



## Pastor's Page

### Woodlake Lutheran Church

2120 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-8449  
[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://www.woodlakechurch.org)

Pastor Neal Cannon  
Pastor Micah Pearson

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

### Worship Schedule

**Sunday Morning**  
10:00am in the Sanctuary

**August 18**  
10am Collaborative Worship at  
Veterans Park  
(6335 Portland Ave)  
*Details on Page 3*

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

Sometimes the words of Jesus just grab you and they won't let go! A phrase from a recent Sunday text grabbed me: **"No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."** **Luke 9:62**

This "discipling quest" that we are on together is really all-encompassing. There is no excuse good enough, no reason that can be accepted for walking away from the love of Jesus who calls us into a life of adventure, of service, of sharing a very "alternative" lifestyle from the typical "grab-all-you-can-in-this-life" mindset that we encounter every day.

I have been so privileged to have shared a bit of the journey with all of you as I start a new pursuit in life, forming a non-profit to teach others the joy of serving. As Pastor Cannon begins as your full time Children, Youth, and Family Outreach Pastor, my time with you will decrease, and although I am still on the "staff list" – my hours will be on an "as needed" basis.

In spite of the rapidly changing role of church in this culture, your community bonds are priceless. The connections we share with one another as people of faith and as the body of Christ are unique. Following Jesus isn't a "solo act" – we need the companionship, encouragement, and strength of each other. I have received those gifts and so many more from being with all of you. Here are some gems for you from the book of James: (The Message Bible)

*"Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.....When down-and-outers get a break, cheer! And when the arrogant rich are brought down to size, cheer! Prosperity is as short-lived as a wildflower, so don't ever count on it. You know that as soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers. Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem. Well, that's a picture of the "prosperous life." At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing.*

*Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life." (James 1)*

I am excited for your future as a community of faith.

*Peace in all things! – Pastor Joanne Sorenson*

### **Vacation Bible School, August 5 – 9, 2019**

#### **Help Needed!**

We are seeking donations of 1) healthy snacks and juice boxes; 2) Financial donations to offset scholarships; and 3) "Kid-friendly" donations for VEAP that the VBS kids will give to VEAP when they tour it this year. We also need adult volunteers to help drive to field trips on Monday-Thursday afternoons. Stop by the table on Sundays to drop off any donations, get more info, or if you can volunteer. Thank you for helping to make a great VBS 2019!

**VBS Registration information follows on Page 2.**

# Around the Table

*Notes from Your Leadership Board*

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Last month, my husband and I spent a week in Washington, D.C. with another couple, taking in as many sights as possible without collapsing. So many of the places we saw left emotions soaring with the realization we were most likely standing where our Forefathers once stood. This is where history is made, and it is difficult not to feel awe, wonderment and pride in our country. For me, one place stood out more than the others: our National Cathedral. I went knowing virtually nothing about this impressive church. Upon entering, a gentleman at a small table greeted us with a warm smile and supplied us with information. I felt welcomed! Immediately I thought of our new welcome desk that Linda and Dustin procured for Woodlake Church, and how it will provide a space for greeters and volunteers. We are still figuring out how to utilize it fully, who will take leadership of it, and what its weekday and weekend service roles will be. In time all this will be figured out and it will aid in welcoming all who come to Woodlake Church. A special thank you to those who currently are working the desk, filling a vital role.

The Cathedral, to be 'a house of prayer for all people', offers many styles of worship. They have services using Episcopal liturgy, small prayer services incorporating ancient and modern spiritual practice, a meditative labyrinth, an outdoor grassy amphitheater and the Bishop's Garden for outdoor service and meditation. And yet, Woodlake is also 'a house of prayer for all people' and has just as many types and styles of worship. I feel the Spirit here working through us as we welcome all ages, reach out into communities in a variety of ways, and with God's grace continue to be more of who He has called us to be through His son, Jesus Christ.

