



Messenger

Woodlake Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449

www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Charlie Plaster

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the ELCA.*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

10:00am

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins

8:00am in the chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday 9am – 12pm
Tuesday 9am – 4pm
Wednesday 9am – 4pm
Thursday 9am – 4pm
Friday 9am – 12pm
Saturday Closed
Sunday ..Before and after worship

*Articles for October's issue
of The Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than September 15.*



Rally Sunday - September 11

"God's Work. Our hands" Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. **Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to VEAP, and plan to participate in a service project after worship!**

10:00am Worship

Join us for a festive, balloon-filled service to kick off the new programming year.

11:00am Service Projects

* Children and the young-at-heart can make cards for soldiers through Thanks a Million (and we'll also have games set up for the kids)

* Sit with our quilters or knitters and learn how to make beautiful things alongside them, and how they use their skills to make the world a little better

* Help pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief

* Help make needed items for Cornerstone, a violence prevention organization and a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

12:00pm Lunch

We'll have soup and sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall... but you have to put in the work first!

We are so excited to kick off a new programming year!

Sunday morning worship will be at 10:00am from now until the end of the programming year.

Sunday School begins on September 18 and will return to a system many of you remember fondly from years past! Children will go into church with their parent or guardian, and be dismissed to Sunday School during a children's message. Parents will pick their kids up after church (by about 11:15 am). **To register your child for the 2016-2017 programming year**, please contact children's ministry coordinator Heather at hwageman@woodlakechurch.org or stop by the office for a registration form.

Saturday Evening Chapel Worship will continue at 5:00pm.

Pastor's Corner

"SOME THOUGHTS"

Some thoughts about where we have been as a congregation, where we are now, and where we are going:

RALLY DAY: As we look at Rally Day on September 11, we have the usual items planned for the morning. There will be the balloons, there will be registration for Sunday School, and there will be some good food to eat. The new item will be our participation in the churchwide ELCA program of "God's Work – Our Hands." This program involves doing some sort of hands-on ministry for the benefit of those in the community and the world. As you come to worship that day, you are being asked to bring a non-perishable food item to go to the local food pantry. This will be the price of admission. After worship at 10am, you will have a chance to do some hands-on work for Jesus. You can knit. You can make cards for those in military service. You can help pack school kits to help children all around the world have a chance at an education. There will be a variety of options.

After our work, we will eat together at noon. A light soup and sandwich meal with a free will offering. Hope you can be there.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? For the last few weeks, the question of the day has been, where do we go from here in terms of pastoral leadership? Are we going to form a call committee? Where are we going? My answer has been "I don't know." I say that because I do not know where you as a congregation want to go. Do we just go ahead and call a new pastor? With all of our talk and work involving collaboration with Oak Grove and House of Prayer, how does that figure in to where we go and what we do? Do we go it alone, or are we better together? No easy answers. We have talked about the subject at Leadership Board meetings, and will involve you in the discussion in the coming weeks.

ETC: Worship this fall will be at 5pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sunday morning.

Sunday School will be held during the Sunday morning worship time. Students attend worship with their families and leave for class after the Children's Story.

Confirmation will once again be on Wednesday evenings. Please note the meeting on September 18 with Pastor Charlie, confirmation instructors, parents, and students.

Thank you for your good and faithful giving throughout the summer. Thank you for all you do for Jesus.

*In His Service,
Pastor Charlie*

Mission and Outreach Commission News

...give, and it will be given to you.

- Luke 6:38

Our commission has been approached by two local agencies requesting our help. As a result of their requests, we have formed partnerships to assist them in their needs through financial donations and volunteering.

The first agency is Cornerstone, a violence prevention organization and a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking in Bloomington. They requested funds to help with legal filing fees for one of their clients. We were able to give some assistance and discovered that they have many areas where our members can help through volunteering and donations. We will be making some needed items for them on our Mission Sunday, "God's Work Our Hands." Look for other volunteer opportunities on our bulletin board and in future mailings and bulletins.

*Mission and Outreach
continued on Page 3*

Timber Lodge in September: Monday, Sep. 26th

Children's Ministry

Get ready for Rally Day with carnival games, snacks and prizes!

After service on September 11



Bring your friends and family!

