

**Woodlake  
Lutheran Church**

7525 Oliver Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-8449  
[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://www.woodlakechurch.org)

Pastor Micah Pearson  
Pastor Joanne Sorenson  
Intern Pastor Deanna Bassett

*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 March's issue of The  
Messenger are due to  
[office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org)  
no later than February 15.*



*Messenger*

*February Event Highlights*

**Town Hall Meeting**

**1st Saturday/Sunday of Each Month (February 2 and 3)**

**Saturday, Chapel 6:00pm**

**Sunday, Fireside Room 11:30am**

Meet with your pastor and Leadership Board to discuss what's on your mind. This is another opportunity to hear from you about things you might be wondering. Bring any questions or concerns that you might have. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Children, Youth, and Family Event: Buck Hill Tubing**

**Sunday, Feb 10 following 10am worship**

Join an intergenerational group from church for some winter fun! Invite your neighbors and friends, too. Lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall. We'll carpool to Buck Hill (15400 Buck Hill Road, Burnsville, MN 55306) about noon for two hours of tubing. We expect to back to church about 3 PM.

Cost is \$10/per person; please sign up in the church office or email [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org) and we'll add you to the list.

**February Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT) Event**

The February event will be a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) packing event followed by a potluck supper. Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Meal ingredients are purchased with donations, volunteers' hand-pack the meals, meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed, and lives are saved. Further information can be found in their website: [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)

Children are welcome at this event, but must be at least five years old, and accompanied by an appropriate number of adults. The packing event is scheduled from 2-4 PM on Saturday, February 16th, at 990 Lone Oak Rd, Suite 136 in Eagan. The potluck supper will be at Woodlake afterwards from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Fireside Room.

To sign up or get more information contact Scott Dahlquist at (612) 919-9232 or at [sjaadahquist@comcast.net](mailto:sjaadahquist@comcast.net) A sign up sheet for both the packing event and potluck will also be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 3rd, and Sunday, February 10th. Those interested are asked to sign up by Sunday, February 10th.

# Pastor's Page

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*"God's love is upon you, our church, and our world  
now and as we step into an unknown future."  
Psalm 33:22 (translated)*

## Woodlake is Changing

Within the last year, our business manager of 20 years retired, our worship and music director resigned, our lead custodian resigned, a key youth group leader left, and beloved members of our congregation have died, moved, or just stopped coming. In fact, no area of ministry has been left untouched by change. These have been hard losses felt by everyone. We have lost institutional knowledge, life-long friendships, and a love of service, commitment, and dedication to Woodlake. It's not easy to experience so much change in such a short time period, but here we are, rolling with the punches.

## Richfield is Changing

Richfield is also changing. Richfield Public Schools are increasing in racial and ethnic diversity (the current student body is 70% children of color) which is indicative of the growing diversity in the city as a whole.

Changes in the community through redevelopment and affordable housing issues continue to have an impact on the community; i.e., the transformation of a nearby apartment complex to a more upscale facility resulted in limited availability of Section 8 housing.

An aging population in Richfield is creating changes in the housing market both in the turnover of houses to singles and young families, and the development of senior housing. The city is making an effort to revitalize homes within the city through grants to make homes more appealing to new homeowners.

## Changing Woodlake

Change is not unique to Woodlake or Richfield as change is always happening, whether we are ready or not—most often we are not. What I am most proud of in my first year of ministry at Woodlake is facing change head on. We are an aging congregation that has chosen to make significant investment in CYF (children, youth, and family) outreach. First and foremost, this investment must be celebrated. We as a church recognize it is important to share faith with new people, open up our church to a new generation, and welcome kids into our worship life. Thank you for being open to the Holy Spirit to guide Woodlake in new ways.

## Changing Richfield

By opening our church to new outreach possibilities, it's possible to change Richfield as well. My hope is that Woodlake Lutheran Church becomes a beacon of hope for the community. A source for hope, faith, love, service, and forgiveness for all in this place. Our church is committed to:

- Preaching and teaching the gospel
- Faithfully administering the sacraments
- Being good stewards of those we currently serve
- Open to growing our church community toward a diverse congregation in age, ethnicity, economic status, and interests
- Helping each person discover their spiritual gifts

I can't wait to see what God has in store for Woodlake and our community in 2019.

