

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

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



October 2018

M E S S E N G E R

Join us for an event this October!

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 7, 2:00pm

We begin with a short service outside and then move inside to the chapel where each pet will be individually blessed. Favorite stuffed animals and pictures of pets no longer living or too shy in a crowd can also receive a blessing. Treats for pets and humans will follow the blessings. Please join us on the lawn by the parking lot located on 76th and Newton. There will be a collection of pet food and kitty litter to be given where needed.



Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, October 14 from 9am – 12pm
Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids and seniors. Proceeds benefit both the Scouts and Woodlake, so mark your calendars and plan to have a great breakfast here!

Advance Care Planning and Health Care Directives Saturday, October 13 from 10 AM to noon Fellowship Hall at Woodlake

Chaplain Edward Holland, an advance care planning volunteer facilitator with Park Nicollet Health Services who served as the coordinator of Spiritual Care and Grief Services for Park Nicollet Methodist Hospice, will engage us in a conversation about advance care planning and health care directives. Please join us to discuss a topic that always seems too early to discuss until it is too late. Initially this was organized as the continuing education session for our homebound ministers, but since this is something that should be discussed by everyone, the entire congregation is invited. Please invite your family and friends too.



Pre-Halloween Costume Party Saturday, October 20, at Woodlake Time: Immediately following the 5pm Service-8pm

Open to Pre-K to 6th Grade. Stay tuned for more details!

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)

Woodlake 2020 is off and running. We had a wonderful kickoff to Woodlake 2020 Rally Weekend (Sept. 8-9). A big thanks all who helped, from blowing up balloons, sharing in worship, helping with the Sunday School carnival, and serving fellowship lunch—we are grateful for your help.

What is Woodlake 2020? A commitment to children, youth, and family outreach.

In September, here are a few ways Woodlake 2020 has come to life.

- Seventy-five Woodlakers and have prayerfully considered how they will support Woodlake 2020 emotionally, spiritually, physically, and financially and returned a covenant card to the church. *There's still time to fill one out if you haven't done so yet.*
- Received \$20,000 in financial commitments since our Woodlake 2020 kickoff. *We are well on our way to our goal of \$50,000.*
- Hired Paul Rosenwinkel, a 4th year Luther Seminary student, who will be the primary contact person for confirmation this year. Paul has previous experience directing a confirmation program and comes with great ideas for our youth. If you see Paul, please welcome him to Woodlake. *Note, Paul's position is a bridge position to help until we call a pastor to lead the CYF outreach vision of Woodlake 2020. I will still be teaching and leading confirmation, but realized more help was needed this year.*
- Temporarily paused monthly worship services at 7500 York until more help and support emerges. *I am committed to serving these Woodlakers and will be in contact with everyone who attends this worship service to make sure we serve their worshiping needs.*
- The pastoral call process for CYF outreach began September 20th. *This process will be led by Anne Romstad, CYF commissioner and input and advice will be given from the ministries she coordinates.*
- The Leadership Board will implement Woodlake 2020 in their specific ministries. You will hear about these actions in a special section of the Messenger and future bulletins called: Woodlake 2020 News. *The goal is clear, constant communication with the congregation about Woodlake 2020 all of our upcoming initiatives.*
- Experimental children, youth, and family worship on Sept. 30th. *We are going to experiment with different forms of CYF worship on the 5th Sunday of every month.*

As always, let me know if you have any questions or ideas relating to Woodlake 2020. My door is always open for you.

In Christ, Pastor Micah



Welcome, Paul!

Our first action of Woodlake 2020 has been to add help to our youth programming and CYF outreach. We have done this by hiring Paul



Rosenwinkel, a 4th year Luther Seminary student, who just completed his internship at Jacob's Well in South Minneapolis. Paul has previous experience directing a confirmation program and comes with great ideas and energy for our program. If you see Paul, please welcome him to Woodlake. Paul's first task will be running this year's Confirmation program alongside Pastor Micah.

Paul is a senior M. Div student at Luther Seminary. He just got done with his internship year at Jacob's Well/Fabric, and is looking forward to applying what he learned there in a new setting. He has a passion for innovation, and believes that we all do better when we weave God, community, and our full selves together. In his free time he enjoys bike commuting, playing basketball, and spending time with his partner, Addie.

See page 3 for more Woodlake 2020 updates!

