

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Brice Eichlersmith

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

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

10:00am 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 March's issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than February 15.*



February 2017



February Event Highlights

Optimist Club Chili and Salad Dinner

Fri., February 10, 4-7pm in Woodlake's Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and all proceeds go to help youth in our community.

Families Moving Forward Host Volunteer Training

Saturday, Feb 11, 9am-12pm in Woodlake's Fireside Room

Beacon will offer a general host training for adults who volunteer at hosting congregations. Topics will include: What does it take to be a great hosting volunteer? What is the right job for me? How do we support parents as they parent their children? How do we plan meals families will love? Registration is required and space is limited. To register online, visit beaconinterfaith.org/host-coordinators. To register by phone, call 651-789-6260.

Plan ahead! Our hosting dates for 2017 are June 4-11 and September 10-17. Please see page 5 for more information.

Senior Fellowship Event: Minnesota Boychoir

Thurs, February 16

Lunch at 12pm; Program at 1pm

The Minnesota Boychoir, founded in 1962, is the oldest boychoir in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area. The Boychoir has performed with the MN Orchestra, the MN Opera, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Prague Philharmonic, on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, and so much more! The Boychoir trains young men to be outstanding musicians and strives to help them develop a sense of poise and self-confidence through education and performance. You won't want to miss this concert! *Sign up in the office by Sunday, Feb 12; \$13 includes lunch and show.*

Ekkas visiting Woodlake

Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26th

We are excited to welcome back our friends through the Global Missions initiative. See Page 2 for details!

*Mark your calendars – Lent begins with
Ash Wednesday on March 1.*

Call Committee Report

According to Woodlake's Constitution, the Call committee is composed of members of the Leadership Board. They are: Anne Romstad, Lesley Farnham, Barbara Halsne, Deb Heinecke, Paul Olson, Kathy Hedman, Laurel Johnson, Kim Myers, and Scott Dahlquist. At the first meeting, Scott Dahlquist was named chairman and Barbara Halsne was named communicator.

The following are very abbreviated steps of what the call committee does:

✓ Step 1: The synod office is informed of the pastoral opening

✓ Step 2: Interim ministry is assigned

Step 3: Learn about our congregation by completing the Ministry Site Profile.

This is the primary tool to describe our congregation, mission, and ministry needs. This document introduces our congregation to a candidate and includes demographics, where we've been, and where we hope to go.

Step 4: The Synod staff works with the call committee to match our congregation with a candidate(s)

Step 5: The call committee reviews the profiles

Step 6: Interview process, site visits

Step 7: Recommends a candidate, congregation meets, votes, and a call is placed.

Throughout the call process, the entire congregation is involved in these activities: Prayer, Patience, and Communication. We welcome your comments and feedback. Feel free to communicate with anyone on the committee in person, via email, or drop a note to one of us through church. We propose to you this question: What is your primary goal for our congregation right now? Thank you.

Barbara Halsne, Communicator

Ekkas to be at Woodlake on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday, February 26th

Nijhar Minz-Ekka and Neeraj Ekka and family are in Minnesota for a one-year home assignment/furlough. Nijhar or Neeraj will be preaching at the 5PM Saturday service and the Sunday 10AM service. Following the Sunday service, there will be a presentation and lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Nijhar and Neeraj started the Navin Doman Theological College in Ranchi, India, in 2007. The college trains pastors, missionaries, and evangelists for holistic ministry. The Ekkas provide leadership in administration, curriculum and faculty development as well as coordination with congregations and Christian organizations. They are also engaged in preaching and teaching outside the seminary. In an after school program that draws many children from nearby communities, seminary students help with homework and share God's love. Woodlake's Global Missions supports the Ekkas and their work through the World Mission Prayer League.

Several new ministries have been initiated since 2012. These include:

- A Child Development Center that provides care, guidance, and a daily meal when the children come to the center in the afternoon.

- The Community Health Ministry that helps village people prevent malaria and alcoholism

- The Holistic Ministry Exposure that has deepened students' understanding of and commitment to holistic ministry

- The Andrew Ministry which is an open-air gospel meeting organized by seminary students.

- SONSHINE providing fellowship and career guidance to young people.

- Enabling Ministry that is a skill development ministry for young men and women in seven different trades.

The Ekkas are now working to establish a boarding school for poor and orphan children – "Raising the next generation for God's mission." Don't miss your chance to hear more about their ministry!

Sign up in the office by Thursday, February 23rd for the lunch to be served on Sunday.

Children's Ministry



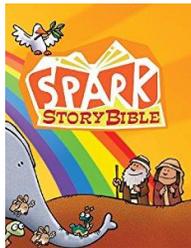
Kids Eat Free!

Every Wednesday Night Supper, children can eat free at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

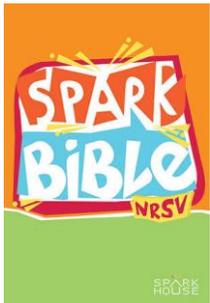
Join us for Fun, Food and Fellowship!

