



Messenger

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

Pastor Fred Hanson
Pastor Charlie Plaster

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

Worship Times

Sunday Morning

9:00am Worship in the sanctuary

11:00am Worship in the sanctuary

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins

8:00am in the chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday9am – 1pm
Tuesday9am – 4pm
Wednesday9am – 4pm
Thursday9am – 4pm
Friday9am – 4pm
Saturday9am – 12pm
Sunday9am – 11am

Weekdays: Church Office is
closed for lunch from
12:00 – 12:30.

**Jan 1: Building Closed
for New Years**

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



Worship

Begins Sunday 1/3

Singing Songs—Think “J-O-Y” and “The Rock”

Sharing Peace

Praying Together

Learning Together—A sermon series on Revelation and being counter-cultural.

More Singing and occasional Special Music

Milestones—An opportunity to share your joys and achievements with your church family!

Communion and Offering—Gather around the altar and share the meal. An Agape meal will be offered for children.

Blessing

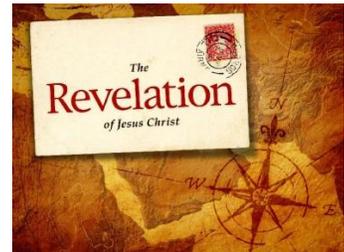
We invite you to join us monthly for fellowship and/or service outings directly following the service!

January 31st—Bowling for Donuts and Food Drive at Southtown Lanes!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
11 week study beginning January 3rd
10 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Topics

1. Introduction
2. The Prophets Call
3. The Letters to the Churches
4. The Heavenly Council
5. The Seven Seals
6. The Seven Trumpets
7. The Great Ordeal
8. The Seven Bowls
9. The Last Day of Babylon
10. The Reign of God
11. The New Jerusalem



Around the Table

Notes From Your Leadership Board

Welcome to our new Leadership Board, which will be meeting **around the table** the 2nd Thursday of each month to present and/or act upon activities and policies of importance to you and me - Woodlake Lutheran Congregation - for the year 2016.

These leaders, listed below, were not elected by you and me to DO the work of their particular commission, or position, but rather to be a visionary and facilitator so that you and I can participate in and promote programs and events in certain areas of interest and for the good of the whole congregation. We are in this together as participants; they are simply guiding and leading us.

On that note, also remember that leadership is not leading people (you and me) where they **think** they want to be, but rather, with God's help, leading people (again, you and me) where they **need** to be. This group of leaders promises, having asked God to help and guide them, always to be alert to that admonition. Get to know them and find out how you can help them lead us according to God's will.

EXECUTIVE TEAM

President – Anne Romstad

Vice-President– Lesley Farnham

Secretary– Beverly Erickson

Treasurer – Orv Holland, through February; new Treasurer to be nominated

COMMISSIONERS:

Congregational Care - Kathleen Reidell

Congregational Life - Kathy Hedman

Faith Formation, Children's Ministry – Shelley Abrams

Faith Formation, Youth and Family – Kim Johnson Myers

Missions – Anne Schmiege

Property – Paul Olson

Worship and Music – Deb Heinecke

Please note that we need a person to fill the Treasurer's position. We also need two more members to complete the Endowment Fund/Foundation Board. Please pray for our new leaders and for others to step forward and fill the positions we have not yet filled.

Sir Winston Churchill once said that we shape our buildings, and then our buildings shape us. Participating in leadership gives us all that opportunity to "shape ourselves" in such a way that we may be of service to "shape others" according to God's plan for us.

Something to think and pray about.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
From your Leadership Board

Merry Christmas from the Ekkas!

The gift of Christmas reminds us that you are also a gift to us. We are much thankful to you for your precious prayer support and sacrificial financial support for God's mission in India. God has been so good in leading us in many ministries and we remain very excited as he has been blessing his mission. With 37 students the seminary is growing while many graduates are serving in many states of India. We have opportunity from time to time to visit and encourage them...

Join us in thanking God for...

1. Good health of children
2. The growth of students in the seminary
3. God's continued grace in using both of us in many ministries both in the seminary and ecumenical circle beyond seminary
4. Graduates of this year serving in different areas
5. The starting of community health ministry
6. Many friends who visited us this year
7. Many churches and individuals who pray and support us financially...

Together in God's Mission,
Neeraj and Nijhar
Maani, Urbas, Puna and
Jhumpa
jnekk@gmail.com

This is an excerpt from our latest news from the Ekkas! Please see the full letter on the Global Missions bulletin board.

Pastor's Corner

²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” John 17:20-23

Living as a Covenant Community

Have you ever thought about the relationship that the Father, Son and Spirit share with other? The adjacent photo is an Icon depicting the Trinity by Andrei Rublev from the 15th



century. All three are leaning in toward each other and share the color blue. For Rublev, the color blue symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit and the bond of love. What makes the relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit so divine and beautiful is that they share the most perfect and pure essence of love possible. It is the bond that unites them together, and a love so powerful that it can breathe new life into dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-4) and even overcome death.

