

Woodlake Lutheran Church

2120 West 76th Street
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449

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

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

September 2019



Messenger

Rally Sunday Weekend – September 7th and 8th Saturday Worship at 5pm in the Chapel Sunday Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary

Join us for worship with many of our favorite traditions and along with some new ones. You're invited to wear a hat to our Rally Day celebration! Baseball caps, fedoras, stocking caps, RedHat Ladies hats, Cowboy hats, Do Rags, Easter bonnets, bucket hats, top-hats, Panama hats... let's have some fun with this!

Pastor John Hulden will be here from the Synod to formally install Pastor Neal at both Saturday and Sunday services. Following Sunday worship, everyone is invited to lunch in Fellowship Hall, where we will celebrate Pastor Neal's installation and get to know him and his family.

Children, Youth, and Family on Rally Sunday and Beyond

At Woodlake, as Jesus did, we welcome children of all ages as integral members of the body of Christ, and we welcome the sounds and activity that accompany them! There are a number of spaces and activities designed for children to experience and participate in worship according to their needs; we trust families to work out the best option(s) for them and their child(ren) on any given day.

Prayground: The Prayground is now open for your family to use! The Prayground is located at the front right of the Sanctuary and is stocked with quiet toys for young children. This area is designed for children to quietly engage in age-appropriate activities while experiencing worship in the sanctuary along with their families. It consists of a soft rug, two small tables with child-sized chairs and stools, coloring sheets, crayons, blocks, books, and soft toys.

Nursery: If your little one needs a break, feel free to slip out the side door next to the Prayground into the Nursery, which is stocked with toys, games, rocking chairs and a changing table. Please note the Nursery is not staffed at this time, so parents must remain with their children.

Sunday School (Ages 3–6th Grade) begins on Rally Sunday!

Children will be dismissed from church for some fun and games on the playground to start off the year, and at that time parents can fill out registration forms for the coming year, which formally begins on September 15. (Also see Worship and Music Notes for children's choir info.)

Confirmation (7th, 8th, 9th Grades) will meet on Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm starting Sep 18. The Confirmation Parent Meeting will be September 11 from 6-7p.m. in Room 3. Please contact the church office office@woodlakechurch.org or call 612-866-8449 for more information. Pre-register here: <https://woodlakechurch.org/ministries/confirmation/>

Wednesday Night Supper (All Ages!) resumes on Sep 11. \$5/person and kids eat free! Sign up at the welcome center or by emailing office@woodlakechurch.org.

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

What is Woodlake 2020?

Woodlake 2020 is a vision specifically designed to focus on children, youth, and family outreach by the year 2020. We embarked on this journey together when you called me as your pastor in 2018 and we have hit the ground running ever since to make Woodlake 2020 a reality.

If you imagine Woodlake 2020 as a race, we are about half way through. The first part of our work was to listen to what excited members at Woodlake for our future. Jesus said, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34. This verse was what I based all our conversations around because I believe what captures your heart, mission and support will surely follow.

During our conversations and committee meetings, I heard loud and clear a deep desire to pass faith on to future generations, to reach out to new people, and to focus on CYF outreach. When asked this same question, Leadership Board member and Property Commissioner Paul Olson said, "The purpose of Woodlake is to create a safe place for youth, families, and all people to grow in their faith journeys." Mission and Outreach Commissioner Laurel Johnson responded, "our purpose as a church is to preach the gospel and reach the needs of the community. What would you say the purpose of Woodlake Lutheran Church is?" I'd love to hear from you. Please call, text, email, Facebook post, or tweet me your thoughts.

Next Steps

We have been equipping leaders at Woodlake for CYF outreach. We have hired staff members who are excited about Woodlake 2020 and our vision. We have called Pastor Neal Cannon who has a passion for CYF outreach and a skill set to make our vision a reality.

This fall Pastor Neal, along with input from you and the Leadership Board, will create a plan to implement Woodlake 2020. Pr. Neal and I will be presenting at the September 12 Leadership Board meeting on Woodlake 2020 and our vision for the future. These ideas will be highlighted at our Sept. 28 and 29 Town Hall meetings and again throughout the fall.

I hope you are excited to be a part of a church working tirelessly to pass on our faith to new people and I encourage you to get involved. We will have CYF focused committees to join, Leadership Board openings come November, volunteer and service opportunities, and if your heart is moved by our vision please consider making a donation to the Woodlake 2020 fund to support CYF outreach.

