



MESSENGER

October Event Highlights

Living Life to the Fullest – A New Look At Hospice
Sunday, October 2, 2016, 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Come and hear what a seasoned hospice chaplain has learned about living from the dying. Kris Linner, Manager of Hospice Program Services at Fairview Home Care and Hospice, will give a presentation that is both inspiring and informative.

Lunchtime Pop-up Concert – Harpist Cathy Victorsen
Wednesday, October 5, 12:15 – 12:45pm

Our lunchtime concert series continues! Twin Cities harpist Catherine Victorsen has played professionally for over 30 years. She plays all styles of music. These brief concerts are a wonderful way to refresh yourself in the middle of a busy day, and are free and open to the public. Please come and tell all your friends!

Animal Blessings – Sunday, October 9, 2:00pm

Our annual Blessing of the Animals is approaching! It is a fun and meaningful occasion for pet owners and animal lovers; you won't want to miss it!

Halloween Family Fun Night – Wednesday, October 26, 6:00pm.
See Page 3 for details!

Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, October 16, 9am – 11am in Woodlake's Fellowship Hall. Come early for breakfast or stay after church, and support the Scouts!

Attention, New Members and Anyone Who Has Been Thinking About Joining! New Member Service on Sunday, October 23

During worship, we'll be introducing and welcoming people who have recently joined our community. If this is you, or if you are interested in membership but haven't yet formally joined, please contact the office.

Timber Lodge in October: Tues, Oct. 11

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 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 November's issue of The Messenger are due to office@woodlakechurch.org no later than October 15.

Pastor's Corner

"WHERE TO GO? WHAT TO DO?"

It has now been five months since I became the Interim Bridge Pastor for Woodlake Lutheran Church. In that time these have been my goals:

#1. In the month or two after Pastor Fred left, my primary task was simply keep the place going. To say good bye to some staff. To welcome other staff. Most of all for me, it was a time to see where the congregation is currently situated in many different areas. That has been taken care of.

#2. Then during the summer, the goal was first of all to make sure we did what needed to be done in terms of the joint worship services with House of Prayer and Oak Grove and preparing and serving lunch one time and the worship the next time. Second, my goal during the past summer was to make sure that we were ready to go with our fall programs of one sort or another. Again, this has been done.

#3. Now it is time for the congregation to figure out where you want to go in terms of programming, calling a new pastor, staffing, and how all of this fits or does not fit with collaboration. In this newsletter, you will find options that we discussed at our Leadership Board meeting in September and which we will discuss as a congregation at a Fireside Chat on October 9 following worship. Also, beginning October 1, Pastor Brice Eichlersmith, who is the Associate Pastor at Oak Grove Lutheran, will be with us quarter time. He will preach and lead worship one weekend a month, will help out with Confirmation, and will provide leadership for the youth programming of the congregation. Pastor Brice will be preaching for the first time on October 1-2. He will remain with us during this interim time. Filling other staff positions such as youth music, etc. is under discussion.

I know that this does not answer all your questions about future, but it is the best we can do right now.

*Keep Us in Your Thoughts and Prayers,
Pastor Charlie*

Option 1

Continue on the path we are now on. Continue with interim pastors. When the 15-24 month trial period is up, we see where we are and consult with collaborative partners as to what everybody wants to do. Continue collaboration? Move towards consolidation? Present pastors resign? Collaborative partners call one new pastor? Can Woodlake wait for this process to play itself out?

Option 2

As has been done in the past when there is a pastoral vacancy: consult with the synod, form a call committee, do a congregational profile, interview candidates, and hire. Woodlake goes it alone. This is a safe approach. Can start down this path immediately. This is the way it has always been done.

Option 3

Do option #2, but while in that process, be looking for other congregations that right now are interested in pursuing a closer collaboration, actual consolidation, or some form of a multi-site arrangement. This is a new way for Woodlake to go. It is the option that probably is the best use of resources and staff.

From the Records

Funerals

Thank you for keeping this family in your prayers.

Dale Strand, April 25, 1932 – August 24, 2016.

Funeral service at Woodlake on Monday, August 29, 2016.

Children's Ministry

Halloween Family Fun Night!



Bring your family and friends!

Halloween family fun night will include games, candy, snacks, prizes and so much more! Come join in all of the fun, **on October 26th 2016, 6:00pm.** We are looking for volunteers to help make our Halloween party great! Please e-mail Heather Wageman the children's ministry coordinator if you are able to help, we would greatly appreciate it.

E-mail

hwageman@woodlakechurch.org



We hope to see you on Wednesday, October 26th!

