

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
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
**No Saturday Worship on
April 20th**

Wednesday Morning Matins
8:00am in the Chapel

Wednesday Evening Lenten
6:30pm in the Sanctuary
(April 3rd and 10th)

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



Palm Sunday – April 14

Worship at 10am in Woodlake's Sanctuary
Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast from 9am – 12pm in the Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday – April 18

**Collaborative Worship at 7pm at Oak Grove
(7045 Lyndale Avenue South)**
*Join us for a service with our friends from Oak Grove and House of Prayer,
featuring a combined choir and First Communion!*

Good Friday – April 19

7pm in Woodlake's Sanctuary

Easter Sunday – April 21

Worship at 8:30am and 10am in Woodlake's Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt, Coffee, and Treats in between services

Lenten Worship: "Change My Heart, O God"

Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

We have an international theme this year and have had people from different cultures share music and the message. Last two Lenten services will take place on April 3 and 10.

Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 – 6:30pm. No charge; freewill offering only. No need to sign up – just come! Soup for April 3 is Broccoli and Cheese and April 10 is Beef Chili.

Our address is changing! No, we're not moving, but will soon begin the process to change our address to one off 76th Street, where our main front doors, parking lot, and electronic sign are located. As more and more people use their phones and GPS to get here, it is confusing to arrive at a side door that is locked for most of the week. This has also been an issue for emergency vehicles, taxis, and deliveries. Look for the new address to be announced on or around May 1!

Pastor's Page

"God's love is upon you, our church, and our world now and as we step into an unknown future."

Psalm 33:22 (translated)

Anticipation

New life is right around the corner. Signs of rebirth are popping up from the ground, soaring through the sky, and blowing in the wind. We can smell dirt composting, see flowers blooming, hear birds singing, and feel the bitter winter wind change to something softer, warmer, and lighter. After a long, snowy, cold winter, animals are once again showing signs of life. What could be better than spring in Minnesota!

I am anticipating new life in the world. God says through the prophet Isaiah, *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* (Isa 43:19) Somehow, God makes a way through winter and shows us signs of new life.

I am anticipating new life at Woodlake. Paul writes in 2nd Corinthians, *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* (2 Cor 5:17) Through our Woodlake 2020 campaign and our CYF outreach goals, God is up to new things at Woodlake. God is transforming our community and God is creating new life.

I am anticipating new life in you. The book of Revelation says, *"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"* (Rev 21:5) I invite you to once again join us for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship to experience new life in Jesus Christ. This Easter, you are made new in the image of Jesus.

Finally, I am anticipating new life. Linnea is expecting. Please pray for us and for all mothers who are pregnant. What a gift to be a part of new life and God's amazing continuing creation.

*In Christ,
Pastor Micah, Linnea, Sanna, and (baby)*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT WATER THESE DAYS

In parts of our city, unwanted water is getting into our houses. In parts of our country unwanted water is ruining roads, cities and farms. Those are examples of hardships about water, a precious resource for life.

Whatever and whenever we have to deal with and talk about water, keep this quote from Wabinoquay Otsoquaykwhan of The Anishinaabe Nation: "Water isn't just for drinking or washing. Water has its own spirit. WATER IS ALIVE. Water has a memory. Water knows how you treat it, water knows you. You should GET TO KNOW WATER TOO."

The Youth Mission Trip is going to the San Francisco Bay Area for their service week this summer. They will be near a great body of water – the Pacific Ocean - as well as crossing great and small rivers to get there. Helping to fund this trip will enable those youth to provide outreach of the Word as well as getting a new appreciation of the magnificence of an ocean. It can be a Water and the Word experience.

Our Vacation Bible School's theme this year is Transforming Communities. The children will be learning how we can do that by sharing water, food and the Word. We will even try to build a model well. A promise made about Water and the Word. "WITH JOY YOU SHALL DRAW WATER FROM THE WELLS OF SALVATION."

