



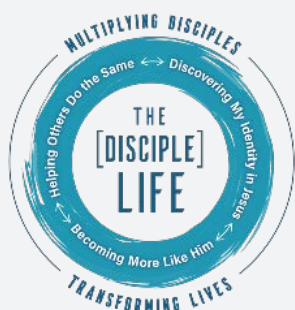
## Christmas Blessings of Love from the WLC Staff

### INSIDE

- A Generous Heart - Pastor Tom Pfothenauer
- Finding Peace in the Season - Pastor Tim Marshall
- You Did it! We Did It! - Bethany Meyer
- Jamaica Short-Term Missions Team - Brad Miller
- FOCUS on Christmas - Patrick Brewer
- Welcome to Our Staff, Nate! - Joel Wetzstein

May the blessing of joy abide within you;  
May the blessing of peace rest upon you;  
May the blessing of love flow out through you;  
May all the blessings of the Lord be yours at  
Christmas and in the new year.

- WLC Staff





# How to Celebrate Christmas with Peace & Joy!

Nancy Schubbe | Director of Kids Ministry

Christmas is exciting for everyone, but no one loves Christmas more than kids! So how do we become intentional about helping our kids understand that it's about the birth of Jesus and not just the presents?

One tradition we had with our kids was that they got interviewed during the Thanksgiving weekend for us to find out their gift wishes. Because my kids got a LOT of gifts from grandparents, cousins, etc. we kept our family gifts to three each year. (The same number that the Magi gave to baby Jesus.) And we had some guidelines: they could choose a book, an item of clothing, and a toy or something they REALLY wanted.

It's great to add some Advent activities to your weeks before Christmas too. Use the Advent Family Activities booklet provided by WLCkids. Watch a Christmas movie like "The Star" which tells the story of the birth of Jesus and read the story of Jesus' birth from the Bible in Luke 2:1-20.

Have a joyous Christmas!

## A Generous Heart

*"Jesus, lead me to listen to your voice and follow you. Amen."*

For two years we have been praying this prayer and God has been answering in incredible ways. Coming out of COVID we felt like God was leading us to step out with a bold vision for ministry in 2022-2023. Our goal was to raise \$9 million dollars to fund ministry where we were:

- Growing in our **Discipleship Impact** by connecting more people to Jesus.
- Expanding our **Missional Reach** through local and global efforts.
- Ready to add another **physical campus** as He leads.
- Completely free **from debt**.

***We are so very close to reaching those goals, but it will take all of us to get there.*** Here are just a few things that have happened because of our generosity:

- Our in-person worship is now averaging over 1350 people.
- Our most recent Pizza with the Pastor had 44 people attend.
- Each of our campuses has seen significant building upgrades.
- Our mission impact has grown locally and globally.
- We are putting money away for our next campus.
- Last year we fully paid off our debt.

To celebrate all that God is doing this Christmas we are committing ahead of time to take a portion of our Christmas offering (around 40k) to cover the cost for a Tiny Home to be built through our ministry partner Settled. As we start our journey to the Inn isn't it fitting that we provide a home for someone who is struggling with housing, but more than that through Settled we help to provide a community so that a person can see that they are loved and valued, that the child in the manger came for them.

***A generous heart that reflects the generosity of our God brings His Kingdom into the world in incredible ways.*** Thank you for being so generous. Let's finish this ministry year strong so that our generosity would be a witness to the world.

With Gratitude,  
Pastor Tom







# Finding Peace in the Season

Pastor Tim Marshall | Care Ministry

This time of year may not always be filled with joy and peace, but you don't have to be alone through the holidays. Join us in worship, where we are surrounded by other believers who can encourage us with God's promises, and if you are desiring a Stephen Minister, feel free to reach out to me. And above all, be in prayer to God. He will give you, His peace.

***Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.***  
- *Philippians 4:6-7*

this world cannot provide. With all that said, and with the joy that is ours this season, the problems and trials of this world can sometimes take our focus off of the peace of the season. Losses can mount, disappointments can linger, and before you know it, rather than experiencing peace and joy, we may not feel like celebrating anything.

