

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

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

Pastor Micah Pearson
Pastor Joanne Sorenson

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the ELCA.*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

10:00am in the Sanctuary

*Outdoors on the lawn:
June 10, July 8, and August 12*

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

June 2018



Messenger

**S U M M E R W O R S H I P
S C H E D U L E**

Outdoor Worship on the Lawn
10am the 2nd Sunday of the month
(June 10, July 8, August 12)

Outdoor worship on our front lawn (weather permitting) will take place on Sunday mornings on the above dates, and is otherwise scheduled for inside the sanctuary. Music style for our outdoor services will be semi-contemporary and led by guitar.

Saturday evening chapel services and Wednesday morning Matins will continue as usual through the summer.

**S U M M E R M U S I C
S E R I E S**

Summer is upon us, and it's the perfect time to relax and be inspired by nature and greenery around you. Here at Woodlake we will celebrate the season with our Summer Music Series. Join us for these short 30-minute concerts in the Narthex immediately following 10am worship.

Our Summer Music Series is open to the community, so be sure to invite your friends and family! No charge; freewill offering only. Take a deep breath, let your energy be renewed, and inspire yourself this summer at Woodlake!

June 3

Cathy Victorsen, Harp

June 24

Soojung Hong and Hyobi Sim, Piano and Viola

July 15

Vanamali Medina, Flute

August 19

Megan Dvorak, Oboe

**C O L L A B O R A T I V E
W O R S H I P A T
V E T E R A N S P A R K**

Mark your calendars for August 26 for our annual collaborative worship service at Veterans Park with our friends from Oak Grove and House of Prayer. More details to follow!

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)

It's been a joy to hear from so many of you about Woodlake 2020. I appreciate everyone who has participated in a congregational or individual listening session. There have been so many helpful comments, suggestions, and dreams for the future of Woodlake. There is a palpable excitement in the air.

In addition, I have heard from many ministry groups at Woodlake. Can you believe that we have 35 separate ministries serving within the church and 9 outside organizations using our facilities! My goal is to better understand how the church can help support your ministry and its future growth.

Finally, I have been collecting lots of data. Statistics have been gathered from as far back as we are able to locate. This data will help the church better understand the current reality of Woodlake and how best to address our future needs. Statistics on worship attendance from Chapel, Sunday worship, Matins, Lent, and our monthly 7500 York worship services. Statistics on visitors per Sunday, Confirmation classes, Sunday School, Youth Group, Children's Choir, and Wednesday meal numbers. Annual data on church membership and budget information as well as average weekly giving numbers for all worship services and events. We're also collecting ministry data on homebound and hospital visits as well as funerals and weddings per year.

What will we do with all this information? In May and June, we will review all data collected and analyze it with the help of the Woodlake 2020 visioning committee. The first step of Woodlake 2020 was listening to you, the congregation. The second step is data collection. The third step is data review. And the fourth step is creating a plan.

This summer, the Woodlake 2020 committee will meet to review all information collected then choose a direction for Woodlake 2020. The committee has been chosen to equally represent Woodlake so all age demographics are present and no voice is left unheard. We have representatives from Pre-K, Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Young Adult, Parent, Adult, Senior, New Member, and Long-time Member.

Woodlake 2020 will be prayed upon, discussed, and an action plan will be created and presented to the Leadership Board for approval. The agenda is ambitious, but so is the need at Woodlake. I'm excited to work with you through this process and excited to see where God leads us.

IN CHRIST, PASTOR MICAH

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"
Deuteronomy 15:11

Larry and I walk at the Mall of America several times a week. Today Larry saw a man trying to dry his clothes with the dryers in the bathroom. It came to my mind that I have no idea what obstacles are put in the way of those who are homeless. Where do they clean themselves, their clothes? How often are they turned away from a shelter because the shelter is full that night? How can they apply for a job with no address for a follow-up contact? Can they find food on a regular basis?

One of our Loaves & Fishes guests told me about a month ago that he had to move; he was being kicked out as the rent was raised and he didn't know what he was to do. He was very sad and depressed. But, he has found a new place to live. I'm not sure which organization helped him, but he is in a much improved frame of mind with the surety that he has a place to live.

All of us are aware of organizations that help the homeless on a regular basis. We provide space a couple of times a year for Families Moving Forward, and Loaves & Fishes serves meals here every weekend. VEAP has changed their organization so they are concentrating on providing food and housing stability. There are shelters, and soup kitchens, and Hennepin County has help for finding housing. But as it says in Deuteronomy 15:11, there will NEVER cease to be poor in the land. Does that make it a hopeless endeavor to try to provide care? NO!! Every bit of help we give makes it a little better for someone in need.

