

**Woodlake  
Lutheran Church**

7525 Oliver Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-8449  
[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://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

**Wednesday Evening Advent**  
6:30pm in the Sanctuary  
Dec 5, 12, and 19

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



**Parents’ Night Out**

**Saturday December 1, 2018 at Woodlake (Room C&D)  
Time: 5:30-8pm; Open to Pre-K to 6th Grade**

Parents drop off their kiddos, so they can do some Christmas Shopping while their kids have fun here. Pizza Dinner provided! Advance signups are appreciated: please contact the office at 612-866-8449 or [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org).

**Advent Services: “What Child Is This?”**

**Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19  
6:30pm in the Sanctuary**

Join us for Advent enlightenment for all ages. Come enjoy fellowship, reflections and music chosen by our youth as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child. We will focus on three words as they relate to Jesus: Joy, Peace, and Love. We hope you will be able to be present for these brief but meaningful times of worship together with our children.

**Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 9, 10am Worship in the Sanctuary**

This is a beautiful service celebrating the birth of Christ, with favorite carols interspersed between readings. This year we are proud to welcome the group Flute Cocktail of Minnesota who will be joined by our own Handbell Choir.

**Farewell to HyeonJeong Lee**

**Sunday, December 9, following Lessons and Carols  
service**

Sadly, we must say farewell to HyeonJeong Lee, our worship and music director for the past three years. Stay for a reception after worship to say goodbye and let her know she will be missed!

**Children’s Christmas Pageant**

**Sunday, December 16, 10am Worship in the Sanctuary**

A yearly, always adorable tradition! For more information, please see the “Around the Table” column on Page 2.

**Christmas Eve Worship**

**Monday, December 24, 4pm or 10pm in the Sanctuary**

It’s the most wonderful time of the year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

**No Christmas Day Worship**

Those who enjoy Christmas Morning worship are encouraged to visit our friends at Oak Grove for their 10am Christmas Morning service.

# 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)

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Advent reminds us to wait patiently during Woodlake's unknown future and Christmas confirms that God has a plan for us and for the world.

## Advent

Woodlake is in a season of waiting. Waiting to hire a business manager. Waiting to hire a music director. Waiting to call a CYF outreach pastor. Waiting for Woodlake 2020. Waiting for children, youth, and families to return. Waiting for God to show up. Woodlake is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah.

While we wait, we have made some changes to better reflect life at Woodlake. The Worship and Music Committee under the leadership of Carol Olson, after thoughtful discussion proposed to continue our mid-week advent worship and cancel our Christmas Day worship service. The committee realized after looking at declining worship trends (45 people attended Christmas Day worship in 2017), and changes in our worship and music department (HyeonJeong Lee will be leaving us December 9<sup>th</sup> and Eileen Berge will step in as interim director) to focus our attention and energies on our growing Christmas Eve worship services.

These ideas were presented to the Leadership Board at our Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and it was unanimously decided that Christmas Day worship would be cancelled this year. If this is the service you and your family love, I'm sorry for your loss. We encourage those who want to worship on Christmas Day to join our collaborative partner Oak Grove Lutheran Church for their Christmas Day worship at 10:00am.

The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents Woodlake's cry during this time of waiting:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,*

*That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Christmas

The wait is over. God is with us and leads us into an unknown future. Join us as we celebrate God showing up at our Christmas Eve worship at 4 and 10pm.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Micah*

# Around the Table

*Notes from Your Leadership Board*



🌟 COME ONE, COME ALL - all ages, shapes and sizes - AND TAKE PART(S) IN OUR 2018 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!! Sunday, December 16, during the 10am service, to celebrate the coming birth of Christ. 🎂 🙏

Everyone is welcome to be in it - no speaking parts required and costumes (of sorts) will be provided - plus a love for and willingness to sing familiar Christmas Carols during the Pageant will be appreciated. Volunteer now before you get hunted down and appointed. 😊

🌟 Wednesday Advent Services on December 5, 12, and 19 at 6:30 will celebrate the themes of Joy, Peace, and Love in anticipation of Christ's birth with participation from our Sunday School children, Confirmants and High School Youth. They look forward to seeing you there. 🌟

*Anne Romstad  
Children, Youth and Family Commissioner*

PS: Please stop by the bulletin board outside of the Fireside Room. It features drawings by our children and photos from last year's Christmas pageant.