Children's Bible Distribution Sunday, March 5th during worship

Children at Woodlake Church will be receiving the gift of a Spark Bible from our congregation!



Children that have not received a bible and who are between the ages of 3 years-2nd grade will be receiving the Spark Story Bible.



Children that have not received a bible and who are between 3rd grade and 6th grade will receive the Spark Bible NRSV.

Come join us for this joyous occasion!

Sunday School Report

The children are learning about John the Baptist and will be for several weeks!
The children are excited to share with their families about what they are learning.

Here are some questions to ask your children:

- Who did John the Baptist baptize?
- What did John the Baptist eat?
- What did John the Baptist wear?
- What type of bird was at Jesus's baptism?



CAMP WAPO

Situated on a 22 acre peninsula between Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake near Amery, WI is Camp Wapo. For over 60 years Camp Wapo has provided a place for youth and young adults to be challenged and inspired to grow in their relationship with God.

– from www.campwapo.org

Dear 2nd – 12th Graders and Parents:

Once again this year, we are happy to offer a camping program that is the best for you and your family. We have reserved spots for the following week for our kids **and** friends for summer 2017:

July 30-August 4th (Sunday – Friday)

4th – 9th grade – \$420.00

July 28 – July 30 (Friday – Sunday)

2nd & 3rd grade – \$160.00

July 30– August 4th (Sunday-Friday)

9th – 12th grade – \$430.00

PLEASE NOTE: The grades for camp week are what grade the student is in June 2017. We are scheduling all grades for the same week. Although there will be some shared activities, there will be different programs for each age group. **Please register early! The camp fills up every year!**

Bring friends! They need not be a member of your church or any church!

Register online only – See:

<http://lwlbc.com/oakgrove>

For full information about camp, or questions about need-based scholarships (or anything else!) send an email to brice@oakgrovelutheran.org. You can also check out www.campwapo.org to learn more about the camp.

God bless you!

- Pastor Brice Eichlersmith

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

The Leadership Board of Woodlake is in the early stages of taking on their added role of Call Committee. I, and those on the Leadership Board with me, realize that it is an honor and privilege to be a part of this added duty. The congregation has entrusted us to allow God to work through us in this Call process to find our next spiritual and faith leader. This will take time and effort, but I know that God will guide us all and it will be worth it.

This thought reminds me of what I recently read in the Worth the Wait chapter of Pastor Natalia Terfa's book "Uplift." In this chapter, she calls attention to verses 18-21 of Romans 8, the less popular portion of it as verses 35-39 remind us that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Let's take a look at verses 18-21:

I consider that the suffering of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Pastor Terfa reminds us that these verses tell us that something is coming. Something amazing compared to what we are going through now. She reminds us that God is at work in the world and is doing so at this very moment. The created world is filled with anticipation at what God is doing and can hardly wait to see it. So we too, as children of God, wait for God's work to be completed. God is working in you as well. Right here and right now. That work is not complete, either - so we wait.

She then shares that waiting can be hard, but reminds us that we can trust that God is at work. God is at work as we go through this Call process ... he's making something new ... make you and I new ... and while God works, we wait. We do this because our faith tells us that when he's done, when God's work is complete, we won't even be able to handle the awesomeness. So hold to those

wonderful words that come later in Romans 8 --
Nothing can come between you and God.
NOTHING!!

I'll close with the prayer I said at our last Leadership Board meeting. It comes from the Southwestern Minnesota ELCA Synod's Devotions for Congregations in Call Process:

Gracious calling God, call on us with your grace again and again. Renew us daily in the peace, hope and eternal life we have been promised and which we have been called to proclaim. As we work to call a pastor to our congregation, may we count on the prayers of all members of this community of faith to uphold us, just as we trust your Spirit to guide us. We remember, God, you are the One who called us first. Amen.

Faithfully serving you,

Lesley Farnham

Congregational Vice-President

Pastor's Corner

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

A couple of weeks ago our closing hymn was "This Little Light of Mine," and each time we came to the words "I'm going to let it shine," I thought: that is all we need to do as we leave worship and go out into the world. Let the light of our faith shine. I am not sure what that means for everybody. I am not sure exactly how we do that wherever we might be in our lives. But I am convinced that God will take care of the details.

So, let the light of our faith shine. Let it shine at home, at work, and when you are out in the world. Let it shine when you are with family, friends, co-workers. Let it shine through words, deeds, or whatever seems appropriate at the time. Be fair. Be nice. Show your care and concern for others in need. Love God. Love others. Let your light shine.

In the Name of the Light, Jesus,

Pastor Charlie

Mission and Outreach

The forum for Families Moving Forward (FMF) was attended by about a dozen Woodlake members on Sunday, January 15th. I thank them for their willingness to share the joys and frustrations that come with hosting, and for expressing their passionate belief in the worth of this ministry.

