



Messenger

Confirmation Sunday: May 1 at 10am

“BE THERE FOR OUR KIDS”

As a parent, one of the things that all of us try to do is be there for our kids. When they were young, this involved being at school programs, church programs, or athletic events. As they got older, it meant being at graduations, weddings, and the baptisms of the grandchildren. If they are our children, we want to be there for them.

On Sunday, May 1, it is Confirmation Day. Six young people from our congregation will be standing up in front of the congregation at the 10am worship service affirming their Christian faith. These confirmands are members of our faith family here at Woodlake Lutheran.

So I would ask all of us: as we have been there for our children at the important times in their lives, please be there for these children of faith on this important day in their Christian lives. Pray for them. Be there with them in worship that day. Shake their hand after worship and tell them congratulations. Be there for our Woodlake kids.

In faith, Pastor Charlie

Worship in May and Beyond

Please make note of these changes to worship. Starting Sunday, April 24th, there will be one Sunday morning service at 10am. Saturday evening 5pm chapel service continues as usual.

Important dates for May (10 am worship every Sunday morning)

5/1 Confirmation Sunday

5/15 Children's Pageant and Tisa's last day (More info on Page 3)

5/22 Recognition of high school seniors in worship. Congregational Meeting after worship

Gluten-free wafers now available at communion. Please indicate your preference to the Pastor.

Summer joint worship. Please mark your calendars! We will be having joint worship services 6/12 and 7/17 with House of Prayer and Oak Grove, with lunch after worship.

Let me know if you have questions or concerns about worship.

Deb Heinecke, Worship and Music commissioner

Woodlake

Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South

Richfield, MN 55423

(612) 866-8449

www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Charlie Plaster

Woodlake Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA.

Worship in May

Sunday Morning

10:00am Worship in the sanctuary

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins

8:00am in the chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday.....9am – 1pm

Tuesday.....9am – 4pm

Wednesday.....9am – 4pm

Thursday.....9am – 4pm

Friday.....9am – 4pm

Saturday.....9am – 12pm

Sunday.....9am – 11am

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

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

Pastor's Corner

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

The prayer quoted above is often referred to as the "Holden Prayer" and is beloved by a number of people at Woodlake and throughout the world.

Holden Village, once a mining town, is located in north central Washington State, in a remote area of the Cascade Mountains above Lake Chelan. Holden is a place where people come and rest from the grind of their daily pilgrimage. At Holden, people are invited into a new expression of community as fellow seekers of God learn how to "be still," "wait on the Lord," and learn to recognize God's voice through all of the other voices that swirl in their heads. As people leave Holden, they are invited to pray the Holden prayer.

What is so true and powerful about this prayer is that it captures the reality that life turns out so different from anything we can imagine, and that at the end of it all, our destiny lies in the hand of God. Go back even 10 years ago and think about all of the things that you've experienced. Could you have ever imagined that things turned out the way they did? Or, some of the difficult times you've had to journey through, not knowing if you'd make it, but then upon looking back realized that God was carrying you through.

If you would have asked me 10 years ago if I thought I would be serving as a pastor at Woodlake, I couldn't have conceived of it. God's ways are so mysterious, yet, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be in community with you and serve with you. You have all been so kind to me and have helped me to grow in so many ways. Again, if you would have asked me 10 years ago if I'd ever be in Pine City I would have thought you were crazy, but that's where I'll be for the next year or two. I have no idea what it will be like, but I can only trust that it is part of God's plan.

I know it is hard for you, too, and I'm sure you wonder what the future will hold for you as a community of faith. I don't know the answer to that either, but what I do know is that God will be with you, that God has a plan for you, and part of that plan is for you to embrace this transition as an opportunity to trust in God and allow the Holy Spirit to comfort, inspire and to mold you into something new, something I would not be able to do.

