

Woodlake Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Joanne Sorenson

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning 10:00am

August 6: 10am on the lawn

August 13: 10am in the Sanctuary

August 20: 10am at Veteran's Park
(see right)

August 27: 10am in the Sanctuary

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

Mark your
calendars for
Rally Sunday on
September 10!



August 2017



Vacation Bible School, August 7 – 11

Adult volunteers are needed! Please sign up to help in the church office or send an email to office@woodlakechurch.org!

Registration Helpers: 2-3 people are needed to sit at the registration table from 8:30am to 10:00am on Monday and Tuesday to sign students in.

Counselor Lunches: Make lunch or provide cash to feed our 5 camp counselors Monday – Thursday

Snack Prep/Helpers: 2 helpers are needed each day to prepare snack and serve Monday – Thursday from 9:30am – 11am

Counselor Dinners: Monday – Thursday evening (either invite the counselors to dinner or provide a cash donation for dinner of their choice)

If you have not yet registered your child for this year's FREE VBS, please do so ASAP! Please see last page of the newsletter for a registration form; submit via email to office@woodlakechurch.org or bring by the office. VBS hours are M-Th 9-4, Fri 9-12. Bring a bag lunch!

Collaborative Worship at Veteran's Park: Sunday, August 20, 10am

Join all three Richfield churches (Woodlake, Oak Grove, and House of Prayer) as we join together for one worship service in the park. Bring lawn chairs if you have them! After worship, stay for food and fellowship.

Pin of the Month – August

In preparation for our collaborative worship service on August 20th, we are reminding you of all the fun activities to do outdoors at Veteran's Park. Stop in at the Farmers market on a Saturday morning, view the All Veterans Monument, Hike or bike the 2 miles of trails, play a round of mini golf, rent a family four wheeled surrey bike, or pack a picnic lunch and hang out on the playground equipment. There are so many options, you could spend most of a day at this one park. Be sure to check out the many other outdoor activities and other ideas for your family on our Pinterest page <https://www.pinterest.com/familyfaithfun2/> and we'll look forward to seeing everyone on August 20.

And they're off!

A group of 13 Woodlakers (10 youth and 3 adults) are traveling to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. They left on Friday, July 28th and return on Aug 6. While at the site, near Taylorville, NC, they will join with people from around the country to serve the local community through painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects; planning and leading kids programming for children in the community; and partnering with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. The group plans to hike a bit of the Appalachian Trail on the way down and catch a Cincinnati Reds game on the return trip. Thank you for keeping the group in your prayers!

Pastor's Corner

"IT MATTERS –
IT IS WORTH IT"

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Matthew 13: 45-46

The kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great value. Have you ever thought about the kingdom, what your faith brings to you etc., as being like a pearl of great value? Chances are when we think of objects of great value in our world, we are likely to think of material possessions like jewels, vehicles, homes, etc. The kingdom of heaven, something of great value? Not probably going to be high on our list.

But what happens when life gets difficult, when life gets hard? What happens when we are looking for guidance and direction? What happens when we just need to know that someone or somebody is there and cares for us?

All of our stuff (and we all have a lot of stuff) is not worth much then. It is not of much value. The kingdom of heaven, our faith, matters at that point. It is worth it. It has great value. So make faith, the work of the kingdom, a priority in your life. Give it time. Give it effort. It is worth seeing what we can do to pass it on to children and grandchildren. It has great value. It matters. It is worth it.

Pastor Charlie

Worship and Music Notes

I'd like to ask you same question that I asked you before.

Do you have your favorite songs? What is your favorite song and why?
Are you happy when you sing alone or together?

There are so many different singing styles and genres. Some are fast, upbeat songs, others are meaningful, slow songs.

Through history wherever people live, we can find that work is often accompanied by different songs. Also, songs are essential to celebrate every occasions. They are needed in everywhere for everybody.

Group singing is able to make us collectively happier, healthier and more creative. It has been scientifically proven that singing helps release endorphins that induce feelings of pleasure, bliss and love.

*"There comes to my heart one sweet strain, a glad and a joyous refrain;
I sing it again, and again, Sweet peace, the gift of God's love
Peace, peace, sweet peace! Wonderful gift from above!
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace! Sweet peace, the gift of God's love!"*

This hymn, "Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's Love" is a lovely song about God's peace written by Peter P. Bilhorn. I have heard and sung this hymn from a young age. The Korean translation is little different in the beginning. Here is the direct Korean translation: "There is a song in my heart and I always sing it joyfully. When I sing the song, I find myself at peace. "

*"Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm
In celestial like strains it unceasingly falls O'er my soul like an infinite calm
Peace, peace, wonderful peace Coming down from the Father above!
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray In fathomless billows of love!"*

The hymn, "Far Away in the Depths of My Spirit Tonight"(Wonderful Peace) was written by W.D.Cornell.