The children will also be participating in God's work our hands. The children will be making thank you cards for soliders overseas.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Starts September 18th

If you haven't filled out a registration form, please do so. Sunday School forms with information are located in Woodlake Churches main office or via e-mail from

hwageman@woodlakechurch.org

Mission and Outreach, Continued

The second agency is Avinity Senior Living-Mainstreet Village in Richfield which is starting a new program for seniors with dementia called Music and Memory. They have need for new or used portable music players (iPods or similar devices), which they can individually program for each client to reconnect them with meaningful music from their past. They have learned that the results of this program have changed lives for clients experiencing dementia and are eager to begin the program here in Richfield. We will be accepting donations of music players and money to help this program get started.

If you are interested in helping or learning more about these new partnerships, please contact me. You may donate through Woodlake by filling out an envelope in the pew and designating the funds to go to the agency you wish to support. We are excited to be reaching out to these organizations in our community.

If you would like to be the coordinator/contact person for either of these organizations, contact me. Thank you for your generous support of our mission partners. We have earned our reputation of a caring Christian community!

Anne Schmieg,

Commissioner for Mission and Outreach

The Mission Team is requesting donations of small size fleece tie blanket kits. We will be using them on Rally Sunday. They can be brought to the church office. Thank you!

Small Groups and Circles

It's a new programming year, and if you're thinking of taking part in a small group, there is no better time to dive in! Small groups are lay-led, which means they are not organized by staff. There is a contact person listed for each group. All phone numbers are listed in your directories, but call the office if you're not sure.

Keep reading on Page 4 for the full list!

Circles

Circles meet once a month and are times for women of all ages to have fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. * Circle Leaders – September *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are now available in the church office (one for each circle).

Dorcas Circle will no longer be meeting regularly.

Esther Circle: September 6 (1st Tuesday), 11:30 am in the Yorke Room at 7500 York.

Faith Circle: September 6 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Alice O.'s home

Lydia Circle: September 13 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: September 14 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 25, at 8:45am in the Heritage Room. We will discuss our recurring schedule for the year at this first meeting.

SALT Planning Brunch

Sunday, September 18, 11:15am in the Fellowship Hall

The Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT) planning brunch will be starting at **11:15am on September 18, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall**. The group will be planning "hosts"/planners for each month of the upcoming year and generating event ideas. SALT gathers once a month, and purposefully includes service activities as well as fun adult outings. We welcome all adults to our group.

Please sign up to bring a dish to share and RSVP to Cheryl Lundsgaard.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December), 7:00 pm in the Heritage Room. The remaining list of books for 2016 is below. Our next meeting is on September 22.

Contact: Laurie Nix

September: *Kitchens of Great Midwest* by J Ryan Stradal

October: *The Boy in the Suitcase* by Lene Kaaberbol and Agnet Friis

November/ December: *Stillwater* by Nicole Nelget

Men Whose Wives Have Gone Before

The widowers meet for breakfast at Perkins one Friday a month (usually the fourth Friday).

Contact: Floyd Roman

Monday Morning Small Group

The Monday AM Small Group invites you to join them for fellowship, discussion of faith topics, and an occasional service project. We meet in the Fireside Room from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM every Monday. Attend as often as you are able or just drop by on a Monday morning. Our first meeting will be September 12th.

Contact: Cheryl Buranen

Prayer Knitters

The prayer knitters and crocheters create beautiful shawls. During the winter months, we also create hats, scarves, and mittens for people in need. We have a group that meets on the second and fourth Monday at 6:00pm, and one that meets on Thursday mornings.

Morning Group Contact: Betty Hassenstab

Evening Group Contact: Starr Carriere

Quilters

The quilters meet on Mondays at 9am to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our first meeting this year is on Monday, October 3, 9-11:30am in Room 4.

Contact: Edie Shogren

Woodlake Ink

Join the stampers to make cards for the congregation – we've made cards for the Homebound ministry, Sunday School kids, special occasions, and more! You do not need to have any experience in making cards or stamping to participate. We welcome all who want to have fun and fellowship while creating homemade cards!

Contact: Cheryl Buranen

Is your small group missing from the list? Did we get your information wrong? Our apologies, and please correct us! Email office@woodlakechurch.org or call 612-866-8449 and talk to Julia (leave a message at extension 10 if no one picks up).

Worship and Music Notes

What is your favorite sport or player? Last August, the Olympic games were held in Rio, Brazil. As you know, the event is held every four years. Many athletes had worked very hard in order to attend these world games. There were winners and losers. But I really admire the effort, discipline, and struggle that every participant needs to reach the top.