I do believe, though, that somehow your future is tied to your brothers and sisters at Oak Grove and House of Prayer. They are wonderful Christian people, just like you, and they are also wondering what the future will be like for them. I believe, that if all three churches allow the Holy Spirit to be in control, something beautiful and amazing will emerge.

I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers, because now you shall always be a part of me, and I am a part of you.

Easter blessing from the one who was, who is, and who is yet to come!

Pastor Fred

Keeping in Touch

*The Congregational
Care Corner*

Homebound Ministry

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

Homebound ministers, please fill out a card when you have made a call and turn it in to the church office. This will help with our record keeping. If you are no longer visiting the people we have you down to visit, please let the church office know this also.

If you would like to be one of our homebound ministers, please talk to Pastor Charlie or one of the homebound ministry team.

**Bloomington-Richfield
Grief Support Coalition
SPRING SERIES:
Thursday, April 7 – May
26, 2016, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Oak Grove Pres. Church
(www.oakgrv.org)**

Topics for May

May 5: "Is It Grief, Or Something More?"

May 12 "Grief & the Quest for Meaning"

May 19: "Untitled"

May 26: SERVICE OF HEALING

Children, Youth and Family

Children's Ministry - "Take Part"

Musical Production final Weeks!

Sunday school - 3 years-6th grade

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

Upcoming rehearsal dates:

May 1st Sun 10-10:40AM; Run through 12-2PM

May 4th Wed 6:30-7:15PM during the choir time

May 8th Sun 10-10:40AM; Run through 12-2PM

May 11th Wed 6-8PM

May 14th Sat, Dress Rehearsal 4-7PM

May 15th Program Day! Call at 9AM, Program at 10AM

Confirmation Class for youth in Grades 7-9

Classes have ended for this current school year, however worship notes and service hours continue. 10 worship notes and 10 service hours are expected throughout the year. If you have any questions about what is remaining, please talk to Debbie Jungers.

9th Graders: Blessing on Your Confirmation!

Please congratulate our six confirmands: Brenda Givens, Ella Kapocius, Anna Kasper, Darlene McPherson, Jackson Schnable, William Voigt

Summer opportunity for middle schoolers!!!

SUMMER STRETCH in partnership with area churches. Please contact Pastor Brice if you are interested: brice@oakgrovelutheran.org

Youth Group for youth Grades 9-12

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00PM, Room F

We have finished for the year meeting on Wednesdays; however lots of opportunities remain!

May 13th-If you (or your parent) is available to unload and sort plants for the plant sale. Plan on 10-noon.

May 14th--All mission trip participants are expected to be available to assist with the plant pick up from the sale. Arrive at 8:30 and plan to stay until 1:30. Pick up times are from 9-1 for people who purchased plants.

May 15th--BAKE SALE before and after worship!! Please provide bake sale items (bring them on the 14th). 1/2 mission trip people will assist with plant

sales and the other half will be with the bake sale!!! It's going to be a fun and busy morning!

Woodlake Mini VBS

June 15 – 17th

8:30am – 5:30pm

Deadline to register is

5/1/16!



Join us for a three-day VBS here at Woodlake! This is a three-day program for kids ages 3 – entering 6th grade. Cost is \$30 and includes meals, snacks, t-shirt, and materials. Sign up in the office today or email our new children's ministry coordinator Heather at hwageman@woodlakechurch.org (Wait, who? More info on Heather on page 4!)



Vacation Bible School July 25-29, 9am-12pm at Oak Grove Lutheran Church

We will be collaborating with Oak Grove on this year's weeklong VBS! Kids ages 3 – entering 6th grade are all welcome, all week from 9am-12pm, and completely free. Registration forms are available in the office today!

May 15: Spring Children's Pageant! It is Red, and Yellow, and Green, and Brown, and Scarlet, and Black, and Ochre and Peach ... and it's coming to a 10 o'clock worship near you on Sunday, May 15th! Come to hear some classic Broadway tunes and the Old Testament story of Jacob's favorite son! If you'd like to help with sets or costumes, hopefully Tisa will have specific needs organized by May 1st. Email her at tzachau@woodlakechurch.org to inquire what you can do to help out!