I just introduced the 1st verse of each hymn. But, you should realize how the songs in our hearts work or become involved in making peace in our hearts.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

Do you have your favorite hymns or songs?

Why don't you sing the song over and over in this last time of the summer?

I hope we have a sweet and wonderful peace in our hearts all day long in our life.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

A Note from the Leadership Board... Our church staff members have gone many years without an increase in compensation. As we begin the calling process for a new Lead Pastor, it was decided that we would do an across-the-board increase of 2% effective July 1st, and revisit the compensation issue when a new Pastor has been installed. We are sure you would all agree that our dedicated staff deserves an increase now. Additionally, we are in the process of setting up a personnel committee reporting to the Vice President, Lesley Farnham, to review our personnel systems and procedures in the future.

- Bob Larson, Treasurer

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Greetings to the Woodlake family. As members of the Leadership Board, we take turns each month writing something in this column concerning our commission. It seems like this is an excellent time to provide updates on the many building projects underway with the Properties and Facilities Commission.

We have been spending most of our time focusing on the interior of the church, and hope you have noticed changes throughout this past year. All of the offices and all the classrooms have been repainted, as well as all but one bathroom. We will continue to paint the remaining corridors and other spaces as we work around the building. We have repaired damaged flooring in the Fireside Room, and updated lighting and mechanical controls. More info is in the Building and Finances column to the right.

Of course the biggest project is the replacement of the carpeting in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. As mentioned at the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting this spring, we have been looking at several flooring options for both these spaces. The general direction will be to replace the Narthex carpeting with carpet squares and we are looking at color and patterns that work best for that space. A walk-off-mat carpet tile product will also be installed between the entrance of the Fellowship Hall and across the main entry doors. This will assist containing the typical winter mess at our entrance. For the Fellowship Hall, we are looking at a Vinyl Plank product to replace the stained carpeting. We will provide another look at sample, colors, and layout options within the next several weeks before any final decisions are made. Look for more information soon!

Next year we will shift some focus on the exterior of the building. With the increased use of the building by visitors during the week, we will look at exterior signage near our entry to better identify the building, and we will look to make improvements to the parking lot and exterior grounds.

I would also like to thank the many helpers, cleaners, and gardeners who have continually been assisting with maintaining our building and grounds! Every bit is appreciated and has helped minimize the work for staff or service. Thank you!

Peace to all,

Paul Olson, Properties Commissioner

Building and Finances

Several cost saving measures have recently been implemented that will have ongoing money-saving benefits for the church:

A new laser printer/copy machine was installed on July 11th. The new copier was obtained with a lower monthly lease fee, plus there will be a 50% reduction in charges for printing on 11" x 17" paper which we use for Sunday Bulletins.

The number of phones lines has been reduced from seven to four. Each discontinued phone line saves us about \$25.00 per month. The phone numbers retained are 866-8449 (main office line); 866-8440 (2nd main line); 866-3532 (dedicated alarm/security service) and 866-3103 (FAX line).

Have you tried turning the lights on in the restrooms and been surprised that the lights came on automatically? The light switches are now controlled by motion sensors. Hopefully you will never be left in the dark, and the church realizes a savings besides. This is part of our newly installed lighting (mainly the Narthex, parking lot, Fellowship Hall and occupancy sensors in the major rest rooms and the chapel hallway classrooms) that will result in electricity savings while providing improved light levels (10% or more). The current lighting program has been completed with a projected annual electrical saving of \$4,184 per year. While there is the initial cost of the fixtures and light bulbs, we have taken advantage of available rebates, leaving us with an estimated payback period of 1.72 years when fully implemented.

We will be changing from Republic Services (formerly Waste Management) to Aspen Waste Services, Inc. in September. Due to our association with Ebenezer, we were able to obtain a more favorable rate with Aspen Waste Systems, Inc. under their bulk contract rates as secured by Ebenezer. Ebenezer currently uses Aspen Waste Systems for all of their 70 plus locations. This will also include recycling service. This should save us over \$50.00 per month including recycling.

