

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Joanne Sorenson

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

Worship Schedule

**Sunday Morning
10:00am**

*1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays: 10am on
the lawn (weather permitting)
2nd and 4th Sundays: 10am in the
sanctuary*

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

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

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



Summer Worship Schedule Continues

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays: 10am on the lawn
2nd and 4th Sundays: 10am in the sanctuary
Every Saturday: 5pm in the Chapel

Coffee will be served on Sunday mornings during the summer if someone signs up to serve it (signup sheets are in the office).

**Woodlake to host summer series of the
Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition**

Thursday, July 6, 2017 – August 24, 2017, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in our Fireside Room. Please see Page 5 for a detailed list of speakers and topics.

**Next Large Group Collaboration Meeting: Monday,
July 10, 6:30pm at House of Prayer (come at 6pm if
you'd like to join for a pizza dinner!)**

Come at 6:00pm if you'd like to join for dinner, and the meeting will start at 6:30pm as usual. Now that we are celebrating one year of partnership in Christ In Community - Richfield Churches Collaboration, it is time to revisit our purpose and discuss changes to our organization moving forward.

Pin of the Month – July

Pizza Roll Ups – Cooking with kids is a great way to connect with your kids and have some family fun. Try these easy pizza roll ups kids will love. Be creative with your fillings! Remember to try some of the other culinary delightful ideas for cooking with your kids on our Pinterest page under the Cooking with Kids Board

<https://www.pinterest.com/familyfaithfun2/cooking-with-kids/>

**Planning ahead for August... Mark your calendars for VBS,
August 7-11, staffed by Luther Park Bible Camp.** Monday through Thursday, 9am to 4pm, and 9am to Noon on Friday the 11th. Registration forms will be available in the office soon.

Collaborative Worship at Veteran's Park is scheduled for August 20. More details to come.

Pastor's Corner

“WHO KNOWS?”

“No one knows about that day or hour.” - Mark 13

No one knows. No one knows when the new permanent pastor for Woodlake Lutheran will be in place. The papers, the Ministry Site Profile, are in to the Synod Office. That part of the process is completed. What happens now? It is out of our hands. The profile, the picture of Woodlake, is out there on the ELCA website. Interested parties may or may not be looking at it and trying to decide whether Woodlake is a congregation worth looking at. Who knows how it all goes, how it all works out? Nobody except God.

So what do we do in the interim? This time in-between permanent pastors? We could just sit and wait, I suppose, and say we will get involved when the new pastor comes. I prefer to be about the tasks of ministry now. The work of the Kingdom goes on. The life of the world goes on. And always, no matter who is in leadership, there is the need for the church to be the church.

I hope this is where you are too. We pray for the Leadership Board, our Call Committee. We pray for the Holy Spirit to bring good and qualified candidates our way. But no one knows for sure how or when it all works out. We do know that Jesus calls us to follow, no matter what the timetable is for a new pastor. That we can do and that we ought to do.

*In His Service,
Pastor Charlie*

Important staffing changes! For those who missed it, Woodlake is pleased to welcome Pastor Joanne Sorenson to our staff. We are deeply grateful to Pastor Brice, who has been with us over this past programming year, but he will once again be focusing his full attention on his home church at Oak Grove. Many of you already had the opportunity to meet Pastor Joanne during Pastor Charlie's vacation. She will be here for ten hours a week, assisting with all aspects of our pastoral needs, and preaching one weekend a month and at every other Matins service. Welcome, Pastor Joanne!

ALLOW ME....

To Introduce Myself!

I have SO MUCH enjoyed meeting many of you “Woodlakers” in my short time among you! Thank you for introducing yourselves to me. I will be Pastor among you - about 10 hours per week - on an “interim” basis along with Pastor Charlie Plaster. I am praying for all of you and your deliberations and decisions as you continue your journey to finding a new pastor.

I have been an ELCA Pastor since 1992 and have served churches in Cannon Falls, Minnesota, Hudson and Fall Creek, Wisconsin. I recently moved to St Paul to begin a traveling service program called “IN OUR HANDS.” In April I accompanied my first “serving” team to Pine Ridge Reservation in western South Dakota. As of April of this year I am now retired, grateful to continue pastoral ministry while creating “IN OUR HANDS.” Living in the Twin Cities is familiar, as I grew up in Fridley. I am adjusting to apartment life on my own while my two “adulting” children gain their independence. Katherine (22) and Christopher (19) are working and living in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

I will be sharing pastoral care with Pastor Charlie, and leading Wednesday matins service every other week. I also plan to have office hours on Thursday mornings and would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted or help in any way. You can reach me at jsorenson@woodlakechurch.org.