Jesus prays that we will all experience the same unity and love the Father, Son and Holy Spirit share with each other. It's like the song we sometimes sing: "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love." One reason why Jesus prays that "we would be one" is that our unity and the way that we care for each other in community is a very powerful form of witness.

But what does that look like in our context at Woodlake? I think it was evident when we

gathered for a congregational meeting on December 13th. Not only did we have a wonderful turnout, but the conversations going on around the tables were honest, authentic, and laced with hope and love.

It was so inspiring to see so many people actively listening to the thoughts and feelings of others in such a supportive and affirming manner. During this first session we focused on the personal challenges of joining together with Oak Grove and House of Prayer. People shared that it is not easy trying to join different cultures and traditions together. They were concerned about trying to forge a new shared identity and making new friends. Others lamented the idea that Woodlake might not be the site chosen or there would be staff changes.

However, one theme in particular continually come up, and that was the fear of losing our sense of community. You know, sometimes in our families, and at church too, we tend to take relationships for granted. But this wasn't the case as we gathered and shared. I heard numerous people share how important our community at Woodlake is and how much they value the love that we share with each other. By far the greatest fear was that some people might not want to join with other churches, but in the same breath people insisted that we must reach out to each other so that everyone will know that they are valued and loved.

I know as fallible human beings we all have room for growth, but the prayer of Jesus seems to be a growing reality at Woodlake. We are learning to become one as are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As a congregation, we are going to be spending time discerning whether Jesus' prayer for unity includes partnering with Oak Grove and House of Prayer. I have had an opportunity to meet some of their members and they remind of you. They share many of your values, passion, and love of community. The process will be slow, but I'm excited to see what Jesus will do in and through us.

May Jesus bless you each day with grace, peace, hope and love!

- Pastor Fred

Worship and Music Notes

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119: 105

Years ago, when I had time to dream of my life because I was young and had so much energy, these words came into my mind.

I grew up in a suburban area until middle school. The church I attended was small, but a big church for the village I lived in. There was a young minister who directed children and youth as well as the choir. Like most others in my country, the church was Presbyterian denomination. The minister let all youth participate in the Worship as assistants, while the children had worship on every Thursday evening. Every Saturday afternoon, we had a youth choir rehearsal. The minister used to let us visit each friend who didn't attend the rehearsal, even if they were church members who were not interested in music. Sometimes, some youth attended the rehearsal because of their relationship with their friends. Others attended the rehearsal because they knew their friends would visit if they didn't attend it. We often had concerts at night; Hallelujah from Messiah was one of them.

After the rehearsals on Saturday, we needed to attend Bible study whether we liked it or not. He also taught systematic theology to us whether we understood or not because he was attending a Seminary at that time. Due to his effort, we became strong Presbyterians.

You might not understand the situation. But, this could happen at that church because the village was not big like the city; most of the parents knew each other. There are lots reminiscences and memories.

I heard the song 'Thy Word' when I came here, the United States. This song is based on Psalm 119: 105.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. When I afraid, and think I've lost my way. Still, you're there right beside me. Nothing will I

fear as long as you are near; Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will not forget Your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering. Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near; Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I hope and believe my children could get the word through this music. They will understand the things that I learned from a young age from my experiences through music. We are not always happy because I push them a lot to play music. But they know and are aware of how music is wonderful and powerful.

I hope I can share the little things that I feel through music with others. I don't think I can do this with many people. But I will be happy if I can share this with even one person and we can feel these things together. I believe it and I will do it.

- HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Mission and Outreach

Families Moving Forward

Another week of hosting for Families Moving Forward concluded on December 6th. Woodlake was a temporary home for four families consisting of 6 adults and 11 children. A big thank you to all who volunteered their time and made donations of food and money to support this ministry.

Jacqueline Scott-Hopkins, the FMF Program Manager, had an opportunity stop by while we were hosting, and she commented how wonderful it was to see people who "walk the walk" when it comes to living out their faith, to which I reply with a resounding AMEN. **Our next hosting week is March 20-27, 2016.** Be sure to set aside a couple of hours to help with this effort.

- Scott Dahlquist, FMF Coordinator

Keeping in Touch

The Congregational Care Corner

“NEW YEAR - NEW YOU”

It's that time of the year. Time for New Year's resolutions. That time when we set all sorts of new goals for ourselves, our families, our churches. We are going to grow. We are going to improve. We are going to be better in some way, shape or form in the new year.

