



# Messenger

## Woodlake

### Lutheran Church

7525 Oliver Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-8449

[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://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

#### Wednesday Evening Lenten

(Begins Feb 10)

6:30 pm in the sanctuary

### Church Office Hours

Monday .....9am – 1pm  
Tuesday .....9am – 4pm  
Wednesday .....9am – 4pm  
Thursday .....9am – 4pm  
Friday .....9am – 4pm  
Saturday .....9am – 12pm  
Sunday ..... 9am – 11am

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

*Articles for March's issue of  
The Messenger are due to  
[office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org)  
no later than February 15.*



*February 10*

*Services at*

*12pm and 6:30pm*

**Pastor Charlie preaches:**

**Renouncing the Forces, Powers, and  
Ways of Sin**

### *Lent 2016: Mid-Week Pulpit Exchange*

This Lent, as our congregations (House of Prayer, Woodlake, and Oak Grove) continue to look for ways to work together, we will have a pulpit exchange during our mid-week Wednesday night Lenten services. This means we will not only have the pleasure of hearing from new voices, but also making new connections with the other pastors in the community. Pastor Tom Zarth from Oak Grove and Pastor Ben Sandin from House of Prayer will be with us on different occasions.

All three churches will be following the same themes for Lent. Our focus will be on the covenant God made with us at baptism and how we can live that out in our lives.

### Lenten Worship Schedule

#### Wednesdays, 6:30pm in Woodlake's Sanctuary

**February 17:** Live Among God's Faithful People (Pastor Tom Zarth)

**February 24:** Hear the Word and Share in the Supper (Pastor Ben Sandin)

**March 2:** Proclaim the Good News in Word and Deed (Pastor Fred Hanson)

**March 9:** Serve All People, Following the Example of Jesus (Pastor Tom Zarth)

**March 16:** Strive for Justice and Peace (Pastor Ben Sandin)

Please join us for worship and connect!



## Soup Suppers in Lent

*Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30pm  
(beginning with Ash  
Weds on Feb 10)*

Tex Johnson and Josh Frueh are joining forces to coordinate this year's soup suppers. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, either by yourself or with a group, contact either of them (call or email the office if you need their numbers).



***Just say no to canned  
soup during Lent!***

Come enjoy fresh  
delicious soup and fun  
conversation, every  
Wednesday!

No sign up necessary.

# Around the Table

*Notes From Your Leadership Board*

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*

-John 1:14a (The Message translation)

**J**esus, the Word made flesh, didn't just come – He moved in. He didn't come to tweak the Law, or to tell the people what they were doing "wrong." He came to start something new, in the neighborhood, for you and for me. He came to show us the way of Truth and of Light. He came to transform our hearts. He came to show us the Coulds instead of the Shoulds for our lives. And to do that, he moved into The 'Hood **to be among us and of us** so that we could be OF Him, THROUGH Him, and, most importantly for me, WITH Him. And His promise to be with us always stands– He is still in our neighborhood.

The neighborhood of Woodlake Church, the home of Woodlake Lutheran's faith community, is Richfield, MN. That means we are also neighbors to Bloomington, Edina, and So Minneapolis. It means we are neighbors to many people of Hispanic, African, European and Asian ethnic origins. It means we are part of a huge neighborhood – and Christ dwells in all of that neighborhood. Our church's core values all include being missional by living the Word, to our neighbors without as well as within: being missional not just to ourselves but to our whole neighborhood. Living reminders that we are one in Christ.

Woodlake has embarked on conversations with Oak Grove Lutheran and House of Prayer Lutheran, to consolidate our mission to Christ in our neighborhoods through joint collaboration of core values we share through programming, worship, and community events, to name a few. The pastors and leaders from all three churches have met twice, and will meet again at Woodlake to continue conversations about how best to pool our resources to meet the needs of our neighbors, our members, and even our buildings. We are blessed to be in a position to take part and help lead to further the Word and faith we all share to the neighbors we all share. The two meetings have been well attended and received by the pastors and leaders – there is a spirit of cooperation and oneness resulting in productive ideas and anticipation of a bright future ahead. A Task Force has been formed to work on a job description for a joint discernment team to assess our near future plans. You will be kept informed as much as possible, and questions are always welcome.