As you read about mission-oriented groups in our church, find one of interest to you. Share the passion of that group for helping others. If you can physically help, do it! If you can help financially, do it! If you cannot do either of those, be a prayer warrior! Keep a journal of things or people to pray for. As we serve others, we are serving Jesus.

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' – Matthew 25:40

Lord God, Pour your Spirit over us and teach us to serve. Go with us as we seek out the ones in need, and help us give to our brothers as you have given to us. May the love we share begin in our hearts where the gift of faith has taken root. Thank you for what we have. Amen

– LAUREL JOHNSON,
MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMISSION

Mission and Outreach



Little Free Library

Check out our new Little Free Library! It is located out by the corner of 76th Street and Newton Avenue, where it is easily accessible to bus commuters and passers-by. The old LFL had deteriorated, and Gary and Laurie Nix have generously replaced it! Bring books to share if you have them, especially children's books. They can be brought to the office and labeled for the LFL. Thank you!

Samaritan's Feet

On April 25, a small but ambitious group of Woodlakers gathered with about 50 other volunteers from other churches and companies at Sojourner Truth Academy. Over a period of three hours we saw about 400 of their students (kindergartners through 8th graders), washed their feet, and provided them with new socks and shoes. We had an opportunity to connect with them provide encouragement, even tickling their feet at times. When the volunteers gathered at the end of the event, we were told there were children in this group who needed them badly. Following prayer, we walked away feeling very spiritually enriched.

— CAROL OLSON



Families Moving Forward

Woodlake Lutheran is one of more than 50 congregations that make up the Families Moving Forward (FMF) hosting network. Families who are experiencing homelessness work with staff at a day center in North Minneapolis on transitioning to stable housing, and are bused to participating congregations in the evening where they are provided a meal, a place to sleep, and hospitality. Participating congregations are expected to host families at least twice a year for a week at a time. Occasionally, the hosting schedule will still have a few open weeks. One way to address this issue is to do a "scramble". One congregation will be the host site, while volunteers from other congregations come and provide meals and other activities. **Woodlake will be hosting a scramble week from July 1-7.** Woodlake will still need to provide an onsite coordinator, an overnight host, dishwashers, as well as the set-up and taken down of the rooms. Look for the sign-up table in the narthex starting June 10. FMF is part of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, check out their website at: <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/>

Woodlake supports many ministries with offerings to dedicated funds, including FMF. Your packet of offering envelopes includes two special offering envelopes per month to contribute to these funds, which are described on the inside cover of the envelope packet. During the month of June please consider a donation to FMF to help defray the expenses we incur as a congregation for this effort.

— SCOTT DAHLQUIST, FMF LEAD COORDINATOR

Worship and Music Notes

"TIME..."

When Oxford University compiled a list of the most commonly used nouns in English, it found that "time" was the number one word English speakers were obsessed with. Similarly, in third place was "year," fifth place was "day" and 17th place was "week."

The natural measure of the time of man is the day defined by the rotation of the earth. The day is divided into 24 hours of 60 minutes, each minute being in turn divided into 60 seconds. One second is defined as a period of time equal to 1/60th of a minute. The details of the time unit make us how much time we have in a day, week, month or year. Same units to count a day but the day is not same. Clock is ticking. Time flies and we can't catch it.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven; a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and time for peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Several years ago, I was looking for houses to buy and I visited a realtor's office. I came across a frame on her desk and it grabbed my attention. It said, "Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why they call it the present." Since I read that sentence, I have always kept it in my mind.

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Congregational Caring Corner

This month we are highlighting Table Blessings, which is a meal sharing ministry. It is an opportunity for you to show that you care for those inside and outside of our Woodlake community. Table Blessings are appropriate to share with your new neighbor, welcoming them to your neighborhood, or to celebrate the birth of a child. You may want to bring one to a family with a member in the hospital or rehab. And of course, they are helpful for a family grieving the death of a loved one.

The meals are frozen and stored in the small freezer in the office wing. There is a sign out sheet to fill out for each meal taken and a card which can accompany the meal. Please make use of this ministry to reach out to your family and friends with a special meal.

If you are interested in helping prepare these meals, contact Shirley Stroud at 612-720-4395. She leads a group of helpers four times a year to prepare the meals. It takes about one and one-half hours to make up 16 meals at a site in Eden Prairie.