Peace and Joy in Christ,  
Pastor Tim Marshall

Don't look now, but Christmas is just around the corner! Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror (even though every day is a day where we give thanks to God) and the excitement of Christmas is nearly here! For many in the world around us, the meaning of Christmas is lost in the busyness of the season. It's about gift giving, not the Gift of God. It's about fun carols about reindeer and snowmen, not singing praises to our Father in Heaven, and His Son Jesus. It's about the things of this world, not the things of God.

But as Christians, we know better. We know about the gift of Jesus and are filled with joy over God's promises. It's hard not to sing praises to God, to worship Him at our various Christmas events this month, and to have a peace that

If you are wrestling with any of this, if you are feeling down more than usual, we are hosting a Blue Christmas Service at our Oak Hill Campus on Wednesday, December 6, at 7 pm, for a service of reflection, encouragement and prayer. In this service, you will be reminded that God is still nearby. If you are looking for something that would be ongoing, a Stephen Minister might be the right person to walk alongside of you as you go through life's challenges. A Stephen Minister is a layperson who has received extensive training in the art of listening, caring and confidentiality. Our Stephen Ministers are available to those who have experienced a loss of any kind, difficult life change or other misfortune that may bring us to low places.



# You Did It! We Did It!

Bethany Meyer | Kids & Youth Ministry, Wakota Ridge and Local Reach Coordinator

2023 held great impact on our community, all thanks to your dedication to REACH out to others in thought, word, and deed. Let's celebrate what God did in and through us:

WLC impacted New Life Family Services through the diaper & bottle drives, Together for Good through backpacks for foster care, Feed My Starving Children through thousands of meals packed, and Valley Outreach through food gathered at our Summer Night In event.

Additionally, at each of our campuses we impacted our local neighbors. Here are some campus highlights:

Valley Creek has continued to invest in Highwood Hills School by providing helping hands and donations for many events throughout the year, such as their STEM education night. There is a group of volunteers delivering Every Meal food bags to students with food insecurity on a weekly basis. And volunteers who gather to help at Open Cupboard regularly.

Oak Hill has continued to collect food for Valley Outreach. The Booyah event raised money for Meals from the Heart. And there has been regular investment in Trinity First Lutheran School (including cross campus effort from volunteers at all 3 campuses) to support weekly lunch needs and maintenance needs.

Wakota Ridge has conducted several food drives for Neighbors Inc., provided helping hands at Kaposia Elementary School for events, and has a group of volunteers delivering Every Meal food bags to students with food insecurity on a weekly basis. Not included in these highlights is the continued

financial and prayer support poured out to all partnerships: Settled, Arrive, LINC, Every Meal, Feed My Starving Children, Mosaic, Oromo Evangelical, Open Cupboard, Valley Outreach, Neighbors Inc., Together for Good, and New Life Family Services. And let us not forget the importance of simply showing up and being present at events such as Summer Night In, National Night Out, Summer Blast, and more, where people were REACHED and cared for.

To each of you who participated and served this year, THANK YOU for reflecting the love of Christ. I'd like to invite you to consider how you might be a part of REACH this next year. Is there a partner you are intrigued by and want to know more? Is there a ministry that interests you and you'd like to join in? Are you feeling nudged to help but don't know where to start? If so, please reach out to me ([meyerb@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:meyerb@woodburylutheran.org)), as I would love to get you connected to current opportunities.

Merry Christmas to you and your family. I am very grateful for you and can't wait to see what God does through us next!



## Pizza with the Pastor

What's your NEXT Step at Woodbury Lutheran? If you're new to WLC and wondering how to get connected into this church family, this is the perfect place to start!

- January 21: all Campuses
- February 18: VC only
- March 17: VC only

**Join us for some pizza, and get connected!**

**[Click here](#)** for registration.



# Jamaica Short-Term Missions Team

Brad Miller | Director of Discipleship & Reach

The team will be SENT from WLC to go as learners during the week of March M-10, 2024... partnering with our friends at Robin's Nest Children's Home.

- The mission of Robin's Nest (RN) is to provide a nurturing, loving, safe, Christ-centered atmosphere in which all children can become the person God intended them to be.

The Team will be supporting the needs of children and staff, encouraging, serving, loving, praying and working on projects as needed.