*In Christ, Pastor Micah*

# Worship and Music Notes

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First of all, I have to thank all of you for your prayers, thoughts, and support during the time when I was ill. For those that don't know, I was very sick over the Christmas weekend and the next week. It's been a slow recovery, but I hope each day will bring something new and energizing.

Now that winter is showing its true face, we have to find ways to keep us warm, and there is nothing better than being at Woodlake for worship, rehearsals, fellowship, and so many other activities. If you are not currently involved in any music program at Woodlake, I would encourage you to make that a New Year's resolution and come forward and say "I can help with this." The handbell choir needs more ringers. The adult ensemble (formerly called adult choir) always welcomes new members. You do not have to read music but it helps. Do you play guitar, ukulele, clarinet, flute, drums, recorder, triangle (oh, sorry, David Rupp has that covered!). Please feel free to come and talk to me about music you would like to participate in or would like to get started.

***"Worship and Music Notes" continued on page 4***

# Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

## **A Playground?**

The practice of a nursery staffed by volunteers for pre-Sunday School children worked well for Woodlake, as well as many other churches, for many years. However, we currently have very few families with children of this age attending, and staffing the nursery on a consistent basis has not been possible for many years. With the conversion of our previous nursery to office space for MICC (the rent from which will greatly help us with our plan to call a pastor to focus on Children, Youth, and Family), Room 2 has been designated as a nursery. However, even if it were staffed, I am not sure how likely it is that a visiting family would turn their small children over to people they do not know.

One option currently under active consideration is that of a “playground” in the sanctuary. A portion of the sanctuary would be set aside with quiet toys and activities for young children, whose parents could attend services with them while they make use of the space. In addition to a space for children, this would also open up the sanctuary to make room for walkers, wheelchairs, and other mobility assistance devices which are a frequent presence at our services.

A final consideration is how full our sanctuary appears. Last year the board requested an evaluation of our facilities by Anne Gerriets, a church building consultant with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Amongst her recommendations and observations was that visitors do not feel comfortable attending services if the sanctuary is less than 50% full, or more than 80% full. Based upon our current worship attendance, and our most realistic hope for the future, we have enough space to spare for this proposal.

The leadership board will make a final decision on this matter at its May 2019 meeting. Until then, we will be seeking, in many and various ways, your thoughts on this matter. While you should feel free to approach any member of the leadership board, Anne Romstad has agreed to be the lead contact for this, and she can be reached at (612) 805-3077.

An article in the May 2018 issue of *Living Lutheran* magazine recently featured a playground installed at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN. They have a web page dedicated to this feature, which can be viewed at: <https://graceofav.org/prayground/>

– Scott J. Dahlquist, Congregational President



The latest updates for Woodlake 2020!

## **Woodlake is hiring!**

### **Job Title: Worship and Music Director**

Woodlake Lutheran Church offers an opportunity to provide musical leadership and artistic talent to a congregation in Richfield, MN. The Worship and Music Director is responsible for directing musical groups, assisting in planning worship services, maintaining musical instruments, and managing the music budget. The position also includes the opportunity to engage with individuals from a variety of ages including children, youth and families.

More info and how to apply:

<http://woodlakechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Worship-and-Music-Director-1-12-19.pdf> or call Julia in the the church office at 612-866-8449 x 10

## **Leadership Board Commissioner Reports for January 2019**

### **Worship and Music: Carol Olson**

Advent & Christmas: The commission made a concerted effort to include children, youth and families in the Advent services, the Christmas Pageant and the 4 pm Christmas Eve service.

Confirmation: Anne Romstad and Monique have been the link to the confirmation and high school age youth and have had discussion on ways to continue to work with the youth and integrate them into our services.

Children's Choir: Monique will be directing the children's choir.

Future Plan: Have our children and youth be involved in our 3rd Sunday of the month service. On a month that has 5 Sundays, the service will be designated to be focused on our children, youth and families.

