



Woodlake

Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South

Richfield, MN 55423

(612) 866-8449

www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Fred Hanson

Pastor Charlie Plaster

Woodlake Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA.

Worship Times

Sunday Morning

9:00am Worship in the sanctuary

11:00am Worship in the sanctuary

Saturday Evening

5:00pm in the chapel

Wednesday Morning Matins

8:00am in the chapel

Church Office Hours

Monday9am – 1pm

Tuesday9am – 4pm

Wednesday9am – 4pm

Thursday9am – 4pm

Friday9am – 4pm

Saturday9am – 12pm

Sunday 9am – 11am

Weekdays: Church Office is closed for lunch from 12:00 – 12:30.

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



April 2016

Messenger

Faith Formation in April

10:00am (in between the 9am and 11am services)

For adults (anyone older than Confirmation age)

April 3: Fireside Chat with Pastor Fred

April 10: Adult Forum. *Karen Nilsen will share information about her exquisite quilts!*

April 17: Adult Forum. *Topic to be determined.*

April 24: Collaboration Info Meeting. *Meet in Fellowship Hall. We will review and vote on the job description for a joint collaboration team.*

For Children and Youth: Sunday School and Confirmation every Sunday at 10am! More Children and Youth news on Page 4.

*Easter Sunday
March 27*

Festival Services at
9am and 11am

Easter Egg Hunt at
10am



Pastor's Corner

"LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others."

Psalm 15:1-3

Love Trumps Division

We live in a scared, divided, and violent world. While violence is as old as the book of Genesis, it is also new and troubling as we witness image after image and sound bite after sound bite of religious and political leaders reducing our shared humanity to us against them.

As long as fear is allowed to dominate our hearts, the reality of God's kingdom and the peace we all say we desire will be nothing more than a dream. It is also totally unacceptable and biblically false to resign ourselves to the conclusion that the kingdom of God can only come after the return of Jesus.

Jesus said repeatedly that the kingdom of God is among you, within you, and at hand. Within that proclamation is a biblical truth: love always trumps violence and division. For love by its nature draws us closer to each other as it draws us closer to its source – God. Fear by its nature creates division, pits us against them, and seeks to destroy, lest the other person or group win.

In midst of this, Jesus commands us to do the impossible: "love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; speak well of those who speak evil of you; pray for those who persecute you. Yes, this is the impossible love that Jesus comes to announce in order that humanity work towards unity. This is the way of non-violence, forgiveness, and reconciliation, of acceptance of people who are different...will shake all the foundations of societies closed in upon themselves...it will be a new force given by Jesus in love where hate is transformed into forgiveness and enemies into friends. This transition will take time, for the Kingdom grows little by little like a seed; it is founded on love and communion." *Jesus, the Gift of Love by Jean Vanier.*

In order for this force to become a reality, it must begin in the heart of each believer. For only when we are filled with God's perfect love are we able to persevere, not giving into the temptation to retaliate, and demonstrate to others that there is another way, another way to live in harmony.

We are an Easter people, and the reality of the resurrection is our guarantee that loves trumps death, it trumps sin, and it trumps division.

Grace, Love, Peace and Joy in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor Fred



**Vacation Bible School
July 25 – 29, 9am-12pm
at Oak Grove**

Lutheran Church

We will be collaborating with Oak Grove on this year's VBS! Kids ages 3 – entering 6th grade are all welcome, all week from 9am-12pm, and completely free. Registration forms are available in the office today!



Woodlake Mini VBS

June 15 – 17th

8:30am – 5:30pm

Join us for a three-day VBS here at Woodlake! This is a three-day program for kids ages 3 – entering 6th grade. Cost is \$30 and includes meals, snacks, t-shirt, and materials. Sign up in the office today! **Deadline to register is 5/1/16.**

Keeping in Touch

The Congregational Care Corner

“EASTER PEOPLE IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD”

We are Easter people in a Good Friday world. I like that description of who we are as Christians. This phrase says it so well. We live in a Good Friday world, but we are Easter people.

I think that all of us would agree that we live in a Good Friday world. Because what do you think of when you think of Good Friday? It is darkness. It is death. It is all those things that make life hard and difficult. In some many ways this is our world. In so many ways this is how life is for many. It is a Good Friday world.

But we are Easter people. What does that mean for us? It means that, for us, Good Friday is not the end of the story. Easter is the end of the story and Easter means life, victory, and hope. Jesus Christ has risen and because He has risen we too, as Easter people, can rise above and be victorious over all that this Good Friday world brings our way.

*Live as Easter people,
Pastor Charlie*

Homebound Ministry

If you have a homebound ministry communion kit at home, please return it to the church. We are still missing a few.

