



Messenger

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

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

Building closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day

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

Rally Sunday Weekend September 8th and 9th

Saturday Worship at
5pm in the Chapel

Sunday Worship at
10am in the
Sanctuary

Join us for worship with many of our favorite traditions (yes, there will be balloons!) and the exciting kickoff to our new programming year and Woodlake 2020 vision. (Read more about this on the Pastor's Page.)



Children will be dismissed from church to our Sunday School kickoff on the playground. Please pick up your children after church and fill out a Sunday School registration form. Sunday School classes will formally begin the following Sunday, September 16.

Everyone is invited to lunch in Fellowship Hall following worship, catered by Dave Larsen.

Wednesday, September 12th

Welcome to Wednesdays!

Musical Ensembles

Join the Handbell Choir, Adult Choir, Spirit Singers, or Children's Choir!

Contact Worship and Music Director Jeong Lee at

jlee@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449 ext 12 – or just come to our first rehearsals on September 12. See "Worship and Music Notes" on Page 4 for more information.

Wednesday Night Suppers

5:30 – 6:30pm. \$5/for adults and kids eat free!

Confirmation

6:30 – 7:30pm. If you're new to Confirmation, please contact Pastor Micah at mpearson@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449 ext 11 to register your 7th, 8th, or 9th grader for Confirmation this year.

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)

Join us for our Woodlake 2020 kick-off on Rally Sunday, the weekend of September 8-9. I am asking each member to prayerfully consider signing a member covenant and commitment card as a part of our Woodlake 2020 kick-off. Both will be included during our worship service that day. Please prayerfully consider the following Woodlake 2020 member covenant.

WHAT

The Woodlake 2020 committee has decided to focus our future mission on **children, youth, and family (CYF)** outreach. I commit to doing everything and anything possible to help the next generation experience the love of Jesus Christ.

WHY

Woodlake Lutheran Church has experienced its most significant worship attendance decline from 2000-present. Each year we lose approximately 22 members. In 2000, we had 576 average worshippers per week. Today we have 189. Since 2015, we have lost approximately \$20,000 per year due to members either leaving or dying.

Given our current reality, successfully ministry of **CYF** will not be easy. It’s going to take renewed support from the congregation including emotional, spiritual, physical, and financial, commitments to make our vision a reality.

To successfully focus on **CYF** ministries, Woodlake will be making significant changes to staff, ministries, building, and structure to ensure future success. While change is difficult, Woodlake’s Leadership Board has decided that it’s essential if we wish to exist as a vital, healthy congregation in the future. To achieve our goals, we are asking each member of the congregation to sign the attached commitment card supporting our vision for the future. *(Commitment card will be given at September 8-9 worship as well as mailed to the entire congregation that week)*

WHEN

Woodlake 2020 will have four phases.

- 2018— conception and initiation.
- 2019—planning.
- 2020—implementation.
- 2021—performance monitoring.

HOW

Our vision is as follows:

- a. Send out member covenant and commitment cards to all members at Woodlake.
- b. Work with the CYF commission to call a full-time pastor to focus on Children, Youth, and Family outreach.
- c. Once pastor is called, we will work together to:
 - i. Establish a guiding scripture verse for CYF outreach.
 - ii. Create and manage a CYF budget.
- d. Look at how our physical space might change to accommodate CYF outreach.
- e. Address areas of concern and add new ministries as needed.
- f. Advertise and communicate CYF outreach and a new mission statement.
- g. All ministries will be reviewed and reimagined to incorporate CYF outreach. Including but not limited to:
- h. **Worship and Music**
 - i. Saturday Chapel
 - ii. Sunday Worship
 - iii. Wednesday Matins
 - iv. 7500 York Worship Service
 - v. Outdoor Worship
 - vi. Adult Choir
 - vii. Children’s Choir
 - viii. Bell Choir
 - ix. Spirit Singers
 - x. Cantor
 - xi. Sound/Tech support
 - xii. Sacristan
 - xiii. Chancel Steward
 - xiv. Bulletin and Tape Mailing
 - xv. Ushers
 - xvi. Animal Blessing
- i. **Congregational Life**
 - i. Wednesday Night Suppers
 - ii. Senior Fellowship
 - iii. Leadership Board
 - iv. Faith and Fiction Book Club
 - v. Little Free Library
 - vi. Monday Morning Small Group
 - vii. SALT
 - viii. Newsletter and Bulk Mailings
 - ix. Hospitality
 - x. Men’s Softball
 - xi. Sunday Morning Circle
 - xii. Wedding Coordination