- Team Leaders: Diane and Steve Hall
- Cost: \$1715
- Open to Adults, college students, youth ages 12+ (with a parent) and 17+ (without a parent)
- Physical requirements: Not have medical issues that will require immediate care (we are remote)
- Lifting a min. of 40 lbs. - No Mobility Limitations
- Handle intense heat
- Deposit: \$150 (non-refundable after acceptance)
- Applications open Dec. 1 through Dec. 22
- Team Trainings are mandatory and start Jan. 7 (Sunday afternoons in Feb. and March)

To apply or for more information go to <https://app.managedmissions.com/MissionApplication/Start/37140>

Potential financial support is available. Contact Brad Miller for more information - [brad@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:brad@woodburylutheran.org)

**NOTE:** two others Short Term Mission Teams are being sent out in the summer of 2024...

- **Ecuador:**

June 17-27

- **Alaska:**

July 12-21

Watch for more information.



## Presence Presents

Sara Mulso | Director of WL Preschool

It's December and that means it's time for Christmas lists! Some of you may remember paging through the Sears catalog and finding those perfect things.

My 11-year-old is getting specific in his "wish" lists for presents. This year's list includes two different pairs of shoes. The 11-year old's feet change sizes every other month. *\*Spoiler alert\** Those expensive name brand shoes you want probably aren't going to be under the tree...sorry kiddo.

When we don't get what we want, what is our response? Do we just take the situation into our own hands? Do we shut down or complain? When we become too independent and are self-sufficient, we can lose our dependency on Jesus. This desire to fulfill our own needs isn't just material things but it can also be how we approach relationships, handle challenges at work, or deal with financial stress.

So where am I going with all of this? In this Christmas season when there is the hustle and bustle of buying the right present, we can get caught up in the consumerism side of Christmas.

Christmas is the opportunity to celebrate God's wonderful gift to us, His son Jesus. But while we journey here on earth, we have another gift. *We can live in Jesus' presence.* To be in His presence, to be in prayer without ceasing, gives us far more than the material things of this world. In Hebrews 4:16 we read "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

As you celebrate this Christmas season, my prayer is that you find joy in the presence of Jesus. The amazing gift of being in His presence is that it is available during this busy Christmas season and throughout the year!



## FOCUS on Christmas

Patrick Brewer | Director of High School Youth Ministry

Has a friend or family member ever compared you to a golden retriever? Probably not, but it has happened to me...and not just once. With that self-deprecating fun-fact out there, I want to share that the WLCYouth Wednesdays just wrapped up a series that I needed to hear as much as I needed to teach it. Our **“FOCUS”** series reminded and invited us to keep our eyes on Jesus, and to live the Disciple life, even in a world that is so busy, confusing, and distracting.

The reminder to refocus on Jesus is a helpful message any day of the year, but especially as we step into this Christmas season. We all know that “Jesus is the reason for the season”, but we also know that it’s not that easy to make him the FOCUS of the season. Our December calendars and to-do lists are jam packed with decorating, shopping, cooking, travel planning, family gatherings, traditions, concerts, parties, and a million other things that need to be done. Our pursuit of the “perfect Christmas” doesn’t leave much wiggle room to pause and reflect on the fact that our God became flesh to live with us and to save us.

It makes me think of another Mary that doesn’t make an appearance in your nativity set. In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus visits the house of Mary and Martha. If you’re familiar with the story, you know that Martha is caught up in the task of hosting such an important guest, while her sister Mary chooses to sit at Jesus’ feet. Jesus uses two words to describe the sisters’ focuses in his time with them... “listening” and “distracted”

It certainly is easy to be the latter of those two, isn’t it? Martha’s approach makes sense, doesn’t it? Stuff needs to get done! But as followers of Jesus, sitting and listening to him is far more valuable. There is nothing better for us than to use this season to discover our identity in Christ, to become more like him, and to help lead others (including the young people entrusted to us) to do the same!

So as impossible as it sounds, I want to encourage you to take a 30-minute pause sometime in the next 24 hours to refocus before launching towards the 25th. Put everything on hold and simply sit at the feet of Jesus. Use the prompts below if they’re helpful.

- What does Jesus’ coming to this

earth tell you about who God is and what he’s like? What does it tell you about who you are?

