

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pr 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 December's issue
of The Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than November 15.*



November 2016

November Event Highlights

Lunchtime Popup Concert – November 2, 12:15-12:45pm

Join us for our next popup concert! Fern Davidson will play the Japanese Koto Floor Harp. These concerts are free and open to the public, so be sure to come and bring a friend!

Attend the World Premiere of the Play “Invisible,” right here in Woodlake’s Fellowship Hall! Sunday, November 6th, 7 pm

Woodlake Lutheran Church is excited to host the Chain Reaction Theatre Project’s production, “Invisible,” written and directed by Shelley Smith. “Invisible” tells the story of six homeless youth, and is based on Shelley Smith’s real-life volunteer experiences. Admission is “Pay-as-you-can” with a suggested ticket price of \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/596733> or at the door by cash, check or credit card. All seating is general admission.

It’s Craft Sale Time! Sat, Nov. 12, 9am-3pm

If you have yard signs, put them out. If you are doing fall cleaning, bring things for Grandma’s Attic. If you are a baker, find some good recipes for the bake sale. As in the past, bring them to the kitchen on Friday, November 11. Remember to attach one of our stickers to each item (state guidelines) with your name or initials on it. As in the past, advertise our sale to all and be sure to have lunch. Some of the sale organizers are moving on to other things, so if you are interested in a leadership role for the craft sale, leave your name in the office.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

Recap where we’ve been this year, and have a say in where we’re headed – have a voice in approving next year’s budget. No lunch this year; we want to have you out by 12pm!

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 6:30pm: Collaborative Thanksgiving Eve worship at House of Prayer. More details to come!

Pastor's Corner

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

“WHAT A MONTH FOR
WORSHIP”

What a month for worship. November has it all:

#1. On the weekend of November 5-6, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. It is a day with many themes. We remember loved ones who have died. We are reminded of our own mortality. Above all, we are reminded of the promises of resurrection and life eternal that we have through faith in Jesus Christ.

#2. On the weekend of November 19-20, we focus on Thanksgiving. It is a time to look back and reflect upon the many ways that God has blessed us this past year. It is a time to say “Thank you.” It is also an opportunity to share with those who are in need.

#3. On the weekend of November 26-27, we begin the season of Advent. A time to prepare our hearts, minds and lives to celebrate the gift to us at Christmas of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. We light the candles. We hear the Good News. We prepare.

All of these special times can of course be celebrated alone. But we are better in all sorts of ways when we celebrate these special times of faith in worship with other Christians. I hope you will join us.

*See you at worship,
Pastor Charlie*

Welcome to November! A time for thank you’s of many sorts and sizes: Thank you to God our Creator who has brought us through Winter dormancy, Spring renewal, Summer growth and warmth and now Fall harvest and gathering of resources which will take us through yet another Winter dormancy. We have had, some of us, personal triumphs, and some of us, personal losses. All of us have had to go through transitions of one form or another. And all the while, whether we realize(d) it at the time, God has been with us, going through our lives with us. May we always praise and thank God, no matter what our circumstances.

Thank you to all of you in the congregation who have walked with your leadership through some puzzling times of transition, and for asking the hard questions – the difference between consolidation and collaboration, for example. You and your visions are one answer to that question. Around 1550, Martin Luther wrote: “The church is not a building or institution but a gathering in fellowship.” Something to think about.

Thank you to Pr Fred for his 3 ½ years of leadership through last April and to Pr Charlie for clear, decisive leadership from May through the present; for clear answers and consideration of the hard questions. Our God who is faithful has given us the leadership necessary to do the hard work of the Church. May we also remember to thank our support staff. We have the J Crew: Jeong Lee, a truly fine worship planner; financial coordinator Julie Windler, - we have a budget with a surplus now; Julia Skowronski (I spell her name Jewel-ia), who keeps the front office calm and Woodlake looking and sounding peaceful; and kitchen coordinator Josh Frueh, truly a culinary artist. Heather is becoming the Pied Piper in Children's Ministry and I'm grateful for how easy she is work with. I am grateful for Pr Brice, too, who gives a whole new slant on worship, and for our custodians Gordy Wilson, Ed Morrow, Jeffrey and Matthew. Bless 'em all!!!

Without the MANY tireless volunteers who help Woodlake hum, and who help our Support Staff and Pastors, we really would not have a functioning faith community. I thank them, and I hope you will as well - every chance you get!

This year, our joint Thanksgiving Eve service will be at 6:30 at House of Prayer, Richfield. We'll not only meet to thank God our Creator, but also those worshipping with us from Oak Grove and House of Prayer. We are a church together, so it's a good time to show our thankfulness for our similarities and our differences which make us unique, together, and precious in God's sight.

