



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 July

Sunday Morning

10:00am See detailed schedule to
right!

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
Saturday Closed

Please note change!

Sunday 9am – 11am
During the summer, the building
will close with the office if there
are no previously scheduled
evening activities.

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

Summer Worship Continues!

July 2: 5:00pm Worship in the Chapel

July 3: 10:00am Worship on the lawn, followed by Independence
Day Picnic (more info on pages 3 and 6)

July 9: 5:00pm Worship in the Chapel

July 10: 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

July 16: 5:00pm Worship in the Chapel



**July 17: 10:30 am Joint Worship at Veterans
Memorial Park (6335 Portland Ave, located
between Portland and 11th Avenues, 66th Street
and Crosstown Hwy 62)**

Join us for our next joint service with Oak Grove and House of
Prayer. We are providing lunch! Josh will prepare the main course
(burgers and brats) and church will supply condiments, water, and
paper products. Please help us out with salads and desserts - we're
borrowing Oak Grove's system because it worked out great when
they did the lunch in June:

Last name beginning with A-N: Please bring salads –
enough to feed about 12.

Last name beginning with O-Z: Please bring desserts – a
9x13 pan of bars or 3 dozen cookies.

July 23: 5:00pm Worship in the Chapel

July 24: 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

July 30: 5:00pm Worship in the Chapel

July 31: 10:00am Worship on the Lawn

Event Highlights for July – See Page 6 for Details and More Events!

Sunday, July 3 – Independence Day Picnic after worship

Monday, July 4 – Building Closed

Tuesday, July 12 – MD Boychoir Performs at Woodlake

Wednesday, July 20 – United By VEAP

Pastor's Corner

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"

Who is my neighbor? Some thoughts:
* Those who are in the know tell us that soon the largest population group in our country will be those born between 2000-2020. They will number over 82 million by 2020 and be called Generation Z. Move over, Baby Boomers and Millennials. Your time in spotlight has come and gone.

* About two years ago, the Star Tribune had an article which predicted that in the coming years that the first ring suburbs (including Richfield) would once again look like they did in the 50s and the 60s. Lots of young families and lots of children (Generation Z).

I would have to say from observing what is going on in our neighborhood, that both of the above predictions are true. We have two infants in the houses behind us. One of the families now has three preschool children. We have lots of children in strollers as families are out for a walk on a nice summer night. Every day we have children and parents out for bike rides

* What do we do? Who is my neighbor? It looks like my neighbor is younger all the time. It looks like my neighborhood on 72nd Morgan S. is more and more like the neighborhood of the 50s and 60s in Richfield. Are we ready for this in the church? For the years the prevailing wisdom has been that Richfield is for the retired, mature, empty nesters. What if that is changing? We have new neighbors. There are lots of them. They are young. Are we ready for them?

Some food for thought, Pastor Charlie

Did you know...?

... we had 23 kids come to our movie night in June, and 25 to VBS?

... last year, we gave away almost 300 quilts made by the Monday morning quilting group?

... we gave 715 pounds of food to VEAP from March – June?

Worship and Music Notes

What is the most beautiful piece of instrumental music you have ever heard? While I was studying music in college, someone said it was the human voice. I couldn't agree with that. I was attracted to other instruments like piano, flute and other string instruments. Chopin, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, Dvorak, Brahms, etc., there are lots of beautiful instrumental pieces that give me tears, goosebumps and deep feelings in inside. Their delicate touch, their own tones and colors, and variety of sounds... I often would accompany choirs and singers; their music was excellent but I was not attracted to them strongly. There was something that kept me from falling in love with voice music even if a well-known singer was singing.

In May, I visited Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. During the week, I toured different places and attended several concerts. On Sunday I visited several different churches. One of them was an Orthodox church. The most fascinating thing was the choir. They didn't have an organ or piano. The choir led the whole service, and their sound was the perfect instrument. I couldn't compare it with other music instruments. Their voices were full, soft but always strong, energetic and dynamic. If there had been an organ, it might have even detracted from their voices. Right then I thought to myself, if I were in heaven, music may sound like this. The most beautiful and excellent instrument is not any man-made instrument, but a human's voice.

