



Woodlake

Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Brice Eichlersmith

Woodlake Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA.

Worship Schedule

See Holy Week and Easter worship times on the right.

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

Monday9am – 12pm
Tuesday9am – 4pm
Wednesday9am – 4pm
Thursday9am – 4pm
Friday9am – 12pm
SaturdayClosed
Sunday .. Before and after worship

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

Holy Week Preview

Bible Study on Sunday, April 2 in the Fireside Room

This will be a chance for all to preview the events of Holy Week through a variety of fun activities!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday: April 9th, 10:00am

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

Maundy Thursday: April 13th, 7pm. Joint Worship Service with Oak Grove and House of Prayer, located at Woodlake.

Good Friday: April 14th, 3pm and 7pm

Saturday, April 15th - no chapel service

Easter Sunday, April 16

Worship at 9am and 11am; Easter Egg hunt at 10am

Collaboration Meeting

Monday, April 3, 6:30pm in Woodlake's Fireside Room

Join us for the next large group meeting, right here at Woodlake. All are invited to listen in on the conversation and share their opinions.

Continuing Education for Homebound Ministers and Congregation – "Getting Your Ducks in a Row"

Sunday, April 30, 11:15 – 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall

Brenna Galvin, attorney at Maser, Amundson, Boggio, and Hendricks Attorneys at Law, will speak to us about estate planning, disability planning, and long-term care planning. This is a topic that will touch all of us and our families, so everyone is invited to participate.

Pastor's Corner

"Are You Ready For Easter?"

Are you ready? Usually when you hear that phrase in the church, it is in the weeks leading up to Christmas. What are we talking about when we say "Get Ready" before Christmas? A large of number of things. Do you have the cards sent? Have you bought the presents? Are the decorations up? Is the baking done? This is getting ready for Christmas and we know what to do.

But how about getting ready for Easter? What are we to do here other than buy some Easter candy? Why prepare at all? Let me suggest some reasons we should prepare for Easter, and some steps we can take to get ready for Easter:

1. We should prepare because Easter is at the center of our faith. 40% of the Gospel of Mark is devoted to the last week in the life of Jesus, Holy Week. Matthew and Luke devote a similar amount of space. This tells us something. Easter matters. The death and resurrection of Jesus are the foundation of our faith. We need to give them some time and space in our lives.

2. Without the message of Easter, "He is Risen," nothing else matters. If Jesus is dead, who really cares? As the song goes, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." Resurrection is what makes the Christian faith what it is.

3. What to do to get ready for Easter? Spend some time in the Bible. Read the accounts of Holy Week in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Spend some time in prayer and reflection. Above all, spend some time in worship. In my mind, Holy Week worship is the best there is.

*So, get ready for Easter,
Pastor Charlie*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

If we are doing as we are told, we have a regular checkup with our doctor to make sure everything is working all right. We discuss our health so we don't miss a clue that something serious is going on.

Your health care checkup has many parts: weight, blood pressure, labs, physical exam, and discussions. Similarly, there is a lot involved in the health of the church. As secretary to the Leadership Board, I take minutes as the board discusses and reflects on the area they cover. You could think of this as a check-up each month. During these discussions, I am always surprised by the variety of things involving Woodlake going on within and outside the walls of our church. The leaders of each area are facilitators and they work to promote programs and events for the good of the whole congregation. Could they do it alone? No; they and our church need each one of you. Every one of you is needed whether you sing, read, greet, visit, construct, clean, knit, quilt, cook, serve, give, play, guide, teach, pray... I could go on, but you get the idea. All of these parts make up the health of our church. For that, I give thanks for all you do. Let us all work toward a healthy Woodlake.

Lent is a good time for forty days of a spiritual check-up. It is a time of reflection, a spiritual evaluation. We might be missing clues that our spirit isn't enjoying the good health that God created for us. We can find it difficult to motivate ourselves in Christian living and service to God and others. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are to serve him faithfully. Each year when we see our doctor he may tell us to exercise more, improve our diet, or start a new medicine. Can we do the same with our spiritual life? Can we exercise our service more, can we improve our faith journey, and can we start something new for our spiritual health? We might be surprised at what a big difference these changes can make – today and eternally. Lent is a time for a spiritual reflection, to change what needs to be changed. Don't miss the opportunity – and hopefully the spiritually health habits won't end on Easter Sunday.