Leadership Board members and our many other leadership committees: I personally thank you all! Woodlake has been blessed with awesome governing boards. A good leader takes people where they need to go, not just where they think they want to go. And you all have taken that adage seriously. More praise for you will be coming at the Annual Meeting after the service on November 20. Like my plug for the meeting??

A prayer from our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: “Dear God, May I always desire what you desire for me to desire. Amen.”

Anne Romstad, Congregational President

Kids Eat Free!

Every Wednesday night supper, starting October 26, 2016



Every Wednesday night children and teens up through 12th grade can eat free at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for Fun, Food and Fellowship!

Coming this November to Woodlake Church...
Our Giving Tree!



It will be featured on the children's ministry bulletin board. The children and families can choose an ornament to help a family for Christmas. We need to work together in order to help make everyone's Christmas wonderful! Please come check out our giving tree, coming this November. We want our children to have a fun way to get involved in this year's VEAP toy drive and get into the giving holiday spirit!

If your family or someone you know could use a helping hand over the holiday season, please call VEAP – yes, they're more than just a food shelf!!

952-888-9616

Direct Charitable Giving from your IRA can be tax free!!

Permanent law changes now allow individuals over 70 ½ years old to make charitable distributions directly from an IRA account without having to pay income tax on the withdrawal from your IRA account. This type of charitable gift is called a *Qualified Charitable Distribution* (QCD) and is not taxable income as normal IRA distributions are. Giving directly from your IRA allows you to ignore your QCD IRA distribution when calculating your taxable income and also take the standard deduction. In addition, Qualified Charitable Distributions count as IRA distributions and can be used to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

There are only three requirements that must be met to fully count as a QCD:

1. A QCD must come from a Traditional IRA or an Inherited IRA where the beneficiary is over 70 ½. A Simple IRA or SEP IRA must first be rolled over into an IRA Rollover before they can qualify.
2. The distribution must transfer directly to a qualified charity which includes all IRS section 501(c)(3) organizations. You cannot receive the distribution and then write a personal check for the contribution.
3. You must receive a confirmation letter from the charity including a statement that no goods or services were received in exchange for the gifts.

This manner of giving to Woodlake Lutheran Church has the advantage of avoiding tax on the IRA distribution, satisfying the RMD requirements from an IRA and benefitting the church with your generosity. Such contributions can be used to satisfy part or all of your pledged giving commitment.

Contact your tax advisor for further explanation of Qualified Charitable Distributions.

*Timber Lodge in November:
Thursday, November 17th*

Mission and Outreach

Music Memory program at Mainstreet needs our help! Avinity Senior Living-Mainstreet Village in Richfield is starting a new program for seniors with dementia called Music and Memory. They have need for new or used portable music players (iPods or similar devices), which they can individually program for each client to reconnect them with meaningful music from their past. They have learned that the results of this program have changed lives for clients experiencing dementia and are eager to begin the program here in Richfield. We will be accepting donations of music players and money to help this program get started: iPods (especially iPod shuffles), iTunes gift cards, CDs, LPS of old music, or funds (checks made out to Avinity Foundation, please), and volunteers who will want to come and help create playlists for the residents. Volunteers will be trained to “interview” participants or perhaps family members to create playlists for the residents. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the office and we will transport them to Affinity. Please give any items to the office coordinator or volunteer at the desk.

Our next Families Moving Forward host week starts Sunday, November 27th and ends on Sunday, December 4th. Volunteers are needed for set-up, preparing meals, evening hosting, overnight hosting, dishwashing, and clean-up. Our congregation has gone through many changes in the past several years, and even with the help of several other congregations finding enough volunteers is always a challenge. Each volunteer spot requires only about 2-3 hours of active work. If, like me, you have found this ministry effort to be a wonderful and concrete expression of Christianity, then I ask you to volunteer, as you are able, to assist with our hosting week. Sign up will begin on Sunday, November 6th. Look for the sign up table in the narthex, or contact lead coordinator Scott Dahlquist at [\(612\) 919-9232](tel:6129199232) or at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net for more information about how you can help.

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

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

Faith Circle: Nov. 1 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Mona S's home

Lydia Circle: Nov. 8 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Nov. 9 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: Nov. 27 (4th Sunday), 8:45am in the Heritage Room

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Our book for November/ December is *Stillwater* by Nicole Nelget. Meeting date will be announced soon!

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

Nov 2: Anne Romstad, "Our Church"

Nov 9: Anne Schauer, "Camping State Parks"

Nov 16: Kathleen Moore, Better Business Bureau, "Elder Abuse Awareness"

Nov 23: Starr Carriere and Cindy Hanson, "History of Matins"

Nov 30: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

**FALL SERIES: Bloomington-Richfield
Grief Support Coalition – Thursday,
September 29 – November 17, 2016, 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Normandale Hylands United Methodist

9920 Normandale Blvd

Bloomington MN 952-835-7585

Remaining sessions...