- What potential distractions does this season hold? How can you right-size those? How can you invite Jesus into them?
- What opportunities does this season have for you to discover your identity in him, and to become more like him?
- How can you help others do the same? How can God use you to point your family and those closest to you to encounter Jesus right now?

I pray that you and your family would be focused on Jesus and will find delight in living the Disciple Life this Christmas season! Check [wlc.church](http://wlc.church) or the planning center app for ways you and yours can **FOCUS** on Jesus and let us know if there are other ways we can help!



# Welcome to Our Staff, Nate!

Friends & Family of Woodbury Lutheran Church - it is with great excitement and joy that I introduce to you our newly appointed Wakota Ridge Worship Leader- the talented and passionate Nate Sabin!

Nate's journey in the world of worship and music is nothing short of inspiring. With a title that encapsulates his multifaceted role, Nate brings a wealth of experience and a heart dedicated to the art of worship. His official designation, "Wakota Ridge Worship Arts Leader / Studio & Songwriter Director," only scratches the surface of the depth and breadth of his musical endeavors.

Nate's musical prowess extends far beyond the walls of our church, as he has played a pivotal role in producing recordings for numerous well-known Christian artists and bands. His compositions have not only graced stages worldwide but have reverberated through congregations, creating an atmosphere of worship that transcends boundaries. Yet, what truly sets Nate apart is his genuine love for hearing his songs sung in harmony by friends, family, and the local congregations right here in our hometown.

At the core of Nate's journey is a profound love for Jesus, mirrored in the sincere and soulful expressions found in his music. A lover of the arts, Nate is known to savor a nice spicy hot chai latte, a reflection of the warmth and vibrancy he brings to his craft. Beyond the studio and stage, Nate's heart is woven into the fabric of his family - Lori, his true love, their two children, Greyley & Indigo, and their rescue dog, Winston.

"I've spent most of my life making music and wrestling with God (I think He's finally winning)," Nate confesses with a hint of humor and humility, showcasing a journey marked by authenticity and spiritual exploration. His earliest memories find him at the foot of his bunk bed,

crafting melodies that would become the foundation of his artistic expression - a safe space where he could pour out his honest heart.

Returning to his home state of Minnesota years ago, Nate embarked on a path that led him to marry his true love and to serve as a part-time worship leader in a small church on St. Paul's Eastside. In this setting, he initiated a gospel youth choir, mentored aspiring musicians, and worked tirelessly to redefine the repertoire and relevance of church music. Through these experiences, Nate discovered the profound impact of worship, transforming it from a job into a calling and a passionate focus.

Nate's commitment extends beyond the stage, as he dedicates himself to equipping churches, worship leaders, pastors, and worshippers with songs, support, teaching, and inspiration. His belief in the power of worship to create a space where everything is possible fuels his desire to guide others on their journey into the heart of God.



## Thanks Erin!

Erin Bowes is deeply connected to Woodbury Lutheran Church. She attended our preschool, was part of WLCkids and WLCyouth, and has been part of our worship department since she was in high school serving first as a volunteer in the Genesis services, then in the sanctuary services, and most recently at Wakota Ridge where she has served on staff as the Wakota Ridge worship leader. She has shared her musical and other creative gifts so generously with our congregation.

Now we have to say goodbye as Erin, her husband Calvin, little Aria, and baby-on-the-way are moving to the Duluth area for Calvin's job. But the Kingdom of God is wide and we know she will have the opportunity to serve from her gifting wherever the Lord leads. Go with God, Erin, and family, in his grace and peace. We are grateful that God brought us together as a family of faith. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us!

# Valley Creek Campus Update

Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year, and there is so much excitement surrounding this Christmas season here at Valley Creek as we look back at this last month and look forward to the end of the year.

God was so clearly working through WLC this last month. The month kicked off with four children being baptized and welcomed into the family of God on the first Sunday of November. Then, we got to witness God's love for the little children extend outward as the Valley Creek campus hosted the Feed My Staving Children meal packing event. 596 kids now have access to a healthy meal for an entire year! In addition, God is drawing new people to Valley Creek and helping them get connected as we had nearly 44 people at our last Pizza with the Pastor. I am humbled to watch the power of God flowing through this place and transforming lives!