The Lenten Giving this year is a collaborative effort of our three Richfield churches to provide wells for those without clean water, so that they can safely drink, bathe and farm without fear of predators or disease. Giving to the well project is the greatest way we can reach out about the importance of the Water and the Word.

Water is life and spirit. May both dwell with you as you further your faith formation while reading and studying the Word.

*Anne Romstad, Commissioner, Children, Youth and Family
Faith Formation*

Woodlake 2020 Leadership Board Commissioner Reports for March 2019



Properties: Paul Olson

- We prepared plan diagrams for possible "Pray Ground" locations in the Sanctuary for discussion at the Town Hall Meeting after services on March 3rd. Those that attended provided positive feedback for pursuing this option further.
- Reviewing options for Welcome Center and Reception for the Narthex area. Will try to meet with other Commission Leaders to discuss needs.

Mission and Outreach: Laurel Johnson

- Worked on ways of involving the kids on the water well Lenten project.
- Laurel will do a Children's Sermon one of the weekends in March and have the children collect the noisy offering.
- Laurel will also show the confirmands what it might be like to carry 5 gallons of water, but because of the shortened class time during Lenten services, this will have to wait until after Easter.

Music and Worship: Carol Olson/Deb Heinecke

- Working on Children and Youth areas of involvement in the Lenten services. Special kudos to Monique Rupp and Eileen Berge for handling the heaving lifting on this.

Congregational Care: Anne Schmieg

- Pocket prayer peaces will be given to Norine for post-high care packages
- Starr will do a minute for Mission April 6&7 about pocket prayer peaces as well as chemo caps and shawls
- I will speak to Annie about giving pocket prayer peaces to mission trip members and maybe extras that they could give away to those they meet in SF.
- Have baptismal shawls ready for next baptism
- Continue to give valet parking tips to CYF fund

Congregational Life: Wayne Schmieg

- Nothing new to report

Children, Youth and Family: Anne Romstad

- Provided a Mission Minute on March 10 to

promote the Youth Mission Trip with 7 youth expressing why the trip is important to their faith lives.

- Led a Town Hall meeting on March 3 to explain the idea of a PrayGround in the sanctuary and investigate all the angles involved to make it happen. Thank you to Paul Olson for his drawings and change ideas of the sanctuary - they really helped people get the idea of how to embrace our small children in services and in

helping our young families feel comfortable with their young children while worshipping.

- Two families as well as myself will be going on the collaborative Family Mission trip to Camp Amnicon in July.
- VBS dates are August 5-9, led by Luther Point Bible Camp.
- Plans for the Youth Mission Trip, July 25-August 7 to the San Francisco Bay Area, are well on the way. We have 11 trippers, and 4 chaperones with one more needed. We had an organizational meeting on March 3 with youth and parents all taking part. Plans for fund raising were discussed and are still being made.
- One certain date to save: after services on Sunday, April 7, the WLC Youth will host a Spring Craft and Bake sale. All are welcome to donate as they feel they can.

I am writing to you to let you know that due to recent family developments, I will need to leave my employment at Woodlake. My final day will be Thursday, February 28th.

This decision is made with a very heavy heart as I truly enjoy working with everyone and believe very strongly in the Woodlake 2020 initiative. I have seen wonderful teamwork, dedication, and openness during my short tenure here and it thrilled me to be a part of it.

I have the highest respect and gratitude for everyone I have met and worked with at Woodlake and I pray the relationships I have built and enjoyed will continue.

Many blessings, Sharon Boodoo

Many thanks to Sharon for her months here as our business administrator! Scott Dahlquist will be managing the building on a volunteer, interim basis. Orv Holland will continue to handle finances. As always, we will keep you updated on future staffing changes.

