



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 June

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 – 1pm
Tuesday9am – 4pm
Wednesday9am – 4pm
Thursday9am – 4pm
Friday9am – **12pm** *Changed!*
Saturday9am – 12pm
Sunday9am – 11am
Weekdays: Church Office is
closed for lunch from
12:00 – 12:30.

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

Summer Schedule Begins Sunday, June 5!

Worship at 10am on Sunday mornings

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays outside on the lawn

2nd and 4th Sundays in the Sanctuary

(Exceptions are joint services at Veterans Park with our friends from
House of Prayer and Oak Grove)

5pm Saturday chapel service continues as usual

June 5: 10am Worship on the Lawn (*Communion will be given by
intinction at our summer outdoor services*)

June 12: 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 first joint service with Oak Grove and House of
Prayer! Enter the park off Portland Avenue and you can't miss the
shelter where we'll be setting up. If you do not have mobility issues,
please park a little further away (at the hockey arena) to save closer
parking for our friends who may not walk so well. Bring lawn chairs
if you have them. Offerings in church envelopes will go specifically
to their congregations, and loose offerings will go to Tapestry.

June 19: 10:00am Worship on the Lawn

June 26: 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

Summer Sermon Series: "10 Bible Stories Everybody Needs to Know"

Join us over the summer as we explore some of the most
fundamental stories in the Bible. From the Old Testament, we will
look at the stories of Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the Flood,
Moses and the Exodus, and Psalm 23. From the New Testament, we
will look at the story of the Birth of Jesus, the Teachings of Jesus, the
Miracles of Jesus, the Death of Jesus, and Resurrection of Jesus.
There are many stories in the Bible, but these 10 are fundamental in
terms of what our faith is all about. Hope you can join us as we look
at what these stories say to us, and they mean for our faith life today.

"FUTURE THOUGHTS"

I am only a little over two weeks into this job of being your Interim Bridge Pastor, but let me offer some thoughts as we start this new arrangement:

#1. We are in good shape when it comes our finances.

Six months into our budget year, we are down by about \$12,000 (details in financial column to the right). This budget is based on having the full staff that we had back in November, 2015. We are not now at full staff and I do not know what fully staffed might look like down the road. I do know we have some breathing room when it comes to staff salaries for at least the next couple of months. Most importantly, you have been good and faithful givers through all the changes that have happened recently. Thank you.

#2. We have lots of good things going in terms of ministry here at Woodlake.

There were 38-40 youth at the carnival held on May 8. We have 20 youth and 4 adults from the congregation going to Toronto on a mission trip this summer. All of our different work groups are doing fine. I think that worship at Woodlake is good. Is everything the way it used to be? No, but it's still pretty good.

#3. No one knows where we will end up in this thing called "collaboration."

My sense is that we are no longer looking at "consolidation" (going from three buildings to one building) in the near future. Just working together (collaboration) seems to be enough for most members right now. We will see where the Spirit leads.

#4. Finally, I am impressed again and again by all the members of Woodlake who care deeply about this congregation.

Not caring in the sense of worshipping the building or anything like that, but caring about this congregation because they see this as the place where as faithful followers of Christ they live out the invitation of Jesus to "follow me." Thank you for your dedication, service, and support.

A prayer for the days ahead from our hymnal: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In His Service, Pastor Charlie

FUNDRAISERS

In the past 17 months, we have received over \$1400 from Timber Lodge, with two months still missing from 2015, averaging \$94 per month. For March of this year, we took in \$168.00.

The bake sale took in \$500 for the youth!

ROOF PAYMENTS

Final payment will be made on the roof this month.

RENTALS

The contract with Ebenezer was just signed, so this will be the amount of rental income coming in effective this month:

\$3000 per month: Ebenezer

\$1100 per month: Minnesota Life College

\$1000 per month: Richfield Adventistas

\$2500 per year from Metro Transit for being the back up bus stop to the Best Buy location

These are the set income rentals we receive, but we also receive rental from the Tuesday/Friday AA group, Joan Hutton's music lessons on Monday and a variety of other one time rentals from a variety of places, both congregation members and others.

In the next 6 months, an additional \$33,000 plus will come in, which will put us \$9,000 over the rental budget.

BUDGET

Overall, our budget looks very good. We are almost \$12,000 in the red, but had budgeted for almost \$5,000 in the red. If we had received the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit of over \$19,000, we would be \$7,000 to the good. It means we are gaining on our deficit.

- Julie Windler, Financial Coordinator and Building Manager

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Carnival Success!

Thank you so very much to all who helped with the Sunday school carnival on Mother's day, May 8th! Everyone came together from donating cupcakes and pizza to running carnival games, and it was great to see everyone helping and working together.

