

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
**Outdoor worship on the lawn:
July 8, August 12**

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the Chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins

8:00am in the Chapel
**No Matins Service on
Weds, July 4**

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

**Building Closed on
Weds, July 4**

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



Messenger



July 2018

Summer Music Series for July – Sunday, July 15

We continue to celebrate the season with our Summer Music Series. Join us for a short 30-minute concert 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. **On Sunday, July 15, we welcome Flutist Vanamali Medina.**

Mission and Outreach Opportunities in July

Families Moving Forward Here July 1 – 7

Occasionally, the FMF 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 beginning Sunday, July 1, through the 7th.** While we do not need to provide all volunteers needed for the week, we will still need to provide an onsite coordinator, an overnight host, and dishwashers, as well as set up and take down the rooms. Please stop by the table in the Narthex on Sunday morning if you would like to volunteer or get more information!

VEAP Back to School Drive

Over the past year, VEAP has worked with the staff in our local school districts to understand what the classroom teachers need most to support students throughout the school year. We learned teachers need access to an inventory of school supplies all year long to keep students prepared to learn. To best meet the needs of teachers, VEAP will collect and sort school supplies and then distribute them to the schools.

The supplies needed the most are **backpacks, earbuds** (to use with computers or notebooks to keep the classroom quiet), **USB thumb drives** (to save data), **and calculators**. These items, in addition to the standard pencils, pens, and paper will help students succeed. **Supplies will be collected July 16-August 1.**

Habitat for Humanity

Have a day to spare during the week of July 23-27 and looking for a worthy volunteer gig? How about helping out with a Habitat for Humanity project. Hope Lutheran, one of our partners with FMF, is involved with several other churches during this week with a Habitat for Humanity housing project. The volunteers are assisted and supervised by qualified professionals. Adults and youth older than 16 are welcome to participate. Contact Scott Dahlquist for further information at (612) 919-9232 or at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net

Youth Mission Trip

Please pray for our eleven youth and four adult chaperones who will be going on this year's mission trip to Harrisburg, PA from July 21-29!

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)

The Woodlake 2020 committee has met and reviewed the following data to help guide and inform our visioning process. I share these statistics with you to give a clearer picture of our current ministry reality at Woodlake. Listed below are three categories of information dealing with worship, ministry, and finances.

If you have any questions or additional information you would like to share, please let me know and I’ll share it with the Woodlake 2020 committee at our next meeting on July 11th.

Worship

Membership High		Membership Low	
1970	3,739 members	1950	513 members
		2017	692 members
Largest Period of Growth		Largest Period of Decline	
1950 (513 members)- 1955 (1,982 members)	1,469 member increase 286% member increase	1970 (3,739 members)-1980 (2,032 members)	1,707 member decrease 45% member decrease
1960 (2,561 members)- 1965 (3,704 members)	1,143 member increase 45% member increase	2011 (1,259 members)- 2017 (692 members)	567 member decrease 45% member decrease
Worship Attendance High		Worship Attendance Low	
1965	1,087 average worship attendance	1950	244 average worship attendance
		2017	189 average worship attendance
Largest Period of Growth		Largest Period of Decline	
1950 (244 average worship attendance)- 1965 (1,087 average worship attendance)	250 member increase every 5 years 345% member increase	2000 (576 average worship attendance)- 2015 (245 average worship attendance)	110 member decrease every 5 years 57% member decrease
		1970 (3,739 average worship attendance)- 1980 (2,032 average worship attendance)	1,707 member decrease 45% member decrease

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Church Ministries

Baptisms High		Baptisms Low	
1955	115	2017	2
Confirmations High		Confirmations Low	
1965	99	2017	2
Marriages High		Marriages Low	
1985	51	2013	1
Funerals High		Funerals Low	
2003	34	1950	0
Wednesday Night Suppers			
Information from Bernice Deike, with input from Bonnie Creighton: <i>I have been helping with Wednesday Night Suppers since the early 1990's. I took over from Marilyn Erickson. When we first started, we used to get between 70-80 participants. In 2018, we average 30-40 participants. Now it seems directly based on how many people are here for other Wednesday night activities. Has always been mostly members, not really new guests.</i>			
High School Youth			
Information from Kara Beckman: <i>In 2018, our weekly average was 3 youth. (10 have showed up at least once and are going on the mission trip) In 2017, our weekly average was 5 youth. *With 6 graduating seniors this year, I do not expect to have a Sr. High Youth Group next year.</i>			
Sunday School			
Information from Kirsten Hargreaves: <i>In 2018, we used 1 classroom. This year we had 11 regular students, 4 occasional, and 9 visitors. From 2014 to present we used 2 classrooms. From 2010-2014 we used 5 classrooms.</i>			

The consensus from 35 ministries at Woodlake is that most would like more people, most need help filling leadership roles, and most are looking for pastoral/staff support to further their ministry goals. A strong theme that runs throughout the ministries of Woodlake is a desire for more people to help with current ministries.