About two years ago, I started to exercise. I was not athletic and didn't like sports at all because I didn't think I was good at them. Also, I was wimpy and got sick if I did exercise. In the beginning, I started with yoga, less strenuous than some other activities. Then, after yoga, I started to add more challenge classes like swimming, tennis, and strength training. Now, I know how many hours it takes, and how much effort is needed to struggle with myself to achieve the next level. I know how beautiful the process of the growing strong and seeing good results.

Now, I better understand the Olympic creed. "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well." All participants have been training to compete and waiting to test their abilities for 4 years. They have to wait another 4 years if they make a mistake, even though they have trained and exercised all their lives to get good results. They have heavy responsibilities and high expectations. Everyone cannot be a "winner." But, they've already received their prize by themselves because their effort and sweats are the prize which makes them the winner.

We are struggling with our life as a Christian everyday. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12). There are spiritual struggles that are invisible to us, but affect everything in our lives.

I choose the song "Eye of the Storm" by Ryan Stevenson as a prelude during September to remind,

share, and confess a Psalm of David.

(The Lords is my Shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guide me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close besides me.

- Psalm 23: 1-4)

In the eye of the storm, You are in control. And in the middle of a war, You guard my soul. You alone are the anchor when my sail are torn. Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm.

*HyeonJeong Lee,
Director of Worship and Music*

Choirs and Bells Begin on Weds, September 14!

Adult Choir, 6:30 – 7:30 (Choir Room)

Interested in joining the choir this year? Come to our first meeting!

Spirit Singers, 6:30 – 7:30 (Fireside Room)

If you enjoy singing more upbeat and contemporary music, you might be a good fit for the Spirit Singers! We're recruiting new people, so be sure to come to this first meeting if you're interested.

Bells, 7:45 – 8:35 (Room 2)

Interested in playing with the bells? Come see what it's all about!

September Popup Concert Presents...

Greg Herriges

Weds, September 7, 12:15 – 12:45 in the Sanctuary

Greg Herriges creates a stirring mix of original and traditional "whirled music" on guitar and bouzouki (Greek lute), with a unique approach honed by his studies of South and East Asian, Middle Eastern, and other international styles. Concert is free and we hope to see you there!

Building and Finances

Budget is being met! Projects are getting done! Woodlake is getting ready for Fall! The REACH Fund is no longer a pledge, but REACH funds that come in are being used to improve appearance of the building. Two wings of the building have been totally repainted inside. Ebenezer (who rents space from us) has paid for two rooms to be re-carpeted. Investigation into replacing carpet in the Fellowship Hall is currently underway and will hopefully be done this fall.



VEAP thanks you and so do many students!!!

Another awesome VEAP School Supply Drive this year! We donated over 1,000 items again including back packs, pens, pencils, crayons, folders, notebooks, erasers, highlighters, glue sticks, rulers, and scissors. Plus we had a monetary donations specifically noted for school supplies. They will certainly make many students excited for school. Thank you for making this happen!

Christ in Community –

Richfield ELCA Churches to have a presence at Penn Fest!

Open Streets at Penn Fest is Richfield's biggest block party! It's a day when Penn Avenue in Richfield closes to traffic and opens to a fun day of music, food and fun activities on the street. Sunday, September 18, Noon to 4PM. Check out the website to see some of the activities that are planned. <http://www.penncentralofrichfield.com/>

The Community Listening Team is coordinating the efforts of the three churches. Current ideas include bean bag games, face painting that they do themselves and possibly free water or snack. We will also have the poster for Loaves and Fishes, which will direct them to Woodlake between 5:30-6:30 pm.

We will need some people to man the station and pass out water. If you can be of help contact Laurel Johnson at laurelmjohnson11@gmail.com

Senior Fellowship

Next Collaborative Seniors Group Event: Tom Eklo Presents "Hawaii's Big Island," Tuesday, September 20, 2016, 11:15am at Oak Grove

Tom Eklo is the pastor of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Richfield. He recently returned from 7 weeks in Hawaii where he served as Visiting Pastor at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Ocean View, Hawaii. He will share his pictures and his story of his time in Hawaii. Lunch is hamburger macaroni hot dish, rolls and butter, fruit cup, and cookies; suggested donation of \$3.00. Sign up in Woodlake's church office today!

September Matins Speakers (Wednesdays, 9am in the Fireside Room).

Join us as our speaker program resumes in September! Come for the Matins morning prayer service at 8am in the chapel. Coffee and treats follow in the Fireside Room, and the speaker begins at 9am.