In my last congregational setting, rural churches were attempting to create opportunities to share ministry as each church struggled to make it alone.

I have been surprised to discover that congregational life in the “big city” also has the same struggle!! I am interested in attending an upcoming seminar at Luther Seminary July 26-28. It is called “RE-THINKING CHURCH” and will explore ways that we can approach the future of Christ's church in creative ways. If YOU are interested in attending, please talk with me or Pastor Charlie. I am grateful that the SPIRIT has brought us together for such a time as this. I look forward to our ministry!

Pastor Joanne Sorenson

*For more information about “Re-thinking Church,” please see
Page 6 of The Messenger*



Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

On behalf of the Leadership Board, welcome to the Summer Schedule – more relaxed, some services inside and some outside, ALWAYS WITH COFFEE as long as folks sign up for serving. (June is full, but best to check for July and August.) The only worship service away from Woodlake property will be our Collaboration Service at Veteran’s Park on August 20. Look for further details.

Our last two worship gatherings have been centered around two of the most important events in the gospels: Acts 2:1-21 where we learn about the Great Gathering, the birthday of the church, Pentecost. All who came together were different – in looks, origins, tongues – diversity at its biggest and best. A perfect time for the Holy Spirit to come, as promised, to breathe on all who were there to receive power and be reminded of Jesus’ promise that He would send a comforter, a guide, a helpmeet, a powerful spirit. Please note that it took flames and wind to get the crowd to notice and believe. It is still true for us when we experience the fear of unbelief. The Holy Spirit is the third component of our God’s being, sent to give us the power to believe and act as God’s special creation, and to believe and act as we were taught by Jesus to live in His creation.

Your Leadership Board is a good example of diversity in speaking styles, origins, and opinions. We are a diverse group that is enabled through the Holy Spirit to be leaders of a church of God’s people. All decisions are worked out with all of Woodlake’s members and goals in mind. Because of the make up of the Leadership Board, it is especially adept at serving as a Call Committee. All decisions leading to the completion of our Ministry Site Profile were made together and around our values and traditions that are still very real: Gather, Grow, Go. Those words reflect the gospel: (1) the people were gathered at Pentecost (50 days after the resurrection), (2) they received power to learn and teach God’s Word, and (3) they went out to spread that gospel. They were probably afraid at times, they probably felt helpless at times, or even harassed. But believing in Jesus, who rose above all those fears, they went forth. That is why we are members of Woodlake: others before us gathered, grew and went forth. Keeping the faith and supporting a community of faith for those who follow is The Great Commission. We all say we believe, that growing in faith is important. How much and when do we *allow* our faith to grow? Something to think about while we gather around each other, encourage each other, and go forth to be a faith encouragement to others.

Please pray in these coming weeks, and maybe months, for our Synod leaders, our Call Committee, and for prospective Lead Pastor candidates. The Holy Spirit will help guide our prayers – we need only to ask, believe, *allow*, and trust. And have fun with it!!

Anne Romstad, Leadership Board Chair

Worship and Music Notes

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

I love to travel. It is an adventure for me. There is always something new that I can experience. It is not always good, but new experiences feed my soul and help me grow. I meet people who open my eyes to different ways of life. It helps me experience the world and change my perspective.

Last June, I visited three places in Italy: Milano, Verona and Venice. From Milano to Verona, my schedule in Italy was too tight to spend much time in each city. So, I decided to rent a car. I wanted to stop by a place called “Sirmion,” which is a popular town for sightseeing. But, I realized it was not the best option for me. The roads were not like the roads where I live. There was road construction, but there weren’t any signs. While I figured it out by finding a detour, I had a bad experience. It made me have bad memories about Italy. Eventually, after several failures, I was able to find another way to reach my destination.

When I moved to Eden Prairie two years ago, it was my fourth time moving in America. Each time I moved, the hardest thing was to figure out how to reach the library, grocery store, gas station, hardware store, etc. I had to spend time to figure it out for a while. Just recently, I realized the way to go to the post office was connected to the gym where I go every day, but I used the way that my navigation gave me, so I was turned around all the time.

The way is the connection to reach to other places; it is the communication. It is important to know the way wherever we live or where we go. Knowing the way makes us feel comfortable and safe. We know how the efficient and organized roads are important to people in their lives and can change human being’s life.

When Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Knowing Jesus is the way that can lead us to the right and efficient destination when we lose our way.