*Happy Summer Everyone,  
Anne Schauer, Leadership Board Secretary*

# Worship and Music Notes

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"We are all one in mission; we are all one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love." ("We Are All One in Mission" ELW #576; appropriately found in the "Vocation, Ministry" section of our Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal.)

I have really enjoyed planning music for and leading the "Y'all Come! Summer Choir" these past two months. While the intention of this choir opportunity is to give anyone of any age a chance to sing in a limited-commitment, no-strings-attached quality group of people-who-like-to-sing, members have primarily been those who are already on the roles of the Adult Choir. Even so, we have had some visitors from outside of Woodlake Lutheran Church. Friends of mine from St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, have joined in each of these special choir opportunities and have given me feedback following each experience. As the hymn says, "our varied gifts united" makes us the Church. I'm not going to get into a sermon about how all the gifts are needed and there are no single gifts that have the corner on the gift-market so as to boast over other gifts (For the Apostle Paul's perfectly succinct sermon, read I Corinthians 12:15-26). I do want to highlight, however, that the gift of hospitality was in full force each time my friends from St. Philip the Deacon visited. They told me each time about how choir members would notice them walk through the Choir Room doors and *instantly* extend a welcome; how the fellowship time before and after worship is so friendly and alive. We may not all have the gift of hospitality, but we do each of us have a gift. I'm so grateful to be part of a community where gifts are not only acknowledged, but valued and their use encouraged. I'm looking forward to the fall as our program year begins again and we all get a chance to use our gifts with renewed energy and excitement in mission and ministry. We're in this "together that all may know Christ's love."

*Soli Deo gloria.  
To God alone the glory.*

*Joshua Lindgren, Director of Worship and Music*

**VBS at Woodlake - "Transformed Community" with Luther Point, August 5 - 9, 2019**  
**Times:** Mon - Thurs, 9am - 4:30pm with an afternoon field trip for grade school kids; Fri 9am - 12pm  
[Pre-K: 9am-12pm every day]

**Ages:** Pre-K - 6th grade (completed)    **Cost:** \$50 per child or \$100 per family (Scholarships Available) [Pre-K is free]  
Please contact [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org) for more info or to register!

# Mission and Outreach

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Like many ministries at Woodlake, Families Moving Forward (FMF) has a dedicated fund to support it. This fund is used to pay for food, meals, and other expenses incurred during a hosting week. Additionally, in accordance with a resolution by the leadership board, \$100 is transferred from this fund to the general fund to defray the additional cost to our facility for each hosting week. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the efficiency of the FMF hosting team the balance of this fund after our last hosting week was about \$1,500. In accordance with past practice Woodlake made a donation to FMF of \$700 from this fund. A thank you letter was received from FMF, an excerpt from which reads as follows: Crystal, Ronald and their three children had lived in the same apartment for more than two years, but they lost their lease and needed to find shelter fast. Families Moving Forward was there to help. Crystal continued to work at AutoZone throughout their shelter stay, and Ronald was able to find a job, too. In a short time, they were able to find a new home in Minneapolis where they are paying market rate rent. Their experience demonstrates that even two-parent, working families sometimes find themselves facing homelessness.

My thanks to all who have donated and helped out with FMF. Our next hosting week is December 1-8, 2019.

*Scott J. Dahlquist, Lead FMF Coordinator*

# Collaborative and Community Events

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## Collaborative Worship on August 18, 10am at Veterans Park

It's here!! Meet us at Veterans Park (6335 Portland Ave, Richfield, MN 55423) for a collaborative worship service with our friends from House of Prayer and Oak Grove, followed by a picnic lunch. The service is planned by all three churches, featuring a combined choir, and Woodlake will be providing the main course.

## Young Adults Trivia Night

Join young adults from Lutheran\* churches across the Twin Cities for a trivia night on Tuesday, August 20 from 7-9 p.m. at Broken Clock Brewing Cooperative, 3134 California St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Come by yourself or with a group from your community and meet other young adults interested in gathering, nerdery (church and non-church trivia questions included!), and general merriment. RSVP on the [facebook event](#),

[<https://www.facebook.com/events/1011940565678492/>] or contact Miriam Samuelson-Roberts at [m.samuelson-roberts@westwoodlutheran.org](mailto:m.samuelson-roberts@westwoodlutheran.org) with questions.

