



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

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

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1

Worship at 12pm (Chapel) and 6:30pm (Sanctuary)

Soup Suppers (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5)

5:30 – 6:30pm. No advance sign-up necessary; freewill offering accepted. In a change from previous years, our youth and their families will help prepare and serve, and all offerings will go towards this year's mission trip.

Lenten Worship from 6:30 – 7:00pm in Woodlake's

sanctuary. See "Pastor's Corner" on Page 2 for a sneak peek!

Adult Education Opportunity – Reformation

Sunday, March 5, following worship (Fireside Room)

Join us for a viewing of Rick Steves' *Luther and the Reformation* in honor of the 500th anniversary of Reformation. The 58-minute program is a wonderful resource for all of us to better understand our Lutheran roots and help us in our continued journey to understand the Gospel.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: April 9th, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 13th, 7pm. Joint Worship Service with Oak Grove and House of Prayer, located at Woodlake.

Good Friday: April 14th, 3pm and 7pm

Saturday, April 15th - no chapel service

Easter Sunday: April 16th, 9am and 11am. Easter Egg hunt at 10am

Collaboration Minutes

The Christ in Community team met on January 23. We have not included the minutes in full in this newsletter, but they are available on our website (<http://woodlakechurch.org/christ-in-community/>) or in the church office. Printed copies are on the wall next to the mailboxes.

Pastor's Corner

What do a towel and basin, a rooster, a gavel, some dice, a crown of thorns, some palm branches, a glass of wine and some bread, and some nails all have in common? They are all objects connected in one way or another with the events in the last week of the life of Jesus. The week that we call Holy Week. These objects will be the focus of our Lenten Services this year as each week we focus on one of these objects and seek to understand the part they played in the story we call Holy Week and the story of our salvation.

I hope you will be with us for these services. They start at 6:30pm on Wednesday evening (there is a noontime service on Ash Wednesday). They will be around 30 minutes in length. Most of all, these Lenten services are the way that we prepare ourselves in life and faith for Easter.

*See you in Lenten worship,
Pastor Charlie*

News from the Call Committee

- 1) **We want to hear from you.** The Call Committee members hosted two "Listening Sessions" on Wednesday, February 22 during Matins and again during the evening supper. Other Listening Sessions will be held in March. Check your bulletins.
- 2) Watch for a flyer in your bulletin where you can give us feedback on what your priorities are for calling a Pastor.
- 3) Do you have a candidate you would like to be considered as our next Pastor? Ask Scott for a form or you can find one in the office.
- 4) You are encouraged to stop and chat with Scott Dahlquist in the Narthex each Sunday.

Thank you for your feedback and please continue to pray for the Call process and the committee members: Scott Dahlquist (Chairman) Anne Romstad, Lesley Farnham, Deb Heinecke, Paul Olson, Kathy Hedman, Laurel Johnson, Kim Myers, and Barbara Halsne.

Barbara Halsne, Communicator

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Worship has settled into the following schedule:

1st and 3rd Sundays the Adult choir usually provides music.

2nd Sunday of the month is our Youth Sunday. Pastor Brice is at Woodlake this week and preaches. Youth assist with the worship service. Jeong, Noah Sutton, and Morrie Nilsen accompany.

4th Sunday of the month, the Spirit Singers will sing and Eileen Berge plays organ and piano.

The schedule allows us to provide some variety in the type of music that is used during worship.

We have a loyal group of people who volunteer to help with worship. There are five people who make sure that communion is set up and cleaned up for Saturday and Sunday services, and find volunteers to help distribute communion. We have people who reading the Scriptures during worship, and finally we have people who assist with communion. There is always space available for people to participate in worship by reading and assisting with communion. Our online Signup Genius is one way to get signed up. Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e45a8af2ba2fe3-worship> and once signed up you can receive an email reminder. For those you don't have easy access to a computer, you may contact Deb Heinecke, or continue to sign up in the church office.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st, with worship at 12pm (Chapel) and 6:30pm (Sanctuary). There will be midweek services during Lent at 6:30pm. Holy Week services are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

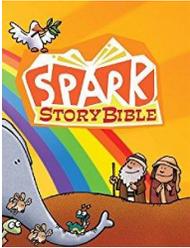
On the back page of this newsletter is a form to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter.

