



Messenger

Woodlake Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Micah Pearson
Pastor Joanne Sorenson

Woodlake Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA.

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

10:00am in the Sanctuary on August 5 and 19

10:00am outdoors on the lawn on August 12

10:00am collaborative worship at Veterans Park on August 26

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 September's issue of The Messenger are due to office@woodlakechurch.org no later than August 15.

Vacation Bible School, August 5-10

Times updated! We received feedback that the 2pm pickup time was too early for working parents, and have been able to extend our afternoon pickup time to 5:00pm Monday – Thursday and include an exciting afternoon field trip. Friday pickup time remains 12pm. Cost: \$10/day or \$25/day for families. **Contact the office ASAP to register your child! 612-866-8449 or office@woodlakechurch.org**

Schedule:

Sun, 8/5: 10am Worship (Meet your counselors and stay afterwards for root beer floats)

Mon, 8/6 – Thurs, 8/9: 9am – 5pm (includes afternoon field trip)

Fri, 8/10: 9am – 12pm

Sun, 8/12: Sing at 10am worship service

We welcome children from pre-K to 6th grade (completed) and you do not need to be a member to participate, so feel free to invite grandchildren and friends.

Last Summer Music Concert on August 19, 11am

Join us in the narthex following Sunday morning worship for the last installment of our Summer Music Series. We are pleased to welcome Megan Dvorak, a graduate of St. Olaf College with a B.M. in oboe performance. She is the principal oboist and president of the board of Mississippi Valley Orchestra as well as a member of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra and former principal oboist of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra.

Our summer Music Series is open to the community, so be sure to invite your friends and family! Concerts are 30 minutes in length and there is no admission fee; freewill offering only.

Collaborative Worship at Veterans Park on Sunday, August 26, 10am

It is time for our annual worship service at Veterans Park, joined by our friends from Oak Grove and House of Prayer, followed by a potluck lunch. The service will be collaboratively themed and all three churches will participate in the planning. Meet us directly at the park (6335 Portland Ave).

Woodlake has been asked to bring desserts to share! No need to sign up – if you like to bake, make your favorite thing and bring it. Your contributions may be brought directly to the park (please do not drop off at church in advance). Thank you! Oak Grove will provide the main course and House of Prayer will bring sides and salads.

Welcome, Intern Deanna!

In other exciting collaboration news, all three churches will be sharing a pastoral intern for the 2018-2019 programming year. Please see Page 3 for more information and to read a letter from Intern Deanna.

Pastor's Page

"God's love is upon you, our church, and our world now and as we step into an unknown future."
Psalm 33:22 (translated)

This summer, the Woodlake 2020 committee met and reviewed all information collected from individual and congregational listening sessions, statistical data, and ministry reports.

The committee was chosen to equally represent Woodlake so all age demographics were present and no voice was left unheard. We had representatives from pre-k, Sunday school, confirmation, youth group, young adult, parent, adult, senior, new member, and long-time members. Though faithful conversations and discussions, the Woodlake 2020 committee agreed upon **Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Outreach** as the future direction for our church.

More specifically, the Woodlake 2020 committee wrote the following strategic vision for guidance and direction:

In the next two years, we will increase outreach to children, youth, and family (CYF) ministry so that by the end of 2020, we will have meaningful relationships with 50 CYF participants. To reach this goal, we will double our CYF participation each year. Through our CYF outreach, participants will grow in faith, have fun, and share their God-given gifts. Woodlake members will enter into one meaningful relationship per year with CYF participants because Jesus has called us to form relationships to experience love, grace, and forgiveness. These relationships will be life-giving for those who serve as well as those who are served. Woodlake members will sign a covenant committing support to CYF outreach through time, talent, treasure, and temple. In addition to supporting Woodlake and Richfield CYF outreach, Woodlake will be involved with one CYF outreach ministry in the Twin Cities, United States, and in the world. We embark on this goal so the Holy Spirit can breathe new life into Woodlake.

The Woodlake 2020 committee presented this strategic vision to the Leadership Board and after faithful consideration the Board approved the strategic vision unanimously. We will kick off our Woodlake 2020 campaign officially on Rally Sunday, the weekend of September 8-9.

We need your input to help us choose our mission statement tag line. To do so please vote for your favorite at that following website:

<http://www.allourideas.org/MissionStatementtagline>

Information about the survey:

*You are participating in a survey that enables us to collect and prioritize ideas in a democratic, open, and efficient process. By combining a simple voting process with open uploading of ideas, the best ideas in your congregation will bubble to the top.

How many votes can I cast? When does it end?

You can vote as little or as much as you want, and you can stop voting at any time.

