



Messenger

Woodlake Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the ELCA.*

Worship in August

Sunday Morning

10:00am *Outside on the lawn
(weather permitting) on the 1st and
3rd Sunday of the month*

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
Sunday9am – 11am

During the summer, the building
will close with the office if there
are no previously scheduled
evening activities.

*Articles for September's
issue of The Messenger
are due to*

*office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than August 15.*

Last Joint Worship of the Summer!

**Sunday, August 28, 10:30 am Joint Worship with Oak Grove
and House of Prayer at Veterans Memorial Park (6335
Portland Ave, located between Portland and 11th Avenues,
66th Street and Crosstown Hwy 62)**

Join us for our last joint worship of the summer! Worship at
10:30am, followed by lunch. Meet us directly at the park, as
our church building will be closed. There are picnic tables in
the shelter, but bring lawn chairs if you have them! As a
reminder, offerings in individual church envelopes will go to
those churches, and loose offerings will go to Tapestry.

For August, we are responsible for providing worship,
including a music performance with children, parents and
families from all three churches. Please contact our music
director Jeong Lee at jlee@woodlakechurch.org or by phone at
[612-866-8449](tel:612-866-8449) for more information.

Don't worry – if outdoor worship isn't your thing, we will still
have our Saturday evening 5pm chapel service.

Coming up next..

It's hard to believe, but fall is just around the corner. We'll
have more details in coming weeks, but mark your calendars
for these important dates!

September 11

Rally Sunday

ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands"

September 18

First day of Sunday School

Penn Fest

Pastor's Corner

"ARE YOU THERE?"

It is the question that every Woodlake member might be afraid to ask of those who live in the neighborhood surrounding the church. "What would be missing from your life if Woodlake Lutheran Church was not here?" What would our neighbors say if we were ask this question of those who live around us? What might they say? Maybe they would miss the parking lot. More likely they might answer that there is nothing they would miss if we were not here. Not the answer we are looking for.

So as a way to begin to get the word out that we are here as a church of Jesus Christ, and here to do more than just serve our own needs, we are planning two events for the month of September:

#1. "God's Work – Our Hands." This program is done in ELCA congregations all over the country. On Sunday, September 11, we set aside some time on a Sunday morning to do acts of service for the community and the world in which we live. There will be something for everybody to do. More details to follow.

#2. "Penn Fest." Penn Fest is on Sept 18. It is a block party where businesses, groups, and organizations on Penn Avenue have a chance to get the word out about who they are and what they have going on. Penn Avenue is closed off for the afternoon so people can walk, bike, stroll along Penn Avenue and see what is there. Last year, over 7000 people attended. What could we do to let the neighborhood know we are here? Let me know your thoughts.

Maybe the neighborhood will notice us.

In His Service, Pastor Charlie

Did you know...?

... we had nearly 400 people at our second joint service at the park with House of Prayer and Oak Grove?

... twelve youth and three adults are on a mission trip to Toronto, Canada?

Worship and Music Notes

I love the sanctuary at Woodlake. Its acoustics allow us to create beautiful sounds; we are so lucky to have it.

In this special place, there was a concert held by the Maryland State Boychoir on Tuesday, July 12, at 7: 30pm. They sang a number of songs; for one hour, the sound of their voices filled the sanctuary.



Thankfully, they gave us another chance to listen their music during Matins the next morning.

To perform the concert, we needed lots of preparation. The Leadership board, church staff, Congregational Life team, the host families, Josh and volunteers to prepare their meals, Julia, Gordy and Jeffrey.... I can't find the words to express my gratitude. Their efforts made this possible and it was a big pleasure and great experience to work with them. I hope we can have wonderful opportunities like this more often.

We invite you and your neighbors to another mini concert in our sanctuary on August 3 at 12:15pm to 12: 45pm. This month's performer is Mary Newton.

I envision our sanctuary to be a space where we collaborate to create and share the joy of music. We are very lucky to be able to host these special events and I hope you can join me in extending our blessings to our friends and family.

Friday August 26th 6:00 pm Family Fun Night!



Bring your Friends and Family!