What happens? Usually we fail. Why? Often times we because we try to do too much, too soon, too fast. What might we do to improve our chances of success? Three ideas:

1. Make changes in small ways: When it comes to diet, what one favorite food will I not eat this week? When it comes to exercise, what will I do for one minute more today? When it comes to faith, what is what one thing I can do for Jesus today? Make your goals doable today.

2. Do it one day at a time. Just work on today. Forget about the successes or failures of yesterday. Don't be thinking about what you will do tomorrow. Just concentrate on doing something today.

3. God loves you anyway. So often we are so hard on ourselves when we fail or we think way too much of ourselves when something goes well. Keep things in perspective. Whether we win or lose when it comes to our resolutions, God loves us anyway.

Have a blessed New Year,

Pastor Charlie

FLU SHOTS

Last year over 30,000 people died from the flu in this country. Get a flu shot. Don't be one of those who dies. You owe it to yourself.

Also, get a flu shot so you are not a carrier and infect others. The old and the young are the most vulnerable (Think your grandchildren and your grandparents). Spare them. Get a flu shot. You owe it to them.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

If you have a homebound ministry communion kit at home, please return it to the church. We are missing a few.

There is a need for 2-3 more homebound visitors. Talk to Pastor Charlie or a member of the homebound ministry committee if you are interested or would like more information.

Continuing ed in April will be on "Hospice." This event will be open to the congregation.

BLOOMINGTON-RICHFIELD GRIEF SUPPORT COALITION

Winter 2016, Thursdays, January 7 – February 25, 4:30-6pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church, 7625 Chicago Ave. S (612-866-8471)

Children, Youth, and Family

BE, BELONG,
BECOME, HAVE FUN!

Happy New Year!

Children's Ministry

Sunday school - 3 years-6th grade

Sundays 10:00-10:55, Rooms C&D

January 3,10,24 and 31

Confirmation Class for youth in Grades 7-9

Sundays 10:00-10:55, Room F

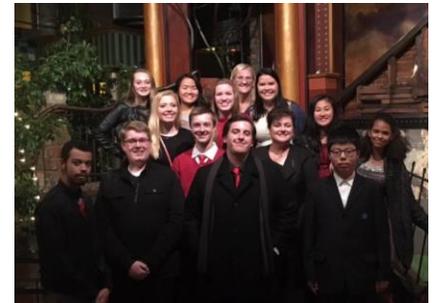
January 3,10,24,31

Youth Group for youth

Grades 9-12

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00PM,

Room F



January 6,13,20, & 27

Jan 6-Person and youth group goals and Purpose Setting!!

Jan 13, 20, 27-Each month 4 people step forward to plan the next month's youth group.

Stay tuned as to our activities for the rest of January

Small Group and Circle News

Circles

January “Gather” magazines with monthly Bible studies are available to each Circle for pickup in the office.

Dorcas Circle: Jan 5 (1st Tuesday), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room

Esther Circle: Jan 5 (1st Tuesday), 10am, Apartment 501 at 7500 York

Faith Circle: Jan 5 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm in member homes

Lydia Circle: Jan 12 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Jan 13 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, January 28, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for January is *The Mapmakers Children* by Sarah McCoy. Keep reading for our book list for the rest of the year. Join in at any time!

February: *The American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin

March: *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio

April: *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber

May: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

June: *A secret Kept* by Tatiana de Rosnay

July: *The Martian* by Andy Weir

August: *The Secret Place* by Tana French

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

Faith and Fellowship Program: “The Music of Martin Luther”

Thursday, Jan 21, 12pm in the Fellowship Hall
Lunch catered by Dave Larsen at 12pm, and the program starts at 1pm. Randall Ferguson plays Renaissance music on the lute and guitar, exploring Martin Luther as a composer and musician. Ferguson combines live performance on renaissance lute with a discussion of the music and hymnody of the reformation that later came to be known as the Lutheran Choral Tradition.

Sign up in the office! Cost is \$13 for lunch and program.

Faith and Fellowship Speakers for January– Wednesdays, 9am, Fireside Room

Jan 6: Marty Schulting, “Air Force Middle East”

Jan 13: Marilyn Thessfeld, “Understanding Medicare”

Jan 20: Michelle Kelm-Helgen, “Metro Sports – New Stadium”

Jan 27: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

SALT (Socializing Adult Lutherans Together)

Sat, January 9th: Serving for Loaves and Fishes at Woodlake

Food preparation and set up of tables starts between 2:30 and 3pm, the meal is served from 5:30 - 6:30pm and then it is clean up. Josh has promised he will pick food that is fun to make that day!

Please call Cheryl at [612-270-0371](tel:612-270-0371) to sign up. Everyone is welcome to eat at some point in the evening.

Woodlake Grief Support Group

We will meet at 6:00pm on Monday, January 4 in the Fireside Room. Information on other grief support resources in the area can be found at:

www.allinahealth.org/griefsupport