How many ideas can I add? What happens to my idea once I add it?

You can add as many ideas as you have. Once the idea has been reviewed and deemed appropriate, it will start appearing for people to vote on it.

Can I see what everyone else thinks?

Yes, simply click on "View Results" from the voting screen. This process is completely transparent and will help us choose the best congregational idea.

The Woodlake 2020 committee, Leadership Board, and I are excited about children, youth, and family outreach and look forward to implementation of the strategic plan in the coming months and years.

*In Christ,
Pastor Micah*

* Note: If you do not have internet access, please call Julia in the office at 612-866-8449 x 10 to take the survey over the phone. You can also stop by and do this in person during regular office hours.

A special thanks to the Woodlake 2020 committee for their time, ideas, and help in shaping the future of Woodlake. It was a gift to serve with you and I'm grateful for your talent, wisdom, and care for Woodlake. Thank you so much. I'm proud of the work we accomplished.

Members of the Woodlake 2020 committee:

Betty and Don Hassenstab; Orv and Muriel Holland; Deb and Darrell Heinecke; Jackie and John Riddell; Noah Sutton; Molly Olson; Kristi, Jim, Nathan and Casey Gay; Craig, Kirsten, and Kari Hargreaves, Pastor Micah, Linnea, and Sanna Pearson



Hello to the Richfield Collaboration of Lutheran Churches!

My name is Deanna Bassett. Your pastors have welcomed me to intern here for the next year. I could not be more excited. This

internship is scheduled at the end of my academic journey at Luther Seminary. This is a journey that my husband Robert and our two boys have lived for many years ... since both boys were in Eden Prairie's elementary schools. Now our oldest has graduated from Dunwoody and our youngest is a junior at Michigan Tech.

You get me at a time when God opens new doors in my life. I'm a newly minted firefighter in the City of Eden Prairie. And, after 30-something years in Corporate America, I have closed my career in finance and accounting to be here with you. Please tell me about yourself, and your ideas for ministries, and your advice for me.

In His service, Deanna

Email Deanna: richfieldintern@gmail.com

Intern Pastor Deanna will be present and blessed at our collaborative worship service August 26 at Veterans Park. Pastor Tom Zarth from Oak Grove will be the official supervisor, as he has done this in the past and has much experience in this regard. An internship committee will be set up consisting of two people from each church and she will rotate churches by month.



Greetings House of Prayer Luther Church, Oak Grove Lutheran Church, and Woodlake Lutheran Church!

The Contextual Learning office at Luther Seminary is so very grateful for your partnership as a collaborative internship site for 2018-2019 year. Your commitment to ministering to God's people in your neighborhood and beyond offers a rich contextual learning teaching site. What a generous gift to a student who is ready for the experience of accompanying a congregation as the congregation cares for each other, and cares for their neighbor.

Your spirit of willingness to collaborate as three congregations who are offering multiple learning and ministry experiences for a student intern is a wonderful example of the Body of Christ working together. Each member of the body has unique talents and gifts, and all are needed for God's work in the world-including in our neighborhoods and communities!

The Contextual Learning office will continue to support our student and your congregations during this year of imagination and innovation, as you work together and provide a rich learning "classroom" within each of your congregations, while also exploring collaborative opportunities across your neighborhoods.

We are grateful for the combined leadership of Pr. Micah Pearson, Pr. Ben Sandin, and Pr. Tom Zarth, as they have given time and energy to not only imagine this collaborative internship learning site, but to also commit to launching and living into this opportunity to serve the larger church, as they support a student preparing to be a leader in God's work in the church.

*With gratitude and thanks,
Karen Gieseke, Contextual Learning Associate
Luther Seminary, St Paul MN*

Women's Summer Bible Study 2018

All women are invited to attend our summer Bible Study sponsored by Lydia-Ruth Circle of Oak Grove. The Bible Study will be on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Light refreshments will be served. No preparation is required. The Bible Study is published in the Gather magazine, a publication of the ELCA for women. Copies of the study will be available at each session.

Session three: the products of prayer (Romans 8:26-28) - (August 14)

It is indeed true that many results of prayer are intangible—and even impossible—to discern. But it is also true that prayer can demonstrably change the brain, reduce stress levels and, some studies say, appear to correlate to otherwise inexplicable healing in those for whom people have prayed. In the final session of this series, we will investigate the effects of prayer personally, communally and on the mission of the church.

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 is a Bible verse and hymn that reminds me that God is always with me. Have you been on a mountain top or looking over a scenic view of an ocean, lake, or forest and thought of the beautiful world that God has created for us? We can give our prayers and praise to God in any location. Therefore, where we worship and the format of our worship service may vary.