- xiii. Library
- xiv. Craft Sale
- xv. Lydia Circle
- xvi. Rebecca/Sarah Circle
- xvii. Faith Circle
- xviii. Ester Circle
- xix. Sunday Morning Circle
- j. **Mission and Outreach**
 - i. Table Blessings
 - ii. Quilters
 - iii. Hat and Wrap Knitters
 - iv. Loaves and Fishes
 - v. Adventistas
 - vi. Families Moving Forward
 - vii. Ebenezer
 - viii. VEAP
 - ix. AA
 - x. Minnesota Independent College and Community MICC (formerly MLC)
 - xi. Cub and Boy Scout Pack 384
 - xii. Well Spouses
 - xiii. Meals on Wheels
 - xiv. Global Missions
- k. **Faith Formation (CYF)**
 - i. Sunday School
 - ii. Confirmation
 - iii. Youth Group
 - iv. Young Adults
 - v. Families
- l. **Congregational Care**
 - i. Homebound Ministry
 - ii. Widowers
 - iii. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - iv. Funeral Coordinator
 - v. Woodlake Ink
 - vi. Prayer Chain
 - vii. Valet Parking
- m. **Treasurer**
 - i. Endowment
- n. **Properties**

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Thoughts of back to school are on our minds. Even though my school days are in the past, I still have anxious memories of diagramming sentences and grappling with parts of speech. The difference between a noun and a verb was always clear though: nouns are things, and verbs are actions. So, consider the word “church.” It’s a verb, right?

You may think that I need to go back to school or at least have a conversation with my daughter, the language arts teacher. But I am here to say that church is a verb. Luther’s explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed, where we say we believe in the church, says the Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” The church is the Holy Spirit calling people together into community where the gospel is our center. The Holy Spirit is at work bringing faith into our lives through the Good News of Jesus. That’s a lot of action!

Of course, our church is also a place. But most places, by themselves, are boring. It is what we *do* in a place that makes it interesting. We need activity to chase away the boring and make church worthwhile. We can really **GO** to church and listen, pray, and care. We can **DO** church by participating, volunteering, singing, welcoming, and even clapping our hands in joy. And we can **BE** church, by being the face and hands of Jesus to others. Jesus said he didn’t come to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:28) and we should do the same. We help, we reach out, and we love – just as Jesus modeled for us to do.

Let us talk about what our church does as a verb. In the last couple of months there has been a lot of action with the 2020 project. The plans have been put before us and now it is time for our action spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially. Our action is a commitment to the CYF (Children, Youth and Families). Action verbs of building relationships, committing, supporting, and outreach are how we can serve. Let us earnestly put it into action. How will you “church?”

Barbara Halsne, Board Secretary

As always, let me know if you have any questions or ideas for our future.

*In Christ,
Pastor Micah*

Farewell, Josh! Our Kitchen Coordinator (and projects guy!) for several years, Josh Frueh, has accepted an exciting opportunity to open a new restaurant. Unfortunately for us, this means he has had to resign his position at Woodlake effective end of August. If you want to send Josh a card please send it to Woodlake and we will forward it to him. Thank you, Josh, for your years of service here and being a valued part of our community.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Summer is coming to an end. The state fair is here. It is autumn. Rally Sunday will be on Sep.9 and the rehearsals for all music group will begin on Wednesday, Sep.12. I am so thrilled to start this season with new people and new energy. Please don't hesitate to join us to share your love and passion. Here are the details for the rehearsal.

