



# Messenger

## 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

Woodlake Lutheran Church is a congregation of the ELCA.

### Worship Schedule

**Sunday Morning**  
10:00am in the Sanctuary

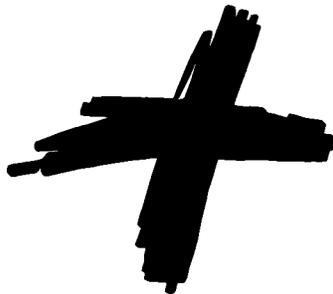
**Saturday Evening**  
5:00pm in the Chapel

**Wednesday Morning Matins**  
8:00am in the Chapel

**Wednesday Evening Lenten**  
*Begins February 14*  
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

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



## Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14

Worship at 12pm (Chapel)  
and 6:30pm (Sanctuary)

Soup Suppers (February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21): 5:30 – 6:30pm. No advance signup necessary; freewill offering accepted.

Lenten Worship from 6:30 – 7:00pm in Woodlake's sanctuary.

### Goodbye and Hello...

Pastor Charlie's last weekend with us will be January 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Pastor Charlie, for your leadership over the past year and a half. You will be missed! Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday to say goodbye to the Plasters.

Woodlake looks forward to welcoming our new senior pastor, Pastor Micah Pearson, and his family on February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 2 for more info about Pastor Micah!

**Mission Trip News:** The Senior High youth mission trip will be going to the Youth Works site of Harrisburg, PA from July 21st-29th. All youth who will have completed 9th-12th grades next summer are welcome to join the trip, including friends, grandchildren, etc. of any person connected to Woodlake. **Reserve your spot by making a deposit of \$150 to the church office by FEBRUARY 4th.** Registrations are welcome after that date but will only be honored if there is still space available. Total trip cost will be \$700. Several fundraisers are being planned to help youth offset the costs of the trip. We are also still looking for chaperones. Contact Kara Beckman at [952-484-3627](tel:952-484-3627) or [beckml18@gmail.com](mailto:beckml18@gmail.com) with questions.

# Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

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“Evelyn Smiley Wants a Christmas Pageant!”

**A**round the middle to the end of October, 2017, at a Tuesday afternoon Staff meeting I heard those words. Good, I thought. Who’s putting it on? I thought. No one yet, I learned. I also thought that that was the title of a published pageant until I heard “...a girl in our Sunday School named Evelyn Smiley wants a Christmas Pageant...so we need to find a pageant and put one on.” Bingo – almost the end of our fiscal year with the Annual Meeting coming up, Leadership Board membership changes to be made, Advent services planning looming, and all the Christmas services following Advent were weighing on our minds.

Long story short, after Thanksgiving and right before Advent began, our music director Jeong Lee found a pageant we could use called “Starry Night, Noisy Night.” I inquired about the progress of the pageant a week or so later and learned that Jeong, because there was music in it, and I, because I was the new Children’s Ministry Commissioner, would be putting the pageant together for the December 17 worship service. I wanted to panic but because Evelyn Smiley wanted a Christmas pageant by golly we were going to have a Christmas pageant..

Thank you to Kirsten Hargreaves who rallied the troops in Sunday School and managed the costumes, Jeong Lee who prepared the Children’s Choir music, Pr Charlie and Deb Jungers who allowed me to enlist members of the Confirmation Class, and Kara Beckman who allowed me to find Collin Wegener and Molly Olson to take lead responsibilities in the “production.” AND, a special thank you for extras from Confirmation who helped Gage Vizecky and Deb Jungers put up the set and props, and members of the Adult Choir who provided lovely background music and all the parents who helped out without being asked. We did it with only 3 possible rehearsals!

Evelyn Smiley’s wish for a Christmas pageant turned out to be an inter-generational congregational effort and was well received. See what happens when one person asks for a function that will enhance worship for everyone? The rest of the Sr Hi Youth provided a wonderful bake sale at the same time so all of our needs were met.

We have an active children and youth ministry going on thanks to many volunteers who put the value of this ministry high enough to use their valuable personal time to make it happen. *We can all take part in that ministry.* Thank the volunteers who help direct it. Greet the children and youth in a way that values them. And try to support their fund raising activities. I am proud of all of them.

The Sr Hi Youth will be going on a mission trip to Harrisburg, PA, in July. Please keep their preparations and related activities in your prayers.