*May Goodness, Kindness, and Mercy come your way.
And may you gain Wisdom and grow in the Lord every day.
Amen.*

Barbara Halsne, Woodlake Leadership Secretary

Easter Sunday! Come join us for Woodlake Church's annual Easter egg hunt



The egg hunt will be after Easter service, outside in the playground area (weather permitting.) Everyone is welcomed!

Sunday School Report

During the month of March and into April we will be discussing the Holy Week and Easter. The children will learn about Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and the importance of Easter.



Questions to ask your child

- What did people throw on the ground to make a path for Jesus?
- Who saw Jesus first after he had risen from the dead?
- Who appeared before the women in sparkling white cloths?

VBS at Woodlake: August 7 - 12

Go ahead and mark your calendars for this year's VBS, brought to us by Luther Park!

Moonlight Madness Spring 2017 – for 6th-9th graders! Friday, April 28 at 9:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 29 at 7:00 a.m.

Your child will board a bus at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Avenue South in Richfield at 9:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15th. We will go to **Westwood Community Church in Chanhassen!!** Then we will go to **Dakotah** for Ice Skating, Swimming, Volleyball and basketball. Free food at CCC. Then it is off to the new **Shakopee Movie Theater** for lots of movie choices. Finally we end the Madness at **Brunswick Bowling Lakeville** for laser tag, bowling and arcade fun. (To keep cost down we ask you to bring extra money for food at Movies and Brunswick). We will return to Oak Grove Lutheran Church at 7:00 a.m. on April 29th. To ensure a fun and safe Moonlight Madness for all, we're limiting the number of participants, scheduling one leader for every ten kids and reserving facilities exclusively for this youth event. Bring swim suit and towel, ice skates. Registration forms are available in the Woodlake church office, or call Pastor Brice at Oak Grove Lutheran Church (612) 998-2128; email to brice@oakgrovelutheran.org. Return forms to Woodlake's office with a check for \$30.00 ASAP!

Worship and Music Notes

Do you know how many keys a piano has? A modern standard piano has 52 white keys and 36 black keys for a total of 88 keys. Now, I invite you to become a part of owner of one key of a piano here at Woodlake.

As I mentioned last month, it is time for a new piano in the Chapel, and you can help! Your donation of \$55 will buy one key. If each family gave only \$55 we could meet our goal of \$5,000.

If you saved only \$1 a day we could raise \$5,000. If you contribute \$10 each Sundays during April, we can change the piano. Any amount from a dime will help!

The piano is an important instrument to have for our music in Woodlake. Music brings us together, and we can work together to make a difference in our music ministry. We will be surprised by how much power and potential we have. During my time at Woodlake I have been striving to bring the Word of God to all of you through music, and I have witnessed how many people are sharing their musical gifts. I hope we are able to share this joy and happiness with more people.

Thanks for whatever you can do. It can be done during April – but not without your help.

In April, I highly recommend taking the time to listen to this recording “Ubi Caritas” by Mauricio Durufle. This excellent and beautiful music makes us to listen the word and have still quiet but powerful energy. There is a power we can’t see but we know and can feel it. Please read the text first, then listen it with your empty mind.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ’s love has gathered us into one.

Let us Rejoice and be pleased in Him.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other

With a sincere heart. Amen.

- HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Building and Finances

Our financial picture is encouraging after the first four months of our fiscal year, with total receipts almost 10% above budget predictions and total expenses 9% under budget. This is a healthy direction to be going on both fronts and we pray that these trends will be sustained in the months to come.

As many of you know, Julie Windler is now a proud grandmother (granddaughter Elizabeth) and will be changing her work schedule to be able to coordinate daycare for Elizabeth. Her new work schedule, scaling down from 80% to 50% time, will now be full days on Tuesdays and Wednesdays plus Thursday mornings. Her Administrative Assistant, Orv Holland, is scheduled to work Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. **Either Julie or Orv may be contacted with any concerns relating to financial or building issues.**

We recently had a building energy audit performed under a special State of Minnesota program to help non-profit organizations conserve energy and benefit from lower utility costs as well as potential rebate programs. An energy specialist has provided us with lighting energy and cost savings audit results, primarily recommending that certain light fixtures be replaced with LED lighting. After rebates, the first phase would save approximately \$4,900 per year, resulting in a full payback of the cost of new lighting in just over three years. These lighting changes would include parking lot lights, flag lights, and lights in the narthex, plus occupancy sensors (motion detectors) especially in the main restrooms and most classrooms. These sensors will automatically turn on the lights upon entry and turn them off upon departure. Energy savings will result in the areas where there is a tendency for occupants to leave the room without turning the lights off.