We had a wonderful turnout: over 35 children and their families came to enjoy carnival games, candy, prizes, and pizza. There was great feedback from children and parents; they all had a great time with wonderful company. Thanks again to all who helped make this happen - it was a hit!



Don't Miss It!

Woodlake Church Family Movie Night!

June 10th



Premiering *Zootopia* in the
Fellowship Hall 6:00pm
Friday June 10th 2016!



Bring your entire family
and all of your friend's!

Come enjoy fun, fellowship, snacks and the new Disney movie *Zootopia*. **Don't forget your pillows and blankets.** We hope to see you there!

Woodlake Church VBS

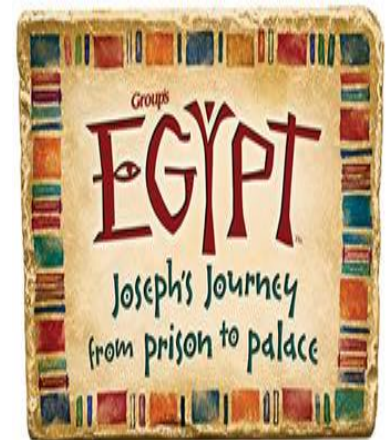
Joseph's Journey Prison to Palace

June 15th-17th

Spots are filling up very quickly and are limited! We are excited to share Joseph's Journey from prison to palace with the children.

The children will participate in outdoor activities, crafts, games, stories, movies; all while learning about Joseph's journey.

It will be a great place to be this summer, don't miss out!



Youth Ministry

Did you know that this summer's youth mission trip is going to Toronto, Canada? Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth in their fundraisers so far, including the plant sale and bake sale!

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

We are now in the season of the church year called Pentecost, the 49-50 days following the ascension of Jesus to His Father, and the time when the Israelites were celebrating the festival of the spring harvest. It is also the time when the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, came to the disciples, described in the first chapter of Acts. The Spirit came as a violent wind, a sound as from heaven, accompanied by tongues of flame like fire, which rested upon everyone's head. They began to speak in different languages, giving them the power to proclaim Christ's message to all who would hear. It is also called the birthday of the church because spreading the Word in every possible language began the message of the gospel of the Christian faith. It is a powerful, powerful story – perhaps more so than the story of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. Without the strong impact of the Holy Spirit, the story would have ended. Period. But the Spirit is alive and very busy at Woodlake.

We have gone through many changes, again: the departures of Pr Fred Hanson to another church and of Tisa Zachau to caring for her family. With those departures came the wonderful arrivals of Pr. Charlie Plaster as our Bridge Pastor for a time of important transition, Heather Wagemann to coordinate our children's ministries, and lay leaders who have stepped up to make sure that the Children, Youth and Family, Senior, Homebound and custodial ministries continue without lapse.

The spirit is moving among and through us. It is powerful and it cares for us. Sometimes it appears to be violent even – to get our attention. It will be leading us as we continue our journey in faith at Woodlake. Trust it, pray for it and through it, believe in it. It is a precious gift from God.

Now, as we are busy with our collaboration activities with Oak Grove and House of Prayer Lutheran Churches, we are vessels to help embody Jesus in our community and with each other. Together, collaborating, we are able to be energized and vibrant, to be a more relevant presence in our community. Together, we can share visions, and

dream dreams never thought of before.

Sunday, May 22nd was another big worship day for Woodlake: Pr Charlie was installed, our 10 Senior High youth graduates were recognized, and we had our semi-annual congregational meeting, which provided updates on our financial status, our staffing status and our collaboration activities. It all ended sweetly with a donut reception officially welcoming Pr Charlie.

Meanwhile:

- (1) Listen to God - you may sense a vision or dream a dream;
- (2) Listen to your Woodlake neighbor – you may share a ministry passion; and,
- (3) Listen to your community – to learn of special assets and possible needs.

*Anne Romstad, Chair, Woodlake Lutheran
Leadership Board*

Grace and peace to all of you!

I want to thank you so much for the privilege of being able to serve with you over the years. You have been an inspiration and support for me in so many ways. I also want to thank you for my farewell reception. It was so wonderful that my family and I were left speechless. I was so touched by your kind words and generous gifts - I am humbled and grateful. I will continue to follow your progress and keep you in my prayers. Anytime you are headed up 35W North past Pine City, let me know. I would love to see you.

*Grace, peace, love and joy,
Fred*

Timber Lodge in June and Beyond!

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

Monday, June 6th

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

Worship and Music Notes

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise- the fruit of lips that confess his name.

– Hebrews 13: 15

Have you had a chance to learn a second language? Have you had a chance to go a foreign country where they don't speak English at all, so you only follow the tour guide?

I had a chance to visit China about 15 years ago with my family. When we were in a restaurant, I was thirsty and wanted to order water. But the guide was not there at the time. They couldn't speak English or Korean at all. If you were me, how would you have ordered?