Woodlake Church Reinvented Children's Choir



Choir will be different this year! Choir rehearsals will be in our Sunday school classrooms every week. During Sunday school the children will be singing and acting bible stories. Children will still sing occasionally during worship services. This way all the children will be included and be able to participate.



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We are so excited to worship and get children singing about God!

Cub Scouts News

The Cub Scout Pack 384 has kicked off another exciting year of programming for boys in kindergarten through 5th grade. Cub Scouts will have fun with a variety of activities, and earn awards with requirements that develop self-responsibility, confidence, and willingness to help others. Meetings are held at Woodlake Lutheran Church on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. For more information on membership or volunteering opportunities, email pack384@gmail.com.

Notable Upcoming Events:

- Cub Scout Pack Bowling Event, Saturday Oct. 1
- Webelos Scouts volunteer at Loaves and Fishes, Saturday Oct. 8
- Fundraising Pancake Breakfast, Sunday Oct. 16, 9-11 am at the Church. Proceeds benefit the Scouts and the Church
- Popcorn and Wreath Sales, ongoing through the month of October. See your local scout to purchase.
- Pack Meeting and Halloween Party, Tuesday Oct. 25th, 6:30-8pm. Beware of kids in costumes!

Worship and Music Notes

October, November, December... Three months left until the end of 2016. Around this time, the season reminds us of our goals that we made in the beginning of the year. Especially since I have been here at Woodlake, I love fall: new people, new programs, and new opportunities for our music ministry.

We can express so much through music! If we see someone who is humming a song, we might guess he or she has good news or they are happy in the moment.

When I visited different churches, I feel some vitality if they have active music groups or through congregation's powerful singing. I hope we have vitality, liveliness, and joy in our lives and at Woodlake. I hope we are able to have powerful music inside of us.

I'd like to ask your support of our music ministries. There are many ways you can lend a hand.

- One gallon of distilled water to give moisture to keep tunes of the piano
- One musicians who is willing to share their talent with people
- One voice as a cantor or singer, especially bass: If you don't have time to attend regular choir rehearsals, there is a way you can participate. We are planning to have an Advent program, 'lessons and carols,' and will have two special rehearsals. We need you

- One person who is willing to spread the news about Lunchtime Popup Concerts
- One word for musicians to appreciate their time and effort
- One prayer each day

You can support music ministry financially! A donation of \$20 purchases new handbell music, and \$30 can buy new choir music.

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name." (Psalm 103:1)

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Fall Craft Sale

Saturday, November 12, 9am – 3pm

The craft sale will again be on the 2nd Saturday in November: November 12. Plan to come for the day to shop, eat, and enjoy the fellowship!

If you are a crafter and you would like to participate, contact Diana Olson at 952-831-6898.

We will again have a bake sale – contact Cindy Hanson for details (952-854-5512) or just bring baked goods on Friday, November 11 or early on Saturday, November 12.

Grandma's Attic (our rummage sale) is back with some new ideas. To work or contribute, contact Bev Erickson at 952-886-9893. Remember to include books. Bring items to Room H starting October 10th, marked for Grandma's Attic.

Lunch will be in the Fireside Room. To work, contact Mary Hermann (612-866-4600).

To be a greeter or decorator, contact Cindy Hanson.

This is the time to put out your yard signs if you stored them in your garage. If you returned them to church, stop by and pick up another one. Start inviting friends and share information on social media, email, Facebook, and Twitter! There will be ads in the Star and Sun Current.

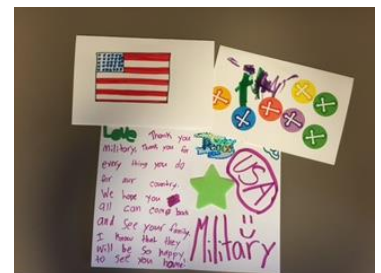
The committee decided that the profits go to local missions – VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, and Family Moving Forward after the Board decision to give 10% back to the church.

Plan. Promote. Enjoy!

Did You Know...

We delivered 9 fleece tie blankets and 26 cards of encouragement to Cornerstone via God's Work, Our Hands? We also made twenty cards for soldiers along with kits for Lutheran World Relief, prayer shawls, and quilts!

Thank you, volunteers!



Building and Finances

The outlook is good for finishing the Church fiscal year in the black. Our income through the end of August is ahead of budget and our expenses are below budget, so all is doing well right now.