Mission and Outreach

Families Moving Forward: Woodlake's next hosting week for Families Moving Forward (FMF) runs from **Sunday, April 28 to Sunday, May 5th**. FMF staff works with families experiencing homelessness on transitioning to stable housing during the day at their center in North Minneapolis. In the evening the families are bused to participating congregations where they are fed and housed overnight, and in the morning they are bused back to the day center. There are many opportunities to volunteer with this ministry! Check out the sign up table in the Narthex starting April 7th.

Our most pressing need for volunteers is for dinner and evening hosts. The dinner hosts help serve and clean-up the evening meal, and evening hosts provide activities with the guests children. Both are a two hour commitment. Being the shy introverted Midwesterner that I am, I realize how daunting these tasks can seem, but the guidelines provided by FMF urge hosts not to ask guests questions about their personal situation. Polite small talk is considered the best approach. My experience has been that the guests are usually not interested in talking at length about their personal circumstances. Asking for money from hosts and their congregations for money is against the program guidelines; I have never had a guest ask me or the congregation for money.

If you ever had an inkling to act out the parable of the good Samaritan your chance is coming up! Contact Lead FMF Coordinator Scott Dahlquist at (612) 919-9232 or at sjaadahquist@comcast.net for further information.

Samaritan's Feet: Once again, we have an opportunity to join the Samaritan's Feet Project, which will be providing 1,200 kids new shoes at 4 shoe distributions in Minneapolis schools and organizations. We are organizing volunteers to go to Lucy Laney Elementary on **Thursday, April 11 from 8 AM to 12:30 PM**. We can carpool from Woodlake. Please call Cheryl Buranen at 612-670-1016 or Carol Olson at 612-281-7137 to register for volunteering, get your T Shirt ordered, and get more details. To learn more about the Samaritan's Feet organization, please visit: <https://www.samaritansfeet.org/about-us/>

IN OUR HANDS creates service trips with learning and fun included! We are looking for people to help rebuild in New Bern, North Carolina with FULLER CENTER from April 28-May 4. (16 and older/all skill levels welcome) Driving option (From Twin Cities) approx \$350, flying \$300 plus airfare. For more information please call 651-398-3989 or email joanne@inourhandsadventures.com

VEAP: Woodlake has long been a supporter of VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People), our local "basic needs organization" whose programs include access to healthy foods, social services, housing stability and supportive services. The following letter is regarding their mobile food pantry, one of the many community support initiatives that we support via VEAP. Thank you to VEAP for all the good work they do in Richfield, and to all of you for your consistent support!

Mobile Pantry started distribution at ISD 287 this week and when I followed up with the contact she shared these kind words. Happy Friday!

The feedback from staff and students was that they were thrilled. The grace and warmth portrayed by yourself and your staff was touching to myself and to the other teachers. Between their language, legal status, refugee, homeless, pregnant teen labels so many of these kids have high radars for BS. And not one mentioned anything negative about their treatment on your van; one kid informed me that it felt like he was shopping at a tiny grocery store with his own personal assistant.

The kids in our programs are great humans but they have had many hurts and battles to fight for being so young. Close to 30% of our kids are homeless/highly mobile, not counting the level 4 program kids, our ALC kids are at 60% with those with at least one disability IEP, and our pregnant/parent program needs the extra nutrition and support for both babes and mama's.

Thank you for helping us as staff meet a basic need and remind these kids that adults do care and will follow through to physically and emotionally meet their needs. Being able to meet this need yesterday also provided a HUGE boost to our staff. With so many needs every day that aren't "in the budget" it was emotionally so gratifying to staff that two teachers cried- happy tears.

Looking forward to the next time in April.

And if you ever have an extra day to fit us into a schedule/for some reason a site cancels at the last minute, we would be GLAD to assist you in unloading your truck here at SEC; always a hungry kid around here. 😊

Thanks again
Kari

PS the kids were shocked with the fresh produce, one young man kept saying "they brought strawberries.... really like berries? Who does that?"

