



Messenger

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**
7525 Oliver Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
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
March 7, 14, 21
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 April's issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than March 15.*

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

**Lenten Worship from 6:30 – 7:00pm in Woodlake's
sanctuary (March 7th, 14th, 21st)**

Our Lenten series this year returns to the beloved Holden Evening Prayer service, and the messages will focus on the "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John for the sake of intentional reflection on and proclamation of God becoming flesh. The cross is many things – but first, it is the death of God.

The "I AM" statements reveal, in all fullness, the identity of Jesus, and Lent is the season to remember one very important thing about what it means to be a Christian: that when Jesus goes to the cross, there goes God. This Lenten series helps us imagine that what Jesus puts after "I AM" in the Gospel of John shapes our reality.

Pastor Micah's Installation – March 10th and 11th

Pastor Micah will be officially installed as our Senior Pastor during worship services on Saturday, March 10th (5pm) and Sunday, March 11th (10am). Pastor John Hulden from the Synod will be here with us.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 25th: Worship at 10:00am
Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast from 9am – 12pm! Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids. Proceeds benefit the Scouts and Woodlake, so plan to have a great breakfast here on Palm Sunday!

Maundy Thursday, March 29th
Worship at 7pm (with First Communion) in Woodlake's Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 30th
Worship at 3pm and 7pm in Woodlake's Sanctuary
See "Worship and Music Notes" on Page 3 for more information about our 7pm service!

Saturday, March 31st
No Worship

Easter Sunday, April 1st
Services at 8:30 and 10am
Easter Egg Hunt, Coffee, Doughnuts between services

Pastor's Corner

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
2 Corinthians 1:2*

Calling a new pastor brings excitement, hope, fear, and sometimes trembling.

Excitement

I am so excited to be your new pastor. I have already heard powerful stories of how you have encountered Jesus here at Woodlake as well as out in the world and I can't wait to hear more. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you and hearing how God is alive and active in your lives.

I bring many interests, experiences, ideas, passions, and excitement with me to share the good news of Jesus Christ and I am overjoyed to walk this journey of faith with you. If you haven't been to church in a while, I invite you to join us as exciting things are happening at Woodlake Lutheran Church.

Hope

Great hopes and dreams are attached to new pastors. It is powerful to dream how Woodlake can grow, reach out to new people; revitalize its programs, participate in new and vibrant ministries, and breathe new life into this church. I look forward to hearing your hopes and dreams for Woodlake.

Fear

As I end my first month of ministry here at Woodlake, I hope there has been more excitement than fear, but fear is also a faithful biblical emotion. Proverbs 1:7 tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

Ideally, nothing should change at Woodlake Lutheran Church because this place should already be nourishing your faith, your love and fear of God, and service for your neighbor. But, this may not be the case for everyone. I hope that it is, but if it isn't, my vision is to help you find ways to ignite your faith so that you too can love and fear God.

And Sometimes Trembling

I plan to put everything I have, my heart, mind, strength, and soul into serving you at Woodlake, but what happens if it doesn't work? What if some of my ideas fail? What if some of the programs we try don't succeed? I promise, I will make mistakes as your pastor. I am not perfect, and I ask you to recognize the reality of ministry at Woodlake. Thankfully, your congregational president Scott Dahlquist keeps reminding me that Woodlake will support their pastor by specifically, "recognizing the limits of what one person can do," which has been written into my letter of call as a way Woodlake will support their pastor.

Once you enter into the life of the church, there is a fair amount of trembling that happens, but with God's help and guidance, our trembling will be transformed into praise and thanksgiving.

My door is always open for conversation. Please write, call, email, text, any excitements, hopes, fears, and or trembling's that you have as we move forward. I look forward to talking with you.

In Christ, Pastor Micah

Mission and Outreach

VEAP March Food Drive

Join us for worship on Sunday, Feb 25 as the Youth Group led by Debbie Jungers will be handing out grocery bags with a list of food item suggestions attached. Please bring them back to the church with your donated items. If you would rather donate monetarily, you may do so by using your special offering envelopes and labeling it for "VEAP". Let's make this our biggest drive ever! "

Woodlake will be hosting families experiencing homelessness with Families Moving Forward (FMF) from March 4-11.

During the day, families work with staff at a day center in North Minneapolis to transition 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. If you have family or friends that would enjoy participating in this, feel free to invite them along with you. **After worship on Sunday (February 25th and March 4th), please stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up for a shift or to get more information!**

*"Mission and Outreach"
continued on Page 4*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Properties and Facilities Commission

Greetings to the Woodlake family! The new year has certainly brought some exciting changes, and we welcome Pastor Micah to help lead the way! As members of the Leadership Board, we each take a turn to share some highlights of our commission, so here is an update from the Properties Commission.