We also are excited about the most recent updates to our WLC Preschool. We were able to add additional bathrooms and more secure entrances to the preschool. We are thankful that we can provide a safe and secure environment for our preschool kids to learn and grow together. We also praise God for the growth that the preschool continues to experience! Our staff got to spend a morning handing out treats to the kids for Halloween. It is awesome to see the incredible preschool staff that God has assembled here to pour into the kids. If you have a chance, make sure to share your appreciation to these folks whenever you see them around, because they are being the hands and feet of Christ to these kids!

Looking ahead, the excitement is continuing to ramp up at Valley Creek as we enter this Christmas season. It all kicks off with our annual All-Campus Christmas Tree Lighting event on Dec 1 at the Valley Creek campus. This fun event will begin at 6pm with warming up by outdoor fire pits, photo booths, ornament cre-

ation stations, a gift market that benefits our mission partners, treats, hot cocoa, and more! Then, the main event will start at 7pm in the sanctuary with incredible music and lots of laughs as we kick-off this Christmas season together and light the tree! This is an easy event to invite friends, neighbors, and coworkers to, so continue to pray about who God might be leading you to reach out to!

The culmination of the Christmas season at Valley Creek ends with our Christmas Eve services at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, and 11pm, as well as our Christmas Day service at 10am. There is so much work being put into the music, messages, and decor for this event to deliver an incredible worship this Christmas. We can't wait to worship with you all!

Every single one of us was created to be filled with the hope that Jesus Christ brings, and our prayer is that whichever campus you attend this Christmas, you would be reminded that Jesus came down into your darkness to deliver the hope that you are longing for.

Pastor Daniel Langewisch  
Valley Creek Campus Pastor



**FINANCIAL  
PEACE**  
*University*

## Financial Peace University 2024

Join us...

- Sundays: 3:00-4:30pm beginning January 14 for 9 weeks at the Valley Creek Campus; chidcare is provided.
- Costs: \$59.99
- Class facilitators: Jake & Tara Dalbec, Margaret Koeritzer, Emily & Matthew Fowler
- What's Included in a Financial Peace University: Membership FPU Workbook; One year of Financial Peace University online access; Three Months of the Premium Version of EveryDollar Live Group Financial Coaching

- Registration open December 3
- Register here: <https://woodburylutheran.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2036462>
- Contact Brad Miller for more information... [brad@Woodburylutheran.org](mailto:brad@Woodburylutheran.org)



