

**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

**Office closed for
Thanksgiving:
Thursday and Friday,
November 22nd and 23rd**

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



Messenger

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 18th, in the Sanctuary
following 10am worship**

The annual report will be available on Sunday, November 11th. Paper copies will be available in the office, and you can also request one (starting November 12th) be sent to you via email or first class mail by contacting Office Administrator Julia Skowronski in the church office (612-866-8449 x10, office@woodlakechurch.org). I urge all members to review the annual report, and to contact me if you have any concerns with the information presented. The leadership board will also be available after the annual meeting to answer any questions you may have. Our church constitution requires a quorum of 5% of the voting membership to be present at the annual meeting in order to conduct business. Your attendance at the annual meeting is welcome, appreciated, and necessary. Childcare will be available in Rooms C&D.

– Congregational President Scott J. Dahlquist
(612) 919-9232

Email: sjaadahlquist@comcast.net

**Collaborative Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 21st
7pm at Woodlake**

It is our turn to host our collaborative Thanksgiving Eve service with our friends from Oak Grove and House of Prayer. We hope you will all be able to join us! The service will feature a collaborative choir made up of musicians from all three churches. Stay after the service for coffee and pie!

Poinsettia Time! Anyone can order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone special. The poinsettia is placed in church for Christmas and all dedications are printed in Christmas bulletins. Please find an order form on the back of this newsletter. Contact the office if you have any questions.

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)

This verse from Psalm 33 is our guiding Bible verse for Woodlake 2020 and we use it as a light and a beacon to help us find our way.

Our goal for Woodlake 2020 is to focus on children, youth and family outreach. I have heard this loud and clear through congregational listening sessions, conversations, and statistical data. You have said, "We need to focus on children and youth."

"Children are our future."

"We must pass our faith on to the next generation."

"We must share our church with new people."

"We must change for them."

First off, I'm proud that we have done the hard work to discern a vision. In Joel 2:28-29, the prophet Joel says, "Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves."

Our vision is clear. Our vision is Bible-centered. And our vision is from you, the congregation. Now the hard work begins. By December 31st, my goal is to have the Leadership Board and staff meet with everyone who has signed a commitment card (so far this is 102 people). During these conversations we will be asking you questions such as, in your own words, what is Woodlake 2020 all about? And in what ways do you desire to serve at Woodlake? For those who have not filled out a commitment card there's still time. Woodlake congregational President Scott Dahlquist and his team will be in touch with you.

We look forward to talking with you.

*In Christ,
Pastor Micah*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Joy & Woe

I like Thanksgiving! It's my favorite holiday. It's a time for gathering with friends and family, eating good food, and remembering fun times from the past. And...there is no pressure to over-decorate or buy presents. 😊

It is a gift to have gratitude for the blessings in our lives... that you have a feeling of being on the good side of what life can dish out. But what if you don't have the feeling of being blessed? Maybe you have experienced a loss in your life: the death of a loved one, a broken relationship, job loss, illness. It's hard to be thankful when you experience loss. We all know the negative things that can happen to us that make us wonder if God is on our side. The poet William Blake [almost] wrote:

*[People were] made for Joy & Woe
And when this we rightly know
Thro the World we safely go
Joy & Woe are woven fine
A Clothing for the soul divine.*

This quote reminds us that life isn't all unicorns and rainbows. It's a reality that both good and bad things happen to us in our lives. Our faith allows us to trust that we can heal through the loss and hopefully feel thankful again when the grieving is over.

Our mission for Congregation Life is to help the healing process by promoting togetherness: getting to know fellow church members by name. Sometimes we need someone who will listen and let us tell our story. You can be the person who is open to share someone's joy and woe; "joy shared is joy doubled; grief shared is grief halved".

Fellowship now that's something to be thankful for.
Happy Thanksgiving.

*Wayne Schmiege,
Congregational Life Commissioner*





Congregational Care: Anne Schmieg
Nothing new to report in regards to CYF but the team has a brainstorming session scheduled.

Congregational Life: Wayne Schmieg
Wayne has spoken with Anne Romstad (CYF commissioner) and Kirsten Hargreaves about family events: e.g. winter-time sledding/tubing, spring biking/picnic.

Faith Formation: Anne Romstad
Anne is exploring the possibility/feasibility of the creation of a children's play area within the Sanctuary at Woodlake and has plans to visit Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley and report on her findings.

