



MESSENGER

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
No worship on Sat, Dec 31

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

**Building will close on Monday,
Jan. 2 in observance of New
Year's Day.**

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



JANUARY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Fellowship Event – “Trip to Norway” with David Engen Thurs, Jan 19, Lunch at 12pm, Program at 1pm

David Engen was the 2015 winner of the Norwegian reality show called “Alt for Norge.” The show is in its seventh season. Each year, a few hundred Americans with Norwegian ancestry audition to be in the cast. Six women and six men are selected who travel to Norway and participate in a variety of challenges that determine who is “the most Norwegian of them all!” These challenges – some difficult and some more for fun – cover many aspects of Norwegian history and culture. As a winner, David had the opportunity to meet members of his family in Norway, which until that time he did not know existed. He will share his experiences on the show, as well as what he learned about his heritages as a third-generation Norwegian-American!

Cost: \$13 includes lunch and program; checks made out to Woodlake, please.

January SALT Service Event – Loaves and Fishes Saturday, January 21, 2016 at Woodlake

January will be here before we know it, and the SALT group (Socializing Adult Lutheran Together) plans to help cook, serve and clean up for the Loaves and Fishes dinner. The shifts are as noted below. Please contact Cheryl at 612-270-0371 and let her know as soon as possible if you can help – all adults are always welcome to join SALT, and this is always a fun project! As we did last year, you are welcome to eat in shifts with the guests and/or we could go out for dessert afterwards as a group.

Shifts: Cooking/Food Preparation/Room Preparation: (need 3-4 people) 3 - 5pm

Serving and Cleaning up: (need 9 - 10 people) 5 - 7:30pm

Valentines for the Homebound

Children and adults of the congregation are invited to make valentines for our homebound members on **Sunday, January 29 in the Fireside Room after the 10 AM service.** The Woodlake Stampers will be there to help us. A light lunch will be provided.

Pastor's Corner

"Back to the Sheep Time"

It is "Back To The Sheep Time." What does that mean? Well, think about it in terms of the shepherds who came to see the baby Jesus in the manger. They were out in the fields taking care of the sheep, being shepherds. The angel spoke to them and told them to go to Bethlehem and see the Savior in the manger. So they did as the angel told them. They went. They left the sheep and went to Bethlehem and saw Jesus. We are not told all of what happened there, but I will bet they had a great time.

But they could not stay there forever. They needed to get back to regular life. They needed to get back to taking care of sheep. But as they returned to everyday life, they had new hope. They knew that God in Jesus was with them. They knew they were loved.

Hopefully, this is what we also have as we return to life after Christmas. We have had our Christmas 2016, and we have experienced the manger and all that that means again. Now we go "Back to the Sheep." But as we return to everyday life, may the joy, the message, the promise of Christmas go with us to sustain, guide us, and give us hope in the coming year of 2017.

*God Be With You,
Pastor Charlie*

Worship and Music Notes

"Many years ago there lived an emperor who loved beautiful new clothes so much that he spent all his money on being finely dressed."

This is the beginning of the *Invisible Cloth* (or the *Emperor's New Clothes*), the famous tale with lots of different versions in the world. New house, car, clothes... who doesn't like that? The word "new" usually has positive associations.

Happy 2017! The New Year has begun. People sometimes make New Year's resolutions. Companies put out new marketing slogan to reach new goals. A time for a fresh start. That's why I like the month of January. It makes me expect something good will happen and serve as good luck for the year. Every January, I remind myself of these verses.

"You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his Praise in the assembly of the faithful." Psalm 149:1

A new song literally means a newly composed song. But, its meaning can also indicate our new mind and spirit: the song that we sing with our new mind and spirit can be a new song. Singing without our heart or spirit is only a noise that fills the space. The message with our spirit can touch our lives and will dominate our lives. So these verses, Psalm 51:10-12 has to be in our prayers.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." Psalm 51:10-12

Our lives and minds are so busy, and our voices in our minds are sometimes too loud to listen God's Word. We cannot keep our minds from lots of thoughts, worries, troubles, problems and plans if we don't try to have a clean heart.