In Christ, Pastor Micah

Worship and Music Notes

"Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to [Jesus], 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'" (Luke 19:39-40)

As we enter into another "program year" (September 2019 through May 2020), I look to the worship, song, fellowship and quickly changing seasons with intense excitement and a shadow of pessimism. As we will surely be wont to say: "We've tried this before..." or "I don't know how I feel about this new/different thing..." my prayer is that we enter into these coming seasons together with joy, thanksgiving, and gratitude for one another. We sing when the Spirit says, "sing!" That same Spirit calls us - creatures of earth and stone - to sing **now**, in **this time**; in **this place!** Soli Deo gloria. *To the glory of God alone.*

– Joshua Lindgren, Worship and Music Director

Music Ministry Kick-Off Dinner Info Session:

Weds, Sep 4, 6:30-7:30pm, Fireside Room

ALL people involved or interested in the Music Ministry (Handbells, Adult Choir, Children's Choir) here at Woodlake Lutheran Church are invited to this time of food, fellowship and a brief information presentation regarding our upcoming Music Ministry Season. Please RSVP to Joshua Lindgren

<jlindgren@woodlakechurch.org> by Sun, Sep 1.

Joyful Noise Rehearsals: Weds, 5:15pm-5:45pm in the Choir Room, beginning 9/11/19

Open to youth Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Focus on engaging youth in movement, having fun learning basic music and note-reading skills and understanding our roles as worship leaders. Sing in worship about once a month. "Clay Jars" supplement for 4-5th Grade from 5:45-5:55 pm. Registration required. \$15 per child (includes t-shirt). \$30 family cap. Register online:

<https://forms.gle/NdcSGGDg6ebHxnS96>

Praise Ringers Rehearsals: Weds, 6:15pm-7:15pm in the Choir Room, beginning 9/11/19

Our handbell choir is open to all ages. Everyone is welcome! Ability to read music is the only requirement. Focus will be on coordination skills and musicality with varied instruments added into the mix occasionally. Ring about once a month.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Weds, 7:30-8:45 pm in the Choir Room, beginning 9/11/19:

Open to those high school age and up. Focus on our role as worship leaders; singing anthems and songs from classic repertoire to new works by living composers in weekly worship and special occasional services.



Town Hall Meetings: September 28 and 29 following worship

Pastor Micah and Pastor Neal will share the plans to

implement Woodlake 2020, and the vision of our pastors and Leadership Board for our future. Please come hear these ideas and share your input. We look forward to hearing from you!

Leadership Board Commissioner Reports for August 2019

Properties: Paul Olson

- The new Nursery is functioning and the final touches are being put on the “pray ground.” Pews were removed. Rug has been ordered.

Worship & Music: Carol Olson

- Hakuna Makata childrens choir scheduled to come in October. Volunteers are needed.
- Planning underway for youth and childrens’ roles in Rally Day, and worship services.

Joshua Lindgren:

- Is putting to paper the vision, scripture verse and schedule for the Joyful Noise Choir (K-5) and Clay Jars (4-5 grade instrumental supplement).

The focus of these will be on engaging youth in movement, having fun learning basic music and note-reading skills and understanding our roles as worship leaders. Sing in worship about once a month. Parents/Guardians of young choristers are invited to attend rehearsal with their child(ren).

Children, Youth, and Family (CYF): Anne Romstad

- Youth Mission trip was a successful and rewarding trip for our youth (9 youth), their leaders (6 leaders) and those whom they served. Thanks to the leaders, the esprit de corps of the youth. Thanks to all who donated funds and supported this trip in other ways
- VBS at Woodlake was August 5-9. Three counsellors from Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI, led the morning worship, bible studies, crafts and outdoor activities for 16 youngsters. The afternoons were field trips

which were age appropriate and helped emphasize the theme: Transforming Community. Thank you to Kirsten Hargreaves, an invaluable co-leader, Kari Hargreaves, our youth helper, Craig Hargreaves and Scott Dahlquist and the many other adults who helped throughout the week. 8 children were Woodlakers and 8 were neighbors or relatives of Woodlakers. They had a noisy, busy, wonderful time.

- Sunday School starts up on September 15, the Sunday after Rally Day, once again led by Kirsten Hargreaves. [The kickoff will take place on Rally Day.] We are looking ahead to special events for those children and the congregation in each month, September through to Christmas. Ideas and assistance will be warmly received.

Congregational Care: Anne Schmiegl

- For 2020 focus, Woodlake Ink made bookmarks to give to Sunday School students to welcome them back this fall
- Also making Baptismal Cards to be given to families along with the Baptismal Shawls at baptisms.
- 9 volunteers are following up with members on the 2020 Commitment Cards. Report will be provided after project has been completed.