Below are the figures through the end of August comparing to the previous year:

<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Last Year</u>
Income: \$489,250.00	\$484,640.00	\$491,603.00
Expenses: \$470,025.00	\$513,574.00	\$537,784.00
Income-Expense: \$19,225.00	\$(28,934.00)	\$(46,181.00)

REACH

The REACH Fund was originally established in November 2012 with gratitude to God and to help the congregation complete the repairs on our building, pay down the mortgage principal and reach out with Christ's love in our community and beyond. This was a three-year pledged fund, which ended in October 2015. It is no longer a pledged fund, but will be continued to pay for major building expenses and mission support. Those of you that have had REACH as part of your automatic giving and want to switch, please contact Julie Windler to make this happen. There will be a more detailed report on the REACH Fund in the annual meeting report.

Woodlake Lutheran Church Scholarship Recipients for Fall of 2016

There are 7 recipients of the Woodlake Lutheran Church Scholarship this year. Two of them are freshmen and five will be sophomores in college. They each have received \$575.00 to apply to their college of choice. Following is the list of students and college they are attending:

Mikaela Amundson	Northeastern University, Boston
Michael Meister	Normandale Community College

RETURNING RECIPIENTS

Zach Anderson	University of Minnesota, Duluth
Joel Blanchard	University of North Dakota
Mark Blanchard	University of North Dakota
Taylor Hardy	Normandale Community College
Sophia Webster	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

All of these students have been active at Woodlake over the years. We wish them all well as they continue their education.

Julie Windler, Building and Finances

Mission and Outreach

The Bible is full of stories about helping others in need. What's your favorite one? Your chance to put these into practice will soon be here with our next hosting week for Families Moving Forward starting Sunday, November 27th and ending on Sunday, December 4th. Families who are experiencing homelessness work with staff at a day center in North Minneapolis to transition to stable housing. In the evening, they are bused to participating congregations where they are provided a place to sleep, food, and hospitality for the night. In the morning, they are bused back to the day center. 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 me at [\(612\) 919-9232](tel:6129199232) or at sjaadahquist@comcast.net for more information about how you can help.

*Scott Dahlquist,
Lead Coordinator for FMF*

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

Esther Circle: Oct. 4 (1st Tuesday), 11:30 am in the Yorke Room at 7500 York.

Faith Circle: Oct. 4 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Cheryl B's home

Lydia Circle: Oct. 11 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Oct. 12 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: October meeting date will be published in weekly announcements

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December), 7:00 pm in the Heritage Room. The remaining list of books for 2016 is below. Our next meeting is on October 27.

October: *Kitchens of Great Midwest* by J Ryan Stradal
(Switched with September)

November/ December: *Stillwater* by Nicole Nelget

Quilters

Quilting resumes for the year on Monday, October 3, 9:30am in Room 4. We meet every Monday morning. If you can tie a knot or thread a needle, there's a place for you in the quilters! You are welcome to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations. Any questions, please call Donna Alstrup!

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

Oct 5: Will Walters, "Timber Wolves"

Oct 12: Ky Michaelson, "Rocket Man"

Oct 19: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Oct 26: John Noltner, photographer and author, "Peace of my Mind"

**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

Sep 29: *Grief: Who Gets Me Through It?* Stuart Walker

Oct 6: *Physical Aspects of Grief;* Carol Oldowski

Oct 13: *The Soft Light of Hope,* Nancy Sullivan

Oct 20: *How to Get Back to Familiar Places,* Rev. Ken DeFore

Oct 27: *Coping With Grief During the Holidays,* Barbara Moore

Nov 3: *Mind Body Connection,* Lorry Lundborg

Nov 10: *In Grief, Gratitude. In Seasons Loss, Thanksgiving*

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

Laughter Group

Woodlake had a laughter group that met for several years. The purpose? To laugh! We know it's good for us. After a few years off, we are going to bring it back. The first meeting will be October 13 at 11:45am in the Fireside Room. Bring a bag lunch and some jokes to share. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

Senior Fellowship Event

"Miracle on South Division Street" at the DayTrippers Theatre (9152 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington)

Weds, Oct. 5; Lunch at 12:15 and Show Starts at 1:15

Meet the Nowaks – a Catholic family living in Buffalo who has always known they were special, ever since the miraculous night in 1942 when the Blessed Mother appeared to Grandpa in his barbershop. But when daughter Ruth unveils her plan to write a play about the miracle, a long-ago deathbed confession reveals that the family is actually Jewish... and the legend hilariously unravels. Buffet luncheon of Swedish Meatballs, Chicken Kiev, House Green Salad, Rice, Rolls and Butter, Mandarin Orange Cake.

Cost: \$39.75, check made out to Woodlake. Meet at the theatre.

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

A few years ago, the column called Around The Table started appearing in the monthly Woodlake Messenger to let you know what your leadership was doing, when, and why. We sat at a round table for our meetings - hence the name. Our purpose was to convey information as transparently as possible. Many members of the Board have taken turns writing about their respective jobs and/or commission and I applaud them for that. I hope it has helped keep you informed.