Other CYF News...

Unfortunately, the posted position for the Director of Youth and Family Missions was not filled. However, this opens up more opportunity to possibly collaborate with House of Prayer, as they are currently interviewing for a similar position. Don't worry - the Youth Mission trip later this summer will be going on as planned. Keep a lookout for further fundraisers for the mission trip, especially a bake sale on May 15th and at Potbelly's later on. - Kim Myers, Faith Formation Co-Chair

Welcome to Heather!

Heather Wageman was introduced and installed on Sunday, April 10, as our Coordinator of Children's Ministries at Woodlake. She will work closely with Shelley Abrams, our Commissioner of Children's Ministries. The following is a short bio introduction by Heather. Please introduce yourself to her and include her and our children's ministries in your stewardship of time, talent, and prayers. – Anne Romstad

I am very excited to be the Children's Ministry Coordinator here at Woodlake! With my own experiences and degree in Child Development, I am sure that the children will have a wonderful experience enjoying fun and faithful activities.

Growing up, my family and I went to Hosanna Lutheran Church. I have also done volunteer work with Women of Worship leading their children's ministry program. The past two years I have been working with the Abrams family, which has led me here to Woodlake!

Entering this new chapter of coordinating, I want to get children excited for church, ready to learn about Jesus, and develop new friendships. Children need to hear about the word of God and how to walk a faithful path with everyday experiences. I can't wait to get started and get to know everyone here in the Woodlake community.

- Heather Wageman,
Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Woodlake Munchkins Stole the Show at Richfield High School

If you weren't able to attend April's production of *The Wizard of Oz* at Richfield High School, you missed a great show and you may have been in the minority! A large number of Woodlake's members came to see the musical and the support was so appreciated.

The show was directed by Stephanie Burt, who was confirmed at Woodlake and recently graduated from Augsburg College with a degree in film and production! Her talent shined in impeccable casting and an incredible gift for leadership and delegation. Emerson Martin, who was confirmed at Woodlake last year, was one of a large cast of awesome High School kids. Her parts were numerous and included; an Enchanted Apple Tree, an Ozian, a Winged Monkey, and she also sang in the Girls Chorus! What an amazing feat she accomplished in playing all of those roles so wonderfully!

Tisa Zachau worked with the vocalists and also coached 11 Munchkins, who were primarily selected from the Woodlake Children's Choir. Mara Lien and Evelyn Smiley were standouts with their special lines and solos, as well as their enthusiasm and leadership. Joe Abrams, Maksim Zachau, and Ryelin Moore were cast as the "Lollipop Guild," and they did not disappoint in their adorable and spot-on portrayal of this famous role. Kari Hargreaves, Tiian Zachau, and Kendall Lesch were absolutely heart-warming and beautiful in their roles as the "Lullabye League." Elijah Moore had a show-stopping performance as the Coroner, and Jenna Okey and Evan Abrams rounded out the Munchkin cast with amazing apple cheeks and fantastic costumes!

The parents of the Munchkins were also a great addition to what turned out to be a family affair. In the true spirit of community, Moms and Dads alike not only took care of their own children but supported the cast and crew. They brought treats, they took photos, they advertised on social media sites and they had smiles of encouragement and words of praise for all who were there. As we at Woodlake move forward with a plan for collaboration with Oak Grove Lutheran and House of Prayer Lutheran, surely these families have the capacity to take leadership roles and to demonstrate an attitude of outreach, sharing, and a part or a place for everyone and everything!

Hopefully this collaboration with Richfield High School will be another opportunity for Woodlake Lutheran Church to become more involved in the greater community of Richfield! Thanks to all who participated, supported, and encouraged the endeavor!