Finances

ANNUAL BUDGET	
2013	\$672,473
2014	\$714,117
2015	\$635,225
2016	\$483,602
2017	\$464,081

The statistics are sobering but help paint a clear picture of reality at Woodlake Lutheran Church. Woodlake 2020 is analyzing the best way forward, given these statistics. We recognize that if nothing is done, the statistical trends will continue. We are also aware that these trends won't reverse themselves without transformative change at Woodlake.

Woodlake 2020 gives me hope as we are starting the process of transformation at Woodlake from the bottom up. In doing so, this transformative process is going to need you. We need your energy, we need your flexibility, we need your support, we need your time, and we need your money.

I close with the words of the prophet Isaiah 41:10, "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God."

*In Christ,
Pastor Micah*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

A Closed-and-Open Case

“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” (Rev 3:8)

Greetings and Blessings to All,

We normally hear the expression “an open and closed case.” However, I am proposing a new version of this familiar phrase.

Seeing the beautiful flowers in my garden and everywhere in my neighborhood this time of year truly brings me joy. Many of the exquisite flowers have opened and are in full array, yet, there are still some which are closed. I wait with much anticipation and hope they have survived our long Winter.

There may be other things we encounter throughout our lives which are closed and which we cling to the hope that they will someday open to us. Consider the following...

Doors: Doors closed to many. Doors of opportunity such as a new job, a home, a cure for an illness, a new life.

People: People who are isolated or have closed themselves off from others and/or from God.

Ourselves: At times we may close our minds and our hearts in fear or insecurity and in doing so we hide our love and our natural talents.

These are all situations where openings are possible and within our reach.

As nature around us continues to blossom, I feel that our Woodlake Community is also undergoing its own emergence from a season of dormancy to one of new growth and “opening.”

As we move forward into “Woodlake 2020,” let us reflect on how each of us can...

...Bravely and lovingly open ourselves to reveal and share our natural beauty and talents...

...Find creative ways to open closed doors, to new opportunities, and provide renewed hope for those who are in need both within and outside of Woodlake Church...

...and reach out to openly share God’s love to all and help others to blossom in the light of Christ’s love.

Lord, we pray that you will open doors in all areas of our lives. May you pave the way for the conversations we will have. We pray that you would open doors in our workplaces, schools, leisure activities, and our relationships. Make us aware of opportunities to bear witness to the greatness, the glory, and the goodness of our Savior. Give us a boldness to walk through these doors and proclaim the hope of redemption in Christ and the promise of eternal life, for the glory of Your name and for our good. Amen

Mary Olson, Vice President

Worship and Music Notes

Do you think there is a person who doesn’t care about their happiness? No one wants to be unhappy. Then, how can we be happy? The conditions for happiness vary and depend on the individual. Some people might think they are happy when they can get more money, a new big house or a better job. But, these things can’t hold the happiness for long. In one study, psychologists found constant variables that can help with people’s happiness.

James H. Fowler, a health systems and political scientist, and Nicholas A. Christakis, a Harvard Professor and health care policy specialist explains through their book, “Connected: The surprising power of our social networks and how they shape our lives,” how our friends’ friends’ friends affect everything we feel, think, and do. It seems difficult to attain happiness without good relationships with family and friends. Connection with good and happy people creates a better chance for personal happiness.

The book *The Great Good Place*, written by Oldenburg, says having a good community is important. One’s main communities consist of one’s home and workplace. For someone who feels happy, there exists a third location besides his/her home and workplace, consisting of cafes, bookstores, bars, and other venues where they can mingle with their friends at ease.

For me, Woodlake is a main place where I spend the most time and work with people. I dream of having this place become that third place of connection for people to build our relationships and to share our happiness. Happiness can be an epidemic!

We have already had two concerts and shared them together. And there are two concerts that will be held later during the summer. I want to share the joy, beauty and happiness through music with you at this very place, Woodlake.

Why don’t you make Woodlake as the third place to connect with your family and friends to build your happiness?

*HyeonJeong Lee,
Director of Worship and Music*

Congregational Care Corner

The mission of the Homebound Ministry is to visit and bring communion to members of Woodlake who no longer can attend church services at Woodlake for various reasons. We have 52 homebound members. Some of the homebound choose not to be visited, but 38 are being visited by 25 homebound ministers which includes the two pastors. We have three people who send cards to all of the homebound members for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and their birthdays. Woodlake Ink makes the cards except for the valentines which are made at our annual Valentine Card Making Event.

We need a few more homebound ministers as well as another person to be on our homebound team that meets monthly to discuss matches between homebound members and homebound ministers and to plan our events.

A new process for blessing and distributing the communion kits for the homebound was started on June 10th and will continue on the second Sunday of each month. The homebound ministers will come to the altar after communion. Not only will the communion kits be blessed, but also the homebound ministers. A double blessing!