Our 2017 hosting weeks are June 4-11 and September 10-17, I hope the conversations sparked by the forum translates into a higher volunteer turnout, both from inside and outside of Woodlake Lutheran Church. If you have volunteered in the past and are still able to, I hope you will continue to help; if you have always thought that Families Moving Forward was a worthwhile ministry but never volunteered, now is the time to step forward.

A host volunteer training session will be held by the FMF staff at Woodlake Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 11th, from 9 AM to Noon. To register, contact Kristin Gilbert at (651) 789-6260 X205, or by email at kgilbert@beaconinterfaith.org. The training would be beneficial for both those who have years of experience or are just starting out.

A final thought: At my mother's house there is a multi-volume book set about the Civil War. In one of the books is a picture of some soldiers posing in front of their muzzle loading cannon. Part of the caption reads, "Although cannoneers were trained to work in gun crews of 8 or 9 men, their drill instructions provided for fighting with diminished crews, ending ominously with *service by two men.*" We could continue to run FMF with fewer and fewer volunteers, but it would not be safe or efficient, and would eventually become a burden for those who remain.

Scott J. Dahlquist
Woodlake Lead FMF Coordinator
(612) 919-9232
Email: sjaadahlquist@comcast.net

Worship and Music Notes

"I truly believe that everything that we do and everyone that we meet is put in our path for a purpose. These are no accidents; we're all teachers – if we are willing to pay attention to the lessons we learn, trust our positive instincts and not be afraid to run risks or wait for some miracle to come knocking at our door." These are the words of Marla Gibbs, actress, comedian, singer, writer and producer.

I'm reminded of this quote now because I'm hesitating and struggling with making a decision to do something may be difficult, or that I may not be able to do. I'm not sure this is the right time to decide whether it's "now or never."

I'm reading a book roughly translated as "The Jackpot – How I Won Half a Million in Günther Jauch's Show and Just Took Off." (It was translated from German into Korean, but currently there is no English edition.) The 50-year-old author won € 500,000 on a television quiz show and used the money to travel the world for one year. She shared her experiences on her blog while living in 12 different cities, each for a month. While she was travelling, she realized it was not difficult to try new things on her bucket list even though she was not the winner of the show. It is not difficult to escape from routine life – but so often we are too scared, or too lazy, and keep putting it off. Trying new things or meeting with new people and travelling can take as little as several minutes or hours. If we can't do it, the most common reason is that we are too comfortable with our routine life.

I'd like to go on a new journey of music with our people for Good Friday. It might be reckless. But, I want to stay foolish. It's depends on people's participation.

We will have rehearsals on Wednesday during March. I'd like to go this beautiful journey with you, your family and your friends.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

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. February *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are now available in the church office (one for each circle).

Esther Circle: Feb 7 (1st Tuesday), 11:30 am in the Yorke Room at 7500 York.

Faith Circle: Feb 7 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Bev E.'s home

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Feb 8 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Lydia Circle: Feb 14 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: Feb 26 (4th Sunday), 8:45 am, Heritage Room

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, February 23, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our list of books for the year is below. Join at any time!

February: *The Life We Bury* by Allen

Eskens

March: *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead

April: *A Fireproof Home for the Bride* by Amy Scheibe

May: *Simon's Night* by Jon Hassler

June: *Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

July: *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

August: *The All-Girls Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flag

September: *I'll Walk Alone* by Mary Higgins Clark

October: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

November / December: *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine

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

Feb 1: Robyn Frank, "Thumb Cookies"

Feb 8: Jake Wanek, "Solar Power"

Feb 15: Tim Erlander, "World War II in Germany and Russia"

Feb 22: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Timber Lodge continues into 2017!

Now you can mark your calendar for our favorite fundraiser, all the way through the end of 2017! All you have to do is head out to Timber Lodge Restaurant, have a great meal, tell your server that you're a friend of Woodlake, and they'll donate 15% of the ticket price back to us!

Thursday, February 9th, 2017

Monday, March 6th, 2017

Tuesday, April 4th, 2017

Thursday, May 4th, 2017

Wednesday, June 7th, 2017

Wednesday, July 12th, 2017

Wednesday, August 9th, 2017

Monday, September 11th, 2017

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017

Thursday, November 9th, 2017

Monday, December 11th, 2017

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We have a new, improved prayer shawl pamphlet that you can find in the kiosk in the gathering area or by the chapel back door. Our Julia added her creative talents, and we hope you look and see how it came out. Also remember we are always happy to have knitters or crocheters join us Monday evening or Thursday morning (check weekly calendar for dates), or for you to knit at home! The other thing we remind you is you are always welcome to a prayer shawl for yourself, a family member, or a friend. They are crafted with a lot of love and prayers, are free, and are nice and warm and cozy always, but particularly on these cold winter days and nights. To get a shawl, check with Starr C. (612-866-2922) or Betty H. (952-835-3133), or anyone in the prayer shawl ministry.