Please feel free to contact Deb Heinecke if you have any questions regarding worship or volunteer opportunities.

- *Deb Heinecke, Worship and Music
Commissioner*

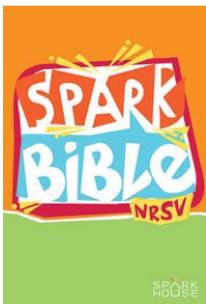
Children's Bibles - March

5th 2017!



(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)

During worship, our 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 3rd grade and 6th grade will receive the Spark Bible NRSV)

Come join us for this joyous occasion!

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for snack donations for our Sunday school class.



If you are able to help, please bring store-bought snacks to the main office during office hours. Place them on the back counter in the box labeled Sunday school snacks. Some of the children's favorite snacks are animal crackers, fruit snacks, rice crispy treat bars, and graham crackers. The snacks have to be non-perishable and have at least 20 servings. Thank you for your help!

Please bring in the snacks by April 2nd Thank you!

Sunday School Report

During the month of March and into April we will be discussing Holy Week and Easter. The children will learn about Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and the importance of Easter.

Questions to ask your child:

- What did people throw on the ground to make a path for Jesus?
- Who saw Jesus first after he had risen from the dead?
- Who appeared before the women in sparkling white cloths?



Upcoming Events

Look for the details to our annual Easter Egg Hunt in next month's newsletter.

Summer Opportunities for All!

CAMP WAPO (dates vary; see below)

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. Although there will be some shared activities, there will be different programs for each age group. **Register online only** – See: <http://lwlbc.com/oakgrove>

For full information about camp, or questions about need-based scholarships (or anything else!) call Pastor Brice at 612.998.2128 or send an email to brice@oakgrovelutheran.org.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS MARCH 15

High School Summer Camp: Castaway by Richfield Young Life; July 9 – 15

Fun with friends, Amazing food, Transportation, Hanging out with your friends and favorite Young Life leaders, Fun games, late nights and early mornings, High 5's from random people, Good times learning about life, and Funny memories. Total cost is \$400.00 Please contact Pastor Brice for more information or to register!

Summer Stretch is a day of service and fun for youth in 6th - 10th grade. It takes place on Thursdays during June and July. More details to follow!

Sr High Youth Mission Trip

July 28 – August 6

This year we're going to Blue Ridge, North Carolina from July 28th to August 6th. Youth must reserve their spot and pay a \$150 deposit by Feb 26th, so do not delay. Total cost is \$650. Youth can offset much of the remaining costs by participating in fundraisers during March and beyond. Please contact Kara Beckman at beckm118@gmail.com to have registration forms emailed to you. Copies are also available in the church office.

Adults are invited and encouraged to attend as chaperones! Please contact Kara with questions and for more information.

Family Mission Trip

July 6-9 to 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: \$100 per person** (price decreased from previous publications; includes lodging, meals, and programming). 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 (contact info to the left) **or come to the Info Meeting on Sunday, March 5 at Woodlake, from 12:30 – 1:30pm**

VBS at Woodlake: August 7 - 12

Go ahead and mark your calendars for this year's VBS, brought to us by Luther Park! More details to follow.

Worship and Music

Notes

“Let your people sing out with joy and be glad; let them say always, ‘Great is the LORD, who desires the happiness of his servants.’ And our tongues shall be talking of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.” -Psalm 35: 27- 28

Music is not the only part of worship. But it is an important component of our liturgy. Here are some ways you can help support our music ministry at Woodlake.