# December Birthdays

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1 James Bogert<br>Kathy Coleman<br>Bob Kamrath<br>Joe Kroohn<br>Tiffany Perlt<br>Madeline Taylor<br>Nathaniel Zurn                           | Benjamin Clappier<br>Sally Dunn<br>Carol Hadrits<br>Bauer Johnson<br>Sam Larson<br>Joseph Salava<br>Susan Wildman                                   | Harper Casselberry<br>John Jeevanandam<br>Brad Johnson<br>Chuck McDonald<br>Paisely Pearson<br>Dawn Radecki                                | Maximus DeCoteau<br>Brent Meissner<br>Kristin Retica<br>Linda Tank   |
| 2 Cora Clifford<br>Joel Feldkamp<br>Alison Kurth<br>Samuel Nassios<br>Peter Pontius<br>Alexandra Retica                                      | 11 Peg Albrecht<br>Brenda Bertram<br>Diann Lindeman<br>Dick Lindemeier<br>Becca Hohenstein<br>Jerry Schmidt   | 18 Wendy Connell<br>Karen Dopson<br>Jeff Linert  | 27 Andrew Dolan<br>Nova Everson<br>Julie Fisher<br>Troy Hanisch<br>Nathalie Hauge<br>Tina Raasch<br>Wendy Sikorski   |
| 3 Ben Beucler<br>Roxy Bjornson<br>Tatum Brigl<br>Jan Karlstrand  | 12 Sandi Bloomquist<br>Delford Bystzycki<br>Michelle Hawkinson<br>Marissa Jagger<br>Carter Kush<br>Steve Lauderbaugh<br>Jan Lyson<br>Jacky Stoddard | 19 Steve Hall<br>Donna Ignaszewski<br>Layla Kennedy<br>Lucy LeMay<br>Natalie Mack<br>Caden Schlattman                                      | 28 Brooks Anderson<br>Benson Berg<br>Danielle Hoel<br>Midori Howard<br>Cassidy Huebner<br>Steve Knutson<br>Jamie Linert-Arnold<br>Dan Moris<br>Dawn Osladil<br>Liz Thompson<br>Abner Williams<br>Alliette Williams |
| 4 Marie Haukland<br>John Horner<br>Hayden Kennedy<br>Parker Krause<br>Colton Vopat   | 13 Lois Carlson<br>Connor Charlson<br>Derek Fong<br>Steve Retter<br>Myia Schuessler<br>Tom Vaaler   | 20 Dan Anderson<br>Brody Cattell<br>Vonnice Liljedahl<br>Jason Schuldt<br>Luke Symmank   | 29 Finnick Bogert<br>Trecie Horner<br>Elyse Ko<br>Aiden Loeffler<br>Alicia McGuire<br>Herb Morsching<br>Tom Roeller<br>Norah Wesser  |
| 5 Carlos Carmona<br>Max Danner<br>Cindy Kuhn<br>Ben Stakston<br>Jerry Swanson  | 14 Kenna Bass<br>Brandon Crist<br>Katie Dailey<br>Chris Kroohn<br>Ethan Sigstad<br>Dick Stehr<br>Alexander Trujillo<br>Ella Wesser                  | 21 Frederick Anderson<br>Sandy Engen<br>Sharon Fitzenberger<br>Jimmy Jensen<br>Pete Olofson<br>Axel Rogotzke<br>Lisa Smith<br>Tim Wolfgram | 30 Paula Dikken<br>Harper Frechette<br>Kaitlyn Gerber<br>Beth Heintz<br>Kevin Kachal<br>Peter Miner<br>Dean Nadasdy<br>Maureen Nelson<br>Lucas Pillman   |
| 6 Ann Crist<br>Beverly Herr<br>Steve Lindeman<br>Jim Tobin   | 15 Wes Bolin<br>Mary Emerson<br>Brad Fisher<br>Debbie Fleming<br>Keegan Lien<br>Lucy Whitemarsh   | 22 Larry Hinkelman<br>John Muse  | 31 Mary Brandmire<br>Rick Hoffman<br>Sheri Lewis<br>Josiah Corredor Parker<br>Peyten Pfothenauer   |
| 7 Marcie Anderson<br>Pixie Anderson<br>Lucy Beane<br>Cindy Carmona<br>Keegan Deilke<br>Joyce Moran<br>Francisco Penaloza<br>Finnley Stakston | 16 Elaine Easley<br>Betty Fockler<br>Luca Johnson<br>Jill Olson<br>Charlotte Sonn<br>Diana Vander Pas<br>Nicholas Wolsky                            | 23 Tyler Kinmounth<br>Michael Myers<br>Janeth Nicandro   |  |
| 8 Tom Danner<br>Elli LeClair<br>Jerry Rowe   | 17 Jerry Bohrer   | 24 Jared Goerlitz<br>Lucille Johnson<br>Brian Mueller<br>Debra Varin<br>Ron Vogt   |  |
| 9 Mayonne Benson<br>Jenny Hamann<br>Mary Maroney<br>Katie Whitemarsh<br>Mary Zarnke  |   | 25 Alayah Anderson<br>Carol Doyle<br>Thomas St. Jacques<br>Marj Starnier<br>Shaina Strong<br>Tom Tibbetts<br>Rhonda Topp                   |  |
| 10 Elijah Bohren<br>Jan Braun  |   | 26 Michele Atkinson<br>Mark Carlson<br>Emmanuel Choragudi<br>Gerald Coates   |  |

