin & Kelly Mack Steven & Yvonne Neils Jerry & Jeannie Backlund Gerald & Kristine Bohrer Matthew & Julianne Gage

- 1 (0) Women of the Word Thursdays, 10am Contact: Jane Dibbern, 651-739-5144
- 1 (V) Celebrate Recovery Thursdays, 6:30pm Contact: Larry Smith, 651-735-7725
- 3 (V) Baptism Class Saturday, 9:30am Contact: Rachel Symmank, 651-730-0847
- 5 (V) Women's Gathering Group Mondays, 12:00pm Contact: Tamara Karlstrand, 651-734-3974
- 7 (V) Women of the Word Wednesdays, 9:15am Contact: Mary Lehman, 651-739-5144
- 8 (V) Career Transition Connection Thursday, 7:00pm Contact: Tom Colosimo, 612-386-3715
- 8 (V) Open Door Thursday Thursday, 5:00pm Contact: Pastor Tim, 651-739-5144
- 9 (V) WLC Christmas Concert Friday & Saturday, 7:00pm; Sunday, 4:00pm
- 17 (V) Time Away Respite Care Saturday, 4:30pm Contact: Cheri Frost, 651-739-7052

23	(V) Christmas Eve Eve Worship
	Friday, 7:00pm

- 24 (V & O) Christmas Eve Worship Saturday, 1:00pm (V); 3:00pm (V & O); 5:00pm (V & O); 11:00pm (V)
- 25 (V & O) Christmas Day Worship Sunday, 10:00am
- 26 (V & O) Offices Closed All Day
- 31 (O) New Year's Eve Worship Saturday, 5:00pm

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	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 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

Liberty Ridge Campus (L) 11395 Eagle View Blvd. Woodbury, MN 55129

St. Croix Campus (S) Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144

Visit us on the web at www.woodburylutheran.org

Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives.

Woodbury Lutheran Church 7380 Afton Road Woodbury, MN 55125