Not a cost saving measure, but an additional paper towel dispenser has been added in both women's restrooms. This should help remedy the problem of running out of paper towels in the women's restrooms.

Most expenses are coming in under budget and our finances are looking great!!! Additionally, all these cost saving measures, plus all the ones implemented over the years continue to make us a more viable congregation. Our gratitude goes out to Marco Strom, grandson of Cliff and Ruth Johnson, who helps non-profit organizations find ways to minimize internet and communications expenses. Marco worked with us and determined that we were already doing everything right in these areas.

- Julie Windler and Orv Holland

Collaboration Corner

A little over a year ago three listening teams (listening to God, each other and our community) were formed to begin to explore how the collaboration of the three Richfield churches could embody Christ in and with our community. Many successes have occurred over the year. We have begun to know members of the other churches, forming relationships and building trust. Groups have invited people from the other churches to events in their church including the Golden Oaks senior group, Summer Stretch, summer bible studies, men's group, Families Moving Forward and Loaves and Fishes. We have shared worship services in the park and in our churches.

As we approached this year mark, the Collaboration teams took a breath to discuss where we were at, where we would like to move toward and generally how things are going. Members noted the difficulty of "listening" vs. "doing." Strategies for communicating with each other and with our churches has at times been a challenge. We discussed whether we collaborate to make our churches more vital vs. collaborating to have a more positive impact in the community. We agreed that members of our churches beyond the collaboration teams are largely not involved in the collaboration process. People noted that there were many resources in the community that can help us listen to our community as we move forward. These resources include Pastor Ben Sandin from House of Prayer who recently completed his Doctor of Ministry project titled "Ears To Hear: Listening as a Catalyst of Congregational Change", Ben Whalen, Director of Youth Ministry & Community Development from House of Prayer, Pastor Brice Eichlersmith, who works with the police department and in community outreach, Pastor Melissa Melnick of Tapestry, and Pastor Deb Stehlin, Director of Evangelical Mission for the ELCA. It was decided that we will invite Pastor Stehlin to a meeting in the fall to support us in exploring where we would like to go from here.

Small Group and Circle News

Attention, small group leaders!

Please contact Julia in the office to make sure that your start date and fall schedule is on the calendar. Julia can be reached at office@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449 ext 10.

Well Spouse Association

Meets every 4th Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30pm in Woodlake's Fireside Room

Next meeting Thursday, August 24

Are you caring for a chronically ill or disabled spouse? Meet others who are walking in your shoes, caring for a chronically ill or disabled husband, wife, or partner. We offer emotional support and practical ideas for coping with the stress and demands associated with spousal caregiving. Let others who have "been there, done that" help you face the challenges of long-term caregiving.

Our mission is not simply to help each other cope with our ill spouses' situations. We also give each other encouragement and challenge to "have a life" ourselves, one not defined primarily by our spouses' medical conditions. We celebrate any and all rays of hope in our lives.

You are welcome to come to meetings when you can, keep in touch by phone and email, and check out the national website at <wellspouse.org>.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, August 24, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for August is *The All-Girls Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flag. Join at any time!

Woodlake Continues to Host Grief Coalition Summer Series

REMAINING SUMMER SESSIONS

Now – August 24, 2017, 4:30-6:00 pm in Woodlake's Fireside Room

August 3	<i>Grief Demystified—Part I</i> , Brenda DeMotte
August 10	<i>Grief Demystified—Part II</i> , Brenda DeMotte
August 17	<i>Wellness During Grief</i> , Phyllis Bruce
August 24	<i>Myths of Grief</i> , Brenda DeMotte

Remember! Our fall craft sale will be Saturday, November 11 from 9am – 3pm. Start looking for items for Grannie's Attic and the booksale when you are cleaning! After the middle of September, bring items to Room H. If necessary before that, we can use the old youth room across from the nursery. Happy Cleaning!

Mission and Outreach

VEAP Back to School Drive – Now Through August 14th

It's that time of year again when you start thinking of picking up those supplies for school in the coming weeks. Please remember our VEAP friends! They could use our help in making sure all kids enjoy starting the year out with that fresh box of crayons, pencils, spiral notebook and backpack. A personal check made out to "Woodlake Lutheran Church" with VEAP written on the Memo line works also. Please bring your donations to the church office by August 14th. Thanks for your continued support.

