

Revisiting Luther League A new organization for Oak Grove

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Revisiting Luther League???

Yes, that was a long time ago, but after visiting with several members of the congregation, a theme has arisen around the desire for a specific ministry for those ranging in age from 60-70 (give or take a few years). It seems that there is a hope for intentional conversations, book studies, and fellowship that responds to the various spiritual needs of this particular age group.

Co-leading with our intern, Leslie, will be Pam Lindquist, long-time member of Oak Grove and a certified, Spiritual Director. Pam co-facilitated the “Be Still and Know” retreat last spring and has a strong interest in the spirituality of aging and various prayer practices. Together, let’s take a look at what new challenges and opportunities arise in these years, see how God is active in them. . .and enjoy them!

If you identify with others in this age range, please join us in the Fire Side Room on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. For more opportunities, we will schedule a day trip or two in and around the Twin Cities to explore other ways in which God is calling us. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

Following each meeting, all are welcome to gather for the Wednesday evening Suppers for continued fellowship, the meal is served at 5:45 and ends when the Confirmation classes, choirs and bells begin, so that if you are involved in any of these activities, you will be free to continue your already scheduled events.

Won’t you come and see what God is up to in your life and in the lives of others?

Annual Congregational Meeting

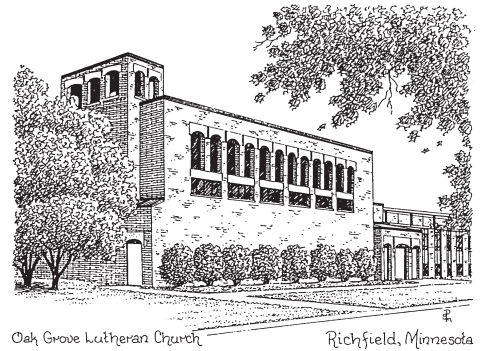
Sunday, January 29, 2012

8:30 – 9:15 - Worship

9:25-11:05 - Congregational Meeting

11:15 – Worship

12 noon – Lunch and Youth Fundraiser



January 2012

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January Birthdays

- 3 – Kendra Kvamme, John A. Zarth
- 4 – Agnes Becker, Andrew Koppang
- 5 – Madison Andrews, Brad Dimond,
Kari Meyer
- 6 – Charles Wright
- 7 – Rachel Anderson, Steve Benzschawel,
Harold Swanson
- 8 – Sharon Anderson, Jay Hauser
- 9 – Kjersten Brehmer, Amy Hero Jones,
David Tvete, Kelsie Whited
- 10 – Phil Blades, Maisie Ebert, Lois Quam
- 13 – Karen Pettit, Donna Wold
- 14 – Kelly Berg, Clarence Francis, Ryan Hinton,
Rev. Duane Olson, Brad Sveum
- 15 – Emily Olson
- 18 – Thomas Olson, Moreau Sankey,
Amanda Tveite
- 19 – Jennie Moe
- 20 – Ryan Gerdes, Kelli Olson
- 22 – Vivian Stromback, Shirley Tedamson
- 23 – Hadley Barrows, Terry Hauser
- 25 – Eileen Carlton, Nicole Hanson, Kyle Sunne
- 27 – Honnie LaDue
- 28 – Amanda Boldt, Kayla Brehmer, Bob Meinke,
Todd Refsal, Laura Thompson
- 29 – Bret Behnke, Patrick Grob, Kim
Grussendorf, Ardelle Olson, Char Suneson
- 30 – Darrin Christenson, Scott Longley, Jesse
Severson
- 31 – Virginia Hillbery

Do you have questions about church, theology, the Bible, the history of the church?
ask.dr.dana01@gmail.com

Circle Meetings for January

All Circles will meet the first Tuesday of the month, January 3, unless otherwise indicated:

Esther – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Hostess is Carolyn Aura.

Katherine – 1:30 p.m. at Miriam Haines,
6615 Lake Shore Drive #117

Lydia Ruth – at 7 p.m

Rebecca – 9:30 a.m. at Gladys Krohn's home,
7500 York, Apt. 323.



Spotlite on Women

Treasurer's Report: I'm glad to announce that our WELCA Sunday in November enabled us to send the ELCA \$953.53. We thank all ladies who were able to take part, we are grateful.