Valet Parking: The Congregational Care Commission would like to begin a free valet parking service at WLC for Sunday mornings. Before we can begin this service, we need to recruit committed volunteers willing to park and retrieve cars before and after the 10 am service. If you would be willing to help out or would like more information, please contact the church office (612-866-8449 x10, office@woodlakechurch.org). We are looking for at least 3 drivers for each Sunday.

“Worship and Music Notes” continued from Page 3
What a genius use of language! Without the present, there is no history or future for us.

Time is something we can give and share with others. To spend time with someone is to give them a piece of heart. I deeply appreciate all volunteers at Woodlake. They are giving their time as a present and gift in the present for us. Nothing at our church can be accomplished without their time and support. There are a variety of ways to make this present and open to everybody. Your being at the place at the moment can be a big support and gift to others.

Now, we have a special moment: opportunities to make a difference at Woodlake. Woodlake 2020 depends on what you do today.

– HYEONJEONG LEE,
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Building and Finances

Scholarships and Camperships: College scholarship applications are now available in the church office! Stop by and pick one up today. There are two separate forms: a) for students who are entering college for the first time, and b) for students who are currently enrolled in college and will be returning again this fall. Questions may be directed to Orv Holland (oholland@woodlakechurch.org, 612-866-8449 ext. 18). **Deadline for scholarship applications is June 15.**

Campership applications are also available in the church office. We want every child to have the opportunity to experience the fun and joy of summer camp. Completed application should be returned to Orv Holland and may also be dropped off at the front office.

Courtyard Project: The last project that I am trying to get moving is the Courtyard Project. Woodlake has a wonderful courtyard that could be used in many ways. Several years back, concerts were held in the courtyard with the audience in the Fireside Room. This could be done again, staff meetings could be held out there, the Wednesday matins group could have their coffee out there or any other small group who wants to appreciate the outdoors. A beautiful bench has been donated in memory of Floyd Roman. Jan Hallet has volunteered to take on some ownership of this project. She will be assisted by Josh and Noah and also Pastor Joanne, who will be taking over some of the Properties aspects of my job. Anyone who has visions for what the courtyard could look like, contact Jan or Pastor Joanne. Perennials that are being divided at your homes might be welcomed. Check it out before you would bring them in. Here's to a blooming courtyard by mid summer! – JULIE WINDLER

Fall Craft Sale

We have been having craft sales at Woodlake since about 2004. Because of the craft sale, we have been fortunate to donate over \$3000 each to VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, and Families Moving Forward. We feel so proud of that!

The coordinators would like to find other people who would like to take over the leadership. If you are interested in considering this, the past leadership will give you their notes and support. Christina Hardy will continue to recruit and register the crafters. We need volunteers for: Bake sale help to support Doris Thorson; Lunch; Grandma's Attic (rummage sale); Book sale to help Faith and Fiction book club; Advertising; and coordinating all areas

If you are interested in learning more about any of these responsibilities, call Cindy Hanson at 952-854-5512

Collaboration and Community Events

Richfield Churches Collaboration Team Update

Our March update shared the results of the collaboration churches' participation in the IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) assessment. The goal of this exercise was to gain insights concerning intercultural challenges we are facing as congregations and to begin to understand how we perceive and respond to cultural differences and commonalities. The results showed that we have room to increase our intercultural competence.

The next step offered individuals that took the assessment the opportunity to meet with Pastor Ben Sandin, our IDI facilitator, in a one-on-one conversation to discuss our individual results and provide an opportunity to create a development plan to learn more. The Collaboration Team then followed up with these individuals to get feedback about the process, what questions remain, and how the Collaboration could help going forward.

Many individuals expressed a desire to continue to learn how to further develop their intercultural competence and increase their skills but hadn't had time to dig into the materials to make a plan or weren't sure how to proceed. The Collaboration Team met again and is working with an IDI consultant to help us continue our process. Watch for more opportunities to come with this!

In the meantime, one of the feedback suggestions was to provide a monthly newsletter list to connect those that wanted to learn with existing resources and opportunities. So – here it is! Our suggestion is to try one of the things on this list each month. If you have any suggestions to add to this list, please email Cara Wright at cwright@hoplc.org by the 15th of each month.

Women's Summer Bible Study 2018

All women are invited to attend our summer Bible Study sponsored by Lydia-Ruth Circle of Oak Grove. The Bible Study will be on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Light refreshments will be served. No preparation is required. The Bible Study is published in the Gather magazine, a publication of the ELCA for women. Copies of the study will be available at each session.