Handbells: 5:00 – 6:00pm in Room 2

Children's Choir: 6:00 – 6:30pm in the Choir Room

Adult Choir: 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Choir Room

Spirit Singers (more contemporary): 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Fireside Room

It is time to refresh our mind before starting the new season. Just as we clean our rooms to get organized and make space, it is really important to clean our minds and refresh our thoughts. Willingness to have a good relationship with the person sitting next to us is a must have. Gratitude is a key to make our life happy. A negative attitude and mind are so contagious to others.

I hope everyone in Woodlake is able to build good and happy relationships, spread this positive energy to their neighbors, and make a healthy community in this area where we are living.

I hope we can start with these words this season: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

Please let me know if you have any songs you want to share, or any memories. We will be singing two songs each month before the service.

This is a song that I want to share during September.

"Lord, I come to You,
Let my heart be changed, renewed;
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You.

Lord, I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love.

Hold me close,
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side.

And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of your love, as You live in me.
Lord renew my mind as your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love."

I sincerely hope we can share this prayer through music during September together at Woodlake. – *HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music*

MISSION AND OUTREACH

In addition to the emergency shelter offered by FMF Beacon also addresses the issue of homelessness on a board policy level. Several members of Woodlake attended a Beacon meeting in June of this year where a proposal for funding family supportive housing was offered. Briefly put, the housing would have services on site to help families transition to long-term stability. Every heard the old adage: "Give a person a fish, you feed them for a day, teach them how to fish, you feed them for a lifetime"? Another meeting with elected officials is scheduled for September 13th, and I committed to attending, to share this information with Woodlake, and hopefully bring along other interested members. A document describing the proposal is available from the church office with more details. Contact Scott Dahlquist if you would be interested in attending the meeting in September at sjaadahlsuit@comcast.net or (612) 919-9232

Woodlake's FMF hosting week is September 2 – 9 and we still need volunteers! Please contact Scott for more info or to help.

FROM THE RECORDS

Funeral Service

Thank you for keeping this family in your prayers.

Donna Johnson (June 4, 1931 - July 23, 2018); Service held at Woodlake on July 27, 2018

Baptism

Penelope Jane Ott, born 11/17/2017, child of Philip Raymond Ott and Kristeen Denise Ott, baptized on August 4, 2018. Sponsors: Jeremy Wegner and Shannon Ott

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Health Care Directives Workshop - October 13

There will be a workshop on Health Care Directives on Saturday, October 13 from 10 AM – noon in the Fellowship Hall at Woodlake. Ed Holland from Health Partners will facilitate the workshop. It is our continuing education for the homebound ministers, but since this topic affects everyone, the entire congregation is invited to attend.

Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry needs some more homebound ministers to visit several new homebound members that we recently added. The commitment involves visiting the homebound member once a month plus initial training and continuing education twice a year. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 612-866-8449 or office@woodlakechurch.org

The new communion bags that were made in July are now being used. The new burgundy colored bags have the wine in them and the new purple colored bags have the grape juice. The old bags will continue to be used. Remember that the old burgundy colored bags have the wine and the old brocade patterned bags have the grape juice. Please call the church office at 612-866-8449 if you have any questions.

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wednesday Night Fall Bible Study at House of Prayer - Sep 12, 19, 26 and Oct. 10, 6:30-7:40

Join us in the downstairs Fellowship Hall for a four-week Bible study led by guest lecturer Professor Mark Tranvik from Augsburg University titled: ***The Challenging Sayings of Jesus: What Do They Mean For Us Today?***

Jesus said some difficult things: "You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." "Love your enemies." "Go, sell all you have and give it to the poor." In this Bible study we will reflect on these passages and others and ask what they mean for our faith and for how we live.

Mark Tranvik is Professor of Religion at Augsburg University and the author of *Martin Luther and the Called Life*. He is also an ELCA pastor.

To sign up, please call the HOP church office at: 612-866-8471. There is no cost to attend.

VBS 2018

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who helped with, donated to, prayed for, and brought your children to, our VBS day camp from August 5-10. The counsellors from Luther Point Bible Camp were very good at running the day camp and they wrote me to tell me it was probably the most fun they had all summer. The 16 children and those of us who worked the day camp enjoyed it too. Special thanks to Kirsten Hargreaves who helped me organize and publicize.