From the Records

Deaths and Funerals

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

E. Lorraine Nilsen

(Aug 15, 1931 – Jan 22, 2019)

Service held at Woodlake on Jan 25, 2019.

Kieth Anderson

(Oct 20, 1927 – Jan 23, 2019)

Service held at Woodlake on Feb 2, 2019.

Eleanor Busse

(1921 – 2019)

Private family memorial service.

Harley Witte

(Oct 26, 1932 – Feb 9, 2019)

Memorial service to be held later in the spring.

Gerald Debing

(Apr 21, 1932 – Feb 7, 2019)

Service held at Washburn McCreavy Funeral Chapel on Feb 14, 2019.

Ruth Latham

(Sep 29, 1917 – Feb 12, 2019)

Service held at Woodlake on February 18, 2019.

Mentor Johnson

(May 9, 1931 – Mar 6, 2019)

Service held at Woodlake on Mar 12, 2019.

Collaborative and Community Events

Racial Justice Conversations at Oak Grove (7045 Lyndale Avenue South)

Have you been concerned about what you see in the news, read in the papers or hear about in your community? Are you seeking ways to engage others in difficult but important conversations such as the topic of white privilege and/or racial inequality? Join us the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Library at Oak Grove Lutheran Church for these important conversations. Questions? Contact Jan Philibert at 612-401-7492.

Photo Exhibit of Costa Rican Wildlife by Cynthy Mandl, Richfield's Ambassador to Heredia, Costa Rica and Woodlake member!

Exhibit runs from April 6 – May 30 at the Richfield Community Center (7000 Nicollet Ave S); Open Hours M-F, 8:30am – 5pm

Opening Reception: Saturday, Apr 6, 1pm – 3pm

Join us for Costa Rican coffee and treats, with coloring pages for the kids

HOP Fellowship – April 11, 9am in the House of Prayer Fellowship Hall (7625 Chicago Ave S)

Guest Speaker – Intern Pastor Deanna Bassett

Speaker subject: “My Call, Your Collaboration, Our Future.”

All brothers and sisters are invited for fellowship – devotions, meet&greet, chit-chat, refreshments, and speaker topic. This year's intern pastor was born in Sacramento, California. She was raised Japanese Buddhist, and was baptized into Christianity in her early 30s. Outside of her family life, she has experiences in forensic accounting, diversity and inclusion, and fire-fighting. Come and hear about her background, her calling to ordained ministry, and how the Collaboration helps define her ideas for what church can be in the near future.

Ordination & Installation Invitation from Pastor Kelly Sandin

It is a great joy and blessing to be called to House of Prayer as Associate Pastor and I would be honored for your attendance at my ordination and installation on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at House of Prayer. There will be a “drop in” choir rehearsal on the day of the service at 3:30 p.m., for all who love to sing. All rostered ministers and seminarians are joyfully welcomed to vest and process. We will line up at 4:50 p.m. The color of the day is red. Following the service, there will be an appetizer reception. Hope you can join the celebration!

A Richfield community member is looking for help cleaning her house twice a week. She is blind and needs help. If you are interested please call the church for more information.

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. There was an issue with our *Gather* subscription and we apologize for running short these past few months. The subscription will be renewed but we will not have enough magazines for each circle in April, so if you subscribe please bring your copy to the meeting.

Esther Circle: April 2nd (1st Tuesday), 11:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: April 2nd (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Mickey L's home.

Lydia Circle: April 9th (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: April 10th (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Deborah Circle: April 28th (Date moved due to Easter), 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.

April 6: TBD

April 10: Peg Keenan, "ICA Food Shelf"

April 17: Brady Gervais, "Children's Health Services & Foundation"

April 24: Health nurse to check blood pressures followed by Bible Study

Youth Mission Trip Bake and Craft Sale in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 7, after worship

Featured will be baked goods appropriate for Spring and Easter feasting, Spring and Easter themed craft items, handmade items for wear or use at home, and Easter-themed craft kits especially for children to buy and make on their own. All sales will help defray the Youth Mission Trip expenses. All coffee and treats will be served in Fellowship Hall instead of in the Narthex. Join us there!

