

**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

*Easter Sunday worship at
8:30 and 10am*

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the Chapel

No Worship on March 31st

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 May's issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than April 15.*



Messenger

Holy Week and Easter

Wednesday, March 28th

No supper, No Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 29th

Worship at 7pm (with First Communion) in Woodlake's Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 30th

Worship at 3pm (Traditional) and 7pm (Instrumental Tenebrae) in Woodlake's Sanctuary

Our 7pm worship service will be a contemporary Tenebrae service, "Hope in the Shadows." The Tenebrae service is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter day. This year, we will work with six instrumentalists including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Cello and Piano.

Saturday, March 31st

No Worship

Happy Easter!

Easter Sunday, April 1st

Festival Services at 8:30 and 10am

Easter Egg Hunt, Coffee, Doughnuts between services

New Member Class in April

If you've been attending services here and you would like to make Woodlake your spiritual home, please consider becoming a member. Our next new member class will take place after worship on **Sunday, April 22nd**. The class will be approximately two hours in length. We will then welcome our new members to the congregation during 10:00 worship on Sunday, April 29th. Please notify the office at 612-866-8449 or by email at office@woodlakechurch.org in advance if you would like to join our church.

Pastor's Page

²⁰Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield.

²¹Our heart is glad in the Lord, because we trust in God's holy name. ²²Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. Psalm 33:20-22

It's official. The call has been accepted, the paperwork signed, the Assistant to the Bishop John Hulden installed me as your pastor, and now we begin the real work of ministry together. But before we begin—a thank you. Thank you to everyone who helped with the special installation service and proceeding brunch. It was a historic day, spirit led, and enjoyed by all.

As I enter my 2nd month of ministry at Woodlake, many people have already shared with me their excitements, hopes, fears, and tremblings of Woodlake and I look forward to hearing from more of you. It's exciting to think about the future as it always holds an equal dose of fear and promise.

As the month turns from March to April, we are given the promise of new life—new life in Jesus, new life in the world, and new life as a congregation. Starting in April, we will embark on a plan for Woodlake to help guide us into the future. This plan is called: **Woodlake 2020**.

First, the Leadership Board and I will listen to your hopes, dreams, fears, and tremblings. Next, we will gather statistics on current ministries at Woodlake to assess their impact and outreach. Then, we will implement a vision for Woodlake based on your hopes and dreams. Listening sessions will be held in April and May. Planning will take place over the summer, and implementation of **Woodlake 2020** will begin in the fall.

I'm excited for this process and its promise of new life for Woodlake. I am particularly looking forward to meeting you and listening to your hopes and dreams. Equally, everyone will have an opportunity to participate in the process. Be looking for ways to participate as information is shared through bulletins, the Messenger, and e-news updates.

Finally, Psalm 33 will be used as a reminder to keep us grounded during this process. Psalm 33 tells us that God is here. God is already present in our life, at Woodlake, and in our community, and world. As a congregation we are called to place our trust in God and nothing else. God has a plan for our church and our future. We will meet all sorts of challenges as we step into our future, yet we are grounded in the words of the Psalmist, "God's love is upon you, our church, and our world now and as we step into an unknown future."

In Christ, Pastor Micah

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

What's in a Name (tag)?

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. Isaiah 45:3

As a community, it is not only God who calls us by our names. We also want our friends and guests at Woodlake to know us by our names. During February and March, we used name tags with the primary purpose of helping Pr Micah and Linnea get acquainted with the members of Woodlake. We hope they were also helpful for the rest of us who struggle to remember names of the people we see each week. Please let me or any board member know what you think about using name tags in the future.

An internet search found these reasons why name tags are a good idea:

Guest Oriented: People want to be known. We want to give people space to control their experience with our church but we want to meet them when they are ready to connect.

It's an Invitation to talk: Implied in the use of a name tag is an invitation to talk with other people. Our hope is that when people come to church that they connect with the community. The goal is to get people talking to each other!