It sure was good to get some of our Christmas cards signed and mailed at last month's 'Girls Night Out'. The piano carols played by Pam Gmitro were beautiful - thank-you Pam!

We have another event scheduled this month on the second Thursday, January 12 @ 6:30pm with Bonnie Oien and her Lefse recipe.

May God Bless us all.

Dawn Sankey, WELCA Secretary

CORRECTION to Recipe in Women of Oak Grove Cookbook

If you have the recently released cookbook, please make the following correction:

MANDARIN SALAD by Elaine Hafertepe
Add an additional 4 TBLS of sugar to the main ingredients; then put sugar in heavy fry pan, add almonds. Continue with recipe as printed.



Deaths

We extend our sympathies to the following families:

Eric Klein, husband of Morva, who died
November 27th.



Mark, a true story

On Sunday mornings around here we've been on a pretty rapid journey through the Old Testament. Experimenting with a "Narrative Lectionary" since September, we've taken to focusing on a single story from the Bible every week. We started off, quite literally, "In the beginning..." with the creation story, and moved over the weeks hearing tales about God's people from Abraham to Moses, Ruth to Solomon, and a handful of the prophets that led us to the last book of the Old Testament and Malachi's words about a coming Messiah. That's a lot of territory to cover; spanning maybe 2000 years from the calling of Abraham to the time Malachi's prophecy came true.

After Christmas we're going to noticeably slow things down. From New Year's Day through Easter we're going to walk our way through the story of Jesus by reading most all of the Gospel of Mark. We've read from Mark in church over the years, of course. In the traditional "3-year Lectionary" Mark is highlighted every 3rd year,

although it skips around a bit: chapters 1 and 13 for Advent, chapter 16 for Easter, chapters 2-7 during the summer, and chapters 11 and 12 during the fall. I think it will be a different experience for us to read it through – beginning to end.

Maybe some of you remember, years ago we had an actor come and "perform" Mark for us. In the small space of our chancel with only a small table for a prop and a copy of the Gospel in case he lost his place, he told us the story as it's written. I remember it was a compelling, powerful presentation simply because the story itself is powerful and compelling. From the announcement of his arrival at the beginning, to his controversial ministry in Galilee that won him both fame and opposition, to his riddle-like teachings about God's kingdom, to the final confrontation in Jerusalem that led to his death and a surprise ending, the story of Jesus is not just a good story, well-told. It's powerful enough even to create faith in us. I'm looking forward to the journey.

Pastor Tom Zarth

Note of Thanks.

Thank you to the Oak Grove family for your thoughts, prayers, and support throughout Lynn's illness and to all of those who attended her services and/or gave memorial gifts in her honor.

We are making arrangements to use her memorials to support Oak Grove programs that were important to her, including the music and youth ministries, Loaves & Fishes, and the Missions Endowment Fund.

Our deepest gratitude to Pastor Tom and our intern Leslie for their reassuring presence at the hospital; it was especially meaningful to have Pastor Tom there during the final hours.

Thank you to Morva for providing the beautiful piano and organ music for the memorial service, to Pastor Tom for officiating, and to the Lydia-Ruth Circle for the post-service luncheon.

We continue to request your prayers as we transition to life without Lynn and we look forward to the day when we will be reunited with her and all the saints

Tom (Stertz), Erin & Sarah

Oak Grove's Talent Show

Our Annual Talent Show will be coming up on Friday, January 27th at 7:00 pm – be sure to put this on your calendar!

If you're interested in sharing your talent and personality with us, please contact Del Hamaker at (612) 807-8111.

Monday evening Bible Study resumes on January 9th from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. They will be studying the book of Exodus led by David Pettit. If you have any questions, feel free to contact him at dpettit@mybwbank.com or at 612-599-0537.

Let's Play the Feud. . .

Name a reason you don't want to get out of bed in the morning....

Name a crisp food.....

Name something you worry about losing.....

Think you can list more than one answer to these questions? If so, then it is time for you to find others as smart as you to join your team for the first-ever Oak Grove Family Feud.

Mark your calendars and form your team. On January 29, the Youth Campers from Oak Grove will host the Family Feud Game Show, Soup Lunch and Dessert Auction as a fundraiser to help pay for camp costs at Wapo or Castaway.

