



Messenger

Woodlake Lutheran Church

2120 76th Street West
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
Outside on the lawn: June 30

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.

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

10am Outside on the lawn on June 30 and July 28
10am Collaborative Service at Veterans Park on August 18
10am in the Sanctuary all other Sundays

Saturday Evenings

5pm in the Chapel

A Visit from the Ekkas

The Ekka family will join us for worship on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2. Nijhar will preach and other family members will take part in the services as well. Through the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) we support the Ekkas and their work at the Navin Doman Theological College in Ranchi, Jharkhand, North India. Currently, the Ekkas are based at the WMPL home office in Minneapolis and will be here for some years. Please come to hear more about the Ekkas' work and meet the family.

For more information about the Ekkas, please see their latest prayer letter in the kiosk in the narthex and the Global Mission bulletin outside the Fireside Room.

Biking Fellowship Event

Sunday, June 2 following worship

Join us for a family bike ride and picnic lunch after morning worship. We will start about a mile west of Woodlake and ride part of the Nine Mile Creek trail in Edina. We'll bike for a few miles and then stop for lunch. Picnic lunch will be provided and there is no cost for this fun activity. Bring your own bikes. Let's make this an outreach event as well by inviting neighbors and friends.

Twins Game Fundraiser

Tuesday, June 11, 7:10pm

Cost: \$35.00 includes ticket, hot dog, soda, and donation to the Youth Mission Trip. Please sign up in the church office (Checks payable to Woodlake, please). This is a long-time tradition at Woodlake and we're happy to carry it on this summer! Part of the ticket cost will go towards the youth mission trip fund.

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)

Welcome Pastor Neal Cannon and his family to Woodlake. What an exciting time it is in the life of Woodlake Lutheran Church. In 2018, Woodlake embarked on a new mission of children, youth, and family outreach and now we finally have the pieces in place to make Woodlake 2020 a reality.

Calling a pastor is exciting and holy work and we are grateful for all who affirmed and recognized the Holy Spirit throughout our call process. We give thanks...

- to the Leadership Board for recognizing Pastor Neal's ministry gifts.
- for how closely Pastor's Neal's passions and experience matched Woodlake's needs.
- for Pastor Neal's openness to hearing God's call at Woodlake.
- to God, for walking with Woodlake, guiding us to this point, and preparing the way.

Pastor Neal will start July 15th and will be installed as a pastor of word and sacrament at Woodlake Lutheran Church (date TBD). Pastor Neal will hit the ground running as he will join our youth mission trip to San Francisco from July 25-August 7. As we wait for Pastor Neal to start, please pray for him, his family, and Woodlake during this time of transition and change.

I know the road ahead of us is uncertain and we have much work to do, but we are grateful to have Pastor Neal guide, lead, and share his gifts of children, youth, and family outreach with us.

In Christ,



Pastor Micah

Dear Woodlake Lutheran Church,

It is with great joy that I am writing to accept your call to ministry at Woodlake Lutheran Church, beginning July 15, 2019.

When I heard your vision for Woodlake 2020, I got excited. Ideas began bouncing around my head on the drive home from my last interview. That's when I knew that God was calling me to Woodlake. I'm looking forward to working with Pastor Micah, the council, youth committee, youth and their families to build that vision for the sake of making Christ known in the world. Equally so, I'm excited to be a part of the Richfield community – building relationships with local churches, schools, and other organizations.

Thank you for walking with me in this process. We will begin our work together on July 15!

God's Peace,



Pastor Neal Cannon



More About Pastor Neal:

First I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve alongside you. It's been a winding road that has brought me to your door, so let me begin with some basic background.

I was born in Barrington, Illinois alongside my twin brother Paul. I was preceded by my older sister Susie (and technically Paul... by 4 minutes), and followed by my younger sister, Marybeth. Just before Kindergarten our

family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where I somehow developed a lifelong love of the Cincinnati Bengals. In the third grade our family moved to Park City, Utah (Yes, I ski. No, I'm not very good) where I spent the rest of my adolescence. After high school I attended Augustana University where I received a bachelor's degree in Business Communications.