- Tisa Zachau

Mission and Outreach

In Touch With Your Missional Self

For you were called to freedom brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. - Galatians 5:13

Woodlake congregation has been around for more than 60 years, and reaching out to serve our community has always been a part of who we are. You may have been in worship on Sunday, April 10 when we were able to acknowledge Neomie Reishus' many years of serving as coordinator for Woodlake's Meals on Wheels program. This spring, we will be starting our latest outreach program, a free medical clinic run by St. Mary's Health Clinic, which will use our facility to hold an afternoon clinic once a week for people who are without insurance or underinsured. We may be looking for volunteers to sit at a welcome table and help to direct our neighbors to the clinic rooms when we open in June.

Besides this new venture, we continue to reach out to our community through many programs. I would like to take this moment to thank all of the coordinators and the many volunteers who continue to give their time to these important programs:

- * Donna Alstrup is the coordinator for our quilters.
- * Cheryl Buranen has taken over the Meals on Wheels coordinator position and continues to serve as coordinator for the Friendship Meal at the Hospitality House for Chinese
- * Scott Dahlquist is the coordinator for Families Moving Forward.
- * Marlene Evenson is coordinating our VEAP giving.
- * Faith and Fiction Book club members are coordinators for the Little Free Library
- * While Josh Frueh is our chef for Loaves and Fishes, he has a dedicated volunteer crew of regulars from Woodlake who assist him with setting up, making, serving and cleanup for the

meals every Saturday and Sunday.

* Betty Hassenstab and Starr Carriere coordinate the prayer shawl ministry.

* Deb Olson and Laura Kasper coordinate the knitters for Hats, Scarves and mittens.

* Shirley Stroud is the coordinator for Table Blessings

All of these programs provide a service and help us to reach out to our neighbors in the Richfield community and beyond. If you have not done it yet, please join me in thanking these dedicated volunteers for their service. If one of these programs is especially meaningful to you, let them know that what they are doing is important, and ask how you can help.

I also want to thank Josh for joining me as a staff consultant for our commission. He has some great ideas for including food with our future service projects!

Please feel free to contact me if you have a question or an idea for our Mission and Outreach Commission. We are making plans to host some outdoor service opportunities for all ages this summer and plan to include members from Oak Grove and House of Prayer as well, so look for that information in future bulletins.

Anne Schmieg, Mission and Outreach

Commissioner - anneschmieg54@gmail.com

Families Moving Forward update from Coordinator Scott Dahlquist

Another successful week of hosting Families Moving Forward wrapped up on Easter Sunday. Three families, consisting of four adults and six children, were fed, sheltered, and welcomed to Woodlake Lutheran while they cared for their children, worked at their jobs, and made plans with staff at the day center on transitioning to stable housing. In addition to the volunteers from Woodlake, members of House of Prayer (Richfield), Hope (Minneapolis), and Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer (Minneapolis) prepared and served meals, played with the children, and extended some grace and dignity to our guests. We received a thank you note from the families after their week with us, and a ten year old boy wrote:
Continued on page 6

Building and Finances

Offering Envelopes: New single-offering envelopes have been ordered that can be used during a church service or used for memorials or honorariums. On the front, there are lines drawn for Amount, Designated to, Envelope No., Name and Address. The back is blank so more could be written if they want to use for a memorial. These envelopes have been placed in the pews and are also available on the kiosk at the front of the narthex.

The booklet envelopes will be arriving in homes soon for the May-October time frame. These envelopes have been changed to reflect usage and also result in cost savings. The Weekly offering envelopes still remain, the REACH envelopes are no longer in the packet and there are two envelopes per month that say Special and have a space for designating the program it should go to. Underneath the front cover, a variety of the possible programs are listed including St. Mary's Health Clinic.

As you or others use these envelopes, please let me know any way that we can improve on them for future orders.

REACH Program: The REACH fund will be coming to an end after the month of May. That is when we will make our last payment for the flat roof. This fund paid for new heating system and upgrades to current boilers, lighting repairs and upgrades, new roofing for the entire flat roof of the building, painting of damaged rooms, some debt reduction and missional outreach including VEAP, Youth Mission Trip and others.