On July 12, there will be a concert from the Maryland State Boychoir at Woodlake. Based in Baltimore, Maryland, the Boychoir has carried out its mission of fostering the Boychoir tradition by offering talented boys opportunities to sing, helping them to develop self-esteem, self-discipline and character since 1987.

They will present a diverse program ranging from Renaissance motets and standard church anthems to Gospel songs, spirituals, and world music.

I hope you come, and bring your family, friends and your neighbors to share this beautiful and exciting moment.

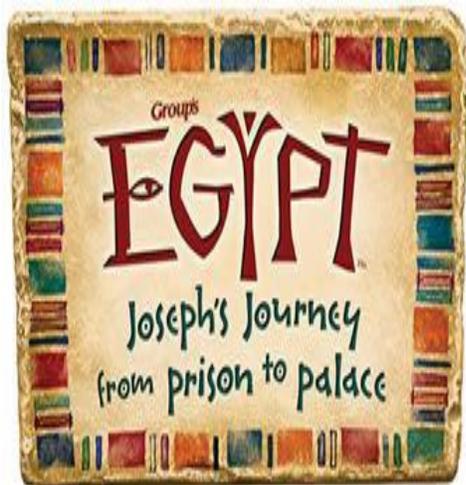
I hope you have a special time with your loved ones.

I hope we have abundant lives in our community because we are here; this is our Father's world.

- HeongJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Children's Ministry

Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace was a great adventure!



We had a wonderful group of children everyone was energetic and happy to be at VBS. The children memorized Bible verses, sang songs, played faith-building games, watched topic-related videos, created Egyptian crafts, did experiments - and that's just a few things they did at Woodlake Church VBS 2016.

A special thank you to our volunteers, for your help and your time. We had such a successful VBS 2016, and we could not have done it without the volunteers.

Also a special thanks to everyone who donated food! It was wonderful to have all the donations we asked for - everyone all came together. We are so fortunate you could help us with VBS! Thank you for your generosity and God bless you!

Full-Week Vacation Bible School

July 25 – 29, 9am-12pm at Oak Grove

Even if you missed out on Joseph's Journey, it's not too late to go to VBS this summer. All kids ages 3 – entering 6th grade are invited to attend full-week VBS held at Oak Grove. Programming is M-F from 9am-12pm, and completely free. Registration forms are available in either Oak Grove's or Woodlake's office, or online at:

<http://www.oakgrovelutheran.org/#!/children-family/c106t>

Woodlake Church July 3rd Family Picnic!



Come enjoy fun, fellowship and a Cookout!

There will be fun for the whole family. There will be carnival games and an open donation cookout, after service on July 3rd 2016. Come enjoy Independence Day with some faith and fun!

Hot dogs and brats will be provided. If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert to share it would be appreciated greatly. We hope to see you there!



Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

Collaboration – What Does Tomorrow Hold?

I am so very blessed and honored to be serving Woodlake Lutheran Church both as its Vice-President and as a member of the Steering committee of the Christ in Community collaborative efforts of the three ELCA churches in Richfield.

Some have asked what the point of collaboration is, and that is a valid question. Well, for one, the Bible tells us to work together. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says “For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.” Also, Hebrews 10:24-25 says “Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.”

The past six months serving you all has reminded me that we each are called to serve God in unique ways. God has blessed us each with unique talents and abilities so that we may make the world a better place. Through this collaborative effort we will be listening and learning about 1) how our congregations (yes, plural & together) see God calling us to serve, 2) how the Richfield community needs us to serve them (yes, focus is on them, not what we think they need) and 3) the ways our congregations can work together (yes, collaborate!!). It is my hope that each one of us, from the youngest to the oldest, finds new ways to embody Jesus in our communities (both our faith communities and in our neighborhood) through this process.