I am writing this month because I want to reassure any of you who may be wondering, that Woodlake is alive and well and very much on a forward path of faith leadership both within our walls and without.

Last year, we began our collaboration efforts with Oak Grove Lutheran and House of Prayer Lutheran Churches. Even though some of us thought it might result in a consolidation, please be assured that it is not. It is a CALL to the three ELCA churches of Richfield to collaborate: to worship together, to be a strong force in the community together, to plan social and community events together, and even to share staffing opportunities together.

Some examples:

...When our Bell Choir was missing a number of members to illness and vacations, we could not play. When the bell director at Oak Grove heard about it, several bell choir members joined us at practices and in a worship service. Without an understanding of collaboration, that would not have happened.

...Last Sunday at Penn Fest, the Community Listening Team, formed by our collaboration, was able to host a stand to greet folks, learn their wishes for Richfield, and witness as a whole. The team gave out 700 bottles of water and a LOT of granola bars, but most of all - they gave out friendly conversation and smiles...together.

...Woodlake hosted a wonderful banquet for VEAP - a collaborative effort to benefit others.

...Pr Brice Eichlersmith from Oak Grove is now

on our staff at 1/4 time, helping with pastoral duties, teaching Confirmation, and guiding our Youth Program.

...Pr Ben Sandin from House of Prayer will be leading a five-week Bible study in October on Sunday evenings at Woodlake. Members of all three churches will be attending. The study will be on the Book of Acts - now THAT'S a study in collaboration! Be sure to get a head start by reading it.

...We pray a special prayer every Sunday written by the Spiritual Listening collaboration team. All three churches include the identical prayer during worship.

Our joint three-church collaborative effort is aptly named Christ In Community. It is for all of us: people of God, people who live out the message of Easter, together. We will all grow because we are together people, and because we share that vision. Also, we can have fun, doing Christ's work... together.

Best of all, we have a Facebook page -- @RichfieldMNELCAcollaboration, or you can search Richfield ELCA Churches, or Christ In Community. Make a visit.

Anne Romstad

Bible Study:

The Book of Acts and the Early Church

As part of our collaboration of Lutheran churches in Richfield, Pastor Ben Sandin from House of Prayer, along with the Spiritual Listening Team, will lead a Bible study on Sunday nights beginning October 9th. Together we will explore the Book of Acts and selections from Paul's letters that trace the development of the early church and issues and challenges the leaders faced. We will seek to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church in order to understand how God may be calling us to work together as churches today. **The course will be 5 weeks on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7pm From October 9-November 6 at Woodlake.** Please sign up at your church office or email Pastor Ben at

bsandin@hoplc.org

Christ In Community Update – A Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches

It's been a great summer as the Collaboration Team gets up and running with members from House of Prayer, Oak Grove and Woodlake. As Lutheran Churches in Richfield, we are feeling called by God and each other to be a stronger, more vibrant, more relevant presence in our community. By working together, we hope to energize our members to more deeply know God and each other, find new and different ways to grow and share our faith. We also seek to meet people in our community in the places and ways that are most needed and desired.

As we work together, it's fun to see you all joining in the process.

- Thanks to all that participated in and/or attended one of the 3 joint outdoor worship services at Veteran's Park. Wonderful worship services and delicious food!
- Many of you stopped by our booth at Penn Fest on September 17. Lot's of fun was had by all and we represented our exciting collaboration well – truly an example of Christ in Community.
- We all prayed together a common prayer petition each Sunday, thanks to the Spiritual Listening Team's efforts.
- Many of you joined events held by another congregation – be it VBS, senior activities, a parking lot party and gardeners market, a service opportunity, a family fun night – the list goes on. Keep watching for more opportunities to meet your Richfield neighbors as the fall goes on.
- If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook @RichfieldMNELCAcollaboration (or search Richfield ELCA Churches or Christ in Community). We will continue to post updates, photos and other good information for you to know. Watch for more 'Christ in Community' news in your Sunday bulletin, e-news updates, newsletters and on your church's website.

The 24 member Collaboration Team will meet on Monday, October 10 at House of Prayer at 6:30pm. All are welcome to come listen and participate in the meeting. The Listening Teams have been meeting over the summer and have progress to report and exciting plans for the fall. 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 Tvete (Oak Grove), emtvete@gmail.com

Together in Christ,

Cara Wright

Steering Team Chair (House of Prayer), cara.wright07@yahoo.com

The 24 member Collaboration Team will meet on Monday, October 10, 6:30pm at House of Prayer. All are welcome to come, listen, and participate in the meeting.