- Anne Romstad, Children and Youth Commissioner

## Introducing our new Senior Pastor, Micah Pearson!



**Join us for worship on February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> for Pastor Micah’s first weekend here! Stay after church on Sunday for a meet and greet.**

**Micah Pearson** was most recently the Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in East Bethel, Minnesota. He grew up in Cambridge, MN and graduated from Cambridge-Isanti High School. He attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA and became a high school English Teacher through Teach for America in Marianna, AR. While teaching, he received a call to ministry, which led him to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He graduated with an MDIV in 2014 and was called to St. Andrew Lutheran Church. He is married to Linnea, who is a math teacher in the Hopkins school district. They recently became parents, giving birth to Sanna Grace who was born September 27, 2017.

## Building and Finances

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After retesting of the floor in Fellowship Hall, it has been determined that the moisture levels are within the acceptable range and the new vinyl floor should be installed by Easter. Any smaller areas that are borderline high moisture will be sealed with a special sealer.

## Pastor's Corner

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WALKING FORWARD  
TOGETHER.....during Lent

A woman was leaving her meeting with a therapist for the final session. "You saved my life, you know!" she reminded her helper.....and the therapist replied "You saved it yourself! But I'm glad I could help."

The season of LENT is a great reminder that we walk the journey of faith together, helping each other along the way. This year, as we walk together through the book of Mark, we start the path alongside the Disciples when we hear Jesus say "Follow me!"

In Mark there is no individualism, no being left on your own, no pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. No, "follow me and good luck with that." Rather, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." (Mark 1:17). That is, follow me and more followers are to come. Follow me and you will never be by yourself. Notice -- Jesus calls them together, not separately. Andrew and Simon. Then James and John. Discipleship is not an autonomous profession.

We live in a culture of "DIY" Do-It-Yourself. It is fashionable to create your own personal "spiritual path" - mixing together beliefs that suit your tastes. Jesus calls us to walk alongside each other, helping the other up when one falls, reminding the other of the great truth that there are times we CANNOT save ourselves, we must rely on the grace of a loving presence that we see shining through the face and life of those who walk with us.

This upcoming time of Lent offers worship and gathering opportunities on Sunday AND Wednesday. Take advantage of these times to share life with one another, get to know your new Pastor and his family, and keep in mind our wonderful calling to share the love of Christ with each other and the world.

- Pastor Joanne Sorenson

## Worship and Music Notes

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*When I'm happy, when I'm happy, God loves me, God loves me, God gave me feelings many different feelings God loves me God loves me.*

*When I'm sad, when I'm sad, God loves me, God loves me, God gave me feelings many different feelings God loves me God loves me.*

*When I'm angry, when I'm angry, God loves me, God loves me, God gave me feelings many different feelings God loves me God loves me.*

*When I'm silly, when I'm silly, God loves me, God loves me, God gave me feelings many different feelings God loves me God loves me."*

This song was sung by our children during Sunday service on Jan. 14. The song is based on the melody of "Are you sleeping?" Melody and text are simple and easy to learn. We have many different feelings that God gave us. And we are using these feelings every day and every moment. Sometimes, we realize we are so angry that it doesn't seem so good. But, the feelings that we don't like was also given by God. Only thing we have to know is how to use those feelings for ourselves and for each other wisely. Do you think that God gave you many different feelings and God loves you? Children will learn and understand those things through the song.

When I restarted the children's choir, it seemed nobody was interested in the program and it was also hard to control them by myself during rehearsals. They couldn't stay in their chairs, they wandered around. Their behavior was so out of control that I felt exhausted after each rehearsal, even though I had a career as a teacher. I couldn't guarantee to continue the program that I pursued. Sometimes, it makes give up my vision for children. I want to let children who are attending Woodlake participate in the program and grow their faith with others through the program. But, I used to be so frustrated with the reality.

At one of rehearsals during January, I picked out and taught a song for February. My goal was to let them participate in worship as leaders, not as an audience. One time, second Sunday of the month. Still, it was hard to control the situation. I made several rules and gave them the Expectations. They need to know and accept the rules. I let them go back to their parents if they don't follow. We are not having perfect rehearsals but are learning and having better rehearsals. The song that I picked for February is "God is So Good." We sang together and children made the motion with every verse by themselves. And you will watch how they are adorable and growing. They are the hope at Woodlake. They need your support and prayer.

*"God is so good, God is good, God is so good, He's so good to me!  
He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He's so good to me!*

*God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, He's good to me!*

*I praise His name, I Praise His name, I praise His name, He's good to me!"*

- HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

## Mission and Outreach

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**Mittens wanted!** When the Hats and Wraps knitters delivered hats to the Richfield schools, there was a request for mittens. If you like to knit, or if you can find some mittens on sale after Christmas, bring them to the box in the church office and we will get them to the schools. Let's help the kids stay warm!