Woodlake 2020 News, continued

More Staffing Updates

Pastoral Call Process: As you read in Pastor Micah's column, the process to call a pastor for CYF outreach has begun. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been submitted to the Synod and will be posted once it is approved. You are invited to submit candidate suggestions! Pastor nomination forms are available in the front office. You may also submit names by e-mail to anyone on the Leadership Board or to the office (office@woodlakechurch.org). We ask for your prayers for the Holy Spirit to give us and the candidates guidance, wisdom, and patience as the search begins. Thank you.

Now Hiring a Business Administrator: The candidate will oversee the business affairs of Woodlake Lutheran Church. They will act as a steward of the building and grounds to maintain and preserve the property for the congregation and other users. They will provide timely, efficient, and accurate bookkeeping services; manage accounts payable, payroll, electronic giving, contributions, and financial databases; prepare and present financial reports and analysis to church leadership; negotiate and oversee vendor contracts; manage building usage agreements; identify priorities and projects associated with the building and property, and coordinate and recruit volunteers to assist with general repair, maintenance, or labor associated with the use and upkeep of the property. Resumes may be submitted to Julia Skowronski at jskowronski@woodlakechurch.org.

Full job description: <http://woodlakechurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Business-Administrator-job-description.pdf>

Commissioner Updates

Mission and Outreach: In August, our VBS kids made sandwiches for people in need. The Leadership board then made about 30 sandwiches from ingredients left over from the VBS sandwich project. These went into the office freezer to feed those who came in asking for food. Pastor Micah says that about 20 sandwiches have been given out in this month!! I challenge small groups to make 20-30 sandwiches for the people who need them. Granola bars would be welcome also. Call me, Laurel Johnson, 952-807-3438, for the list of ingredients. I'll come and help!! – *Laurel Johnson, Mission and Outreach Commissioner*

The Faith Formation Commission, also known as The Children Youth and Family Commission, is pleased that the 2020 Initiative has placed a primary emphasis on the re-development of the faith opportunities for our young(er) member of the congregation.

Children are involved in worship up through the Children's Message each Sunday. They are released to classes which teach all the elements of the faith through the Word including Bible stories, art projects showing faith elements, and music - all praise and learning opportunities. There is always room to help as well as room for more participants from pre-K through grade 6.

Every fifth Sunday will be inter-generational worship, especially featuring our children. The older children, including our post high school youth, are forming relationships around the Word. All ages can be in relationship with each other, regardless of age. We are all children of God - let us remind each other as well as our children how important they are to our Lord. – *Anne Romstad, Faith Formation Commissioner*

The Congregational Care Commission began offering valet parking this summer for the 10am Sunday Worship Service. We provide free valet parking and also have a tip jar which has raised money this summer for the Youth Mission Trip and VBS. Beginning this Fall, all tips collected from Valet Parking will go to the Children Youth and Family Fund as our way of helping to support Woodlake 2020.

As we enter our busy Fall schedule we are in need of Valet parkers, especially for the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. If you could commit to one of those Sundays or would be willing to be on an on-call list, please contact Anne Schmieg 612.720.9182. Check the e-news or call the office after Wed. to be certain that Valet parking will be available for the following Sunday. Thank you! – *Anne Schmieg, Commissioner for Congregational Care*

Wednesday night suppers are a great way to relax and enjoy fellowship with others while children are in choir or confirmation. We hope people will invite neighbors and friends to supper so we can reach out to guests and show others what's happening around Woodlake. We will use name tags on a regular basis so we can get to know each better and promote conversation with people who may be visiting for the first time. And kids eat free! – *Wayne Schmieg, Congregational Life Commissioner*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Greetings from the Properties Commission!

We are excited about the new Woodlake 2020 Initiative, and look forward to a focus on development of the Children, Youth and Family Ministry in Woodlake. It has been an exciting couple of years, with many new updates and refurbishments throughout the building. We have much more work to do, but are eager to direct our efforts to how we can best utilize our facility, or modify our physical spaces to accommodate CYF outreach.

The Properties Commission will work with the various other commissions and small groups to assess their needs, and determine both short-term, and long-term goals for our church building use. Earlier this summer, a Church Building Consultant from the ELCA Synod toured our facilities, and presented a report with many good suggestions of how we can improve our building for guests, wayfinding, fellowship and worship. We will address how we can be a more visible and welcoming environment to all our members, guests and tenants.