School Supply Wish List includes: Backpacks, Spiral Notebooks (Wide and College), Composition Notebooks, Two Pocket Folders (Solid Colors/No Prongs), #2 Pencils, Pens (Blue, Black, and Red Ink), Markers (Basic Colors), Colored Pencils (12 ct), Crayons (24 ct), Glue Sticks, Pencil Box/Pouch, Highlighters, Rulers, Erasers (Large Pink), Glue Bottles, Scissors, Dry Erase Markers



Grand Opening: 66 West Grand (3330 West 66th Street, Edina) on Thursday, August 3rd, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Beacon Interfaith (Families Moving Forward) invites you to the 66 West Grand Opening. This is a celebration of our newest housing, home to 39 youth in Edina. We want to show you what your support helped to create! Join us for tours and a short outdoor program at 5:30 pm. More info and RSVP at <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/66-west-grand-opening> or call Elodie at 651-789-6260 x200.

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser: Meals on Heels

Thurs, August 17, at Nicollet Island Pavilion, 40 Power St., Minneapolis, MN; Doors Open at 6pm

Metro Meals on Wheels annual event Meals on Heels is an evening of great food, beverages, and entertainment all while being a great way to learn more and get involved with the Meals on Wheels programs in the 7-county metro area. The evening includes drinks and food tastings presented by local restaurants from their menus followed the Swank Soles Competition and a raffle – all proceeds benefiting Metro Meals on Wheels.

For more info or to purchase tickets, visit <http://mealsonheelsevent.org/> or call 612-623-3363.

Single General Admission – \$35; Friend Pack (4+ tickets) – \$30 apiece; V.I.P – \$70 (Includes champagne welcome and VIP swag bag); Meals on Wheels Volunteer – \$30



Woodlake Hosting Families Moving Forward: September 10-17

Yes, it's that time again! FMF is operated by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative; check out their website at <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/>. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and take down rooms, act as hosts, prepare meals, wash dishes, do laundry, and stay overnight. Check out the sign up table in the narthex after Sunday worship (beginning August 20), or contact lead coordinator Scott Dahlquist at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net or at [612 919 9232](tel:6129199232) to see how you can help.



VBS Day Camp Registration & Emergency Health Form

THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ATTENDANCE

Church where Day Camp is being held Woodlake Lutheran Church
Town/ST Richfield, MN Date Aug 7 – 11 (M-Th 9-4, Fri 9-12)

I understand and certify that my child's participation in Luther Park Bible Camp's (LPBC) Day Camp program held at the church and its activities is completely voluntary. I recognize that certain hazards and dangers are inherent in Day Camp events and programs and I acknowledge that although LPBC and the church have taken safety measures to minimize the risk of injury, LPBC and the church cannot insure nor guarantee that the participants', equipment, premises and/or activities will be free of hazards, accidents, and/or injuries. I further recognize and have instructed my child in the importance of knowing and abiding by LPBC and the church's rules, regulations and procedures for the safety of participants. I waive any claim against LPBC and the church and/or its personnel for any lost articles; for any injury to my minor child; and/or any injury to myself. The church assumes secondary insurance coverage. I assume primary coverage.

This health history is correct so far as I know, and the person named on this form has permission to engage in all camp activities except as noted.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT: In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the VBS Day Camper.

In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the medical personnel selected by the church to order x-rays, routine tests, treatment, and necessary transportation for my child. I give permission to the physician selected by the church to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for my child as named on this form.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION: I hereby give permission for my child to be transported for off-site outings.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USING LIKENESS: I hereby give permission for photographs/video including my child and/or myself to be used in the promotion of LPBC and/or the ELCA.

COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTRONICS POLICY: I understand that LPBC does not allow any electronic devices except cameras and I certify that I have ensured my child's compliance with this policy.

Signature of Camper's Parent/Guardian Date

The information on this form is gathered to assist us in identifying appropriate care and will only be shared with medical personnel. This form is to be completed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of minors.

Camper's Name _____
Last First MI _____
Preferred Name _____ Female Male
Telephone _____ Birth Date _____
Home Address _____

Street City State Zip _____
Email _____
Parent/Guardian—In an emergency, notify:
Name _____ Telephone _____
Relationship _____

Location while camper is VBS Day Camp _____
Who will be picking your child up? _____

HEALTH HISTORY
Does the camper have any physical condition requiring special care? Please explain.

Does the camper have any allergies, i.e.: food, meds, etc? If so, describe reaction and treatment.

Explain any activity restrictions:

Do you carry family medical/hospital insurance? ____ Yes ____ No
If so, indicate: Carrier _____
Policy or Group # _____