## December Anniversaries

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Bradley & Amie Butler<br>Weston & Kristin Johnson                        | 17 Steve & Angie Lauderbaugh<br>Todd & Jodee Watanabe                  | Robert & Jo Youngquist   |
| 2 Todd & Sheryl Breiholz<br>Owen & Nancy McDonagh                          | 19 Steve & Shannon Schach  | 30 Austin & Megan Dyck<br>Steven & Yvonne Neils                                    |
| 4 Dan Quiros & Joyce Biagini   | 20 Larry & Judy Poss   | 31 Jerry & Jeannie Backlund<br>Gerald & Kristine Bohrer<br>Matthew & Julianne Gage |
| 5 Joshua & Allison Miller  | 26 Marvin & Karen Heaton   |  |
| 6 Paul & Marlys Kuehnast<br>Roger & Cheryl Olstad<br>Rick & Diane Theissen | 27 Mike & Debbie Bocker<br>Don & Janet Harrison<br>Tim & Nancy Schubbe |  |
| 11 Ron Vogt & Shirley Yates  | 28 Casey & Kristin Charlson<br>Mike & Jan Rygh                         |  |
| 13 Del & Liz Anderson<br>Eldon & Sandy Engen                               | 29 Jerry & Jan Rowe<br>Joel & Rachel Symmank<br>John & Marna Uebler    |  |
| 15 Mike & Lori Charron   |  |  |

# Church Council Update November 2023

*In order to continue to grow in our communication to the congregation, each month we will share an update from the previous month's Council meeting. Full minutes can be found [HERE](#) after the 10th of each month. After you click the link, scroll down to Council Minutes section.*

**Woodbury Lutheran Church - Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**  
**6:30-8:30am**

## Meeting Highlights

### Financial Report:

Mike presented the outline for our 2024 budget. We have made some significant changes to the format to better align with our EOS Accountability chart and to continue to make sure that expenses are aligned in the correct line item. We are looking to budget a 1-3% increase for the 2023 operating budget. As in years past, a large portion of the budget is allocated to staffing, buildings, and missions.

### EOS Operating System:

With the Council's blessings we are knee deep in implementing the EOS organizational operating system. We are finalizing our accountability chart, staff values, focus/vision and short term/long term goals. We are very excited to share this change with the congregation in January at our Annual Meeting.

### Council Advisory Teams:

The Financial Advisory Team met and will continue to serve as an advisory group for Mike, Tom, and the Council. The Governance Ministry Action Team is up and running with the primary focus of reviewing the Constitution and making recommended changes that the congregation will eventually have to vote on. This team is made up of Ann Baumann, Linda Tank, John Kuhrmeyer, Frank Janssen and Pastor Tom.

### Sr. Pastor Report:

We are seeing a great rebound and growth in our in-person worship attendance and are excited about the way people are responding to our messages. The state of the LCMS continues to be in heavy decline with roughly 4500 of our 6000 congregations worshipping 100 or fewer people as compared to 2500 in 2002.



## Meeting Highlights

### Call to Order & Quorum Determination

### Devotions/Prayer

### Consent Agenda

- October Meeting Minutes
- October Financial Report

### Discussion Topics

- 2024 Budget
- EOS Planning Process
- Financial Advisory Team Update
- Constitution and Policies MAT Update

### Senior Pastor Report

- Monthly Report
- 2023 WLC Christmas
- LCMS Church Statistics 2002-2022

### Closing Prayer

### Adjourn

## Worship

### Online

Sundays @ 9:00am, 10:30am  
Watch the Livestream at  
[Live.WLC.Church](https://www.wlcchurch.com)

### In-Person

Sundays @ 9:00am (OH, WR & VC)  
Sundays @ 10:30am (OH & VC)

**Please visit our website for up-to-date worship information at [WLC.Church](https://www.wlcchurch.com)**

## Baptisms

Matilda Quinn Schaefer  
Matthew Nicholas DePalma  
Dylan Zell  
Hannah Zell  
Camilla Juanita Georgi Martinez  
Rory Mary Charlson  
Whitley Walter Neilson  
Timothy Thomas Gockowski

## Deaths

Shirley Engen  
Laverne Krummell  
RoseMary Marschinke, aunt of Greg Lewis, Jean Warren, mother of Sheri Lewis  
Mary Kivi, aunt of Sheri Lewis  
Joyce Luttinen, aunt of Sheri Lewis  
Kathy Schwartz, sister of Steve Schwartz  
Joyce Gehl, sister of Twyla Franzen  
Merle Allers, sister of Sally Dunn  
Marvin Laack, father of Sue Styba





## Staying Connected

### Ready to Take Your Next Step?

The WLC Connection Center is available to help you determine what your next step might be on the Discipleship PATH. Whether you want to explore options or you already know what your next step will be, our Connectors would love to help. The Connection Center staff at each of our campuses is available for each worship service. Come and say Hi!