1. Joining and singing in a choir during Lent

Want to be happy? Then, don't hesitate to join a choir whether you think you have a good singing voice or not. We are waiting for you to share our happiness and beauty of music. There is a special opportunity to join choir temporarily during Lent. We will have rehearsals right after Wednesday Lenten service. These rehearsals are for Good Friday worship and Easter Sunday.

2. Support our children's choir

Children's choir is more than a music program. It's easy to think the sole purpose of children's choir is to perform during worship, but that's incorrect. It is an opportunity to give the children an opportunity to serve church in a leadership role. This is the chance to let the children become ministers to others through music. They encourage other children to become involved. They will learn how to work in a team with self-control, cooperation and commitment while learning about music.

Rehearsals will take place on Sundays at 11:15am in the choir room. During this 30-minute rehearsal, children will learn how to read music, keep rhythm, and learn new music.

You can support and encourage them in different ways. Please pay attention to their needs.

3. Own your key!

Piano is a good instrument that can lead or

support music. It contains every note available on other instruments.

There are several pianos in our church. After tuning several month ago, I realized that some of them are no longer able to hold a tune. This is especially true of the piano in the Chapel. It can be hard to listen to its sound because most of the notes are out of tune.

But, there is a way to make a difference! Look for a fun piano fundraiser soon. You can contribute any amount and in exchange you will “own” one of the piano keys. Be sure to let your children join and participate to be able to earn their own key.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Mission and Outreach

Serve a meal at HCC – Saturday, March 18

The University of Minnesota has the largest Chinese student population outside China. The Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC), located across the street from the St. Paul campus of the U of M, has a mission to share Christ's love through hospitality to Chinese students, scholars, and their families. The students and scholars carry the experience of Christian hospitality back home where their education makes them influential. Woodlake's Global Missions has supported the HCC for over 20 years and joins Oak Grove Lutheran in March each year to host a Friendship Meal. This year's meal is Saturday, March 18th. Donations of food and help to set up, serve, and clean up are needed. Call Cheryl Buranen at 612-926-5597 to say that you will help and join in this opportunity to meet the Chinese being served by the Center. This is a good opportunity for youth to get community service hours. During the program following the meal, children of students have a special program that the youth can help with.

“Mission and Outreach” continued on page 6

Financial Corner

Woodlake Heritage Endowment Fund Update: In the early days of the Heritage Endowment Fund, after its creation in 1987, the lofty goal of achieving a balance of \$1,000,000 was often discussed. Well, as of December 31, 2016 that goal was met. The combination of the Endowment Fund and the Memorial Fund (which is under the control of the Heritage Endowment Fund Committee) reached a total of \$1,002,146! With the favorable stock market trends since 12/31/2016, the Endowment Fund itself has a balance of about \$1,003,300! Thanks to your generous gifts and continuous support, our next \$1,000,000 won't take nearly as long.

Total distributions since inception total \$496,094 with additional pending distributions of \$38,200, which will bring the total distributions to \$534,294. All of these distributions have been made in accordance with the Heritage Endowment Fund guidelines to enhance the work of the church.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Reminder: Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2017 to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Woodlake Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Don't have computer access? No problem, just call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Remember this designation must be renewed yearly by March 31. If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have never made this designation, now is the time to start.

Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed by Thrivent to churches and nonprofits nationwide. Woodlake alone has received almost \$30,000, most of which has gone to support our general budget.

Timber Lodge Steakhouse Fundraiser: Timber Lodge days for Woodlake Lutheran Church are an ideal way to enjoy a scrumptious meal and have 15% of the meal cost donated back to the church. Check the Sunday bulletin or our church web site calendar to find which day has been designated as Timber Lodge day for the month. You can go to the Southtown Center location in Bloomington any time during business hours (11:00 AM – 10:00 PM) on those dates, order your meal and be sure to tell the server that you are from Woodlake so we will get the credit.