Continued on Page 3

**“What’s New: Woodlake 2020
Updates, Continued”**

My faith journey winds around in a similar way. Born and raised Lutheran, most of my Sundays growing up were found in a church, though it was Young Life that sparked my faith imagination as a young person in Park City. In college I became a Young Life leader, but really found my sense of call in camping ministry at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. There, I worked two years as a camp counselor, one as a canoe guide, and my final year I was on program staff. I felt at home in the Lutheran community and after college became a middle school youth director for Roseville Lutheran Church. After 4 years at RLC, I sensed a call to pastoral ministry. I then entered Luther Seminary where I graduated in 2014 with a degree of Master of Divinity with an emphasis in Children, Youth, and Family ministry. After seminary, I received my first call at Christ Lutheran Church in Belvidere, Illinois as an associate pastor with an emphasis in youth and family ministry.

In 2012, I married Mary Albright (now Cannon). She is from Duluth, went to St. Olaf, and is the most Minnesotan person I know. We have two children, Noah (3) and Miles (1). Along with keeping us busy, they keep us laughing non-stop! Noah loves dinosaurs, sports, and books. Miles enjoys eating, making a mess, and being surprised!

Thank you all for considering me for this position. It's an honor to be entrusted with word and sacrament and I'm grateful to be brought forward for the role of pastor. With the congregation, I hope we can grow together in faith, serve the surrounding community, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

Leadership Board Commissioner Woodlake 2020 Reports for May 2019

Properties: Paul Olson

- Proposal will be put forth at the LBM May meeting for final approval of the Prayer Ground & Nursery

Mission and Outreach: Laurel Johnson

- The total amount raised for the “Water Project” through the noisy offerings for Woodlake was \$3906.50, and the total raised by all 3 churches was \$11,347.44.
- The collaboration VEAP team will be collecting diapers this summer and setting up a time in October for volunteers to work at VEAP repacking diapers into smaller packages for distribution.

Music and Worship: Carol Olson/Deb Heineke

- Continued efforts to involve the children and youth in the services as part of our 2020 goal.
- Proposal made to invite a youth choir from Kenya this Fall.

Congregational Care: Anne Schmieg

- Prayer shawl ministry will be sending Pocket Prayer Peaces with all those traveling on the Youth Mission trip and will try to send extras for them to give away if they have enough made by then.
- Prayer chain continues to say a generic prayer for all Woodlake children youth and families the first week of each month.
- Valet Parking continues to give their tips to the CYF fund. They anticipate fewer tips now that the weather is warmer and less people are utilizing the service.

Congregational Life: Wayne Schmieg

- A youth fundraiser (Twins Game) plus a family outing (bike ride/picnic) are in the planning stages. More information to come as plans are finalized.
- Proposal made to invite a children's choir from Kenya this fall.

Children, Youth and Family: Anne Romstad

- Our new CYF-focused Pastor (Pastor Neal Cannon) starts at Woodlake on July 15th
- Proposal for Pray Ground and Nursery will be submitted for approval by the LB at the May meeting.
- Registration for VBS, K-6th thru 6th begins [in June]. Those who sign up early get free Luther Point VBS T-shirts. Posters and flyers to use to invite others will be available beginning this Sunday and subsequent Sundays throughout the summer until July 21.
- For now 30 is the maximum number of children but those in 7th grade on up are welcome to sign on, free, as helpers. If more than 30 campers sign up we will contact Luther Point for more help.

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Biking, Baseball, and Bonhomie

In John's Gospel for the fourth Sunday after Easter are the familiar verses about loving our neighbor. Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We have a couple chances to show our love by joining with our family, friends, and neighbors for two fellowship activities in the next few weeks.