Beginning April 1, a team from St. Mary's Clinic will be using the building ½ day per week to provide assistance to people who are uninsured and/or under insured who have medical needs. We are blessed to be able to host this mission to our neighborhood. Please keep this mission in your prayers.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This season is a time of meditation, selfless giving, and thanksgiving to God for sending us His Word made flesh and blood so that He could come and move into the neighborhood.

- Anne Romstad, Leadership Board President

# Pastor's Corner

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*Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. <sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. <sup>7</sup>I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

Psalm 16:5-8

## Wisdom

**A**s many of you know, I like to work out at the YMCA. I noticed that during the months of October, November, and December there weren't very many people attending, but the week after New Year's Day you couldn't even find a parking spot as people were living out their New Year's resolutions to get in shape. The good news for me is that by the end of February there will be plenty of parking spots again.

It's hard to live into those New Year's resolutions, but I like the idea that people are thinking about what's important in their lives. This year I'm praying for wisdom. Biblically, wisdom is the ability to apply God's truth to real life situations; the ability to understand God's will and the resolve to live it out. However, because we are flawed human beings we can get sidetracked. We get caught up caught up in huge self-improvement projects of our own making that have little to do with God's desire for us. I think that's why so many New Year's resolutions don't last very long.

Joyce Rupp writes, "We need wisdom so that we will know when to embrace our imperfect selves with compassion and when to give our imperfect selves a swift kick in the right direction. Divine guidance is a source of wisdom for us that helps us to know when to embrace ourselves and when to not give in to ourselves. Guidance implies that someone knows the way, Jesus, the Good Shepherd who is willing to walk with us and, if necessary, carry us. Guidance gives us the opportunity to listen to someone who has much more wisdom than we do."

The Bible says that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." I think people get tripped up on that word "fear," so another way to say that is that wisdom can only dwell and work in the heart of someone who is humble; someone that not only loves Jesus more than anything, but admits that they need Jesus to show him or her the way. The other way that we open ourselves to God's wisdom is through prayer, and a great place to start is with the psalms.

As you begin to prepare for your Journey through Lent, I encourage you to select a few psalms that you can read and pray along with for a day or week at a time. Invite the Spirit of God to dwell within you and give you the wisdom you desire and need.

May God with you with wisdom and love!

*Pastor Fred*

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## Tapestry Updates

*Buenas tardes!*

**W**hat a week! I have had wonderful meetings with folks from Crossroads and others who are working together to help people keep their homes. I've been meeting with pastors who want to work with us so that we are sustainable. And I've been meeting with people who want to help us share our story of Tapestry!

**We are back to meeting at 5pm on Sundays in the Woodlake Narthex.** I know it will be cold outside but we will be warm inside! We'll meet at 4 to rehearse, so join us if you want to help lead songs. We'll worship at 5 and eat together afterward. Josh, the chef of Loaves & Fishes has been preparing delicious meals!

**Kids music:** The musicians and I recently led worship at Transfiguration Lutheran in Bloomington. We'd like to have kids/youth lead some of our music, probably once a month to begin. Kids would meet at 4 before a service to learn a song or two. Do you have a child who would be interested? Low key. Fun. Let me know!

- *Pastor Melissa Melnick*

*mmelnick@woodlakechurch.org*

# Worship and Music Notes

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**H**ave you ever had a dream? “I Have a Dream” is a public speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963.

“...I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight ... and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together...

“...When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, ‘Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’ “

While I read his speech, I could feel his desire, faith, hope, and passion. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. His dream changed the world.

Can you imagine?

Do you have a dream?

I’m asking myself the same question.

What kind of dream do I have? What kind of plan do I have?

The beginning of the year is good time to think about it.

My sons and I used to spend time some time on New Year’s Eve writing our dreams and goals for the new year.

It is a good time to share our thoughts and goals even though that’s not enough to share.

Some years ago, I read a book by Rick Warren called ‘The Purpose-Driven Life’.

It was long time ago, and I can’t remember the details but it has made me who I am today.

What on earth am I here for? There is a reason for everybody. God gave each of us a purpose.

I have a dream and am trying to have little concrete goals to make it come true.

I want to have a dream in God.

This is my favorite song.

“But seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

(Matthew 6:33)

“Seek Ye first and the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; And all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone, But by every word. That proceeds out from the mouth of God. Hallelu, Hallelujah!”

- HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

# Children, Youth, and Family

2016 FEBRUARY!

You are Loved!

BE, BELONG, BECOME, HAVE FUN!

## Children's Ministry

**Sunday school:** 3 years-6th grade

Sundays 10:00-10:55, Rooms C&D

February 7, 21, and 28th

## Confirmation Class for youth in Grades 7-9

Sundays 10:00-10:55, Room F

February 7, 21, and 28

*Lenten Mentors Start!!!* On Wednesday February 10

Come to Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30PM

Lenten Mentors will meet after worship in the Fireside Room

## Youth Group for youth Grades 9-12

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

February 3, 10, 17, and 24

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!



## 4TH ANNUAL VALENTINES

### CARD MAKING EVENT!!

### Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, following 11 o'clock worship

Immediately following 11:00AM worship, join us in the Fireside Room where we will make cards for Woodlake's Homebound Members (and anyone else with whom you would like to share your love)! If you'd like to come, consider bringing supplies or a pot-luck item to share.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Kirsten Hargreaves: [kirstenhargreaves1@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenhargreaves1@gmail.com)



# Keeping in Touch

*The Congregational Care Corner*

## “HOW’S YOUR FAITH? - A QUESTION FOR LENT”

**H**ow’s your faith? This is a question that I asked in my sermon back on December 27. I suggested it was a good question to ask ourselves as we ended one year and began another. Likewise, I think it is a good question to ask as we come once again to the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 10). So how’s your faith?

Lent is a time to reflect upon this sort of question. It is time to ask ourselves “How is it between us and God?” None of us can answer these questions for others, only for ourselves. But I invite you to take a look at where you are in your faith as we journey through Lent this year.

Where are you doing well? Where are you falling short? What do feel you need to work on? Do all of this in light of what Jesus Christ has done for us through His death and resurrection. A Christ who understands, who is merciful, who forgives and who restores

*Have a blessed Lent,*

*Pastor Charlie*

## FLU SHOTS

*It’s not too late!* Last year over 30,000 people died from the flu in this country. Get a flu shot. Don’t be one of those who dies. You owe it to yourself.

Also, get a flu shot so you are not a carrier and infect others. The old and the young are the most vulnerable (Think your grandchildren and your grandparents). Spare them. Get a flu shot. You owe it to them.

## WOODLAKE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We will meet at 6:00pm on Monday, February 1 in the Fireside Room. Information on other grief support resources in the area can be found at:

[www.allinahealth.org/griefsupport](http://www.allinahealth.org/griefsupport)

## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

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

There is a need for 2-3 more homebound visitors. Talk to Pastor Charlie or a member of the homebound ministry committee if you are interested or would like more information.

Continuing ed in April will be on “Hospice.” This event will be open to the congregation.

## BLOOMINGTON-RICHFIELD GRIEF SUPPORT COALITION

Winter 2016 Session

Thursdays, January 7 – February 25

4:30-6pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Ave. S (612-866-8471)

*Topics for Remaining Winter 2016 Sessions:*

**February 4:** Why Do I Feel Like I’m Going Crazy?

**February 11:** Grief and Intimacy

**February 18:** Searching for a Different Normal

**February 25:** Common Grief Reactions

*Upcoming Sessions*

**Spring 2016:** April 7 – May 26 at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

**Summer 2016:** July 7 – August 25 at St. Stephen Lutheran Church

## Craft Sale 2015 GRAND TOTALS!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our craft sale last November. Many staff members plus organizers, advertisers, vendors, bakers, cooks, eaters, and shoppers helped earn \$4015.51.

Table Rental: \$1650

Book Sale: \$193

Bake Sale: \$1010.50

Food Sales: \$652.01

Grannie’s Attic: \$520

That means church keeps 10% (\$402.56), the library keeps \$173, and three local missions get \$1,149.75 each – VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, and Families Moving Forward. Congratulations!

# Mission and Outreach

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**American  
Red Cross**

## **Blood Drive at Woodlake Monday, February 29 12-6pm, Fellowship Hall**

Extreme winter weather and seasonal illnesses often make it difficult for the American Red Cross to maintain a sufficient blood supply at this time of year. Healthy, eligible donors are urged to give blood this winter.

Blood donors of all types, especially those with types AB, O, B negative and A negative, are needed to ensure blood is available whenever and wherever needed.