Over the last 14 months, we received a total of \$1,150 which averages out to about \$80 a month! In those 14 months we had a high of \$168 in March 2016 and another \$118 in May 2016. The meal choices include 3 sizes of Prime Rib, 7 steak choices plus burgers, walleye, salads and 8 different appetizers. *Bon appétit!* **Our day this month is Monday, March 6th.**

"Mission and Outreach," continued

VEAP's March Food Drive
Grocery bags with a list of Most Wanted Items will be available after church on Feb. 26. Please pick up one up as you leave and bring it back with whatever you can afford to give. If you would prefer to have others do the shopping for you, just write a check or put cash in one of your Special Offering church envelopes and label it for VEAP. Thank you for your continued support of this very important program."

A Toast to VEAP Friday, March 3, 2017 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This gala supports our March Food & Fund Drive. Join us in VEAP's warehouse to enjoy local food, craft beer and wine. Advance tickets are \$30, or \$35 at the door; must be 21 or older. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://veap.org/events/a-toast-to-veap/> or call VEAP at 952.888.9616.

Thank you from Cornerstone!
"Dear Woodlake Lutheran Church: Each new year brings new beginnings. For the families that Cornerstone services, those new beginnings would not be possible without the support of donors like you. Thank you for your gift of \$160; we are truly grateful for your generosity..."
See the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall to read the full letter and learn more about Cornerstone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mar 1: Frank White, "Black Baseball"

Mar 8: Steve Solbrack, "Maternal Health Care Project in a Congo School"

Mar 15: Sheriff Richard Stanek, "Hennepin County Sheriff"

Mar 22: Mary Ann Schoenberger, "Brain Health"

Mar 29: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Kathryn Rupp Recital

Friday, March 10, 7-8pm in Woodlake's Sanctuary

Come hear Kathryn sing! Kathryn is a longtime member of Woodlake and a student of opera. The recital is free and you won't want to miss it!

Men's Fellowship Group gathering

**Thursday; March 9, 2017;
9:00AM; HOP Parish Hall**

Guest speaker – Mr. Louie Larson, "Coast to Coast Military Vehicle Convoy"

All men are invited for fellowship; devotions;

topic; meet; greet; chat and hear Louie discuss his experience and participation with the Coast to Coast Military Vehicle Convoy event. Lots of fellowship, plan to join us! For more information call Noel Sagness (612) 866-0833.

March Senior Fellowship Event: The Bloomingtones

Lunch catered by Dave Larsen at 12pm, and the program starts at 1pm. The Bloomingtones are a wonderful singing group led by our own Alice Olson, and you'll see many familiar faces in the group. Sign up sheet will be in the office soon!

Faith and Fiction Book Club

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

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

Men's Spring Softball

The Woodgrove Saints, a men's softball team started by members of Woodlake Lutheran, Oak Grove Lutheran, and St. Richards Catholic Church, will again be playing this spring and summer in the Bloomington Bronze League for a ten game season on Thursday nights starting in late April. If you are looking for a "joy of the game" experience rather than competitive success, this might be the thing for you! Contact team manager Scott Dahlquist at (612) 919-9232 or at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net for more information.

Easter Flowers



Order a beautiful flowering plant to decorate Woodlake for Easter! Your purchase can be dedicated to honor or remember a special person or event, if you wish. Those dedications will be listed in Easter worship folders. Place forms and payments in the offering plate, or bring them to the office. Plants should be taken home after the *last* service on Easter. **In order to ensure you receive your order, please have it to the church office by noon on Wednesday, March 29th.** Please contact Scott Dahlquist if you have questions: (612) 798-5708.

- Easter Lily (White, 6" pot) \$10.00
- Asiatic Lily (Pink, 7" pot)..... \$10.00
- Tulip (Yellow) \$13.00
- Mum (Purple)..... \$13.00
- Azalea (Pink) \$20.00
- Hydrangea (Blue)..... \$30.00

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (no tax)
(payable to Woodlake)

Ordered by _____
(Name as it should appear in bulletin)

Provide a dedication as you would like it to appear in Easter bulletins.

- In Memory of . . . In Honor of . . . Other (write out)