For some, not having a clear path or a set goal is difficult. As a person whose lead strength is strategic, I can relate – but my faith and desire to be of service to God are what has guided me through the past six months as I served on the exploratory committee on collaboration. I am confident that as our churches go forward that He will guide us and work through us.

We are a people of God, here to serve him, his son and the Holy Spirit on this earth and I know that all I need do is turn it over to them and all will be well. For me that is all I need. In the face of uncertainty and doubt I often go back to the words in Christian singer Jonny Diaz song Breathe “When the stress is on the rise in my heart, I feel You say just breathe. Just breathe, come and rest at My feet and be. Just be.” So that is what I ask you to do when you are feeling unsure about the future – just breathe and be. God will take care of you and Woodlake!!

*Faithfully Serving You,
Lesley Farnham, Vice-President*

Building and Finances

Good News from the Financial

Corner: As of the end of May, the church's income is greater than the expenses! Our Offering total is only \$4,000 less than last year and our building rental has increased by \$8,000. Thank you for helping with this momentum.

Cash Designations to VEAP:

- Total Church year November 2014-October 2015 were \$5400.00
- 7 months of current year November 2015-May 2016 \$5200.00

This is a great response, coming from the Craft Sale proceeds, memorials, and individual envelope designations.

Painting Projects: Josh, our Chef, Food Coordinator and Kitchen Manager is also our painting pro. He is currently painting the offices, which never get painted as they are always occupied. Take a peek in a week or two as they are finished up.

From the Records

Weddings

Chartina Andrea Venson married to Anthony Major, Jr. on June 18, 2016

Deaths and Funerals

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Albert Mayer, June 2, 1922 - April 24, 2016

Clifford Severson, July 22, 1923 - May 4, 2016

Small Groups and Circles

Laughter Group in the Fall

Year ago, Anita C. heard a speaker who told us about the many benefits of laughter, and how good it is for us. As a result of that, she decided to start a laughter group at Woodlake, and it was a success. Several people met once every 2-3 weeks for several years to share humorous emails, jokes, funny things that had happened to members or friends of theirs, and more! We laughed for at least an hour. It ended a few years ago, and now some of us would like to resurrect it. Watch for an announcement closer to fall. If it is something that interests you, come and give it a try. Some of us who were a part of it before miss it and want to see it get started again.

Music Legends: Songs and Stories of the Pop and Country Singers of the 40s, 50s, and 60s

Tuesday, July 19, 11:15am at House of Prayer, 7625 Chicago Avenue

This is the next summer show for the combined Senior Groups of Oak Grove, Woodlake, and House of Prayer. The menu is all-beef hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, potato chips, and ice cream. Suggested donation of \$3.00. You won't want to miss this show! Jim Berner performs the classics, including Tony Bennett, Frankie Laine, Johnny Ray, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Elvis, and more! **Please sign up in Woodlake's church office – deadline to sign up is Monday, July 18.**

Plymouth Church Summer Music Series

Free concerts at 7pm, Tuesdays in July

Plymouth Congregational Church offers free concerns every Tuesday in July, and many Woodlakers have enjoyed these musical offerings in the past. All concerts are a free-will offering and the church fills up, so come early – parking is behind the church, which is on Franklin and Nicollet in Minneapolis.

July 5: St. Paul native Andrew Staupe will perform a program of Mozart, Berg, Schumann and Brahms—and an opus No. 1 by Sarah Snider.

July 12: Bluegrass favorite Monroe Crossing returns to the Summer Music Series, bringing their delightful blend of music and banter that are perfect for a

summer evening.

July 19: Cantus. This wonderful male ensemble, located here in Minneapolis, has a wonderful repertoire of music from classical to folk to popular that will delight their many fans as well as new listeners.