**Food for VEAP:** After the holidays is one of the slowest times for food donations at VEAP. And the need is great as people often need to make a choice between paying for heat or food. Please leave any food you bring in the grocery cart in the office. And remember, VEAP can buy more with each dollar than you can.

**The Sandwich Project:** The Sandwich Project was established to feed at least 150 homeless people as many days of the year as possible. Now they feed about 4,500 homeless people per week through various shelters and food shelves. On Sunday, March 18, join our Sunday School kids to make 300 Sandwiches. We'll start right after church, and we'll be done before noon.

**Families Moving Forward:** *Longing for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone* (Christ, Be Our Light; Hymn #715, ELCA Book of Worship). Christian songs and sacred writings are full of metaphors that many are familiar with, even those who do not have an extensive church background. Many of these make references to things that most of us no longer have any direct experience with (i.e. shepherding), but we still find comfort in them. With verse two of *Christ Be Our Light*, however, we as a congregation will have chance to live something out in a real and present manner when we host families experiencing homelessness with Families Moving Forward (FMF) from March 4-11. The families work with staff at a day center in North Minneapolis on transitioning to stable housing. In the evening they are bused to participating congregations where they are fed, provided a place to stay and sleep for the night. In the morning after a quick breakfast they are bused back to the day center. Volunteers will be needed to set up rooms, help prepare meals, act as hosts, wash dishes, stay overnight, and clean up after the week is through. Look for the sign-up display in the narthex starting February 18<sup>th</sup>. The primary source of volunteers for this ministry are church members from Woodlake Lutheran, along with members from Oak Grove and House of Prayer; however, if you have family or friends that would enjoy participating in this, feel free to invite them along with you. Be sure to check out the *Woodlake Lutheran FMF Handbook*, available at the sign up table or on the church website (<http://woodlakechurch.org/volunteer-opportunities/>) Contact lead coordinator Scott Dahlquist with questions at (612) 919-9232 or at [sjaadahlquist@comcast.net](mailto:sjaadahlquist@comcast.net)

Dear Woodlake Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your incredible donation! Your generosity will help kids in need be able to afford education and nutrition. This spring I am traveling to Uganda to implement an impact study. I will be able to see the goats that your amazing group has given, and I will make sure to take picture and send them to you all. Thank you again! Sincerely, Dante Reminick, "Give a Goat"

## Collaboration and Community Events

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### Men's Fellowship Group (Sisters are invited this month)

All Sisters and Brothers are invited for fellowship – devotions, topic (AARP program – "Health Care, What's Happening at the Federal and State Level"); meet; greet; chit-chat; including refreshments. You will hear Erin's presentation reflecting on Government's actions, that will impact on Senior's welfare.

Join us for fellowship – 9am, Thursday 2/8/18; Fellowship Hall of House of Prayer church. Please sign up before 2/6/18 in Woodlake's church office. For more information, please call Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833.

### Curtain UP!——You're ON!

House of Prayer Lutheran Church is inviting the community, friends, and neighbors to attend the following event: Paul Douglas, Chief Meteorologist, will present "Climate Change: Natural Cycle or Troubling Trend?" Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 pm.

Douglas will trace his evolution from climate skeptic to acknowledging the trends, explain how climate volatility and weather disruption is already showing up in Minnesota, and will talk about the implications for our children, and generations to come. He says, "There are solutions – we will figure this out. The situation isn't hopeless and we aren't helpless."

House of Prayer is located at [7625 Chicago Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423](https://www.hopl.org). Phone [612-866-8471](tel:612-866-8471); website: [www.hopl.org](http://www.hopl.org).

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

**Esther Circle:** February 6<sup>th</sup> (1st Tuesday), 11:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York

**Faith Circle:** February 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, in homes

**Lydia Circle:** February 13<sup>th</sup> (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

**Rebecca / Sarah Circle:** February 14<sup>th</sup> (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

**Sunday Morning Circle:** February 25<sup>th</sup> (fourth 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.

Feb 7: Pat Baile, "Headway – Mental Health"

Feb 14: Ann Brau, "President Reiser Release Program"

Feb 21: Eric Dregni, "You're Sending Me Where?"

Feb 28: Bible Study

## Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for February is *Born of Crime* by Trevor Noah. Join at any time – the schedule of books for 2018 is below!