Donations can still be made to Properties Projects, which will be where special Properties repairs and projects are paid for in the future.

Lawn Care: Church lawn care and cleanup will now be done by Schwaders, the same company that currently does our snow plowing. The grounds were dethatched and cleaned this past week, and the cost was less than yard waste pick up would be from the trash company and everything being in better shape. Schwaders will also be doing our

weekly lawn maintenance and mowing. This also is a great service as it includes weeding of the major garden areas around the building and the mowing. The cost will be less and appearance nicer.

HELP is still needed! The courtyard garden will need attention all summer long and any thinning or redoing of all the garden beds is still ours to do.

New Custodian: Welcome to Ed Morrow, who is our newest addition to staff! Most of you already know Ed as a longtime member here, but now he will be assisting with custodial duties on some Sunday mornings and other times as needed.

Painting: Josh (our kitchen manager and painting dynamo) with the assistance of Daniel (a Romanian refugee) has been painting some of the rooms that had water damage back when the roof leaked everywhere, and also rooms that have had lots of wear and tear. Check out the Sunday School wing bathrooms and rooms 2, 3 and 4. This has also been part of our REACH expenses.

Financial Information: At the end of March, our finances are approximately where our budgetary predictions are, but the budget is not a balanced budget. Additional offerings and continual attention to expenses will hopefully help this situation.

- Julie Windler, Financial Coordinator and Building Manager

Families Moving Forward update continued

"Thank you, it was good there." Woodlake members also provided Easter baskets to the families for the parents to share with their children, a gesture which was greatly appreciated. **Our next hosting week is November 27th to December 4th.** I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as lead coordinator, to be of service to my church and community, for the service of those who have served but can no longer do so, for those who continue to serve, and for those who will serve in the future. Our most pressing need is for coordinators and overnight hosts, the time commitment is small, but the rewards are great. Please contact me if you would like more information about these roles.

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

Let's try to think of the many ways in which Woodlake Lutheran Church communicates with its members.

- ❖ **The first one that comes to mind for me is the weekly bulletin.** Have you noticed a new insert in our bulletins? We now have a separate colored page just for communication, a listing by day of the calendar for the coming week. When I find my place in the pew, this colored page is probably the first thing I read. I keep this together with the Messenger in my magazine rack where I can easily check on what is happening.
- ❖ But we have other tools to aid in communicating. **The Woodlake Messenger, our monthly newsletter,** communicates to us of what is going to happen in the next month. Whether you receive it by email or postal delivery, it is always anticipated. By the way, the 15th of each month is the deadline for announcements to be submitted to Julia, our office coordinator.
- ❖ **Have you looked at our website lately?** Julia and the website committee gave www.woodlakechurch.org a whole new look and it is full of information about Woodlake. I want to encourage you to click on "media" at the top of the homepage. There you will find the Messenger newsletter, bulletins, and minutes from the Leadership Board. I, as your secretary, am responsible for writing the minutes of the board meetings. After they have been approved at the next month's meeting they are made available to the website. Take time to read the minutes, and find out what your leadership board is doing. If you are not a "techie" you can pick up a copy of approved minutes in the office. Find them on the wall next to the mailboxes. The treasurer also leaves the monthly financial reports in this location. We want all members to have access to information about what is going on at Woodlake, and especially the decisions that our Leadership Board is making. Take advantage and be informed.
- ❖ **There are bulletin boards** throughout the church that concentrate on various groups in the church,

such as youth, seniors, VEAP, and Sunday School. Community events are posted on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall.