My Great-Grandfather, who was an immigrant from Sweden, established a homestead near the thriving town of Denham, Minnesota. He built his cabin and cleared the land for his farm. He also built a church on his land and became the pastor. It became one of the first Swedish Lutheran churches in Minnesota. When you think of the labor of clearing the land and building a new church with their own hands, you can understand their need to praise and thank God for their new homeland.

We are presently reviewing your input from the 2020 meetings. From this data, we will move forward to evaluate whether changes will be made in our worship services. This summer, we have already had a little variety in our worship service. If you were at church on Memorial Day weekend, we had an electrical problem due to the storm. We held church in the Fellowship Hall with partial lighting. We sat around tables, with our coffee and treats enjoying some comradery and continued to praise and worship with our service. During the service, our electricity was restored and we thanked God for the surge in power.

We have had our first two outdoor services, in June and July. Sitting under the canopy of our trees and being outside on a beautiful summer day, was a great location to give our praise and worship God. Our last outdoor service will be held on the second Sunday of August. We also will be joining the House of Prayer and Oak Grove Lutheran church members on August 26th for our Collaboration Service at Veterans Park. It has been great to come together in fellowship with our neighbors to worship.

Thank you again to all who give of their time and talent in contributing to our worship service. We will have a brief orientation for those who are interested in being a worship assistant in the fall. You can also, if you are available now, give Julia a call in the office and she will sign you up to assist in a future service. If you have artistic talent and would like to add your input in decorating during holidays or are interested in helping decorate the Fellowship Hall, please let me know. If you like to sing in the shower, with the radio or in church, but don't want to sing a solo... please join us in our choirs. We will restart our rehearsals in the fall.

Jeong has done a great job of lining up talented musicians who are scheduled to perform for us this summer. The first three concerts have been fantastic. Join us if you are able for some comradery and great music.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." Psalm 95:2

Carol Olson, Worship and Music Commissioner

Mission and Outreach

Woodlake was a host congregation for a Families Moving Forward "scramble" week during July 1-7. Woodlake provided oversight and a place to stay for three families who were experiencing homelessness. Children's activities and meals were provided by Beacon staff volunteers and Living spirit, Union UCC, Mayflower, and St. James AME churches. Loaves and Fishes also provided meals for our guests and volunteers on Sunday and Saturday. The children had great fun on our play structure.

Our next regular hosting week is September 2-9. Look for the signup table in the narthex starting August 12th, or contact lead coordinator Scott Dahlquist to reserve your favorite spot at (612) 919-9232 or at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net. Volunteers will be needed to set-up take down rooms, prepare and serve meals, provide activities for children, and stay overnight at the church.

For 2019 Woodlake is committed to two hosting weeks, April 28th and December 1st. For further information about FMF, operated by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, check out their website at: www.beaconinterfaith.org

My thanks to you, my Woodlake Church family, for the lovely cards, prayers, messages, sympathy, support, and memorial gifts in memory of my daughter, Margaret. It has been very comforting to me to have the kindness, love and support from my Church family during this traumatic period - especially the 3 weeks Margaret was in hospice. Thank you and God Bless!

- Rachael Hayford

Worship and Music Notes

Jirisan, Seoraksan, Deogyusan, Hallasan, Sobaeksan, Taebaeksan, Odaesan, Gayasan, Chiaksan,...

These are the names of mountains in South Korea taller than 4,000 feet. Among of them is Hallasan (Halla mountain) at 6,400 feet, the highest mountain located at the center of the Jeju Island in the southern coast of South Korea.

Can you imagine? Minnesota is 2.1 times larger than South Korea. But, I don't have any experience with mountains in Minnesota since I came here in 2006. Since childhood, I had had lots of experience climbing mountains. While I climbed mountains in the beginning, my goal was only to reach the top of mountain. At that time, I couldn't enjoy the steps and complained about roads or the weather and sometimes even considered giving up. But, later I've learned how to communicate with other climbers and encourage each other not to give up until the top. Then, I could climb up the mountain, Jirisan, 6,283 feet, the second tallest mountain in South Korea. Through the paths, I could see wild flowers and hear bird songs, the sound of streams and variety of people. After time, I was getting familiar with the roads and knew what I needed to do or not do. Through the journey, I became a lover of nature and learned how to overcome barriers present within myself. Also I realized how small I was in front of Mother Nature, the works of God.

"O, Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made. I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, the pow'r through-out the universe displayed; Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!"