March - *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley

April - *Small Great Things* by Jody Picoult

May - *Blood Work* by Holly Tucker

June - *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion

July - *Faith Bass Darlings' Last Garage Sale* by Lynda

Rutledge

August - *The Lost Girls* by Heather Young.

September - *Welcome to the Great Mysterious* by

Lorna Landvik

October - *The Origin* by Dan Brown

November / December - *Perfume River* by Robert

Olin Butler

TIMBER LODGE IN  
FEBRUARY –

MONDAY, FEBRUARY  
12<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

## February Event Highlights

### Optimist Club Chili and Salad Dinner Fri., February 9, 4-7pm in Woodlake's Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door, and all proceeds go to help youth in our community.

### Senior Fellowship Program – Dr. Dale Anderson, the Dramatologist

Thursday, February 15

Lunch at 12pm, program at 1pm

Dr. Dale Anderson has practiced as a board certified surgeon and emergency physician. And, in the year 2001 became a board certified and a founding diplomat of the Am. Board of Holistic Medicine. He calls himself a **Dramatologist** and his audiences call him Dr. Happy, Dr. **WELL**derly, and the **Aged Sage of the Vintage Stage**. He a member of the National Speakers Association,—in 2011 was inducted to the **Minnesota Speakers Hall of Fame**. After 50 (plus) years of clinical practice—he now prescribes medicine—only, from **YOUR INNER**. His prescriptions today are for **that** GOD Given **HEALTHY** Medicine that is self-generated and dispensed when **YOU ACT ON** —a **HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL role**—**WELL**. It's time to put **ON** a happy face! To Act Happy! Live It UP! & Laugh for the **HEALTH** of IT!

### Woodlake's Homebound Ministry group will be having a 3-part continuing education series on "Choices" in February and March.

In these sessions, topics from the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande will be discussed. A facilitator from the *Honoring Choices Minnesota* organization will be leading us in the discussions. Dates for these sessions are the first three Sundays in Lent, after the 10:00 Sunday morning worship service (February 18&25 and March 4). Since this is a topic that will touch all of us, this continuing education will be open to the entire congregation and community. Because this continuing education series is based on the book *Being Mortal*, those who are interested in attending are encouraged to read the book in advance. We have placed our group order, but if you missed ordering and still want to participate, you can purchase the book on your own through Amazon or Barnes & Noble. If you have questions, please contact Mary Hermann (612 861-4600) or Sue Kelly (612 807-2183)

## Christ in Community Update – Collaboration of ELCA Churches in Richfield

We've made great progress as a collaboration of Richfield ELCA churches over the past 2 years! We've built relationships, shared events, jointly worshipped together and continue to learn more about each other. Recently, our collaboration structure was adjusted from 24 to 8 people. This change has allowed us to work with more focus.

It has always been true that our collaboration has sought to work together to effectively connect with and serve the community of Richfield.

Centering question: How can we embody Jesus in and with our community?

Purpose: As Lutheran Churches in Richfield, we are feeling called by God and each other to be a stronger, more vibrant, more relevant presence in our community. By working together, we hope to energize our members to more deeply know God and each other, find new and different ways to grow and share our faith. We also seek to meet people in our community in the places and ways that are most needed and desired.

We continue to rely on our centering question and purpose statement to direct our work, believing that we are making progress and now want to take a more meaningful next step. To do this, the newly configured Collaboration Team took the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). This assessment measures an individual's capacity and competence in relating to people with different cultural backgrounds. Intercultural skill is vital for our congregation's efforts to relate to a community as diverse as Richfield. The IDI allows people to see where they currently are in their intercultural skills and also provides a development plan for continued growth.

The Collaboration Team believes there would be great value and insight from having 40 members from each congregation take the IDI. This would allow individuals to see their results, and also how each congregation is assessed as a whole. This information would help us understand the future steps needed for our collaboration to effectively minister to our community.

The results of this process will be shared at a Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 13th at Oak Grove from 6-8pm for the IDI participants. At this meeting we will share the collective results of 120 people from the collaboration and begin to think of paths forward. When you receive an email inviting you to participate in the inventory, please respond to either Scott Dahlquist, Laurel Johnson, or Julia in the Woodlake Office that you will take the Inventory and plan to attend the dinner!

If you have questions, please reach out to a member of the Collaboration Team:

Pastor Ben Sandin (HOP), Cara Wright (HOP), Pastor Tom Zarth (OG), Julie Tvete (OG), Mike Tviete (OG), Bonnie Oien (OG), Scott Dahlquist (WL) and Laurel Johnson (WL).