Donations of baked goods are welcome. Please bring to the kitchen the morning of the 7th, packaged as much as possible. Pricing will be done by the committee, and stickers indicating any potential allergens will be provided.

Town Hall Meeting 1st Saturday/Sunday of Each Month (April 6 and 7)

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!

First Communion Class: Wednesday, April 10th, 5-6pm in the Fireside Room

If your fifth grader would like to participate in our First Communion ceremony during our Maundy Thursday service on April 19th [please note there was an error in the printed Messenger that listed last year's date; our apologies!], please contact the office at 612-866-8449 or via email (office@woodlakechurch.org) to sign up for the First Communion class.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, April 25th, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for April is *To End All Wars* by Adam Hockschild. Join at any time!

Homebound Ministers Continuing Ed Sunday, April 28th from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM in the Fireside Room

Pastor Micah will talk about the topic Good Grief. He will use Granger E. Westberg's book "Good Grief" as our guide to help identify stages in the grieving process and to learn how to best minister in each situation. It would be helpful, but not necessary, to read the book prior to the session. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Kelly at 612-807-2183 or sdkelly4@icloud.com.

Woodlake Prayer

Shawl Ministry has given away hundreds of prayer shawls since this ministry began in 2005. The recipients love their shawls and we will continue to make and give them away.

We now have a supply of something called pocket prayer peaces (play on words) that you can put in your pocket, school bag, or purse and have with you all the time. Many are enjoying them now. Watch the bulletin and see how we will be "advertising" them.



The Numbers

Offerings Summary: Feb 20 – March 19

Saturday Chapel Services	\$2,309.00
Sunday Sanctuary Services	\$22,056.00
Simply Giving Receipts	\$7,083.65
IRA's	\$2,122.71
Woodlake 2020	\$1,322.00
Properties Projects Fund	\$531.08
Water Opportunity	<u>\$1,215.00</u>
	\$36,639.44

Worship Attendance

Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend or Day Total	Notes
Weds, Feb 20	8:00 AM	8		Snow storm
Sat, Feb 23	5:00 PM	21	108	
Sun, Feb 24	10:00 AM	87		Strong winds (blowing snow)
Weds, Feb 27	8:00 AM	11		Snow overnight
Sat, Mar 2	5:00 PM	26	161	
Sun, Mar 3	10:00 AM	135		
Weds, Mar 6	8:00 AM	22	137	Matins - Ash Wednesday
Weds, Mar 6	6:30 PM	115		Ash Wednesday
Sat, Mar 9	5:00 PM	10	85	Snow storm
Sun, Mar 10	10:00 AM	75		Snow overnight; Daylight Savings
Weds, Mar 13	8:00 AM	15		Ice
Weds, Mar 13	6:30 PM	78		Lenten worship
Sat, Mar 16	5:00 PM	31	161	
Sun, Mar 17	10:00 AM	130		
Weds, Mar 20	8:00 AM	15		
Weds, Mar 20	6:30 PM	70		Lenten worship

Wednesday Night Supper

Date	Attendance	Notes
2/20/2019	x	Weather Cancellation
2/27/2019	30	
3/6/2019	~75	Soup Supper; Ash Wednesday service followed
3/13/2019	50	Soup Supper; Lenten Worship Followed
3/20/2019	60	Soup Supper; Lenten Worship Followed



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 Sunday, April 7th.**

- Easter Lily (White, 6" pot) \$12.00
- Asiatic Lily (Pink, 7" pot)..... \$11.00
- Tulip (Yellow) \$13.00
- Mum (Purple)..... \$15.00
- Azalea (Pink) \$20.00
- Hydrangea (Blue)..... \$25.00

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)