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, August 26th, for a good ole American tradition. Let's get together for fellowship, popcorn, cotton candy, and a Minnesota Twins baseball game!

Everyone is welcomed to this event. Come on out and enjoy the Minnesota Twins vs. the Toronto Blue Jays on the projection screen in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to bring a dish or dessert to share, it would be much appreciated. We hope to see you there!

Sunday School Registration Coming Soon!



Summer is already halfway over, and it's time to start thinking about fall. Registration forms for Sunday school will be available on August 1st and will be accepting applications until September 3rd. Applications will be available in Woodlake church's main office and via email (please contact Heather at hwageman@woodlakechurch.org). Please stop by to fill one out if you're planning on your child attending Sunday school this coming fall. There is no cost and we hope to see you in the fall!

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

On Friday, July 8th, our Bishop issued a call for a prayer vigil at Luther Seminary. The call was issued in response to the ongoing violence including the deaths of Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, and the Dallas Police Officers. She called to prayer first and then to action. I have to admire her. It seems too often we act first and think to pray about it later. But she had it in the right order – first we pray then we proceed into action. In her words, “we march!”

So on Friday, July 8th, my eldest son and I responded to our Bishop’s call. We went to Luther Seminary for a prayer vigil and marched to the site of the Philando Castile shooting. We followed the seminary cross bearers and sang “We Shall Overcome,” “This Little Light of Mine,” “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me,” and “We Are Called” in between silent prayer. As we approached, we noticed the family, friends, and clergy standing vigil suddenly become alert. I turned around to see what they were responding to. I saw a Christian cross followed by a line of people almost ¾ of a mile long, praying and singing. What a sight! As we neared the corner where Philandro’s life was taken, we were greeted by the Black Community gathered there with tearful hugs, handshakes, and “thank you’s.” We had brought comfort in a small way.

The vigil was beautiful. One speaker was a Luther Seminary worker (one of the many people of color that make it possible for us to train our Seminarians) who talked of driving the same route every day that Philando Castile drove, and he too has a missing tail light. He talked about his fear and fear for his children that he experiences every day of his life. As I listened to this giant man with a very loving heart (I’ve run into him before at Luther), I began to reflect on how many times I was given the benefit of the doubt because I was white. The Bishop then called for our repentance before we could lament. Repent for what? For me, it was being lulled to sleep by what appeared to be progress after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was martyred. I told myself we were progressing. Like most Christians, I fell asleep at the wheel, (sounds like shades of the Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, doesn’t it? Falling asleep while Jesus was in agony.) Then the Bishop asked us to decide on

one new step we personally could take to hold our hand out in care, in compassion, in renewed commitment to all God’s people. The least we can do, is to pray.

So as the Commissioner of Congregational Care I hold out a prayer for your consideration:

Home At Last

O Gracious God,
Whose lover’s quarrel with us
Is our anguish, history, and hope,
We confess that too often we lack courage
To join your lover’s quarrel
With ourselves and the world.

We have not quarreled with power
When it’s used for only the privilege of the few
Because too often we are the privileged.
We have not quarreled with the cleverness
That turns truth into lies that profit some
Because too often we are the profited.
We have not quarreled with the arrogance
That dictates the domination of one race
Or nation, or gender or religion
Because too often we’re the dominators.

Have mercy on us, heal us, Lord,
And deliver us from self-promotion,
Cowardice and lack of compassion.
Then empower us to be among those
Who dare to do things that are just and beautiful,
True and faithful, visionary and deeply joyful,
So that we may be free and whole
And home at last, home where we truly belong,
Home with our true selves,
Home with each other,
Home in the human family.
Home with you,
Through Christ Jesus,
Amen.

(Prayer origin – Rev. Dr. Theodore W. Loder of First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Philadelphia).