Memory Aid: You can remember maybe a couple hundred people's names when you see their faces but you can probably remember stuff about several times that many people when given their face and name. The name tag helps you remember a little bit more about people.

It's Not About You: Name tags by definition are about the other people around us, not ourselves. When we put on a name tag we are serving other people who might feel uncomfortable coming up to us.

We are all about building up our community, both inside and outside the walls of our church. There are many ways you can do that at Woodlake. You can be a greeter, welcoming people into church on a Sunday morning. During the sharing of peace in the service, take your time and wish God's peace to as many people as you can. When you are having coffee and treats in the narthex, reach out to someone you may not know very well and strike up a conversation.

We know that as a community, we are stronger when we are together... and we are brought closer together when we share our stories with each other... and we can tell our stories to more people when we call each other by our names.

*Wayne Schmieg,
Congregational Life Commissioner*

Worship and Music Notes

Easter, the day of the Resurrection...What do you think about when the day comes? Do you imagine colored Easter eggs, Easter candy, chocolate rabbits, or colorful marshmallow peeps?

As Christians, we celebrate Easter as one of the biggest occasions and most important holiday of the year. Many people go to Church even if they do not attend church regularly. It is a big celebration.

But, why do we celebrate? What are we celebrating? What are you able to imagine? They might be silly questions. The season makes me think about Jesus' last supper rather than fanfare sound or celebration. The supper was the last time Jesus spent with his disciples. Jesus knew what was going to happen. The betrayal from one of His disciples, Judas: "One of you will betray me," absolute loneliness, humiliation and suffering from the Crucifixion. It is too hard to imagine the scene or feeling because of the weight of despair and agony. Nevertheless, Jesus said "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

What will you do when we are at our last moment? I surely say it is love. We are all in search of love and recognition.

I had volunteered at nursing home in Arden Hills every Saturday as a musician with my son for several years. There was an office that we usually check our attendance and get our name tag. There was a board that we could check the list of people who had passed away during the week. I used to check it not because my family were there but it was the last moment of their lives. Because the lives of everyone are important and valuable. There is no one whose life useless.

One day, I found one name was familiar to me. Stephen Paulus! He is one of the most prominent composers of our time. He is my one of favorite composers. He had a special sense to create the delicate musical scene through notes and texts. He was there and I'm pretty sure he listened to our playing even though we didn't recognized him. It was kind of a shock. There was Stephen Paulus. I wished I could go back in time to meet him and say hello and tell him how much I love his music!

The moment...

But if I could go back to the moment that I could meet him, I might miss the moment again. And I am still missing the moment even though I had learned of it through passing of time. This is the reason that I am trying to take the opportunity in the present moment to share something through music with people around me. Music is the tool that I can share something with, through and for others.

Human beings are weak and sinful. But, Jesus came down to us because Jesus loves me and you and your neighbor. We have hope in the darkness because Jesus is a light. He died and has risen for the people around you. That's why we need to keep singing, supporting and loving at this moment.

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. That is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

This is the time to listen to the commandment. This is the time to follow the commandment. This is the time to act on it.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Mission and Outreach



Thank you, thank you, thank you! The Sandwich Project was a great success. 300 sandwiches in less than 1/2 an hour! Check out Woodlake's Facebook page for more photos.

Cornerstone: Cornerstone's School-Based Services has thanked us for a donation which came from your envelopes. They are working to educate young people about consent, assault, harassment, and gender dynamics. The goal is to help young people deal with or avoid sexual violence and harassment. Thanks for your donations.

From the Records

Transfers

Nathan and Jennifer Wegener to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins

Barbara Sharpe to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Building and Finances

Finance: New offering envelopes will soon be mailed out for the six month period beginning May 1. Every giving unit currently having an assigned envelope number will be receiving these new envelope packets. Even if you are giving regularly through ‘Simply Giving’ you will receive the new envelopes. This way you will have special envelopes for church holidays and special mission entities. Alternatively, you can use the universal giving envelopes that have been placed in the hymnal rack of the pews.