### Stock Donations

There are many different ways to donate time, talents, and treasures to Woodbury Lutheran Church. One way some members choose to donate is through the transfer or donation of stocks. If you have questions or would like more information on how to donate stock, please contact Trecie Horner at 651-731-3349.

### Monday Afternoon Women's Ministry

Would you be willing to knit or crochet shawls, soft chemo/Neuro surgery caps or baby caps/afghans which would be given to someone who is experiencing a life trauma, an illness, or loss? We would love to have you join us on Monday afternoons at the Valley Creek Campus at 1:00pm, or bring your completed items to us at the Valley Creek Campus. Call Shirley (651) 276-7224 or email [sungrams1@gmail.com](mailto:sungrams1@gmail.com) for more info on how to be connected with this ministry.

### Joyful January - CANCELED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this year's session of Joyful January has been canceled. If you have questions, please contact Brad Miller at [brad@woodburylutheran.org](mailto:brad@woodburylutheran.org)

### WLCyouth Wednesdays

Wednesdays at VC and OH and on Sundays at WR are in full swing! There is no wrong time to jump into these groups! [Click here](#) to learn more about both and to register for a year of connection, discipleship growth, and fun!

## Generosity at WLC



CHURCH CENTER  
APP



ONLINE AT  
WLC.CHURCH



MAIL



ACH



OFFERING  
PLATE



STOCKS

# December 2023 Calendar

## **1 (V) All Campus Christmas Tree Lighting Event**

Friday, 6:00pm

## **2 (V) Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study**

Saturdays, 7:00am

Contact: Jeff Linert  
651-387-9428

## **2 (O) Men's Bible Study**

Saturdays, 8:00am

Contact: Pastor Dean  
651-739-5144 x331

## **2 (V) Baptism Class**

Saturday, 9:30am

Contact: Rachel Symmank  
651-472-1975

## **3 (O,V,W) WLCKids**

Sundays, 9:00am

Contact: Nancy Schubbe  
651-739-5144 x203

## **3 (V) WLCKids**

Sundays, 10:30am

Contact: Nancy Schubbe  
651-739-5144 x203

## **4 (V) Monday Men's Study**

Mondays, 10:45am

Contact: Pastor Tim  
651-739-5144 x221

## **4 (V) Ladies' Gathering Group**

Mondays, 1:00pm

Contact: Shirley Mertens  
651-276-7224

## **5 (V) WLC Choir Rehearsal**

Tuesdays, 7:00pm

Contact: Stephanie Pfothenhauer  
561-504-5164

## **6 (O) Pastoral Bible Study**

Wednesdays, 10:00am

Contact: Pastor Dean  
651-739-5144 x331

## **6 (O,V) WLCyouth Group**

Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Contact: Lindsey Schmidt  
651-739-5144 x219

## **6 (O) Blue Christmas Service**

Wednesday, 7:00pm

Contact: Pastor Dean  
651-739-5144 x331

## **7 (V) Celebrate Recovery**

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Contact: Larry Smith  
651-308-9113

## **10 (O) Living Nativity**

Sunday, 4:00pm

Contact: Pastor Dean  
651-739-5144 x331

## **21 (V) All Campus Traveling Christmas Service**

Thursday, 7:00pm

## **24 (O, W) Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, 1:00pm & 3:00pm

## **24 (V) Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, 1:00pm, 3:00pm & 5:00pm

## **24 (V) All Campus Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, 11:00pm

## **25 (V) All Campus Christmas Day Worship**

Monday, 10:00am

## **25 (O, V, W) WLC Offices Closed**

Monday, All Day

## **26-29 (O, V, W) WLC Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am - 2:00pm

## **31 (V) New Year's Worship Service**

Sunday, 9:00am

# WLC NEWS LETTER

Looking for something else?

Visit [wlc.church](http://wlc.church)

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

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

Wakota Ridge Campus (W)  
255 W Douglas Street  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Afton Land  
12122 40th Street South  
Afton, MN 55001

(651) 739-5144  
Visit us on the web at  
[wlc.church](http://wlc.church)

Woodbury Lutheran Church  
7380 Afton Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125

*Multiplying Disciples // Transforming Lives*