*In Your Name We Pray, O Lord,
Kathleen Reidell,
Commissioner of Congregational Care*

Building and Finances

The following is a listing of many of the entities that the special offering envelopes were used for. This information is also listed right inside the flap of your offering envelope packets. You can write any of these on the special envelopes in the offering packets or the offering envelopes that are in the pews.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Supporting the central-city ministry of Woodlake's "mother congregation"

Global Mission Partners

Supporting these ministries: Chinese Hospitality Center, Tanzanian Wandering Shepherds, North India Theological Center

Woodlake College Scholarships

Encouraging our high school graduates to attend college

VEAP – Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People

Giving food and supplies to needy folks in Richfield, Bloomington, and Edina

Loaves and Fishes

Serving meals for hungry people in the Richfield community

Families Moving Forward

Providing sleeping rooms for temporarily homeless families

Woodlake Faith Family Fund

Providing assistance to those attendees of Woodlake in need of aid

Emergency Fund

Providing assistance to those in need

Youth Activities

Supporting activities, camps, and mission trips

Children's Ministry

Supplying our children's ministry with extra resources

St. Mary's Health Clinic

Helping those in need with medical assistance

From the Records

Deaths and Funerals

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Kenneth Erickson, October 4, 1940 - January 19, 2016; Memorial service at Woodlake on July 9, 2016

Elinor Schultz, March 19, 1924 – June 30, 2016; Memorial service at Woodlake on July 10, 2016

Thank you...

... to everyone who pulled off a flawless "United for VEAP" event! The fellowship hall looked gorgeous, the meal got rave reviews, and everyone had a chance to learn more about what VEAP does in our community.... All while raising money for VEAP!

... to the many people who helped us to provide lunches for our 4th of July picnic and joint park worship service, whether you brought a salad or dessert, helped set up, provided a cooler or transportation, or anything else!

... to everyone who helped with last month's Maryland Boychoir concert, hosted a member of the Boychoir, or who came to support the concert!

Small Groups and Circles

Attention, Small Group and Circle Leaders!

Please talk to Julia by August 15 to confirm your schedule for the fall. We would like to have an accurate listing of all of our small groups and circles ready for the September Messenger. Julia can be reached at the church office at 612-866-8449 ext. 10 or by email at office@woodlakechurch.org

Fall Women's Retreat: "Life is Crazy Good" September 23 - 25, 2016

This is a spiritually enriching and fun experience—kind of like going to Bible Camp for adults. There are cabins and also a lodge (for those who don't want to walk up the hilly grounds). The combination of Christian music, a dynamic speaker, and good food makes for a great fall getaway! If interested please contact Carol Olson: [612-281-7137](tel:612-281-7137) or by e-mail at webercarol19@yahoo.com. It would be fun to get a group together!

Retreat details:

Mount Carmel Ministries
800 Mount Carmel Drive NE
PO Box 579
Alexandria, Mn. 56308
[320-846-2744](tel:320-846-2744)
<http://www.mountcarmelministries.com/>

Timber Lodge in August and Beyond!

You can go ahead and mark your calendars up through the rest of the year!

Thursday, August 18th
Monday, September 26th
Tuesday, October 11th
Thursday, November 17th
Monday, December 12th

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, August 25, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for August is *The Secret Place* by Tana French.

SUMMER SERIES CONTINUES
Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition
Thursdays, July 7 – August 25, 2016,
4:30-6:00 p.m.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
8400 France Avenue South
Contact: 952-831-4746

August 4

"Family Matters: Impact of Loss & Grief"
Edward Holland

August 11

"Wellness During Grief"
Phyllis Bruce

August 18

"Gender Differences in Grief"
Brenda DeMott

August 25

"Multiple Loss"
Julie Ditzler

VEAP Back to School Drive



VEAP is collecting donations for the 2016 *Back to School Program* to provide 3,300 students in K-12 with new backpacks and grade-appropriate school supplies. Please bring your donations to the church office by **August 9th**.

WISHLIST: Backpacks; Spiral Notebooks (Wide & College ruled); Composition Notebooks; Two Pocket Folders (Solid Colors/No Prongs); #2 Pencils; Pens (Blue, Black, and Red Ink); Markers (Basic Colors); Colored Pencils (12 ct); Crayons (24 ct); Glue Sticks; Pencil Box/Pouch; Highlighters; Rulers; Erasers (Large Pink); Glue Bottles; Scissors; Dry Erase Markers

Also, you may contribute with a personal check made out to "Woodlake Lutheran Church" with VEAP written on the Memo line. Thanks for your continued support!