Here is where we share the latest Woodlake 2020 news with you! This month, our Leadership Board commissioners share the ways in which they are weaving our Woodlake 2020 goals into their various ministries.

## Leadership Board Commissioner Reports

### Mission and Outreach, Laurel Johnson

- Contacted Ben Whalen about the tutoring at RMS and had Julia put an announcement in the E-news and bulletin about the tutoring opportunity.
- Planned ways to include confirmands and Sunday school kids in the Good Gifts program. Moonlight Madness is being promoted to our kids, so they have the opportunity to go with other Richfield kids.

### Treasurer, Ed Morrow

- The Endowment committee will be looking at Woodlake 2020 and evaluating its abilities.

### Faith Formation (CYF), Annie Romstad

- To promote more Inter-generational activity in the congregation and provide our younger youth an opportunity to perform in worship a Christmas Pageant including ALL ages will be held during worship on December 16.
- I have encouraged our High School Youth Group to help out with Sunday School, serving Sunday morning coffee, and the Sunday morning Valet service.

### Worship and Music, Carol Olson

- Committee is discussing plans for our next CYF focused service on December 16<sup>th</sup>, which will include the Advent Children's Pageant.

### Congregational Care, Anne Schmieg

- Valet parkers will stay on duty until 10:10 to assist late arrivals, especially families with young kids. They will continue to donate any tips to the CYF fund.
- Homebound ministers will continue to join with the stamping group (Woodlake Ink) to have families make Valentine cards for our homebound members. Also considering providing lists of homebound members in Richfield area who would love a visit from youth.
- Prayer Knitters talked about their new Pocket Prayer Peaces that could be given out to children starting school, confirmands, graduates, or newlyweds as they enter a new stage in their life. They will continue to provide baptismal shawls. Also talked about offering classes in knitting again to Woodlake community and maybe to the middle school.
- Table Blessings mentioned that families cannot come to help prepare meals as there is an age limit, but maybe the high school youth would be interested in making the meals.
- Making Friends: An idea was floated that Sunday School kids get a "buddy"— an adult from church who would walk them to Sunday School and meet them after to hear about their experience, allowing their parents to remain in church and not miss any of the sermon. Also could give older adults a connection to young families.

### Congregational Life, Wayne Schmieg

- A service project for the confirmands would be to stock the pews with pencils and visitor cards. We will follow up any visitor card requests with phone calls and/or personal visit, if desired.

# Worship and Music Notes

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“Trust, Commitment, Love!!!”

These are the words of Lou Holtz, a former football player, coach, and analyst at University of Steubenville. These words were from what is called a silver spoon motivational speech. He was so humorous, persuasive and inspirational and I strongly recommend you listen to it. He also said, “Don’t tell your problems to people: eighty percent don’t care; and the other people twenty percent are glad you have them.”

He also mentioned that there is a rule of life that says you’re either growing or you’re dying. It’s a big blessing to meet great teachers, friends and colleagues in our lives. He reminds me a lot of things about the attitude for our life.

Growing means making lots of mistakes and enduring failure. We cannot grow without these experiences. We cannot grow if we try nothing in an attempt to avoid failures. Growing means that there are mistakes and imperfections. Nevertheless, the weaknesses can be changed to mature as we grow.

Since I arrived here here, we have shared so many memories together. Come to think of it, I have received lots of love from everyone at Woodlake. But the time has come for me leave in order to grow. It has been three years and three months. Sharing joy and happiness through music with you has always made me happy in the last years no matter the outcome. Children.. I am keeping them in my heart. I appreciate your love, concern, time, energy and prayer. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!