Mission and Outreach: Laurel Johnson

- For the collaborative diaper outreach project the VBS students packed 1,740 diapers weighing 108 lbs. The diapers were repacked by size and the quantity desired by VEAP. Cheryl Buranen helped deliver them to VEAP. We are hoping to keep this project going into the future.
- The Sheridan project which supplies lunches and weekend food for students in need is currently being organized and will be looking for volunteers to handle several aspects of the project. We will be partnering with Sheridan Hills school in Richfield for this project.

Congregational Life: Wayne Schmiegl

- We are looking for CYF activities for the fall. Some ideas:
 - Chutes and Ladders in Bloomington plus picnic. Possible dates: 9/15, 9/22
 - Apple Farm
 - Corn Maze
 - Halloween party

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Last winter I volunteered to write the September Messenger piece for the Board. My thoughts at the time were to talk about what little sacrifices we all could do to financially support God's work in our church. I felt it would be a great lead in for pledges in Oct/Nov. (What else is the treasurer supposed to do?)

Today, talking about giving up that \$5 latte for a \$1 cup of Holiday or Speedway coffee, skipping the mid week power ball ticket, drinking one less soda a day, smoking one less pack of cigarettes a week, and adding the difference to my weekly giving seems like it's just a rehash of what's been done before. I never was a very good salesman because I had a hard time asking for the money, and it still isn't me.

Instead I'd like to share what I see as real Christianity at Woodlake.

Most of us are aware of Ebenezer's training care givers in our classrooms. (A lot of us may be clients some day.)

It's hard to miss MICC's presence here working with young people who are trying to develop the skills to make it on their own.

Our young people just returned from a mission trip to San Francisco along with our newest staff person, Pastor Neal.

Scott would cringe if I didn't add a plug for Families Moving Forward.

Our support of VEAP and Loaves and Fishes speaks well of what I see as true Christianity. The list should go on.

What may not be so easy to see, (and some don't want to be seen) is the church's support of those with addictions. For many years, all the AA groups in Bloomington and Richfield have been meeting monthly at Woodlake to coordinate their efforts to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. In addition there are not two but now three AA meetings taking place here each week. These groups do pay rent as they can. They also want to stay as low key as they can because of anonymity.

There is a saying, "God led me to AA, and AA led me back to God."

We are all blessed to be part of this caring community.

A phrase I heard this past winter that has stuck with me is "Let us comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable." 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Thank you for letting me serve.

Ed Morrow, Congregational Treasurer

Collaborative and Community Events

Ladies' Dessert Luncheon at House of Prayer

Monday, September 9 • 1:00 pm

Speaker: Janet Letnes Martin, whose books were the inspiration for "The Church Basement Ladies" musicals. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 on Sundays in August between worship services or by calling the House of Prayer Church Office 612-866-8471. Gluten free options are available.

Contact Mary Markes at 952-382-4220, Jeanne Lindstrom at 612-866-4895, or Ellen Thompson at 612-869-2775, with questions.

HOP Fellowship

Thursday, September 12, 9:00am in the House of Prayer Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: Minister Deanna Bassett
Subject: Minister Deanna Bassett – Life Story History and More

All Brothers and Sisters are invited for – devotion; speaker; meet; greet; and chit-chat, including refreshments. Minister Deanna will be at HOP (for the last time) to share her comments and reflections on her life story and history, Christian ministry, and experiences. She will include her collaborative ministry experiences with the Richfield churches – Oak Grove, Woodlake, and House of Prayer.

Thank you Deanna Bassett and God Bless you and your ministry.

Tree Trimming

The trees in the front yard and in the parking lot islands are in need of trimming. I will be doing this at various times during the next month. If you have a couple hours to spare in the morning, afternoon, or evening, give me a call or email me.

- Scott Dahlquist
612 919-9232, sjaadahlquist@comcast.net

The Numbers

Offering Summary 07/01 – 07/31/219

Saturday Chapel Service	\$1,503.00
Sunday Sanctuary Service	13,226.50
Simply Giving	7,566.60
	(8,477.22 including credit cards)
Credit cards	910.62
IRA's	3,603.92
Properties Projects Fund	555.00
WOODLAKE2020	195.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,560.64

Attendance for July 2019

Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend or Day Total
Weds, July 3	8:00 AM	19	
Sat, July 6	5:00 PM	24	145
Sun, July 7	10:00 AM	121	
Weds, July 10	8:00 AM	18	
Sat, July 13	5:00 PM	19	184
Sun, July 14	10:00 AM	165	
Weds, July 17	8:00 AM	15	
Sat, July 20	5:00 PM	23	167
Sun, July 21	10:00 AM	156	
Weds, July 24	8:00 AM	18	
Sat, July 27	5:00 PM	14	144
Sun, July 28	10:00 AM	130	
Weds, July 31	8:00 AM	18	