Learning a foreign language after you become an adult is difficult. It needs lots of effort, time and patience if you don't have special talent in language. Reading, listening, writing, grammar, and speaking... everything has to be studied. I have been studying English since I came here. There is an important thing that I've learned while I was studying: reading English loudly is necessary to speak English. If I study English or another language through my eyes alone, reading will get better but speaking will not. Because the language becomes concrete when I say it out loud.

Our lives as Christians are similar. We have to confess and express our faith to God and share it with others. We have to build up others.

"From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death." (Proverbs 20: 20- 21)

God so loved me that he gave his only Son from Heaven to this earth for me. Jesus Christ came to this earth, was crucified and died on a cross because of me. Whether I am good at singing or not, whether I have musical talent or not, there is a reason to sing in my life all the time. I am pretty sure that God will not judge if I am good at singing or my skill, but will receive my heart and effort.

During summer, I hope we share this joy with others and build up others through music. Music is the gift that God gave. We must have joy in our lives wherever we are, in any situation.

How can I keep from singing?

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Tapestry Updates

We want to thank you so very much for the courageous steps you took to begin the ministry of Tapestry here at Woodlake in the Fall of 2014. During this time, you have been generous with your support of us in so many ways, including through staff time and allowing us to use office, building, and worship space. You have helped us to welcome in our neighbors during a time of crisis as the sale of Crossroads led to the subsequent displacement of nearly 2000 people, many of whom are elderly, have a disability or are low income, and people of color. It is largely due to this displacement of the very people with whom we have been building relationships that we believe it is time to move to a new home. A large part of our mission is to minister to and with people from the very communities that have been displaced. Though we are uncertain as to where we will move, we feel that a move is necessary. We will be looking for a place that allows us to be deeply embedded into the communities we feel most called to serve.

Our final Sunday evening worship at Woodlake was on Sunday, May 22, 2016. We will be worshiping around the community during the summer, at people's homes, in parks and in church parking lots as we discern to which place the Spirit is leading. Please join us as you are able!

Muchisimas gracias for your hospitality during the last year and a half. We wish you many blessings on your continued ministries and during this time of deep transition. May you find peace as you continue your faithful work on the collaboration process with Oak Grove and House of Prayer, and may you continue to build relationships with your community. We also hope we will be able to continue to partner with you in ministry as we are all one body united in the love of our resurrected Christ.

*In Christ and wishing you la paz del Señor,
Pastora Melissa Melnick and the Tapestry
Leadership Team*

Small Groups and Circles

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.

Women's Summer Bible Study at Oak Grove Lutheran Church

- All women of House of Prayer, Woodlake, and Oak Grove Lutheran churches are welcome.
- Lydia Circle of Oak Grove will be hosting the study on the **second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in Oak Grove's Fireside Room.**
- Light refreshments will be served.
- Members of Oak Grove will lead the study.
- No preparation required. The Bible study is published in the *Gather* magazine, a publication of the ELCA for women. Copies of the study will be available at each session, so if you do not subscribe, no problem.
- If you need a ride to Oak Grove, please contact Margaret Olson (612-866-7827) or Bonnie Oien (612-804-7913) and we will be delighted to arrange for transportation.

Session 1: Tuesday, June 14

Session 2: Tuesday, July 12

Session 3: Tuesday, August 9

Faith and Fellowship Speakers (Wednesdays, 9am)

No further speakers until the fall, although everyone is still welcome to come to Wednesday morning Matins worship and stay for coffee in the Fireside Room! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making senior fellowship a success this year, whether you came to Matins or another event, volunteered, made coffee, helped set up the projector, gave a ride to a friend, or anything else.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Meets Thursday, June 23, 7pm in the Heritage Room. Our book for June is *A Secret Kept* by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Full-Week Vacation Bible School, July 25 – 29 9am-12pm at Oak Grove Lutheran

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 the office today!

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.

Prayer Knitting Information

Prayer shawls are available to anyone who knows someone he or she thinks would benefit from having one. Made by Woodlakers since 2005, they are knit and crocheted with lots of love and prayers. New numbers: 1,234 shawls, including ones given at baptism and chemo caps, have been given away. We always welcome new people to either knit/crochet with us at church or at home. For more information, check with Starr Carriere (612-866-2922) or Betty H. (952-835-3133).

We can also help you get a shawl when you need one, and so can anyone else in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. There is never a charge for the shawls; however we never turn down a donation. It goes to buy more yarn – we go through a lot of it!

In addition, our hats and wraps division of the prayer knitters have given away hundreds of warm things to people who need them. Recently, they have also given about 50 pocket prayer squares. For more info on any of these projects, please call Deb O. at 952-393-3128.

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**