Sometimes we run out of communion kits during the month, so first we would like to remind the homebound ministers to return their kits to the office, but we could use a few more too, so a project to make communion kits is being planned for Monday, July 9th from 10 am - 2 pm. It would involve cutting the material, sewing the bags, threading the ribbon, and filling the bags. Coffee, treats and lunch will be provided for the participants.

We do continuing education for our homebound ministers twice a year. Save the date for our next continuing education which will be open to the entire congregation: Saturday, October 13th from 10 AM to noon. The topic will be "Health Care Directives". There will be a facilitator from Health Partners.

Please contact Julia in the church office at 612-866-8449 if you have any questions or are interested in being a homebound minister or being on the homebound team or would like to participate in the communion kit project.

*Blessings,
Sue Kelly, Homebound Ministry*

Collaboration and Community Events

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 two: the practices of prayer (Psalm 19:14) - (July 10)

Jesus taught us how to pray by way of the Lord's Prayer. But both in Scripture and in the Christian tradition, people of faith have developed a wide variety of ways to come before God. In this session, we'll look at different ways to pray, what each might offer and how knowing an array of prayer styles can enrich our devotional life.

Plymouth Congregational Church Summer Music (1900 Nicollet Ave. S.)

Concerts take place on the dates below from 7-8:15pm. They are free but you must go early as the church fills up quickly! The concerts are well attended and wonderful - free will offering on way out. Many Woodlakers have enjoyed these concerts for several years.

July 10: The New Standards (jazz trio)

July 17: Leonard Bernstein Spectacular

July 24: Tony Ross, lead cellist with the MN Orchestra, doing Bach, Britten, and Brahms

July 31: George Maurer Jazz Group

Farewell and Thank You

Thank you to all of you at Woodlake for your support over my 20 years here as Financial Coordinator and past 6 as Building Coordinator and for the honorariums given in honor of me most recently. It has been always interesting to work at Woodlake and it will continue to be an interesting and wonderful place. I will be taking a break from Woodlake to allow new routines to evolve but will be back. More time with my Granddaughter, Elizabeth is already keeping me very busy and happy.

- Julie Windler

Small Group and Circle News

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, July 26th, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for July is *Faith Bass Darlings' Last Garage Sale* by Lynda Rutledge. Join at any time!

Talk with the Nurse

Wednesday, July 25, 8:30 – 9:30am (Fireside Room following Matins)

A public health nurse will be here to perform blood pressure checks, answer questions, and speak on the topic, "Shingles." It's free and no appointment is necessary. Sponsored by Bloomington Public Health serving Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield.

VBS Registration Is Open!

Dates: August 5-10 (Sunday evening kickoff; Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm; Fri 9am-12pm. Register before July 31. Cost: \$10/day or \$25/day for families – scholarships available.)

Registration forms are available in the church office or may be requested via email from office@woodlakechurch.org, or call the office if you would like a form to be mailed to you. Fill out one form per child and turn in to the church office. We welcome children from pre-K to 6th grade (completed) and you do not need to be a member to participate, so feel free to invite grandchildren and friends.

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

Morning Prayer Shawl Schedule

The morning prayer knitters and crocheters will meet at 9:30am the second Tuesday of each month for the summer: July 10 and August 14. In September, we will resume our regular schedule (2nd and 4th Thursdays).

Summer Quilting

The Quilting group will be meeting each Monday morning all summer, from 9am – 11:30am in Rooms 3&4.

SUMMER SERIES 2018

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, July 5, 2018 – August 23, 2018, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church
8600 E. Bush Lake Rd
Bloomington, MN
952-944-6510**

info@peacebloomington.org

July 5: *An Overview of Grief*, Steve Simms
July 12: *Energy Healing for Grief*, Karen Morey
July 19: *Grief and Shame*, Robert H. Albers Ph.D
July 26: *Family Matters: The Impact of Loss on Family*, Ed Holland
August 2: *Will I Always Feel This Way?* Nancy Jo Sullivan
August 9: *Wellness During Grief*, Phyllis Bruce
August 16: *The Greatest of These is Love: Cherishing What Remains*, Nancy Jo Sullivan
August 23: *Multiple Loss*, Julie Ditzler

Congregational Survey

The Woodlake 2020 committee has taken all of your comments and suggestions from our listening sessions, reviewed current ministries at Woodlake, and gathered as much statistical data as we could find to help start the process of putting together a proposal for Woodlake's Leadership Board to consider. To further aid our conversations and research, we need your help.

To this end, we have sent out a survey via our email list. Please fill out the survey as soon as you are able! We also have paper copies available in the church office.

If you want to take the survey but do not have internet access and cannot make it into the office, please call Julia in the office at 612-866-8449 x 10 to request a paper copy be sent to you by mail. Please act quickly as the survey will be closing in early July. Thank you!