Session one: the paradoxes of prayer (1 Samuel 12:16-23) - (June 12)

Called to pray, but for what purpose? Can we persuade God with prayer? Is the practice of prayer intended for the sake of the one praying or for the One to whom we pray? The Bible references all of these scenarios; however, each comes with biblical, theological and practical questions. In this first session on prayer, we'll investigate the paradoxical truths of this spiritual practice.

Intercultural Learning Opportunities

Within Our Congregations:

Loaves & Fishes Meal – Woodlake, every Sat/Sun night, 3-5pm / 5-7pm. Help serve a free, nutritious meal to people in need. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-woodlake>

Tapestry Worship – Oak Grove, 1st & 3rd Sunday, 5pm. Bilingual Spanish/English worship service & meal

Landscaping Help at Season's Park Apartments – Meet at House of Prayer, Sunday, June 10th, from 12:30-3:00pm. All ages. RSVP to Ben Whalen by June 3rd (bwhalen@hoplc.org or 612-500-9523).

Within Richfield:

Richfield Farmers Market – Veteran's Park, every Sat May 19-Oct 20, 7am-12pm

<http://www.richfieldmn.gov/Home/Components/News/News/2276/36>

Twin Cities Events:

Midsommar Festival – American Swedish Institute, Mpls. Sat, Jun 7, 10am-5pm. Celebrate Nordic heritage. <https://www.asimn.org/programs-education/events/midsommar-celebration-2018>

Juneteenth Celebration – Hennepin County Libraries, dates thru June. African American celebration of emancipation from slavery. <https://www.hclib.org/about/news/2018/may/juneteenth>

Hmong Freedom Festival - Como Park, St. Paul. Sat, Jun 30 – Sun, July 1, 8am-9pm. Hmong celebration of culture, food, and sports. <https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/events-calendar/annual-hmong-freedom-festival/>

Suggested Reading:

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debbie Irving

Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves

Small Group and Circle News

Twins Game Mission Trip Fundraiser

Sign up by Sunday, May 27

Join us for a Twins game on Tuesday, June 19, at 7:10pm! Woodlake has reserved a block of seats together and invite you to join in the fun. Just stop by the table in the Narthex on your way out from worship on Sunday, or contact the office during the week (612-866-8449 x10, office@woodlakechurch.org). The tickets cost \$35 and include a donation to the Mission Trip; please pre-pay in the church office (checks made out to Woodlake with "Twins Game" in the memo line, please). Hope you can join us for some summer fun – and help support the Youth!

Circles

Women's Circles are off for the summer! Summer *Gather* magazines will continue to be available in the office on a first come, first service basis. For those who miss the Bible studies during the summer months, please see the opportunity from Oak Grove featured in "Collaboration and Community Events" on page 5!

Homebound Communion Kits Project

We sometimes run out of the homebound communion kits during the month, so first we would like to remind the homebound ministers to return their kits to the office, but we also think we should have a few more. A project to make communion kits is being planned for sometime this summer. It would involve cutting the material, sewing the bags, threading the ribbon, and filling the bags. If you are interested in helping, please contact Julia in the church office at 612-866-8449. A date will be set based on the availability of the volunteers.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, June 28, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for June is *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion. Join at any time!

Summer Coffee

Coffee will be served this summer if someone signs up in the office to do so. Thanks!

Next Timber Lodge Day
Tuesday, June 12
(Note: Timber Lodge now opens at 4pm)

From the Records

Confirmation 2018



Congratulations to our confirmands! Gage Vizecky was confirmed on Sunday, May 6, and Carson Halvorsen was confirmed on Saturday, May 12. Pictured above with Pastor Micah.

New Members

Terry Kloyda, transfer from St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Eileen Berge, transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Shakopee

Staffing Updates: Julie Windler will be retiring as of May 31. Farewell, Julie, and good luck on your next adventure! You will be missed!!

Julie's current responsibilities include financial coordinator and building manager. For the interim, current financial assistant Orv Holland will be overseeing finances, and Pastor Joanne Sorenson will be overseeing the building management, both on a temporary basis.

Additionally, you'll notice some changes in our custodial staff. Nori Miller has accepted another job opportunity, and there are two new custodians to take her place. Sean Craven comes to us from Minnesota Life College and will primarily be here on Tuesday evenings. Noah Sutton, a Woodlake member who you have often seen playing the guitar during worship, has also joined the custodial staff. Be sure to make our new staff feel welcome if you see them around!