*Hyeonjeong Lee,
Director of Worship and Music*

Building and Finances

Financial Information for July 2017

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$348,798	\$344,928
Expenses	\$298,637	\$340,937

All items are on track with expenses running low, as a new senior pastor has not been hired yet and some other areas of staffing still need to be determined. Flooring and carpet are still in the process of being decided upon. It is fairly certain that the narthex will have carpet squares and the fellowship hall will be an extra strong luxury vinyl that looks like wood and installs similar to carpet squares.

The garden group has been meeting and making great progress on our grounds every Wednesday morning around 9:00. More help is definitely welcomed for whatever time you can spend. Bring your work gloves and garden tools and help us spruce up the courtyard and gardens! If the weather is bad, it will not take place.

Church Staff in Fun Restaurants

Two Woodlake employees spend time working in two very different restaurants. Josh Frueh, our Kitchen and Project Manager, works full time at Main Street Farmer Restaurant, 21 Main Street, St. Michael 55376 (763-777-9395) as a chef. This restaurant just opened in November of 2016 and continues to have rave reviews, so reservations are recommended. Josh is there Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am until 10 pm. If you are making a trip to the Albertville Outlet Mall, you are just minutes away from this restaurant.

Eileen Berge, our part time organist, also works at Dangerfield's Restaurant, 1583 1st Ave. E., Shakopee 55379 (952-445-2245). She plays the piano while people enjoy the ambience of a restaurant overlooking the river at the east end of Shakopee. It has been in existence for the past 26 years and also has wonderful reviews. Eileen will be at the piano both Friday and Saturday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 pm and usually plays fun oldies that you can sing along to: think Barry Manilow, the Carpenters, and Frank Sinatra.

Mission and Outreach

Families Moving Forward: Another week of hosting with FMF wrapped up on June 11th. Members of Woodlake; along with members of Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, Oak Grove Lutheran, and House of Prayer; provided hospitality to three families consisting of 10 people during the week. I hope and pray that our efforts will aid them on their journey, and offer my thanks to those who gave of their time and resources to this effort. Our next hosting week is scheduled for September 10-17. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this ministry effort with any who might have questions about it. - Scott Dahlquist, Lead Coordinator: 612 798-5708 / sjaadahlquist@comcast.net

NOKOMIS Builds - Habitat for Humanity through Thrivent Builds: Woodlake will come together with our neighboring churches (Hope Lutheran, Nokomis Heights, Bethel, Our Lady of Peace and St Richards) for a two week build commitment. We will be working at the 2313 James Ave N. site from July 10 to July 21. No experience is necessary – just a willingness to pitch in and take direction from the skilled professionals who will be present. Daily schedule is 8:30 to 4:00, and lunch will be provided. Sign up in the office today, or contact Scott Dahlquist (contact info listed above).

Loaves and Fishes: Woodlake continues to offer free community meals every Saturday and Sunday from 5:30 – 6:30 pm with our partner organization, Loaves and Fishes. We are in need of volunteers, especially during the summer months when our guests continue to arrive but many folks who might volunteer are out of town. Please sign up online (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5ab2fa1fa7-woodlake>) for either a cooking shift (3-5pm) or serving/cleanup shift (5-7pm). If you do not have internet access, please call Loaves and Fishes at 612.377.9810. Julia in the office can also help you sign up during regular office hours (M 9-12, Tues-Thurs 9-4, Fri 9-12).

Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC): This organization asks for your help volunteering this summer. Many students, scholars, and their families are soon arriving to Minnesota eager to have relationships and experiences with Americans. Host Families are needed. Airport pickups, exploring the great outdoors, travel, and eating all lead to relationships and that leads to transformation. We would love for you to get involved! Contact Kim@hcchinese.org or call 651-659-9740.

Small Group and Circle News

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, July 27, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for July is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. Join at any time!

Woodlake to Host Grief Coalition Summer Series

SUMMER SERIES

Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition
Thursday, July 6, 2017 – August 24, 2017, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Woodlake Lutheran Church
7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield MN 55423
612-866-8449

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| July 6 | <i>Honoring a Loved One's Life & Memory Through the Year</i>
Arnold Krueger |
| July 13 | <i>Exploring Memory & Meaning: The Pain & the Gain</i>
Phyllis Zillhart |
| July 20 | <i>Family Matters: The Impact of Loss on Families</i>
Ed Holland |
| July 27 | <i>Dealing With Being Grief-Struck</i>
Dale Swan |
| August 3 | <i>Grief Demystified—Part I</i>
Brenda DeMotte |
| August 10 | <i>Grief Demystified—Part II</i>
Brenda DeMotte |
| August 17 | <i>Wellness During Grief</i>
Phyllis Bruce |
| August 24 | <i>Myths of Grief</i>
Brenda DeMotte |

From the Synod

Below find some events that our Synod recommends! Web addresses are listed for more information, but if you do not have web access you can always call the Synod at 612-870-3610.



Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering July 13-16 Minneapolis Convention Center

The Women of the ELCA will explore the triennial gathering theme "All Anew" July 13-16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship; learn by attending workshops, viewing films, and engaging in servant events. While this is an official event of Women of the ELCA, all women in the church are invited to attend. One need not be a participant in Women of the ELCA. Ecumenical partners are invited to attend as well. More info at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/tenth-triennial-convention-pages-189.php>

LutheranArts Reformation Hymn Festival

July 9, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis

LutheranArts is sponsoring a festival worship to honor the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The newly commissioned Martin Luther Reformation Hymns and Anthems will be premiered. Imaginations will be sparked by poetry, liturgical dance, puppetry of the visual arts, and world music. More information at <http://www.lutheranarts.org/events/180>



Lutheran Men in Mission: Bold Gathering July 21-23, Minneapolis Marriott City Center

Hundreds of Lutheran Men in Mission will gather July 21-23 in the Minneapolis Marriott City Center to celebrate being bold daring followers of Jesus Christ. Speakers include the Rev. Robert Johnson, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, and the Rev. John H. Armstrong. More information at <http://www.boldgathering.com/>

Rethinking Church: Better Questions, Bolder Experiments

July 26 – 28, Luther Seminary in St. Paul



Are we still doing Sunday morning just like it's 1950? In what ways have our worship, education, and fellowship changed? How is the Holy Spirit forming community in our contexts in 2017? In the last century, Christian congregations in North America largely imagined their mission as attracting people to Sunday morning. Active Christians were imagined as those who show up. Congregations were taught to measure attendance and offerings. If you are ready to ask different questions than simply how to get people to come, Rethinking Church is for you.

2017 speakers to include:

Tod Bolsinger joined Fuller Seminary in 2014 as vice president for vocation and formation and assistant professor of practical theology. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1993.

Elizabeth Drescher is a scholar, writer, and public speaker on religion in everyday life, and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University.

Mihee Kim-Kort is an ordained Presbyterian minister, agitator, speaker, writer, and slinger of hopeful stories about faith and church with degrees in divinity and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary and English Literature and Religious Studies from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Other speakers include Jodi Houge, Brian Huges, Kenn Inskeep, and Rolf Jacobson.

More information is available at <https://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/> or by calling the Lifelong Learning department at 651-641-3416.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, my life changed on April 25th when I was notified that my beloved older son Chris had likely gone into the Mississippi River. I was fortunate to be surrounded by family and friends at a bike ride for Chris on May 4th when I was notified that the Water Patrol had likely found Chris's body in the river.

As you can imagine, this has changed our family's life in profound ways. The death of my son will also, of course, affect my ministry with Tapestry, though what those effects are will be revealed over time. I want to thank you for your support for both me and Tapestry during this time. Your prayers, love and many forms of support have helped healing to begin.

While there are many unknowns, there are a few things I can share:

Worship – we will worship together twice per month during the summer. Weather permitting, we will be outside on the south lawn of Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Ave So., Richfield. Josue and I will plan to preach and we will likely welcome others to preach as well. You are invited to join us for worship and then for a meal following.

June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20

To read the rest of Pastor Melissa's update, please see the letter posted on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Melissa Melnick, Tapestry

Collaboration Corner

Richfield's 4th of July Celebration: Our collaboration committee will participate, and needs your help! Here are the events and times we need volunteers. Most shifts are 2 hours. Teenagers are welcome to help manage the inflatables.

1. **Sunday July 2 - during Family Night- from 4:30 to 10:00 pm** – positions needed are ticket sales, making and handing out popcorn, managing inflatables and clean up.
2. **Monday July 3 – Street Dance – from 3:30 to midnight** – positions needed are gate check in, ticket sales, serving beverages, managing inflatables, and clean up.
3. **Tuesday July 4 - parade at 1:00 – fireworks at dusk** – positions are needed at Veterans Park for ticket sales, serving beverages, managing inflatables.

Please check out our website Richfield4thofjuly.com for more information. If you're interested in volunteering contact Marilyn Jacobson at mmjacobson2@msn.com or call her at 612-385-2520.