Beginning in February, the office will have an information packet which will answer all of your questions as to whether you are eligible to donate. If you cannot donate, please consider volunteering to help or take some fliers to post around the community, and help us get the word out!

If you want to donate, there are three ways to register for an appointment...

**In person** at the church office – just sign up! We also have literature with common FAQ's regarding eligibility. (Sign up beginning in February)

**By phone** – just call us at 612-866-8449 and we'll get you signed up. (Sign up beginning in February)

**Online** – Go to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> Type "wlc" in the "find a blood drive" box. (Online signups are open!)

## Loaves and Fishes

*We received this email about Josh Frueh, our kitchen coordinator and Loaves and Fishes site coordinator.*

Good morning,

Last night my group of eight volunteered to serve at Loaves and Fishes at your church.

For the past two years, my group has volunteered once a month at various places in the Twin Cities. I have to say that the experience last night was our favorite so far!

Josh Frueh is the most welcoming and organized leader I have met!

He was clear in his direction, gave us all the tools we needed without asking, and was so gracious and patient with us, that we all had a blast!

Before going into the adult foster care business, I worked with the public for 36 years.

What impressed me the most about Josh was his relationship with the people we served. He knew them by name and they hugged him or shook his hand and they made it a point to thank him. They knew they were valued and they felt the love of Christ.

We had so much fun, we plan on signing up to serve every month!

Please pass on my warmest regards to Josh and his kitchen crew..... the well-oiled machine in motion!!!

## **Loaves and Fishes Free Community Meals are served every Saturday and Sunday at Woodlake from 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Remember -- Loaves and Fishes practices a "no questions asked" policy. Simply walk into one of our dining sites during meal time, and pick up a hot, nutritious meal at no cost to you. You are always welcome to join in for food and fellowship!

To volunteer with Josh at meals hosted by Woodlake, please sign up at the link below. Signups are handled by Loaves and Fishes and done exclusively online, but if you do not have internet access please call the church office (612-866-8449) and we'd be happy to sign you up.

<http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/woodlake.html>

# Small Group and Circle News

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## *Circles*

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

**Dorcas Circle:** Feb 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room

**Esther Circle:** Feb 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), 10am, Apartment 829 at 7500 York

**Faith Circle:** Feb 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday), 7:00 pm in member homes

**Sunday Morning Circle:** Feb 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), 10:00am in the Heritage Room

**Lydia Circle:** Feb 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

**Rebecca / Sarah Circle:** Feb 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room

## *Faith and Fellowship Program: The Bloomingtons!*

**Thursday, Feb 18, 12pm in the Fellowship Hall** Lunch catered by Dave Larsen at 12pm, and the program starts at 1pm. The Bloomingtons are a wonderful singing group led by our own Alice Olson, and you'll see many familiar faces in the group.

Sign up sheet will be in the office soon!

## *Faith and Fellowship Speakers for February– Wednesdays, 9am, Fireside Room*

Feb 3: "Clinic of an Indian Village," Hazel Lutz and Tom Anderson

Feb 10: "Sheridan Story," Rob Williams

Feb 17: Lung Cancer," Jill Titmer

Feb 24: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

## *Faith and Fiction Book Club*

Meets Thursday, February 25, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for February is *The American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin.

# Announcements

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## **Timber Lodge in 2016!**

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!

Thurs, February 18

Mon, March 21

Tues, April 19

Thurs, May 12

Mon, June 6

Tues, July 5

## **Interfaith Opportunity**

**Sun, Feb 7, 2:00pm, Ethel Berry Room of Southdale Library**

You are invited to a presentation by the Minneapolis Interfaith Initiative concerning the "Pope and Climate Change." Presentation will be by Dr. Amy Levad, Associate Professor of Moral Theology at the University of St. Thomas. She will give an overview of **Laudato Si** (On Care of our Common Home).

It's free and all are welcome!

- Kathleen Reidell, Commissioner of Congregational Care

## **Bowling for Doughnuts Fellowship Event**

**Sun, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**12:30 – 2:00 p.m. at Southtown Lanes.**

Look for the signup sheet in the Narthex. You're encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, and family, extended family, anyone you know! Everyone who participates receives a doughnut if they want one, but you can also win other pastries for things like highest score, lowest score, most strikes, most gutter balls, best team uniforms, etc. The goal, though, is to get together and have fun.