July 26, Music For an Election. Once again, the intrepid Jette/Drew/Sutton/Bohn quartet will delight everyone with a program of music from Broadway and Tin Pan Alley celebrating the world of songs about elections—real and fictitious—that will leave you smiling and wanting more!

Circles

Most circles have completed for this programming year and do not meet regularly over the summer, but our subscription to Gather magazine will continue. Therefore, our Gather magazines for June, July, and August are freely available to anyone who would like to read one. They are on the back counter of the office and are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Prayer Knitters Schedule for Summer

In June, July, and August, the morning knitting group will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (instead of Thursdays) from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Fireside Room.

Timber Lodge in July and Beyond!

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

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH (This is a change!

Please update your calendars!)

Thursday, August 18th

Monday, September 26th

Tuesday, October 11th

Thursday, November 17th

Monday, December 12th

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, July 28, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for July is *The Martian* by Andy Weir

Event Highlights for July

Opportunity to Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

June 27 - July 1 and July 11 - July 15

The Nokomis Builds congregations are beginning to recruit volunteers for this year's Habitat for Humanity work project. Nokomis Heights, Bethel, Hope, Our Lady of Peace and St Richards congregations are all working together for two weeks this summer, and members of Woodlake are invited to join in the fun! We are scheduled for the weeks of June 27 - July 1 and July 11 - July 15. The work site is close to home - located at 83rd and Wentworth in Bloomington. No experience required - on the job training provided. You can volunteer for 1 day or the whole week...which some of the retired folks do! The work day begins at 8:30 and we are generally done by 4:00. Each day snacks and lunch are provided by one of the Nokomis builds congregations. If you are interested in volunteering or would like further information, please contact Mary at 952.929.0747 or Marybbpeterson@hotmail.com

Independence Day Picnic

Sunday, July 3 after worship

After the outdoor service this morning, come to the Fellowship Hall for a picnic! Josh will be cooking up burgers, hot dogs, brats, and all the fixings. Bring bars or dessert to share (please bring to the kitchen before church that morning). There will be fun for the whole family and carnival-style games for the kids. A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

Monday, July 4

Building Closed! Enjoy your day.

Maryland State Boychoir on Tour

Concert at Woodlake

Tues, July 12, 7:30pm

We are so excited to be hosting this concert – stay tuned for more info! **We are seeking about 15 families to host boys overnight (July 12, return**

to church the morning of July 13). Please contact Jeong Lee (jlee@woodlakechurch.org) or call the church office if you think you may be able to do this.

United by VEAP

Weds, July 20, 5:30pm

Woodlake is hosting a fundraiser for VEAP on Wednesday, July 20. Gathering is at 5:30 and dinner is served at 6pm. Tickets are available in the church office and are \$5 apiece; please make checks payable to VEAP. The guest speaker will be Lisa Horn, CEO of VEAP. This will be a great time to visit with your neighbors!

VEAP Fest

Sunday, July 24 from 3-7 pm

Taking place in VEAP's parking lot and warehouse, this free event aims to bring together VEAP clients, donors, volunteers, staff, businesses and the entire community. Share the news with your friends and family – your circles of influence! Event highlights will include food trucks, ice cream sundaes, local craft beer, live music and a public art experience led by renowned Minnesota artist Shane Anderson. Volunteer Opportunities will include: Set up, Sundae Booth, Bicycle Attendant, Public Art Assistant, Crossing Guard and many more! For more info or to volunteer, call VEAP's Volunteer Department at [952-955-8323](tel:952-955-8323) or Email volunteerdept@veap.org

SUMMER SERIES

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

July 7

“Living With Loss: What We Need to Know”

Dee Baily

July 14

“Spirituality & Grief”

Kris Linner

July 21

“Resiliency Through a Lifetime of Change-Part I”

Brenda Demott

July 28

“Resiliency Through A Lifetime of Change-Part II”

Brenda DeMott