### **Congregational Life: Wayne Schmieg**

Family Event Planned: There will be a formal announcement this week for the Family Snow Tubing event which will take place on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.

**“What's New?” Continued on Page 4**

## **“What’s New? – Woodlake 2020 Updates,” Continued**

### **Properties: Paul Olson**

Completed: Carpet installation down the north corridor

Next phase:

- a) Signage Improvements in Narthex and other areas
- b) Work with other commissions on “Welcome Center” design and location

c) Review plan ideas for a “Pray Ground” in the Sanctuary and submit a proposal for approval by the congregation

### **Mission and Outreach: Laurel Johnson**

Laurel and Sue Kelly will be presenting information about the Homebound program to the confirmation class on Jan. 23 to explain the program with examples, rather than just read something. Their goal is not only to have the group learn about the program, but also to encourage them to consider coming along for a visit or two.

### **Congregational Care: Anne Schmieg**

Prayer Knitters have handed out 3 baptismal shawls in last months. Also they are excited to make prayer peaces to be included in care packages for Young Adults.

Woodlake Ink and Homebound Ministry are holding a Valentine card making event for all ages on Sunday Jan. 27 after worship in the Fireside room. A light lunch will be served to all workers. Cards will be sent to homebound members.

Homebound Ministry members Sue Kelly and Laurel Johnson will be visiting confirmation students on January 23. Those who sign up will be paired with a homebound minister for at least one visit.

Care Packages for Young Adults Currently in the planning stages...the focus is on sending Care Packages twice a year (around Sept. and Jan.) to young adults from Woodlake who are attending college. This is good way to show our support and let them know we care about them. Noreen Anderson has agreed to head up this idea. Ways of identifying the students and also ways to fund this project are being explored.

### **Children, Youth and Family: Anne Romstad**

Sunday School Program: run by Kirsten Hargreaves is still with about 8-12 children in attendance. They loved participating in the Intergenerational Christmas Pageant and want to do it again. Thanks to all those who helped.

High School and Post-High Youth are planning their mission trip to San Francisco, serving a need designated by Youth Works, July 28-August 2. Their fundraising kicked off with a bake sale in December. More fundraising will be required. There is a need for adult drivers (aka Sponsors) for the mission trip.

Confirmation is continuing well with Paul Rosenwinkel, Deb Jungers and Pr. Micah on Wednesday nights. Extra volunteering and attendance in worship by the confirmands will be emphasized more before and during Lent.

Children and Youth Worship: Eileen Berge and Monique Rupp are now in charge of children's and youth worship ideas for the 3rd Sunday each month and for 5 of the Lenten mid-week services.

CYF centered call committee is busy with 3, possibly 4 more interviews by the end of January. I am pleased with the profiles which have been submitted for those interviews.

### **“Worship and Music Notes,” continued**

A highlight for the first Sunday in February is that we will have a cellist perform special music. The Worship and Music Committee is working on creating the Lenten services. We are working hard to create the best worship service for you. There's always discussion about using traditional or contemporary music, and we need to use both.

In January, I chose not to have hymns sung for the prelude. When you come into the church and sit down in your favorite pew, I want you to feel free to meditate, pray, or visit with friends, and I asked you if there were any songs that you wanted to have me play. I would like to know what you want for the prelude.

I want to share a quote by Katherine Graham that I found a number of months ago: To love what you do and feel that it matters, how could anything be more fun? (and meaningful and rewarding).

See you in church! And don't be afraid to sit closer to the front. We Lutherans have to work on that!

*Blessings,*

*Eileen Berge*

*Interim Worship and Music Director*

Eileen Berge needs some computer help learning Microsoft 2016 and maneuvering around a laptop for the first time ever! Any volunteers Tuesday mornings 9-11, during day Wednesdays and Thursdays? Help me!!! (She really does need help!!)