Properties Commissioner Paul Olson is actively working on flooring options for Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. He will be securing floor samples that will complement and coordinate well with the existing wall paint colors in both areas.

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

Esther Circle: April 4 (1st Tuesday), 11:30 am in the Yorke Room at 7500 York.

Faith Circle: April 4 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Mickey L's home

Lydia Circle: April 11 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: April 12 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: April 23 (4th Sunday), 8:45 am, Heritage Room

April Matins Speakers (Wednesdays, 9am in the Fireside Room)

April 5: Sheryl Hill, "Depart Smart"

April 12: Dr. Jeffrey Forslund, "Sleep Problems"

April 19: Don Hassenstab, "World War I"

April 26: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Men's Fellowship Group gathering
Thursday, April 13, 2017; 9:00AM; House of Prayer Parish Hall (7625 Chicago Avenue South)

Guest speaker – Mr. Charlie Robbins, "Sailing – Recreation"

All men are invited for fellowship, devotions, topic, meet&greet, chat. Lots of fellowship, plan to join us! For more information call Noel Sagness (612) 866-0833.

April Senior Fellowship Outing: "Wife Begins at Forty" at the DayTrippers Theatre (9252 Old Cedar Road)

Thursday, April 27 – Lunch at 12:15, Play at 1:15. Cost: \$38.75 (checks made out to Woodlake, please)

It's a *laugh-a-minute* farcical evening when housewife Linda fans the flames of passion with her mild-mannered, ordinary husband, George. Throw in the assistance of their fun-loving neighbors Roger and Betty, along with George's live-in father Bernard and their independent son Leonard – and you have the formula for a belly rolling good time.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, April 27, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for April is *A Fireproof Home for the Bride* by Amy Scheibe. Join at any time!

Men's Spring Softball

The Woodgrove Saints, a men's softball team started by members of Woodlake Lutheran, Oak Grove Lutheran, and St. Richards Catholic Church, will again be playing this spring and summer in the Bloomington Bronze League for a ten game season on Thursday nights starting in late April. If you are looking for a "joy of the game" experience rather than competitive success, this might be the thing for you! Contact team manager Scott Dahlquist at (612) 919-9232 or at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net for more information.

SPRING SERIES: Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition

Thursday, April 6 – May 25, 2017, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Oak Grove Lutheran Church

7045 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield MN

Topics for April:

April 6: *Understanding Grief*, Mary Marcoux

April 13: MAUNDY THURSDAY - NO MEETING

April 20: *Is It Grief, or Something More?* Mary Harlow

April 27: *Grief & Self-Awareness*, David Englestad

Prayer POD?...What is a Prayer POD!?!?

As a collaboration of spirit filled pray-ers, we are forming Prayer PODs. This is an opportunity to be together in spirit with each other and with the Spirit of God to listen and pray.

- Prayer POD – Small groups of people (the POD) will be formed from the three congregations.
- Each POD will determine actual time spent.
- Each POD will determine whether the POD meets via phone, in person or in spirit.
- Each POD will determine what is prayed about. The PODs are meant to pray for each other and the concerns of POD members.
- All PODs will come together with the SLT on a semiannual (?) basis to determine how it is going.
- God will lead. Let Him!

An introductory meeting will be announced once interest is determined.

A contest to define the POD acronym is underway. (Example: **P**ray **o**r **D**iscuss) Send your entries to Bonnie Oien at bjoien@msn.com with POD in the subject line. The winner will receive a **\$25 Target gift card**. All entries must be received no later than 12 noon on April 30th.

To express interest in **joining a Prayer POD** please complete the following form and return it to your church office as soon as possible; no later than April 30th.

I am interested in joining a prayer POD!

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____