- ❖ **The electronic sign off 76th St.** is important in attracting nonmembers. Have you seen the "Free Meal" sign? If you visit Loaves and Fishes, you will see that this sign gets results.
- ❖ If you are late in coming to church, you will miss the **announcements that are given by our pastor at the beginning of the service.**
- ❖ **The kiosk** as you enter the narthex is welcoming to visitors and the place to pick up devotional materials.
- ❖ One of the recent additions is **email communication sent to each household.** If you give your email address to Julia, you will be included on this list and receive an email every Friday with the upcoming weekend's events, along with notices about deaths of members, and last-minute changes due to weather.
- ❖ **Have you "liked" us on Facebook?** We don't use it for critical communications, but it sure is a fun way to connect if you're on Facebook!
- ❖ Lastly, I need to mention the **Sunday morning coffee hour.** This is first of all the place where friends are made and relationships cultivated, but it is also an important place for communication. The information exchanged in this setting is informative, especially about the weather, but also an important setting to discuss "church topics," and offer opinions. In the past few weeks with many staff changes, there has not been a lack of topics to discuss. Hopefully, the information is available to make each member "up to the minute" with what Woodlake Lutheran is doing.

Your secretary, Bev Erickson

Timber Lodge in May and Beyond!

You can go ahead and mark your calendars up through the rest of the year!

Thursday, May 12th

Monday, June 6th

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH (This is a change! Please update your calendars!)

Thursday, August 18th

Monday, September 26th

Tuesday, October 11th

Thursday, November 17th

Monday, December 12th

Small Groups and Circles

Circles

May "Gather" magazines with monthly Bible studies are available to each Circle for pickup in the office.

Sunday Morning Circle: See you next year!

Dorcus Circle: May 3 (1st Tuesday), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room

Esther Circle: May 3 (1st Tuesday), 11:30am for a luncheon in the Yorke Room (7500 York)

Faith Circle: May 3 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm in member homes

Lydia Circle: May 10 (2nd Tuesday), **12:00 pm (time changed for salad luncheon)**, Fireside Room

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

Faith and Fellowship Speakers for

May – Wednesdays, 9am

May 4: "Travels in India," Hazel Lutz and Tom Anderson

May 11: "Air Force Middle East," Marty Schulting

May 18: Cynthia Mandl

May 25: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, May 26, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for May is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Attention, Funeral Workers!

Please join us for coffee and dessert in the Fireside Room on Wednesday, May 4, at 1:00pm. We want to thank you for all your hard work throughout the year! Please call Betty Wilhelmson if you are able to come: 612-866-4343

Prayer Knitting

The annual spring luncheon for the Prayer Shawl Ministry and Laughter Group will be at Timber Lodge on **Thursday, May 12**, at noon. Come join us for a good meal, fun time, and help make some money for Woodlake. Please call Betty H. at 952-835-3133 by May 9 so a reservation can be made. PS – bring a good joke along!

Worship and Music Notes

I have been working at Woodlake since September 2015. This is not a very long time. I always felt blessed to be working with such motivating staff at Woodlake. But, I need to accept the farewells from Greg, Pastor Fred, Kris and even Tisa. It's hard to say goodbye! I know how much Woodlake Church was blessed by these people. I know how they are motivated and talented in their position.

It was really hard to accept their resignations in such a short time. During my time here, I have talked with Pastor Fred. He reminded me about God's plan. At all times, God has a plan for us, Woodlake Lutheran Church.

God has a plan for us. God knows what that plan is. The plan is not to leave us disappointed. We have to face the future with hope. The people of God can step out in faith by listening to God's plan. We are trusting in God's plan for this place and the mission we share together. "*The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it*" - 1 Thessalonians 5:2

For just as each of us has one body with many parts, and these parts do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

Like an orchestra, many different instruments have their own tones but combine to make beautiful music through lots of discipline. We need each other, each of you. This is the church. The head of church is Christ. We don't need any special programs or events planned, but you, your heart, energy, time and effort.

May 15 is Pentecost Sunday. I have a dream about Revival/ Spiritual awakening for my life. We pray to God in the power of the spirit. Whenever two or more gather in Jesus's name, the Spirit is present. I pray for the guidance of Spirit, for the patience and wisdom, for the deepening of faith, and love to go forward.

Veni, Sante Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

- HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music