Homebound ministers, please fill out a card when you have made a call and turn it in to the church office. This will help with our record keeping.

Homebound ministers, if you are no longer visiting the people we have you down to visit, please let the church office know this also.

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

SPRING SERIES: Thursday, April 7 – May 26, 2016, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church: 2200 W. Old Shakopee Rd,
Bloomington, 952-888-4621 (www.oakgrv.org)

Topics for April

April 7: “Now What Do I Do?” Nancy Sullivan
Making It Through the 1st Year of Grief

April 14: “Grief is Where the Heart Is” Nancy Sullivan
Embracing the Love That Remains

April 21: “Grief: A Natural Disaster of the Heart” Kris Linner

April 28: “My Grief Journey” Mary Canakes

To my good friend, Greg,
Because of the schedule on Sunday mornings, I didn't get a chance to attend the farewell given for Greg a few Sundays ago. I wanted to make sure to take an opportunity to let him know how much his presence at Woodlake contributed to the happiness of so many, and to formally say goodbye.

I can't remember the first time we met. Surely it was the doing of Tom Ohnesorge. It was very early on in my position as Children's Choir Director at Woodlake, that I began selecting music that was outside of the usual playlist for church choirs. Tom was very supportive of creativity, but wasn't very keen on "canned" music (recorded tracks). In several instances, the songs I was choosing, because they were more current and relevant to the kids, couldn't be played by just anyone (especially with only a week's notice). I'm sure it went something like, "Tisa, you should ask Greg to play it...", and from there on out, thanks to Tom's wisdom and Greg's generous talent, I NEVER felt restricted in the music I could choose. What an amazing and liberating gift.

Not only could and would Greg play any crazy thing I proposed to him, but he was always gracious about it and seemed to enjoy the variety. It is solely because of Greg that a generation, and more, of kids from Woodlake got the chance

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to sing "church music" that they not only could relate to, but that they remember years later as something fun and life-giving for them. I am convinced, through my many years of experience, that there are very few church musicians with the combination of talent, humility, and open-mindedness that Greg Anderson has. I never feared his reaction to my ideas, no matter how off the wall or unorthodox. I trusted him with every inspiration I had.

In our time together he played Taylor Swift, the Monkees, Bruno Mars, Elvis, the Beatles, and Queen, all at a pace and in a key that worked for kids 3-12 years of age. For Woodlake's Anniversary one year, I wrote a parody that spanned 60 years of music! His accompaniment was fun and although I know he must have practiced some, seemed effortless. Any person, musician or otherwise, must know this was an amazing feat.

In the beginning, I would arrange the song, tell him how the bridge might go, sing the intro to him, etc. As time went on, I know that I began to slack on some of these things. We would "collaborate" on these aspects moments before the kids would sing. In the end, it likely was most often me saying, "what do you want to do, Greg?"

As I have been reflecting on our years together, I realize that while I was always outspokenly appreciative of his abilities and his kind heart, there were times when even I had begun to take Greg's presence for granted. It is for this reason that I needed to write this note to him, publicly. Greg made directing Children's Choir and the Christmas pageants, Mother/Daughter Banquets, or any other endeavor at Woodlake, a creative aspiration that knew no limits. I knew that if I could write it, or put it together, he could do it. I am forever grateful for his support, his friendship, and the fun we had.

His absence has left an immediate vacuum. As I look ahead, I wonder how I will continue to be innovative and creative without the support of his amazing talent and mentoring. I will miss my friend. I will miss his support. I will miss the reckless abandon that was allowed by his talent. I will miss our shared love of music and our collective ability to not be limited by what is expected or known.

Standing outside the fire

Standing outside the fire

Life is not tried, it is merely survived

If you're standing outside the fire - Garth Brooks

- Tisa Zachau

Children, Youth and Family Newsletter **!2016 APRIL! NO Fooling! BE, BELONG, BECOME, HAVE FUN!**

Children's Ministry - "Take Part"

Come check it out! Music, fun
Sunday school - 3 years-6th grade
Sundays 10:00-10:55, Rooms C&D
April 3,10,17 & 24th

Confirmation Class for youth in Grades 7-9

Sundays 10:00-10:55, Room F

April 3,10,17 & 24th

9th Graders: Saturday April 23rd --9-4PM

Meet at church!!

April 24th--9th Grade Confirmation

Banquet immediately following 11AM

worship in the Fireside Room. Parents
and Faith Mentors invited to participate!

Youth Group for youth Grades 9-12

Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00PM, Room F

April 6, 13, 20 & 27th

Looking forward to seeing everyone
there!!



Donations
can be
received
up until
April
10th when
we will
collect,
count and
then
turn in all
the
goodies!!