Writing of checks: Just a reminder that if you are giving for one of the special missions, please make your check payable to Woodlake Lutheran Church and designate the recipient (such as VEAP or Global Missions, etc.) in the memo section of your check. The credit union will not allow us to deposit checks in the church account that are made out to someone else. We accumulate the amounts and send a separate check to each individual mission or entity at the end of each month.

Surprise contribution: Last Fall we were quite surprised (and also very pleased) to receive a contribution from a non-member vendor of ours. John Nagengast Doors was so impressed with the church when he was inserting new weather stripping in the front doors that he later sent us a donation of \$300. Not all favorable impressions result in financial gifts to the church but it shows how people can react to a good impression.

Endowment Fund opportunity: The Woodlake Lutheran Church Heritage Endowment Fund Committee is looking for a volunteer to fill a current vacancy on the committee. The commitment would involve attending monthly meetings (currently on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm), participating in committee policy decisions regarding gifts to the endowment fund, keeping informed on the endowment fund assets and earnings plus reviewing and approving endowment fund distributions at the end of each fiscal year. If you are interested please contact Orville Holland at (612) 866-8449 or (612) 724-4988 or e-mailing him at oholland@woodlakechurch.org.

Helping others: Cleaning and tidying up the church is a constant on-going process that has shown positive rewards. For instance, our older set of communion ware was recently donated to a new start-up church. Also, another new start-up church was happy to take 70 of our older wooden seat folding chairs. This is a positive way to free up unused resources and help new

congregations start out with serviceable assets that we can spare.

Building: By the time you are reading this our Fellowship Hall should have a fresh new look with new flooring, new chairs and newly painted walls. The floors will be easier to clean and the chairs flex a little to provide more comfortable seating. Don’t worry, some of the old metal chairs have been saved for special uses such as our summer time outdoor services.

Camperships: We want every child to have the opportunity to experience the fun and joy of summer camp. Campership funding assistance is available from the Endowment Fund. Campership applications are available in the church office and must be received no later than June 15.

Scholarships: High School seniors and current college students (including vocational or trade schools) should be aware that post high school scholarships are also available through the Endowment Fund. Individual amounts depend in part on the number of applicants. Current policy has recently been expanded to include undergraduate studies at any approved college, vocational school or other form of post high school institution. For those students currently attending such a school, they must have completed at least one but not more than three years of undergraduate studies. Scholarship applications are available in the church office and must be received no later than June 15.

Congregational Care Corner

The Congregational Care committee will be having a small piece in the Messenger each month reminding members of caring services at Woodlake. Each month we will remind our members of one of the services that fit under the umbrella of Congregational Care. Woodlake has a number of small group ministries which provide care for our fellow members, their families and friends, and this month, we highlight the Prayer Chain.

Our Prayer Chain ministry is a confidential ministry of prayer. If you, a family member, or a friend is in need of extra prayers you can find a prayer request card on the kiosk in the Narthex. Please fill it out and leave it in the small wooden church in the office (across from the mailboxes) or in the offertory basket during worship. You can mark the prayer request as confidential or as something you wish to be included in prayers during worship. Thank you to those members of the Prayer Chain who do this important ministry!

Small Group and Circle News

Circles

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

Esther Circle: April 3rd (1st Tuesday), 11:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: April 3rd (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Alice O's home.

Lydia Circle: April 10th (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: April 11th (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: April 22nd, 8:45am in the Heritage Room.

Matins Speakers

Join us for the Matins Morning Prayer service at 8am, every Wednesday in the chapel, and stay for fellowship and coffee at 8:30, with a speaker at 9am.

April 4: Tom Henrickson, "Aringa Hope – Building Homes in Tanzania"

April 11: Rob Bell DVD and Discussion

April 18: Ernie Linstrom, "Elder Law"

April 25: Bible Study

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, April 26th, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for April is *Small Great Things* by Jody Picoult. Please note our book for May will be changing to *Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. Join at any time!