Homebound Ministry

Save the Dates: The Alzheimer's Association will present a series of education programs about Alzheimer's at Woodlake and House of Prayer. These are the classes, dates, times and locations:

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
Saturday, September 28 at 10 am at Woodlake

Effective Communication Strategies
Saturday, October 26 at 1 pm at House of Prayer

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior
Saturday, November 23 at 10 am at Woodlake

These classes are the continuing education for the homebound ministers, but they will be open to the entire congregation because many have expressed an interest in learning more about Alzheimer's.

We are doing this in collaboration with House of Prayer. Oak Grove will also be invited. The classes will be on the Alzheimer's Association website so anyone in the community who would like to attend may do so. Your family and friends are also welcome.

Call or sign up for each class in the church office (612.866.8449). If you have any questions, please contact Sue Kelly (612.807.2183 or sdkelly4@icloud.com) or call Julia in the church office (612.866.8449).

We are looking forward to these classes on Alzheimer's. If you are not available for all three classes, it is okay to attend one or two. We hope to see you there.

Part time Employment Opportunities at Woodlake

Custodial Assistant

Flexible 2-3 hour shifts for a variety of openings during the weekday, evening and weekend. The responsibilities include: cleaning and upkeep of the church facilities; set-up and clean-up of rooms; cleaning and custodial support for onsite tenants. Pay commensurate with experience.

Facility / Maintenance Specialist

We are looking for flexible shifts during the weekday, evening and weekend. The responsibilities include keeping the building in good repair including heating and cooling systems, roofing, plumbing, appliance maintenance repair, and replacement; lighting, windows/glass, electrical work, automatic/handicap doors, painting, ceilings and ceiling tiles, and carpet and other maintenance tasks throughout the building.

To apply or learn more about this position, apply on line at <https://woodlakechurch.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> or contact Linda Lutgen, 612-866-8449 or mailto: llutgen@woodlakechurch.org.

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: Sep 3rd (1st Tuesday), 8:30am breakfast meeting at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: Sep 3rd (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Alice O's home.

Lydia Circle: Sep 10th (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Sep 11th (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Deborah Circle: Sep 15th, (3rd Sunday), 8:45am in the Heritage Room.

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 4: Bob Papke, "Chimney Swifts"

Sep 11: Meet&Greet with Pastor Neal

Sep 18: Kent Spading, "Artifacts of Amelia Earhart"

Sep 25: Health nurse to perform blood pressure checks and speak about "Senior Scams," 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 9th (first Monday after Labor Day).

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, Sep 26th, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for September is *Thy Father's Will* by Kirsten Jacobson Stasney. Join at any time!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wanted! Knitters and crocheters to make prayer shawls at home or at our Monday evening or Thurs. morning get-togethers. We provide the yarn and fellowship. It is just straight knitting, and if you want to learn to knit or crochet we will teach you. We have given hundreds of shawls away through the years, and they continue to go out regularly. We also make shawls for baptisms, chemo caps, and pocket prayer peaces (pieces). They are always free as the two founders of the Prayer Shawl Ministry requested. For more information call Start C. at 612-866-2922 or Betty H. at 952-835-3133.

2nd and 4th Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Starr C's home (Begins September 9)

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30am, Fireside Room (Begins September 10)

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.

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition Fall Series 2019

Thursday, September 26, 2018 – November 14, 2019, 4:30-6:00 pm; Nativity of Mary Catholic Church; 9900 Lyndale Ave. S.; Bloomington, MN (952) 881-8671

Woodlake is a member of this coalition, in which churches in the Bloomington-Richfield area are working together to provide free support and education for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. Group meetings are held on Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 PM. Each session includes an education presentation from 4:30-5:00 PM and small group support from 5:00-6:00 PM.

Sep 26: *Overview of Grief*, Steve Sims

Oct 3: *How Grief Affects the Family System*, Steve Sims

Oct 10: *The Mind-Body Connection*, Lorry Lundborg

Oct 17: *Why Do I Feel Like I'm Going Crazy?* Judy Young

Oct 24: *The Courage to Ask Embracing Help on the Path to Healing*, Dr. Renee Garpestad

Oct 31: *Where is God in My Grief?* Stuart Walker

Nov 7: *What's Left?* Bob Bartlett

Nov 14: *A Time to Remember or Service of Remembrance*, Joan Apt