Nov 3: *Mind Body Connection*, Lorry Lundborg

Nov 10: *In Grief, Gratitude: Thanksgiving*

Nov 17: *A Time of Remembrance*, Joan Apt

**Social Seniors at Oak Grove – Tuesday,
November 15, 11:15am**

Join in on the fun at Oak Grove Lutheran Church starting at 11:15 a.m. The menu is a roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes, & gravy, vegetable and dessert, all for a \$3.00 suggested donation. This month's program is led by Maerenn Jepsen from General Mills. Sign ups will be open at the Woodlake church office soon.

**Family Fest Ministries – Marriage Booster Retreat,
Saturday, November 19th**

**The Landmark Event Center,
11501 Masonic Home Dr,
Bloomington, MN 55437**

Give your marriage the gift of an uplifting, encouraging and romantic day at the Family Fest Marriage Booster Retreat. Laugh, reconnect, & talk deeply with the most important person in your life. Improve your communication, learn how to deal with conflict more productively, discover new ways for you to grow closer together.

Cost: The suggested donation is \$140 per couple.

Please contact Pastor Brice

(beichlersmith@woodlakechurch.org) or call the office to leave a message if you're interested!

House of Prayer Fall Festival 2016

Join us for our Annual Fall Festival on November 5 beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We have over 50 vendors as well as a delicious lunch, raffle and bake sale - just in time for the holidays.

Do you want to get your leftover Halloween candy out of the house? Consider donating it to Meals on Wheels. Our volunteers LOVE candy (especially chocolate)! Just bring it to the Church of Peace office at 6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield. Office hours are 9am-1pm. They will see that we get it. Thank you!

Fri, Nov. 11 – Sat, Nov. 12 – Moonlight Madness for Confirmation-age students! Please contact Pr

Brice (beichlersmith@woodlakechurch.org) for more info. High school students, you can attend as chaperones!

Christ in Community Update – A Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

As Cara Wright described in this space over the past couple of months, the team that is working together to guide the work of the collaboration between our churches is comprised of four teams: Spiritual Listening, Congregation Listening, Community Listening, and a Steering Team to coordinate efforts. You might wonder, “Why ‘listening’ teams?” It’s because the key outcomes defined for this process are:

- By listening to God we will discern a shared vision.
- By listening to each other we will discern shared values, purpose and a map of each congregation’s ministries, so that we can begin collaborating around shared passions.
- By listening to our community we will better understand community needs, and build bonds of trust.

Well, there’s a lot of listening going on!

- At PennFest, along with distributing bottles of water, power bars, and pens to attendees, members of the Community Listening Team conducted a survey, asking:
 1. What do you like about living in Richfield?
 2. How connected do you feel to your neighborhood?
 3. What’s one thing you’d like to change to make living here better?
 4. Is there something you’d like our churches to work on or pray for?

People responded to the survey with enthusiasm and positivity. When asked if there was something for our churches to pray for, there were consistently responses in a few areas:

- A few people shared personal prayer needs: older parents, illness, wisdom in voting;
- Many shared concerns for children and youth: Schools and school children, children in need, children’s safety, teens, hungry children;
- Many shared community needs: Domestic violence prevention, equality/diversity/ mutual respect, positive community growth, needs for affordable housing and homeless, support for immigrants, quality day care, crime issues, mentoring for job success, prayers for community leaders, needs of the working poor, keeping young families in the community;
- Many, many people asked for prayers for peace in our world and our community.
- The Spiritual Listening Team is sponsoring a five-week Bible study based on the Book of Acts and selections from Paul’s letters; we will seek to understand how God may be calling us to work together as churches today. The Bible study is being led by Pastor Ben Sandin, and held at Woodlake on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00, from October 9 to November 6.
- The Congregation Listening Team is going to survey our congregations about youth and teens to understand perceive needs and desires. They are also supporting a combined Thanksgiving Eve service for all three congregations that will be held at House of Prayer. Stay tuned for more details.

If you want to get involved in a particular Listening Team, please do! Reach out to the following team chairs and find out more!

Spiritual Listening Team Chair – Bonnie Oien (Oak Grove), bjoien@msn.com

Community Listening Team Chair – Laurel Johnson (Woodlake), laurelmjohnson11@gmail.com

Congregation Listening Team Chair – Elisa Tvette (Oak Grove), emtvete@gmail.com

Together in Christ, Mike Tveite, Steering Team member
mdtveite@gmail.com