I could share the feeling of the hymn writer through the experience of climbing. I couldn't have the experience of climbing since I came to Minnesota. But it seems I am able to feel this emotion with the song in the front of mountain this summer. Even though I am not able to stand on or climb a mountain, I used to feel same sentiments when we had outdoor worship services. Through sunshine, wind, the sound of birds singing and in the middle of green leaves.

We are at the end of the summer and there are two outdoor services in August (one at Woodlake and one collaborative at Veterans Park). Why don't we feel the wonder of God's work?

It seems like we have one month left to enjoy the beautiful summer in Minnesota. I deeply appreciated everyone who volunteered during the summer as cantors, worship assistants or sacristans, etc., even though there were lots of unexpected situations. That's why we love this place, Woodlake. You know we would not be able to have a service without the dedication of our volunteers. There is lots of hidden work in every service. Enjoy the Minnesota summer for the rest of summer, the gift from God, and praise and sing. "O, Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made."

*HyeonJeong Lee,
Director of Worship and Music*

From the Records

New Members

Welcome to **Doris Meyer**, transferred from St. Michael's, Bloomington

Transfers

Charles and Connie Plaster to Mt. Olivet Lutheran, Minneapolis

Funerals

Thank you for keeping this family in your prayers.

Henrietta Dittmer (February 3, 1924 - June 23, 2018), mother of Lenny Swanson. Service held at Woodlake on July 10, 2018.

Congregational Caring Corner

Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry needs some more homebound ministers to visit several new homebound members that we recently added. The commitment involves visiting the homebound member once a month. There is also initial training and continuing education twice a year. If you are interested, please call the church office at 612-866-8449.

Are you on our email list? If you are not but would like to be, send an email to office@woodlakechurch.org to request to be added, and never miss an update from us! We send out e-news updates every Friday with the week's worship schedule and news, and occasional other updates (such as unexpected building closures or special news alerts).

Small Group and Circle News



Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, August 23, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for August is *The Lost Girls* by Heather Young. Join at any time!

Woodlake's quilting group is in need of used sheets. Even sheets with rips or holes – this talented group can use them all! Please bring donations to the office and label them for the Quilters. Thank you!

Cut Back – Spruce up – Dig deep...

In a few days (or weeks?) these high temps will be scaling down as fall rolls in. It's time to do a bit of "sprucing up" around Woodlake and we are in need of helpers! One task needing attention is clean up and weeding the "east door" area by the windows. Some perennials will be removed and re-planted in the courtyard. Another task is planting (perhaps you have a contribution?) in the courtyard, power-washing, and painting benches. If you have a few hours to contribute to these tasks, please contact Julia in the office (612-866-8449 ext. 10, office@woodlakechurch.org). For more detailed information, please check in with Paul Olson.

Parent/Child Music Classes at Woodlake

Join us this fall for 12 weeks of parent/child music class for you and your children (or grandchildren) ages 0-5 years. In our engaging mixed age classes, you'll move, laugh, sing, play rhythm instruments and share 45 minutes of pure fun. Our research-based curriculum not only develops music skills, it nurtures creativity, self-expression, and confidence while also supporting social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Classes will be held at Woodlake Lutheran Church on Thursday mornings this fall starting September 13, 2018. Contact us at www.firstnotesfm.com or 612-408-4843 for more info or to register for a free trial class.

Service Sampler with In Our Hands Friday, August 24, 2018

Have you ever wanted to understand more about serving opportunities in the Twin Cities? A way to find out what's going on? Want to bring a few people from your group to look at serving opportunities? This is a day for you!!

We will start out early, meeting in St Paul at 8 AM. We will travel together to hear about House of Charity in downtown Minneapolis, where we'll help serve an early lunch. Then, on to CES food shelf near Franklin Avenue - this busy community outreach program is amazing!! We will help distribute food from 1-3. After that, we'll get an introduction to the Dorothy Day Center and the work of Catholic charities. We will celebrate an interesting day by sharing dinner at Mickey's Diner. Don't miss this opportunity!!

Cost: \$25. There is a maximum of 10 people for this sampler, so be sure to sign up today! For more information or to sign up, please call or text Joanne 651-398-3989, or email jsorenson@woodlakechurch.org.

SUMMER SERIES 2018 Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, July 5, 2018 – August 23, 2018,
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
8600 E. Bush Lake Rd
Bloomington, MN
952-944-6510
info@peacebloomington.org

August 2: *Will I Always Feel This Way?* Nancy Jo Sullivan
August 9: *Wellness During Grief*, Phyllis Bruce
August 16: *The Greatest of These is Love: Cherishing What Remains*, Nancy Jo Sullivan
August 23: *Multiple Loss*, Julie Ditzler