"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:3

It is time to put aside our negative minds and old habits, and try to refresh our minds and lives. All we have to do is go forward with a positive view that God gave us. All we have to do is trust that God has a plan that is greater than our thoughts in this 2017.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Children's Ministry



Kids Eat Free!

Every Wednesday Night Supper

Every Wednesday night children can eat free at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for Fun, Food and Fellowship!

I hope everyone enjoyed the children's Christmas program, *The 12 symbols of Christmas*, on December 18th

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas program great!



Just a reminder there will be NO Sunday school on January 1, 2017

Sunday school will resume on January 7, 2017. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

Cub Scouts Updates

- This year, Cub Scout Pack 384 has grown to 37 kids and 15 adult leaders/volunteers
- The fall pancake breakfast was a great success, and raised money for the Pack and the church. We look forward to hosting another one on Palm Sunday this spring.
- In December, Scouts volunteered as bell-ringers for the Salvation Army, and collected donations for Toys for Tots.
- In January, Scouts will visit and tour the Richfield Fire Station and Police Station, and learn about the amazing things that our Police and Firemen do keep our community safe.

Family Mission Trip

July 6-9

Madison, WI

Literally anyone of any age can come along - the program is designed to be flexible precisely so everyone can join in! Children under 3 can even come along for free. The activities are all family-based, but "family" does not have to mean a parent-child relationship. Grandparents, aunts/uncles, friends, neighbors, or whoever are welcome to come along! If any adults or kids don't have relatives who can come but still want to join us, we'll pair you up with others to create a new family for the trip. Children must sign up with an adult, however (either their parent or someone parent-approved). High School kids can come without a parent. Pastor Brice will serve that role.

Cost: \$125 per person (includes, lodging, meals, and programming). Price should not be a deterrent for anyone who wants to come along. If you have ANY concerns about cost please come talk to Pastor Brice and we will make sure you can attend.

Next Steps: Contact Pastor Brice ASAP for more info or to sign up: 612.998.2128; or brice@oakgrovelutheran.org or Beichlersmith@woodlakechurch.org

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Woodlake has begun a new term of leadership by members who were voted in and affirmed by the congregation during the Annual Meeting on November 20, 2016. Your new leaders are:

Officers and Executive Committee:

Anne Romstad, President
Lesley Farnham, Vice-President
Barbara Halsne, Secretary
As yet vacant, Treasurer

Commissioners:

Shelley Abrams, Children's Ministries
Scott Dahlquist, Congregational Care
Kathy Hedman, Congregational Life
Deb Heinicke, Worship and Music
Laurel Johnson, Missions and Outreach
Kim Myers, Youth and Family

All of the above leaders are open to answering your questions and to hearing your suggestions and volunteering opportunities. They are here to serve you.

The Leadership Board meeting is every 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 6:45pm.

You are welcome to come before the group with questions or proposals after first clearing it with the Executive Committee three days before the desired appearance.

Woodlake has now begun the call process to find a new full time pastor. We have guidelines provided by the Minneapolis Area Synod and our synod liaison, Pr. John Hulden. The leadership board is our official call committee, with a possible two extra members at large from the congregation. For the present, our meetings will be following the Leadership Board meeting each month at 7:00-8:00pm.

The call committee wishes to be as transparent as possible in keeping you posted about our progress. Please respect that some information may

not be shared. We will do our best to keep you aware of what's going on. Look for a short message in the Saturday and Sunday bulletins, when possible; the Woodlake Messenger; and possibly a verbal update to small groups such as Wednesday Matins and Sunday forums.

The Call Committee Officers are:

Scott Dahlquist, Chair
Barbara Halsne, Communicator

Please keep these leadership groups in your prayers: that they may desire what our Lord desires for them to desire, and that all meetings will be prayerful and faithfully led.