Mission and Outreach Commission: Laurel Johnson

- Developing a relationship with the Richfield Middle School to include but not be limited to the following (Washburn Elementary is also looking for Volunteers):
 1. Volunteers to supervise during breakfast and/or Lunch periods
 2. After school tutoring (mostly in math and reading)
 3. Assistance with their "clothes closet" which is available to students through their counselors
 4. Possible use of Woodlake space for music lessons and/or concert space for their music programs.
- Get the high school/post-high youth involved in a project with Lutheran Social Services which offers a multitude of Service Project opportunities.
- Volunteers are needed to make more sandwiches.

Worship and Music: Carol Olson
The first intergenerational Service which focused on CYF was planned, implemented and reviewed by the Worship & Music Commission. The commission members have reviewed the surveys and are currently discussing plans for a combined Advent Pageant and family focused service. Also, Carol has been involved in the Collaborative Worship Listening Team and that has provided her with information about Oak Grove & House of Prayer and how they go about their worship services. She will be bringing ideas back to Woodlake from this experience.

Pastoral Call Process

The process to call a pastor for Children Youth and Family (CYF) outreach has begun. The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has now been approved by the Synod and is available for potential candidates to view. A copy is available in the church office if you would like to take a look, and is also posted on our website. Contact the office if you would like a copy to be mailed to you. **You are invited to submit candidate suggestions!** Pastor nomination forms are available in the front office or can be mailed / emailed by request. 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.

Commissioner Reports

Each commission has identified the following ways in which they are focusing on our Woodlake 2020 CYF goals:

Properties Commission: Paul Olson

- New internal and external signage to be more welcoming and informative
- Creation of space within the Sanctuary for a "play space" for younger children.
- Removal of some pews to accommodate people with walkers, strollers, baby seats or wheelchairs.
- Possible of updates to and relocation of Nursery space.
- Configuration of space for small group meetings.

Worship and Music Notes

Our Director of Worship and Music, HyeonJeong Lee, has informed us of her wish to resign as of Dec. 9. We will miss her fantastic musical talent and her friendship at Woodlake, but we wish her well in her future endeavors. We will have a reception Dec. 9 for Jeong to thank her for her time of service and involvement in our faith community at Woodlake.

In the Worship & Music Committee we have been focusing on our 2020 goal of developing a CYF-oriented service. We were reminded that a great majority of us do not have traditional families and many of us are single parent families or are single, divorced, widowed etc. We are, however, all members of the “family of God”. We may not all be descendants of the same blood-line of ancestors; but the blood that unites us is the blood Jesus shed upon the cross. From Hebrews 2: v.11, “Both the one who makes people holy, and those who are made holy are of the same family.” We will continue to have an informal, non-traditional service on the 5th Sundays of the month; which will replace Sunday School.

–Carol Olson, *Worship & Music Commissioner*

Mission and Outreach

HCC: The mission partners Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC) and Connexions International (CXI) are looking for Thanksgiving Host Families. International students would love to experience this holiday and spend the day with an American family. Will you consider sharing your Thanksgiving table and offer the experience of an authentic American Thanksgiving with international students, scholars and their families? **Sign up at www.hcchinese.org and go to the volunteer tab.**

FMF Dedicated Fund: Woodlake has been a hosting congregation with Families Moving Forward (FMF) since 1999. Families who are experiencing homelessness work on transitioning to stable housing, and in the evening they stay with participating congregations where they are provided overnight accommodations, including meals. FMF is a program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative (www.beaconinterfaith.org). Like many other ministries FMF has a dedicated fund to help pay for expenses. In addition to this, \$100 per hosting week (an amount set by the leadership board) is transferred to the general fund to help defray the cost of hosting the guests. Contributions to FMF have also been made in the past from this fund. In the past several years Woodlake has been able to make generous contributions to FMF from the proceeds of the craft sale. With the organizers of this event taking this year off, the FMF team felt that the balance of the dedicated fund was sufficient to allow for a contribution of \$700 to FMF. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this fund to help families in need.

–Scott Dahlquist, *Lead FMF Coordinator*

Collaborative and Community Events

Men’s Fellowship Group Thursday, November 8, 2018

9am in the House of Prayer Fellowship Hall
(7625 Chicago Ave S)

All Brothers and Sisters are invited for fellowship – devotions; speaker; meet; greet; chit-chat; including refreshments, and a presentation on – “Honor Flight Twin Cities” with video. This organization will honor American World War II and Korean War veterans, and provide travel at no cost, to Washington DC and back; to visit the “World War II Memorial and Veteran Monuments.” Gil Forsig, World War II veteran and House of Prayer member, attended this event and will reflect on his experience. For more information call Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833.