Biking

On Sunday, June 2, we will go on a bike ride after the church service and have a picnic lunch. We will start about a mile west of Woodlake and ride part of the Nine Mile Creek trail in Edina. We'll bike for a few miles and then stop for lunch. There is no cost for this fun activity. Let's make this an outreach event as well by inviting neighbors and friends.

Baseball

On Tuesday June 11, we will take in a ball game at Target Field. This is a long-time tradition at Woodlake. Even the Bible has a verse about baseball: Genesis, 1:1: "In the big inning..." 😊 The Twins are on a roll right now, so it promises to be a fun night at the ball park. Part of the ticket cost will go towards the youth mission trip fund.

Bonhomie

Bonhomie is the spirit of cheerful friendliness and geniality. This spirit is essential if we are to live out our Christian mission to "scatter joy like seed" (from the hymn "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"). We can spread that joy by joining with others in fellowship. I hope to see you on the trail and at the ball park.

Wayne Schmieg, Commissioner for
Congregational Life

Worship and Music Notes

Hello from your former interim music director!! Sunday, May 19 was one of the best days of my life! I want to thank all of you whether you were there or not for all of your support and all of your friendship and your warmth! I'll be back and hopefully will share the piano or organ bench with Joshua at some future time.

Thanks to the great Julia, the best administrator I have ever worked with who has put up with my shenanigans! Thanks to Cindy for bringing me my morning cup of coffee on Sundays! Special thanks to Pastor Micah and Pastor Joanne for being my leaders and supporting me and guiding me.

Special special thanks to Monique for directing the group so well, and the choir, okay, adult ensemble, for all of your hard work and dedication to providing such wonderful music for the services. To Noah Sutton, Morrie Nilsen and the guys, the Spirit Singers: Wayne, Anne, Carol and others who pinch-hit when we would sing songs on Sundays.

At Christmas time, Pastor Micah had given me a plant for which I can't remember its exact name, but its nickname is "plant of steel," meaning it doesn't take much care. Well...it takes more care than I gave it! So if anybody wants to adopt an orphan plant, you can stop in at the office and take it home and take good care of it!

Woodlake, you are in my heart! I have to quit typing now or else I'm going to get very verklempt! Except I didn't say that I have more CDs for sale! Thanks to all who bought what I had brought. I should have brought more! And don't forget that I play at Dangerfield's Friday and Saturday nights, but with the summer starting, give me a call at 952-891-8439 to double-check to see if I'm playing when you would like to come to wine and dine and listen

Eileen

Mission and Outreach

Another successful week of hosting with Families Moving Forward (FMF) wrapped up on Sunday, May 5th. Four families (six adults and ten children) were provided overnight accommodations for the week while staff at the FMF Day Center worked on helping them transition to stable housing. Assistance was received from Hope Lutheran Church, Edina Community Lutheran Church, Mayflower Congregational Church, and Loaves & Fishes which provided two meals. A total of 29 volunteers provided 198 hours of service to this ministry. My thanks to all who hosted, cooked meals, helped set-up, take down, and laundered the bedding after the week was through. Our next hosting week is December 1-8, 2019.

Collaborative and Community Events



Unity in Diversity sermon series

The Bible is multicultural. Jesus is multicultural. But how are we allowing the Spirit to move us towards different people, bringing us to new life? In this sermon series, we will examine the kingdom of God especially as it relates to unity without uniformity, and diversity without fragmentation. Join us each Wednesday in June

in Woodlake's chapel at 8am for the Matins worship services.

Summer Collaboration Project

VEAP has a program called "Donate and Do," which involves collecting diapers over a certain period of time, and then providing volunteers to repackage the diapers for distribution to families in need. The VEAP Collaboration Team, with a VEAP representative from each church, Oak Grove, House of Prayer, and Woodlake has committed to this project. All three congregations will collect diapers from now until the end of September. The diapers can be any size and quantity. If you would rather they be purchased by others, please use envelopes for monetary donations and designate "VEAP Donate & Do" in the memo line (checks made out to Woodlake).