Anne Romstad, President

Call Committee Report

The call committee met in connection with the board meeting on December 8, 2016. We met with Pastor John Hulden, assistant to the Bishop. He spoke to us on the process and the necessary steps we must take. Scott Dahlquist was named chairman and Barbara Halsne was named communicator of the call committee, with all of the board as members of the committee.

We will begin by doing a Ministry Site Profile which tells our story of who we are, where we've been, and where we hope to go. It will be used by potential candidates to determine whether Woodlake Lutheran might be a good fit for them. This is not an overnight process and at this time we will continue to meet monthly. We ask that all members of Woodlake engage in prayer for the call committee.

Mission and Outreach

Families Moving Forward

Woodlake, in collaboration with volunteers from Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, Hope Lutheran Church, St. Richards Catholic Church, and with donations of food from House of Prayer and Oak Grove Lutheran Churches, wrapped up another week with Families Moving Forward on Sunday, December 4th. 47 different volunteers provided a total of 247 hours of service to help 3 families with 4 adults and 8 children manage their limited resources and they traveled from daycare to work, and from the day center in north Minneapolis to Woodlake Lutheran. I wished them good luck and God's speed on your behalf on their last night here, and I ask that we pray that they continue on their path to find stable housing. There were points of friction during the week, and the amount of volunteers was thin at times, but we persevered and finished the week in good spirits.

Our next hosting week is scheduled for June 4 – 11, 2017. Our most urgent need is for one or two volunteers willing to serve as evening coordinators for one or two nights during the hosting week. The estimated time commitment for this is 8 to 12 hours during the hosting week. Please contact me at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net or at (612) 919-9232 if you are interested in helping out.

A meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15th in the Fireside room starting at 11:30 AM to review how the week went and discuss the future of FMF at Woodlake. All who are interested in this ministry effort are welcome to attend.

It was also my privilege this past month to bring a check to Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, the organization under which FMF operates, a check for a little over \$1200 from the proceeds the craft sale held in November at Woodlake. Thanks to all who were involved in this effort!

*Scott Dahlquist
Lead Coordinator, Families Moving Forward*

From the Records

Deaths and Funerals

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Verona Hansen (1/17/1924 – 11/9/2016)

Service held at Woodlake on 11/19/2016

Ellen Hoff (8/17/1916 – 11/13/2016)

Service held at Mt. Olivet Careview Home on 11/18/2016

Wilma Farmer (6/1/1922 – 11/18/2016)

Service held at Woodlake on 11/23/2016

Virginia Sanders (6/3/1923 – 11/29/2016)

Service held at Woodlake on 12/5/2016

Dorothy Bailey (11/19/1925 – 12/8/2016)

Service held at Woodlake on 12/15/2016

Baptism

Devyn Madsen baptized on 11/26/2016

Transfers

Paula and Steve Peterson to Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Shakopee

Greg, Diane, and Josh Anderson to St. Luke's Lutheran, Bloomington

Administrative Notes for the New Year

Please update your address, phone, and email!

If you have moved recently or changed phone numbers or emails, please check with the office and make sure we have your current info on file. Information for our 2017 member directory will be submitted to Guidebook at the end of January, so don't delay.

Year End Gifts to the Church

With the end of the calendar year approaching, the IRS has specific rules on what gifts will be counted for the calendar year 2016. All gifts must be received by December 31, 2016 or postmarked by this date. Your contribution statements will be mailed to you before the end of January 2017. Any questions, please contact Julie Windler.

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

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

Faith Circle: Jan 3 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Diana O's home

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

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

Sunday Morning Circle: Jan 22 (4th Sunday), 8:45 am, Heritage Room

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, January 26, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our list of books for the year is below. Join at any time!

January: *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

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

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

Jan 4: Michael Rainville, "Minneapolis Convention Center"

Jan 11: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Jan 18: Jim Betzold, "The Strive Program"

Jan 25: Eric Dregni, "Let's Go Fishing"

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!

Tuesday, January 10th, 2017

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