There are still more areas to receive new flooring, paint and repairs, and we will continue to make updates as we can. I hope that you all notice a difference, but we also know that making changes is often messy and difficult, so please be patient in this progress.

We look forward to continued discussions and planning throughout the coming months. Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in helping in any way. We have many wonderful volunteers helping out, and I want to thank all of you! We know that the "Church" is not the building, but the people who worship there! And yet we are all stewards of our facilities as we plan the future of Woodlake together.

It is an exciting time for Woodlake, and look forward to the pathways ahead!

Peace to all,

Paul Olson, Properties Commissioner

Collaboration and Community News

Collaboration Task Force Update

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

What a joy it was to gather together for worship at Veteran's Park in August. Our three congregations gathered as one to sing, pray, and enjoy fellowship with one another. These public gatherings are a highlight for many, but great work continues to take place within our Collaboration Task Force. Our group has continued to meet and explore the ways our collaboration efforts can be most faithful and fruitful.

We are entering a time of mutual exploration and learning within our three churches. Through a process of listening and learning from one another, we hope to discover new ways we can cooperate. More specifically, we will be sending teams of three (one from each church) to learn where our similarities and differences lie and how we might seek to coordinate in the future. These listening teams will meet with pastors, staff, elected leaders, and ministry leaders from each congregation. We will seek to learn about one another's worship life, leadership structures, ministry efforts, and more. This is all for simply gathering information and looking for new ways to expand our collaboration efforts. At the end of the listening phase we will review our learnings and discern next steps. We will offer a report of our findings to the congregations and seek input on moving forward. Let us know if you have questions or concerns.

God's Peace,

The Collaboration Task Force

Oak Grove: Pastor Tom Zarth, Julie Tvete, Mike Tveite, Bonnie Oien

Woodlake: Pastor Micah Pearson, Laurel Johnson, Scott Dahlquist
House of Prayer: Pastor Ben Sandin, Cara Wright

WWII Round Table - "Nazi Prisoners in America" [POW's in Minnesota]

Thurs, Oct 11, 7pm at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center Auditorium

Woodlake member Tom Lalim will contribute to this month's discussion. The Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table brings together authors, historians, and WWII veterans to discuss the history of the conflict and to share the stories of those who lived through it. Suggested donation of \$5; students and veterans are free. Presentation begins at 7pm but consider arriving a little early if you can, as the auditorium tends to fill up!

Worship and Music Notes

“Then and Now”
By Amanda Ylvisaker

This writing reflects on some of the memories of my faith formation through the eyes of a child growing up in the early years of Woodlake. It also includes some observations of how I saw music ministry evolve through my experience working in churches of the 1960s and beyond.

In 1947 Woodlake Lutheran Church was officially established by a founding committee of Richfield residents (including my father) and members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis (our sponsoring congregation). Our new mission church worshiped in Woodlake School, my school! It was a small congregation with a pastor, a piano, hymn books, and folding chairs. I loved going to my new church!

Richfield grew, and our congregation grew. Many homes and schools were being built, along with a new home for Woodlake on Penn Avenue. My new school, Lincoln Hills Elementary, was just three blocks away.

It was fun having church friends going to the same school as I was. We now had an organ and an organist, Randine Hatlestad. She was also my piano teacher. We had a large adult choir which included my parents. The church also had a basement where we had Sunday School classes and pot lucks with our own "church basement ladies"!

Richfield and Woodlake continued to grow. Our church on Penn Avenue was sold, and we temporarily moved into Lincoln Hills School, just down the street on 75th and Penn, while our new, larger church was being built (our current site). I was now attending confirmation classes at Lincoln Hills on Saturdays along with worship on Sundays. I did some volunteer piano playing for both the children and junior high choirs. Our music ministry was expanding with with opportunities for all ages to participate.

My confirmation class was confirmed in our new church in 1955. Our worship space was the current Fellowship Hall. Check out our confirmation photo by the west entrance. We had four rows of teenagers! As my classmates and I got older, our faith formation opportunities also grew at Woodlake. There were two Youth Gatherings when we were in high school, one in San Francisco in 1955 and one in Missoula in 1957. Many of us led Bible Study groups for our peers in Missoula.