Sep. 7: Tom Newman,
"Vietnam War"

Sep. 14: Dr. Bird, "Health
Source"

Sep. 21: Bible Study with
Pastor Charlie

Sep. 28: Tony Kerber,
"African American Sports"

Christ In Community Collaboration Team Update

Richfield ELCA Churches – July 2016

Getting to know you... was the first thing on the agenda when the Christ in Community Collaboration Team met for the first time together on July 7, 2016, at House of Prayer Lutheran Church. We took a few minutes for a icebreaker activity to find someone that could answer the same way we did to one of the questions provided. We had a few minutes to discuss our similar answers and then introduced our partner to the group. It was a fun way to start to get to know each other!

We reviewed the progress made by the Joint Discernment Team that got us to where we are now. As Lutheran Churches in Richfield, we are feeling called by God and each other to be a stronger, more vibrant, more relevant presence in our community. By working together, we hope to energize our members to more deeply know God and each other, find new and different ways to grow and share our faith. We also seek to meet people in our community in the places and ways that are most needed and desired.

We took time to meet as Listening Teams to organize our groups and brainstorm about what where we want go in the next few months and what we might accomplish. Listed below are the members of each Listening Team and exciting ways they want to start collaborating.

Spiritual Listening Team

Bonnie Oien – Chair	Oak Grove	bjoienn@msn.com
Caren Olson	Oak Grove	carenandphil@gmail.com
Anne Romstad - Communication	Woodlake	arcikr@gmail.com
Open	Woodlake	
Amy Countryman – Secretary	House of Prayer	amy.countryman@heart.org
Pastor Ben Sandin	House of Prayer	bsandin@hoplc.org

Collaboration Ideas:

- Praying as a small group
- Praying for the 3 congregations
- Praying for the Listening Teams
- A Prayer list for the 3 congregations
- A bible study for the 3 churches together- in the fall
- Pray so that we hear each other

Community Listening Team

Laurel Johnson – Chair	Woodlake	laurelmjohnson11@gmail.com
Dick Franzmeier	Woodlake	dickandgert@juno.com
Pastor Tom Zarth - Communication	Oak Grove	tzarth@oakgrovelutheran.org
Jan Philibert	Oak Grove	nenibe2@hotmail.com
Dave Steenson – Secretary	House of Prayer	d2ksteenson@gmail.com
Paula Kiehl	House of Prayer	pkiehl3@gmail.com

Collaboration Ideas:

- Talking to people you don't know may be difficult for some people- find ways to make this more comfortable for people to do
- Tapestry/ Pastor Melissa is a good resource
- Develop a list of community agencies, volunteer opportunities, and business owners
 - Ask what they are hearing
 - What are the needs of the community from their perspective

- Share with Spiritual Listening Team any prayer requests from groups they meet with
- Contact people running for city council to see what they think the needs of Richfield are

Congregation Listening Team

Elisa Tvete - Chair	Oak Grove	emtvete@gmail.com
Bruce Lameyer	Oak Grove	brucelameyer@gmail.com
Heidi Thomas – Comm & Sec	House of Prayer	heidit1109@live.com
Les Bauer	House of Prayer	lwbauer@msn.com
Pastor Charles Plaster	Woodlake	ccplas@yahoo.com
Shirley Stroud	Woodlake	stroudjs@earthlink.net

Collaboration Ideas:

- Joint Bell Choir concert
- Maundy Thursday- Celebrate at Oak Grove again
 - Find 2 other group worship events that would be hosted by House of Prayer and Woodlake
- Reformation Celebration(s)things
- Youth activities
 - Get to know each other
 - Joint events, Bible Study, Mission Trip?
 - 20's and 30's group

Steering Committee

Next Meeting: October Quarterly Meeting

Cara Wright – Chair	HOP	cara.wright07@yahoo.com
Wayne Swenson – Liaison Cmty	HOP	wswenson@advisornet.com
Lesley Farnham – Communication	WL	lesleyfarnham@gmail.com
Scott Dahlquist – Liaison Spiritual	WL	sjaadahlquist@comcast.net
Julie Tvete – Secretary	OG	jtvet@comcast.net
MikeTveite – Liaison Congregation	OG	mdtveite@gmail.com

Collaboration Ideas:

- Set Quarterly Meetings / Agenda for Collaboration Team
- Facebook page
- Quarterly article for all churches to use in newsletter/bulletin

Please feel free to contact any of these folks to be part of the team (or just come to their next meeting)! All are welcome!

Cara Wright
Steering Committee Chair