About this group, from a Woodlake member: I have been attending this fellowship event in the morning of the second Thursday of the month at House of Prayer for some time now. The format is very informal, a brief social time, a short devotion, and a speaker. Their opening prayer is: “Heavenly Father, we are grateful and thank You for the fellowship with Oak Grove, Woodlake and House of Prayer brothers and sisters, in Jesus name amen.” It would gladden my heart if there were more Woodlake members to partake in this fellowship, so if you have a few spare hours on the following dates at 9 AM you are welcome to join us: November 8th, January 10th, February 7th, March 14th, April 11th, and May 9th.

–Scott Dahlquist

Richfield Optimist Club Spaghetti Dinner: November 6, 2018, 4-8 pm at Oak Grove Lutheran Church (7045 Lyndale Ave S)

Cost is \$8 / adults; Children under 12: \$4.
Come have a great dinner and support the Richfield Optimist Club!

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. November *Gather* magazine with Bible Studies are available in the church office ([one](#) for each circle).

Esther Circle: Nov 6 (1st Tuesday), Breakfast meeting, 8:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

Faith Circle: Nov 6 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, member homes

Lydia Circle: Nov 13 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: Nov 14 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Deborah Circle: Nov 18 (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.

Nov 7: Don Anderson, "American and Canadian Trains"

Nov 14: Beth Bednar, "Books Talk"

Nov 21: Lori Koch, "Personal Peace"

Nov 28: Health nurse to do blood pressure checks, followed by Bible Study

SALT November Event:

Pizza and S'Mores

The Socializing Adult Lutheran Together (SALT) invite you to join them for pizza and s'mores on Saturday, November 3, 5:30pm. Gather at a nearby private residence, walk to Pizza Luce, and then spend some time around the firepit for conversation, s'mores, and cider. Please call Bill and Pam B. (listed in your directories, or contact the church office at 612-866-8449 / office@woodlakechurch.org) if you have questions or would like to join in the fun; address available with RSVP.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, November 29, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for November / December is *Perfume River* by Robert Olin Butler

Timber Lodge through the end of 2018, and beyond!

All you have to do for this easy fundraiser is head out to Timber Lodge Restaurant on our specified day of the month, have a great dinner, tell your server that you're a friend of Woodlake, and they'll donate 15% of the ticket price back to us. Timber Lodge is located at 7989 Southtown Drive and opens at 4pm. **Please note!** Our December date has changed due to Timber Lodge now being closed on Mondays. As you start getting your calendars for 2019, be sure to mark these dates!

2018

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Tuesday, December 11, 2018...CHANGED FROM MONDAY THE 10TH

2019

Thursday, January 10th

Tuesday, February 12th

Thursday, March 14th

Tuesday, April 9th

Thursday, May 9th

Tuesday, June 11th

Thursday, July 11th

Tuesday, August 13th

Thursday, September, 12th

Tuesday, October 8th

Thursday, November 14th

Tuesday, December 10th

From the Records

Funeral Services

Thank you for keeping this family in your prayers

Doris Meyer (August 21, 1925 - August 24, 2018).

Service held at Woodlake on September 16, 2018

Baptisms

Declan Grady O'Keefe, child of Michael and Jessica O'Keefe, baptized on September 16, 2018.

Sponsored by Kyle Lais and Courtney Paguyo.

Freja Olivia Hjelte, child of Haley and Oskar Hjelte, baptized on October 7, 2018. Sponsored by Phillip and Katie Paszkiewicz.

Transfers

Kathryn Hedman to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato



Poinsettia

Order Form

Poinsettias are used to decorate the church for Christmas services. Make a purchase in honor or in memory of a loved one, or to mark a special occasion. Your dedication will be printed in holiday worship folders.

Plants (in 7" pots) have 8-10 blooms

Price is \$15.00 each

**To ensure you receive a poinsettia, order is due to office
no later than 12:00 Noon on Sunday, December 2**

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (payable to Woodlake)

Ordered by _____
(Name as it should appear in bulletin)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

(Other): _____

**Plants should be picked up following Christmas Day.
Plants not picked by Sunday, December 30 will be made available to anyone who
wants one.**