VEAP Birthday
Bag
Service Project!!
Sunday morning
April 10th
10:00AM

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

The Building Corner: Properties and Facilities Commission

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
Acts 20:28

I am excited to be asked to serve as Properties Commissioner, and happy to know that the Woodlake family is here for support. Although I have only been on the Leadership Board for a few months, the Properties team has had a productive year in organizing and planning how the commission should be structured for the maintenance, use, and care of our facility.

We all know that the “church” in the Bible verse above, is really referring to You and I, the members of the “Church of God.” But it seems a fitting passage because through the “visioning” and small group sessions that met last spring and summer, we realized that there was one word that conveyed the main purpose of this commission: Stewardship.

As members of Woodlake, we are the stewards of the building, of the programs, of the membership, and of the surrounding community. As Woodlake has moved toward a more lay-driven leadership structure, we will work together to assess the building needs and those of the people who use it. This isn’t just the care and maintenance of a building, but also planning for flexibility, creating partnerships with outside organizations, caring for the needs of the youth (and the aging), and preparing for future needs that cannot be foreseen.

There are exciting partnerships with other organizations that also use our facility: Loaves and Fishes, Families Moving Forward, Ebenezer, and soon, Saint Mary’s Health Clinic. Connecting with the community has always been important here at Woodlake.

We are also implementing new building

management software, to help the staff manage the use of the facility. It should also be helpful to organize the building maintenance, cleaning, and future space planning.

A big thanks goes to the many helpers, cleaners, and organizers who have continually been assisting the staff and others with various projects. We are always looking for additional team members to serve in some area that might interest you. Please contact me or a staff member, if you are interested in how you can help!

*Best Regards,
Paul Olson
olson.paulo@gmail.com
Properties Commissioner*

Financial Corner

Good News and Bad News from the Financial Front...

Good News... Our offerings for November through February are very close to what we had budgeted. Thank you to all of you for those contributions! The REACH Fund should be adequate to finish paying off the flat roof repairs by the end of May. Ebenezer will be doubling the amount of time they are renting from us starting on May 1, so rent from them will increase. Winter was shorter and warmer this year, so heating bills are lower than usual.

And, the Bad News... Rules and regulations of the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit have changed, which means that \$19,330 is income the Church had counted on, but will not receive

- Julie Windler, Financial Coordinator and Building Manager

Small Group and Circle News

Circles

April "Gather" magazines with monthly Bible studies are available to each Circle for pickup in the office.

Sunday Morning Circle: April 3 (1st Sunday), 10:00am in the Heritage Room

Dorcus Circle: April 5 (1st Tuesday), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room

Esther Circle: Tuesday, April 5, 11:30am for a luncheon in the Yorke Room (7500 York)

Faith Circle: April 5 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm in member homes

Lydia Circle: April 12 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: April 13 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room

Faith and Fellowship Speakers for April – Wednesdays, 9am, Fireside Room

April 6: "WWI MN," Eric Mathanoon

April 13: "Veterans and Veterans' Spouses," Allison Frasier

April 20: "Ice Palaces," Bob Olson

April 27: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, April 28, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for April is *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Join the Spirit Singers!

The "spirit" has not gone out of the Spirit Singers! We have a new director, Eileen Berge, and we would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who would like to join us. We welcome anyone of any age. If you like to sing in the shower...join us! Our goal is to sing a blend of spiritual and

contemporary music, and sing in worship approximately once a month. Practices are scheduled for Wednesdays at 6:30 PM starting March 30th.

Women's Spring Retreat?

April 29 – May 1

"Blessed Is She Who Has Believed"

Mt. Carmel in Alexandria, MN

We are currently seeing if anyone from the congregation would be interested in this retreat. Ladies will have opportunities to reflect on their own lives, perhaps recognize times when they felt God's calling them to His plans and purposes, and discover how God is calling them today to obedience that leads to God's blessings. For more info, contact Mt. Carmel ministries by phone at 320-846-2744 or via their website at

www.mtcarmelministries.com. Interested?

Questions? Please call Carol O. at 612-281-7137

You are invited to the Eagle Scout award ceremony for Zachary Vizecky. Zachary was a Cub Scout with Pack 384, chartered by Woodlake and is a Woodlake member. Zachary's Eagle project was the installation of the Gaga Ball (like dodge ball) court located on the west side of church next to the play feature. The ceremony will be held at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale, on Saturday April 9th, at 5PM.

Timber Lodge in April and Beyond!

You can go ahead and mark your calendars up through July! On our assigned days, head out to Timber Lodge Steakhouse, have a good meal, let your server know you're with Woodlake (this is necessary!), and they will donate 15% of the ticket price back to us. Tell all your friends and family – you do not need to be a Woodlake member to count!

Tues, April 19

Thurs, May 12

Mon, June 6

Tues, July 5