# The Numbers

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## Offering Summary: 12/20/2018 – 01/19/2019

Simply Giving Receipts	\$7,231.90
Saturday Chapel Service	\$1,799.00
IRA's	\$22,262.08
Properties Project Fund	\$425.00
Woodlake 2020	\$11,720.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,605.98</b>

## Worship Attendance

Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend or Day Total	Notes
Weds, Dec 19	8:00 AM	16		
Weds, Dec 19	6:30 PM	65		Advent
Sat, Dec 22	5:00 PM	17	157	
Sun, Dec 23	10:00 AM	140		
Mon, Dec 24	4:00 PM	275	377	Christmas Eve
Mon, Dec 24	10:00 PM	102		Christmas Eve
Tues, Dec 25	x	x		Christmas Day; No Worship
Weds, Dec 26	8:00 AM	14		
Sat, Dec 29	5:00 PM	15	140	
Sun, Dec 30	10:00 AM	125		
Weds, Jan 2	8:00 AM	18		
Sat, Jan 5	5:00 PM	24	169	
Sun, Jan 6	10:00 AM	145		
Weds, Jan 9	8:00 AM	15		
Sat, Jan 12	5:00 PM	19	154	
Sun, Jan 13	10:00 AM	135		

## Wednesday Night Supper

Date	Attendance	Notes
12/19/2018	45	Advent Service followed
12/26/2018	x	No Supper
1/2/2019	x	No Supper
1/9/2019	40	

# Collaborative and Community Events

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## Bible Study: Book of Job

Come to House of Prayer at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. We will gather these days Wednesdays in February to discuss the Book of Job. No fees; no books to buy.

Intern pastor Deanna Bassett will lead us through:

2/6 – God Speeches (Chapters 38-41)

2/13 – Epilogue (Chapter 42)

2/20 – The Meaning of the Book of Job

You may choose to read these Job chapters before you come, or follow along during our time together. Either way, may we all be moved by the living Word of God!

**Chanhassen Dinner Theater** is hosting week-long musical theatre summer camps for kids and teens ages 5 to 18 starting June 10th taught by the theater professionals. Registration opens soon! This is an outstanding opportunity for all ages. Singing, dancing, acting, coordination, confidence, a community are all learned during this adventure! More info:

<https://www.chanhassendt.com/camponline/Online/default.asp>

## Optimist Club Chili and Salad Dinner Friday, Feb 8, 2019 in Woodlake's Fellowship Hall

Adults: \$9; Children under 12: \$4

Join us for good chili, chili dogs, hot dogs, and kids activities!

# From the Records

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## Funeral Services

*Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.*

**Rolf Hagen** (August 9, 1951 - December 7, 2018).  
Service held at Woodlake on December 14, 2018.

**Tex Johnson** (November 7, 1939 - December 4, 2018). Service held at Woodlake on December 15, 2018

**Dennis Jacobsen** (March 7, 1938 - December 18, 2018). Service held at Woodlake on December 22, 2018.

**Lois Johnson** (December 23, 1932 - January 2, 2019).  
Service held at Woodlake on January 8, 2019.

# Small Group and Circle News

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## Circles

Circles meet once a month and are times for women of all ages to have fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. February *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are available in the church office (one for each circle).

**Esther Circle:** Feb 5 (1st Tuesday), 8:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

**Faith Circle:** Feb 5 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), 7:00 pm, member homes.

**Lydia Circle:** Feb 12 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

**Rebecca / Sarah Circle:** Feb 13 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

**Deborah Circle:** Feb 17, 8:45am in the Heritage Room.

## Matins Speakers

Join us for the Matins Morning Prayer service at 8am, every Wednesday in the chapel, and stay for fellowship and coffee at 8:30, with a speaker at 9am.

Feb 6: Staci Cihlar, "Young Life: Singing Group Trip to the Vatican"

Feb 13: Kathleen Westerhaus, "Mental Health Journey"

Feb 20: Don Drayer, "Literary Campaign"

Feb 27: Health Nurse to do blood pressure checks and speak about "Aging and Heart Disease," followed by Bible Study

## Senior Fellowship February – Program TBA!

Save the Date – Thursday, February 21, 12pm  
*Details to come!*

## Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for February is *Stars over Clear Lake* by Loretta Ellsworth. Join at any time!