The Biblical theme, "This changes everything" from Ephesians 2:8, helped the children learn how God changes our hearts, gives us a new identity, that we all have a purpose, that we are empowered to forgive and that we are empowered to make a difference in our communities. I sat in on most of the Bible studies and craft times and was amazed at the spiritual maturity of the children. [They.get.it!](#)

Thanks to Laurel Johnson for arranging and instructing the children to make 80 Blessing Bags and 100 sandwiches - all to be given to those the children see in need. We could have made many more of both projects because the children were so eager to help.

My report to Luther Point Camp asked for a reservation for the beginning of next August, 2019. Kirsten Hargreaves and I are open to suggestions and ideas from this year's VBS and the VBS for 2019. Feel free to tell us what you think and thank God for these children.

Anne Romstad, Children, Youth and Family Commissioner

A LETTER FROM THE EKKAS:

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Woodlake Lutheran Church, Richfield, MN, Warm Greetings to you!

We praise and thank God for his continued strength and grace for many ministries that we are part in this part of India. It is very exciting to be part of how the Lord is at work. We think of you often and remain very thankful for your mission partnership. Together we are in the business of transforming individuals and communities in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Below] is a group picture of Summer School. This is a weeklong residential program for college going students where young people are given Biblical teachings for self-identity as Christians in Indian context.

See the kiosk for the full letter from the Ekkas, our partners in global missions!



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. September *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are available in the church office (one for each circle).

Esther Circle: September 4 (1st Tuesday), 8:30am breakfast meeting at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: September 4 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Marilyn O's home.

Lydia Circle: September 11 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: September 12 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: Schedule TBD

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.

Sep 5: Lynn Garthwaite, "Why States Have Their Funny Shapes"

Sep 12: Mike Dobesh, "Fire Safety"

Sep 19: Sarah Granger, "Supporting Youth Homelessness"

Sep 26: Health Nurse to do blood pressure checks followed by Bible Study

Monday Morning Small Group

The Monday AM Small Group invites you to join them for fellowship, discussion of faith topics, and an occasional service project. We meet in the Fireside Room from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM every Monday. Attend as often as you are able or just drop by on a Monday morning. Our first meeting of this programming year will be September 10th (first Monday after Labor Day).

Prayer Shawl Ministry Knitters and Crocheters Fall Schedule

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30am, Fireside Room (Begins September 13)

2nd and 4th Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Starr C's home (Begins September 10)

Yarn is provided. New members and beginning knitters / crocheters are welcome; we are happy to teach! Our group creates prayer shawls, chemo and other caps, and mini-pocket prayer shawls for those who need them. This can also be done at home!

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, September 27, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for September is *Welcome to the Great Mysterious* by Lorna Landvik.

Senior Fellowship Outing – Thursday, October 4

DayTrippers Theatre: Drinking Habits 2: Caught in the Act

Lunch at 12:15, Play at 1:15

Cost: 38.75 (Checks made out to Woodlake, please)

Sign ups in the church office open soon

In the story, the orphanage where George and Kate grew up in is in peril - only way to save the children is for those nutty nuns to mount an epic play to raise money fast. And maybe make a few bottles of the award-winning wine the convent became famous for. What could possibly go wrong?

There will be no Craft Sale this fall. The leaders are taking a year or two off. They will be exploring some other projects.

FALL SERIES 2018: Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, September 27, 2018 – November 15, 2018, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

St. Richard's Catholic Church

7540 Penn Ave. S

Richfield, MN 55423

612-869-2426

www.strichards.com

Sep 27: *Is it Grief, or Something More?* Mary Harlow

Oct 4: *The Mind-Body Connection*, Lorry Lundborg

Oct 11: *My Story*, Mary Canakes

Oct 18: *Dealing with Being Grief-Struck*, Dale Swan

Oct 25: *How Grief Affects the Family System*, Catherine Duncan

Nov 1: *The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help*, Rene Garpestad

Nov 8: *Where is God in My Grief?* Stuart Walker

Nov 15: *A Time of Remembrance*, Joan Apt

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cares, and visits during my recovery from spine surgery. Recovery is made much easier because of friends, family, and faith.
- Gary Johnson