We will then pick a Saturday in October for volunteers to meet at the VEAP warehouse to repackage for distribution. During this repackaging, VEAP gives the volunteers a tour of their facilities so we can see the whole operation and how they serve our neighbors in need. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, so plan to bring your whole family. Thank you for your continued support of this awesome organization.

From the Records

New Members

A warm welcome to **Rob, Heather, and Charlotte Forslund**, who joined the church on Sunday, April 21st.

Baptism

Charlotte Robin Forslund, child of Rob and Heather Forslund, baptized by Pr Micah Pearson on Sunday, April 21st. Sponsors: Mike and Holly Anderson

Funeral Services

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Barbara Halsne (August 26, 1946 - March 24, 2019). Service held at Woodlake on Friday, March 29.

Harley Witte (October 26, 1932 - February 9, 2019). Service held at Woodlake on Friday, May 17.

Small Group and Circle News

Widowers Breakfast

The Widowers will not be meeting for the foreseeable future. This group has met for at least the last fifteen years and has provided so much support to men whose wives have passed. Thank you to everyone who has helped to coordinate this group.

Circles

Circles meet once a month during the programming years and are times for women of all ages to have fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. Most Circles will be off for the summer. Esther Circle at 7500 York will continue to meet throughout the summer on their usual schedule. Next meeting is June 4, 8:30am, breakfast in the York Room (1st Tues).

Summer Knitting

The morning prayer knitters who usually meet on Thursday mornings during the programming year will meet on the 1st Tuesday for June, July, and August, 9:30am in the Fireside Room. Next meeting is June 4. All are welcome!

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, June 27th, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for June is *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. Join at any time!

June SALT Event – Mini Golf and Dinner

Saturday, June 15th at 4pm

In June the Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT) will start with a round of mini-golf at MaltTees, located on the north side of Veterans Park (6335 Portland Ave, Richfield, MN 55423) at 4 pm. Following mini-golf we will head across the park and have dinner at the Legion (happy hour goes until 6). There are dart boards and a pool table if folks want to play a game after dinner. Please RSVP to Leslie F. or the church office by Monday, June 10th.

The Numbers

Note: We are shifting from mid-month to full-month reporting. It is easier on us to gather and easier for you to understand. Going forward we will be reporting the last month to fully complete ahead of the Messenger deadline on the 15th. There will be a repetition of data this month as we make that shift.

Offering Totals for April 2019

Saturday Chapel Service	\$ 1,184.00
Sunday Sanctuary Service	19,065.58
Simply Giving	7,305.68
IRA's	1,332.71
Properties Projects Fund	445.00
Water Opportunity	713.97
Woodlake2020	<u>333.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 30,379.94

Worship Attendance for April 2019

Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend or Day Total	Notes
Weds, Apr 3	8:00 AM	20		
Weds, Apr 3	6:30 PM	65		Lenten worship
Sat, Apr 6	5:00 PM	26	170	
Sun, Apr 7	10:00 AM	144		
Weds, Apr 10	8:00 AM	19		
Weds, Apr 10	6:30 PM	57		Lenten worship. Snow storm.
Sat, Apr 13	5:00 PM	22	237	Palm Sunday weekend
Sun, Apr 14	10:00 AM	215		Palm Sunday
Weds, Apr 17	8:00 AM	14		
Thurs, Apr 18	7:00 PM	182		Collaborative Worship with House of Prayer and Oak Grove; Service held at Oak Grove
Fri, Apr 19	7:00 PM	103		Good Friday
Sun, Apr 21	8:30 AM	101	393	Easter Sunday
Sun, Apr 21	10:00 AM	292		
Weds, Apr 24	8:00 AM	18		
Sat, Apr 27	5:00 PM	27	199	
Sun, Apr 28	10:00 AM	172		Congregational Meeting followed worship

Wednesday Night Supper Attendance

Date	Attendance
4/3/2019	57
4/10/2019	40
4/17/2019	No Supper
4/24/2019	20