Up to eight teams will compete in the event for the title of Oak Grove Family Feud Champ. Sorry, no cash prizes at this event – it is a FUNdraiser. You will, however, own bragging rights to the championship. Don't feel like competing? Than stay for lunch, bid on a dessert or two and be a part of the audience to watch the fun. All events are being planned for Paulson Hall (the gym), so there will be plenty of room for all to join the fun.

The event will start with a soup and bread lunch starting at 11:00 (after the annual meeting) and serving until after the second service (app. 12:30). The Feud will start sometime shortly after the second service. During the event, we will also hold the first ever Oak Grove Dessert Auction. Dessert items, brought by Our

Oak Grove Youth Campers and their families will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The winner will be allowed to take their dessert home or if desired, share it at the event.

Starting in January, watch for youth to staff tables in the narthex to sign up your team. Teams should be at least 3-6 players, any age, although 5th grade is the recommended minimum. Also, stop by the table to pick up a questionnaire to be used in the game. The answers you provide will be used in the game.

Campers, you can participate by bringing a dessert for the auction (one per camper, serving at least 6 people). Suggestions include (but not limited to) pies, cakes of any size, tortes, cheesecakes, plates of cookies or bars, cupcakes, baklava, etc. Desserts can be homemade or purchased and will need to be brought to church by 10:00 the morning of the event so that they can be displayed for presale viewing. Please package your dessert in a disposable container as it is to be auctioned off.

Campers will also be asked to work at the event, helping to set up, serve food, clear tables, and clean up after the event. You will have time to participate in the Feud if you are on a team.

Questions, please contact Kris Brehmer, Kathie Curry or Michele Myroniuk.

Mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, January 29 (no football that day) and let's Play the Feud.

Kitchen Konnection

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

As I begin to write this morning, I actually find myself at a loss for words. What do you suppose professional writers do for 'writer's block'? I guess that every writer (pro or not) has to find there inspiration to force them through those blocks. And, so I realize as I continue to write that 'you' are my inspiration... my Oak Grove Family. My family & I thank you for the love & support that we have received through the years, especially this past year through the loss of my mom. Blessings to each one of you!

As for Wednesday dinners, it is a pleasure to serve you knowing that it is not only the meal that brings you in on Wednesday, but also the time for connection with friends as you break from your own dinner routine.

I want to let you know that mid-January Kathie Curry will be back in the kitchen for a few weeks or until I am strong enough to return. I am in need of shoulder

surgery for a torn rotator cuff. Please pray for me and my family that all goes well, and be nice to Kathie and crew while I am gone!!!

Remember, Wednesday evenings at OG are great food for the soul!

God bless, Margie

\$4.00 per plate.

All dinners served with salad bar and dessert.

Dinner served 5:45-6:30pm

January 4 Chicken Breast & Rice Pilaf
January 11 Hamb. Gravy & Mashed Potatoes
January 18 Pizza & Breadsticks
January 25 Cheeseburger & Fries

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Collecting for Bridging

Just a reminder that we are collecting kitchen utensils for Bridging. (Bridging is an origination with their main offices in Bloomington that collected furniture and household items for families that are in need. Ask Julie Tvette how you can donate furniture.)

Bridging gives a bundle of five kitchen utensils to each family that comes in to get furniture. Boxes are in the narthex labeled with each of the listed items. We will bundle them and deliver them after the annual meeting.

You are welcome to donate money to be used to buy these utensils as well, if you wish.

See Julie Tvette with questions.

Items for Kitchen Bundles: Spatula, large mixing spoon, can opener, vegetable peeler, and whisks.

Scrap Metal Drive

Remember- We are continuing to save scrap metal, aluminum, pop cans, soup cans, copper, small engines. Collection date will be announced in the spring! Ask Julie Tvette, Alexis and Morgan Curry, if you have questions.

Remember Oak Grove in Your Estate Planning: When you make your will, consider naming Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as one of your beneficiaries. Already have a will? You can update it to include Oak Grove Enduring Gifts as a beneficiary. You can help Keep Oak Grove Alive and Growing. Contact Pastor Tom or Maynard Wood for more information.