There were also Bible Camp weeks, Luther League training at St. Olaf College as well as Luther League Day. Crusaders was formed my junior year as an attempt to involve more juniors and seniors. We had a speech choir doing the narration of the story of Jesus with inserted vocal and instrumental music. We presented our program to other youth groups in the area and beyond. The opening line was, "We are Crusaders for Christ, God making His appeal through us."

In the fall of 1958 I entered Concordia College, participating in more joyful music / worship experiences and giving me a firm foundation for the tumultuous 60s, just ahead. The folk music revival was in progress and continued into the 60s. This was the time guitars and electronic instruments began appearing in churches. After all of my pipe organ lessons, I admit to having owned and played a Farfisa rock organ at youth events and on some Ylvisaker recordings.

Things I have learned from worship changes through 50 plus years of being on Lutheran Church worship teams, is that cultural variables will continue to exist outside of church walls. Our ministry task, then, is to embrace that fact in our own worship and program planning. This might include a variety of music styles for inclusiveness, and to present them well. I applaud Woodlake staff and people for doing that, with a special emphasis on children and their families. Thank you for your 2020 commitments. I'm with you!

Soli Deo Gloria!

- Amanda Ylvisaker

Congregational Care Corner

Blood Pressure Checks after Service on October 7

Carol Olson, congregational member and nurse, will do blood pressure checks after the church service on October 7 in the Fireside Room. This will be an occasional service provided for the congregation in addition to the blood pressure checks done by the Bloomington Public Health nurse who comes to Matins on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

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

Esther Circle: October 2 (1st Tuesday), 8:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: October 2 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Bev J's home.

Lydia Circle: October 9 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: October 10 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Deborah Circle: October 21 (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.

Oct 3: Intern Pastor Deanna Bassett, "Meet the Intern"

Oct 10: Jill Mecklenburg, "Personal Safety for Seniors"

Oct 17: Thurman Tucker, "Metro Quail Forever"

Oct 24: Sarah Dickhausen, "Importance of Functional Fitness"

Oct 31: Health nurse to do blood pressure checks and speak about "Healthy Hydration," followed by Bible study

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, October 25, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for October is *The Origin* by Dan Brown. Join at any time! There is one copy of the book available in the church office. Borrow, read, bring back at the meeting. First come, first serve!

Halloween will be here before you know it!

When purchasing your candy, consider donating some candy (or even your leftover Halloween candy) to Meals on Wheels. Our volunteers love candy! Just bring it to the Church of Peace office at 6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield. Office hours are 9am-1pm. They will see that we get it. Thank you.



Youth Member News! Darlene McPherson was nominated as one of the 2018 Homecoming Queen candidates at Richfield High School. The coronation ceremony took place on September 27, and Homecoming on the September 29. Darlene is a senior at RHS and has been a part of our Woodlake congregation her entire life. Recently, she participated in the mission trip to Harrisburg, PA along with several other Woodlake youth members.

RHS does not elect a Homecoming King...so each homecoming queen candidate selects her own escort to accompany them throughout the week's various activities. Darlene asked William Voigt who also just happens to be a long time member of Woodlake Lutheran. He graciously accepted so together they will be participating in all of the homecoming royalty activities together. William participated in the youth mission trip last summer as well! Both Darlene and William were in the same confirmation class together and have been friends growing up at Woodlake for years. Be sure to congratulate them as you see them around!

Mission and Outreach

Families Moving Forward: My thanks to all who helped with our latest Families Moving Forward (FMF) hosting week: to the staff who moved all our FMF gear from one room to another to make room for our newest tenant Minnesota Independence Community and College (MICC), to MICC for their flexibility in accommodating FMF, to Loaves & Fishes for providing two meals to our guests, to the members of Hope Lutheran Church, Oak Gove Lutheran Church, and House of Prayer Lutheran Church who came and helped out; and to the members of Woodlake who donated their time, food, and money during the week. Our next hosting week is April 28th to May 5th, 2019.

FMF is an emergency shelter program operated by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, for further information check out their website:

www.beaconinterfaith.org

- Scott J. Dahlquist, FMF Lead Coordinator

School Supply Drive-the results are in!

Thank you to everyone that participated in VEAP's 2018 school supply drive. Many backpacks, notebooks, calculators and other supplies were donated and are being distributed to the Richfield and Edina school districts. Classroom teachers and other school staff will make sure that all students have the supplies they need to start the year off right and throughout the year. Of course, we couldn't have done it without you-thank you so much!