April Senior Fellowship Outing – "Drinking Habits" at the DayTrippers Theatre

Thursday, April 19th; Lunch at 12:15, Play at 1:15. Meet at the DayTrippers Theatre (9152 Old Shakopee Road). The Sisters of Perpetual Sewing Convent have been secretly making wine to keep their convent open, but when two snooping reporters show up, everything goes wrong! This show is filled with mistaken identities, lies, romance, and a big plot twist at the end. Can the two Sisters keep their big secret – and keep the convent open? *Cost: \$38.75* includes lunch and play; checks made out to Woodlake, please.

SALT April Event – Game Night

Trump!! / No Trump!!

No, not him. We are talking Bridge. Not your game? Perhaps Hearts, Cribbage, Uno, or another card game? How about a board game, such as Monopoly, Life, Trivial Pursuit, Life, Chutes & Ladders, or Candyland? How about a group game, such as Pictionary?

Want to play like a kid (or with one) outside? How about some outdoor stuff such as hopscotch, Frisbee, basketball, jump rope, etc.?

The Woodlake SALT (Socializing Adult Lutherans Together) group is sponsoring a family-friendly food and game night:

Date: Saturday, April 21st

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Woodlake's Fireside Room

Join us for a meal (pulled pork sandwiches and appropriate side dishes) and an evening of games. To RSVP (so we know how much food to plan on), offer to bring a game or food item, or to just ask a question, contact Ken & Paula Severson at (612) 866-5309 or email at ken_paula@msn.com.

SPRING SERIES: Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, April 5, 2018 – May 24, 2018

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Atonement Lutheran Church

601 East Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN

952-881-9244

Woodlake is a member of this coalition, in which churches in the Bloomington-Richfield area are working together to provide free support and education for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. Group meetings are held on Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 PM. Each session includes an education presentation from 4:30-5:00 PM and small group support from 5:00-6:00 PM.

Topics:

April 5: *Understanding Grief*, Mary Marcoux

April 12: *Grief & Resiliency*, Rev. Catherine Duncan

April 19: *Is It Grief, Or Something More?*, Mary Harlow

April 26: *How To Go Back to Familiar Places*, Rev. Ken DeFore

May 3: *Uncommon Sense About Change, Loss & Grief*, Brenda DeMotte

May 10: *Myths of Grief*, Brenda DeMotte

May 17: *Gender Differences on Grief*, Brenda DeMotte

May 24: Service of Remembrance

Please see below for an excerpt from a letter from the Ekkas, our partners in Global Missions. See the kiosk in the Narthex for the full letter and more pictures!

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Woodlake Lutheran Church, Richfield, MN:

Warm Lenten Greetings to you! We are sorry that we were not able to write to you earlier mainly due to lack of internet connection. Since our arrival here we have been busy adjusting and also teaching at the seminary and supervising construction work and hosting friends and visitors from the US etc. It is exciting to meet with the new students who joined the seminary after we left for our home assignment in 2016.



The building on the left is staff quarters for seminary teachers and community health workers. Due to various challenges it looked that the building won't be ready for dedication on Dec. 31, 2017 but by God's grace and extraordinary work by the builders the work was completed. We thank you for your prayers and support for God's work in this part of the world. There are six units in this building; three units are for the teaching faculty of the seminary and three units are for the workers of community health ministry. It was special for us to host 11 guests from US during dedication ceremony.

Please join us in Prayer for-

- Students graduating later on in March and also students going to various ministry situations in May.
- Rev. Amol who has been appointed the new Principal of the seminary.
- For Youth Program for 150 young people (April); Sonshine program for 10th-12th grades (May) and Language Village for all ages (May)
- Our friend Patty as she takes care of [our teenage children] Maani and Urbas in MN.
- Wisdom, provision and favor as we continue to plan and prepare for launching of the Christian Boarding School.

We are much encouraged and motivated and thankful for your mission partnership. Together we are in the business of transforming individuals and communities in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Please know that you remain in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord watch over you and keep you always.

Neeraj, Nijhar, Puna and Jhumpa
jnekk@gmail.com