\*no need to be Lutheran or even a churchgoer to attend—that's just who is hosting.

## Special Event: Hakuna Matata Children's Choir, October 20

Hakuna Matata Children's Choir is composed of 9 girls and 4 boys, who are 10 to 12 years of age, and are from an orphanage in Kenya. They will be accompanied by four adults. The choir is dedicated to spreading love, hope and joy while raising awareness for the desperate plight of orphans and other vulnerable children. Their colorful clothing, pounding drums and sweet voices demonstrate their hope and dream for a brighter future. Their inspirational stories of resilience have instilled hope in the hearts of all those who have seen them perform.

### **Here's where you come in!**

We are seeking to have a team of volunteers in place well before the choir arrives. Our primary volunteer need will be for providing housing and meals from October 14th to October 21st. During this week they will be using a room at church for practice and schooling, and will stay with congregation members. Contact Carol Olson at [webercarol19@yahoo.com](mailto:webercarol19@yahoo.com) if you are able to help with this project or would like more information.

# The Numbers

## Offering Summary 06/01 – 06/30/219

Saturday Chapel Service	\$1,035.00
Sunday Sanctuary Service	16,027.00
Simply Giving	7,017.68
IRA's	1,332.71
Properties Projects Fund	445.00
WOODLAKE2020	415.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,272.39</b>

## Worship Attendance for June 2019

Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend or Day Total
Sat, June 1	5:00 PM	29	179
Sun, June 2	10:00 AM	150	
Weds, June 5	8:00 AM	22	
Sat, June 8	5:00 PM	25	165
Sun, June 9	10:00 AM	140	
Weds, June 12	8:00 AM	16	
Sat, June 15	5:00 PM	22	197
Sun, June 16	10:00 AM	175	
Weds, June 19	8:00 AM	18	
Sat, June 22	5:00 PM	21	150
Sun, June 23	10:00 AM	129	
Weds, June 26	8:00 AM	16	
Sat, June 29	5:00 PM	24	129
Sun, June 30	10:00 AM	105	

# Small Group and Circle News

## Circles

Circles meet once a month during the programming year 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 August 6, 8:30am, breakfast in the York Room (1st Tues).

*Circle Leaders:* Please contact Julia in the office (612-866-8449 x 10) if anything about your schedule will be changing for the upcoming programming year. Unless otherwise notified, we will continue your established schedule on the calendar beginning in September. *Gather* magazines will be available to each circle in September (one copy per circle, pick up in the office).

## Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for August is *The Gardener of Eden* by David Downie. Join at any time!

## Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT)

Come one, come all to the first SALT event of the programming year on September 21, 2019 5:00pm in the Fireside Room. We will have a potluck and games, as well as plan our events for the year. The group gets together about once a month for a social event or service project. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Please RSVP to Cheryl at 612-270-0371.

# From the Records

## Funeral Services

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

**Rachel Johnson** (May 6, 1928 – May 31, 2019). Service held at Woodlake on June 15, 2019.

**Doris Martinson** (Dec 2, 1929 – June 29, 2019). Service held at Woodlake on July 18, 2019.

## Weddings

**Rhea Mainhardt and Matthew Sharbono** were united in marriage on June 29, 2019, at Woodlake. Service officiated by Pastor Micah Pearson.

## Baptisms

**Ruvín Jeremie Senthil Kumar**, child of Emeline Sugirthan and Senthil Kumar Murugan, baptized on June 16. Sponsored by Craig and Kirsten Hargreaves.

**Rylie Marie Baumeister**, child of Dana and Cory Baumeister, baptized on July 14. Sponsored by Nate Olson, Keith and Erin Baumeister.