I want to share a word in closing with my gratitude for everyone at Woodlake.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”(Colossians 3:16)

– HyeonJeong Lee

# Collaboration and Community Events

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## Northern Winds Concert Band Holiday/Christmas Concert

**Sun, Dec 9th - 4:00 PM in Woodlake’s Sanctuary**

Northern Winds Concert Band is celebrating our 40th Anniversary. We are made up of 50 musicians ranging in age from the 9th grade to 90 years of age. Our concert calendar consists of nearly 20 concerts throughout the Twin Cities area.

Woodlake is pleased to host a Holiday Concert featuring Christmas songs as well as a sing-along and the story of the "Nutcracker Suite." It'll be an afternoon of Christmas Music that will truly enhance your overall Holiday Experience. Please visit our website at: [www.northernwindsconcertband.org](http://www.northernwindsconcertband.org).

For more information, Please Contact Joe Speakman - 612-414-4426 or [musicmanjjs@aol.com](mailto:musicmanjjs@aol.com)

No charge; freewill offering will be taken.

## Do you like wrapping Christmas gifts?

Home Instead provides Christmas gifts for our Richfield Meals on Wheels clients. They need help with wrapping the gifts that are donated. Christmas trees are put up at area Lund’s/Byerly’s pharmacies from November 5<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup> with gift ideas. If you are able to help with the wrapping, go to the Bloomington Creekside Community Center at 98<sup>th</sup> and Penn Ave on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12pm. Thanks for helping “Be a Santa to a Senior.”

# Scouting at Woodlake 2018-2019

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The 2018/2019 Scouting year is off and running. Woodlake’s Cub Scout Pack 384, led by Packmaster Nick Gilliland, has over 30 active Cub Scouts, split into several Dens, involved in many scouting activities, including a winter campout, Blue and Gold dinner, Pinewood Derby and Order of the Arrow activities. They are in the process of wrapping up their annual, seasonal wreath and popcorn sale in November and had their Pancake Breakfast back in October here in the fellowship hall at the church, which continues to be very successful. Additionally, they help out in the Loaves and Fishes Dinner sponsored by the church. New for 2018, the Cub Scout program has been opened to girls to join.

The Woodlake-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 384 is in its second year after being absent from Woodlake Lutheran Church for almost a decade. Established in 2008 at St Richard’s Church as Troop 042, the Troop asked if they could fill the vacated presence and transfer Troop 042 to restore the former Troop 384. With a rich tradition stretching back decades, Troop 384 is stronger than ever. **Continued on Page 6**

# The Numbers

One component of Woodlake 2020 is that our leadership will strive to be as transparent as possible with you, the congregation. Therefore we are going to start publishing data for worship attendance and offerings for the month prior to the newsletter deadline (approximately the preceding 15th – 15th of each month; window may vary depending how dates fall). The “notes” column indicates anything different that was occurring that could affect attendance, so is not included on each line.

## Offering Summary 10/22/18 – 11/19/2018

Saturday Chapel Services	\$ 6,564.60
Sunday Sanctuary Services	\$ 35,572.15
Simply Giving Receipts	\$ 7,379.38
IRA's	\$ 6,057.71
Properties Projects Fund	\$ 395.00
<b>TOTAL Offerings Received 10/22-11/19/18</b>	<b>\$ 55,968.84</b>

## Worship Attendance

Service	Date	Time	Attendance	Weekend Total	Notes
Weds AM Matins	Oct 17	8am	19		
Sat PM Chapel	Oct 20	5pm	23	173	
Sunday AM	Oct 21	10am	150		
Weds AM Matins	Oct 24	8am	20		
Sat PM Chapel	Oct 27	5pm	20	190	Reformation
Sunday AM	Oct 28	10am	170		Reformation
Weds AM Matins	Nov 7	8am	15		Light snow overnight
Sat PM Chapel	Nov 3	5pm	22	199	All Saints
Sunday AM	Nov 4	10am	177		All Saints
Sat PM Chapel	Nov 10	5pm	24	169	
Sunday AM	Nov 11	10am	145		
Weds AM Matins	Nov 14	8am	18		
Sat PM Chapel	Nov 17	5pm	20	200	
Sunday AM	Nov 18	10am	180		Annual Meeting

## Wednesday Night Supper

Date	Count	Notes
10/17/2018	No Supper	MEA
10/24/2018	34	
10/31/2018	No Supper	Halloween
11/7/2018	41	
11/14/2018	50	Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner

## “Scouting” continued from Page 4

Currently there are 30 plus young men in the troop with a strong family of leaders and supportive parents. The diversity of the troop stretches across many demographics including, but not limited to ethnic, religious, socio-economic and even geographic. Serving the community surrounding Woodlake Lutheran in Richfield, Troop 384 also has members that travel from Rogers, Fridley, White Bear Lake, Shakopee, Prior Lake and even Red Wing to participate weekly with our outstanding Scouting program.

Eagle Scouts from Troop 042 and 384 continue to serve as leaders after turning 18 and currently the unit boasts over a half dozen 18-21 year old adult leaders in addition to our dozen male and female older adult leaders. Starting in February of 2019, Troop 384 is excited to be one of the first units to welcome young ladies into the Scouting experience, as the Boy Scouts of America expands its offerings of family Scouting. The Scouting Units wish to thank Woodlake Lutheran Church and its congregation for their continued support.

## Mission and Outreach

**VEAP:** As you are preparing for the holidays, please also remember our neighbors in need by picking up a few extra grocery items and place in our carts in the corridor or church office. If you would rather contribute monetarily, please use one of your special offering envelopes and label it for VEAP. Remember, VEAP no longer conducts a holiday toy drive, so your continued donations of food items is appreciated. Thank you!

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

**Esther Circle:** Dec 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), Breakfast meeting, 8:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York.

**Faith Circle:** Dec 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Mona S's home.

**Lydia Circle:** Dec 11<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

**Rebecca / Sarah Circle:** Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday), 12:00 pm for our Christmas Luncheon in the Fireside Room.

**Deborah Circle:** Dec 16<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Dec 5: John Bjostad, “History of Richfield”

Dec 12: Scott Ramsay, “State of Wildlife in Richfield”

Dec 19: Christmas party stories, Carols & socializing

Dec 26: No Speaker; join us after Matins worship for coffee and social time

**Join us for 10 weeks of parent/child music class** for your children or grandchildren ages 0-5 years. In our engaging classes, you'll move, laugh, sing, play rhythm instruments and share 45 minutes of pure fun. Our research-based curriculum not only develops music skills, it nurtures creativity, self-expression, and confidence while also supporting social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

Classes held here at Woodlake on Thursday mornings. Winter session begins on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019. Register today at [www.firstnotesfm.com](http://www.firstnotesfm.com). If you want to join a demo class, one will be held on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 @ 9:00am. Please call: 612-408-4843 or email: [info@firstnotesfm.com](mailto:info@firstnotesfm.com) to register for the demo class.

## 2019 WINTER SERIES

### Bloomington-Richfield Grief Coalition

Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019 – Feb. 21, 2019

4:30-6:00 pm at Transfiguration Lutheran Church

11000 France Ave S., Bloomington MN, 952-884-2364

January 3: *Happy New Year*, Donna Mathiowetz

January 10: *What's Left*, Bob Bartlett

January 17: *This Puzzle Called Grief*, Donna Mathiowetz

January 24: *Wings for Widows*, Chris Bentley

January 31: *Habits of Resilience for Grievers*, Beryl Schewe

February 7: *The Teeter Totter of Grief and Hope*, Ted Bowman

February 14: *Grief and Intimacy*, Bob Bartlett

February 21: *Strategies for Getting Unstuck*, Beryl Schewe

*Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, and visits during my recent surgery and recovery. Betty and I deeply appreciate your support. - Don Hassenstab*