We hope that all are enjoying the new carpet in the Narthex. It was great that we were able to have it installed in time for Christmas. We hope that you also have noticed that many more rooms have been painted, and the hallway floor next to the offices and choir room has been stripped and cleaned. We continue to slowly clean, paint, replace, and repair items throughout the building and grounds

The next major project will be to replace the carpeting in the Fellowship Hall. We anticipate that this will be completed the week before Easter, since there is very little programming planned for that space during Holy Week. As a reminder, this will be a wood-look vinyl floor that will be much easier to clean than the carpet, but also feel soft and slip-resistant. When we first investigated the sub-floor, the concrete was tested and had too high moisture content. We have since retested, and it now falls within the required minimum. We hope to be enjoying this new floor in time for Easter!

In order to help protect this new surface, we have also ordered 250 new folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall to replace the old metal blue and green chairs. The new chairs should be more comfortable, and easy to set up and move around. All of this has been funded from requests made to the Heritage Fund, from all the generosity given over the years!

There will always be more work to do, and we will continue to make improvements and repairs throughout. We are also always looking for volunteers that can help as they can. Our plan has been to get to the building and grounds in the best shape that it has been in years, so that we can open the doors and go out into the community to share the Good News!

Paul Olson, Properties Commissioner

Worship and Music Notes

Do you want to create a special moment in your life during this Lenten season? Here's your chance!

We are planning to have a contemporary Tenebrae service, "Hope in the Shadows," on March 30th, Good Friday during the 7pm service. (A more traditional service will still be held at 3pm.) The Tenebrae service is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter day.

This year, we will work with six instrumentalists including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Cello and Piano. I hope we are able to make a heartfelt and meaningful service with all of us together. Please join us in choir, whether you are a good singer or not. We just need your effort. Choir attendance is an act of love and dedication. I need your leadership for this special service. It will be a great experience and you need only commit to four rehearsals.

We will have rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, right after Lenten service during March. The rehearsals will be held on March 7, 14, 21 and 27. Don't hesitate to join us. Please contact Jeong Lee if you have any questions.

- Service: 7:00pm on March 30, Good Friday
- Rehearsals: 7:00pm on March 7, 14, 21, and 27

As a worship and music director, I really appreciate your support and help from the bottom of my heart. I'm still accepting distilled water to care for the pianos, and your prayers for the music ministry in Woodlake. Your love and interest in music ministry have been making a difference at Woodlake. It is always appreciated when you support the music ministry at any time!

Your \$10 donation can make a new song for children's choir.

Your \$30 donation can make beautiful music for Handbell musicians.

Your \$50 donation can buy a new song for the choir.

Your generous contribution makes possible a heartfelt music service on Good Friday on March 30.

Your \$20 contribution supports each choir member to have their music.

Your \$50 contribution supports music instrumentalists to have their music.

Your \$100 contribution supports each music instrumentalist.

Please make checks payable to Woodlake with "Music Ministry" in the memo line. I want to tell you how much I appreciate what you are doing for our music ministry in Woodlake. Thanks again for your prayer and your support!

Hyeonjeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

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

Esther Circle: March 6th (1st Tuesday), 11:30am at the Yorke Room of 7500 York

Faith Circle: March 6th, 7:00 pm, Cheryl B's home

Lydia Circle: March 13th (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: March 14th (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: March 18th (date changed due to Palm 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.

March 7: Eunice Neubauer, "Choice Connections"

March 14: Nick Vilbas, "The Works of the Innocent of MN"

March 21: Iris von Bargaen, "Angel Gowns for Premature Babies"

March 28: Bible Study

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, March 22nd, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for March is *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley. Join at any time!

March Senior Fellowship Event: The Bloomingtones

Thursday, March 15: Lunch at 12pm, program at 1pm. The Bloomingtones are a wonderful singing group led by our own Alice Olson, and you'll see many familiar faces in the group. The Bloomingtones sing a fun mix of classics and more modern music. Cost: \$13 includes lunch and program.

SALT March Event: Serving with Loaves and Fishes

Saturday, March 17, 7-7:30pm at Woodlake
The Socializing Adult Lutherans Together (SALT) event for March is a service activity serving dinner and cleaning up for Loaves and Fishes on Sat, March 17th from 5- 7:30pm at Woodlake. You will be welcome to eat dinner as a part of volunteering and then we can go out for dessert afterwards (no dessert is served at Loaves and Fishes). Please RSVP to Cheryl at 612-270-0371 if you will be participating. A number of volunteer slots are reserved for the group.

"Mission and Outreach," continued

Collecting Mittens through March 10! 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!

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.

Thank you! Thanks to your generosity, Gary and Laurie Nix collected **over 500** pairs of reading glasses for Safaris with a Heart.



Laurie and Gary handing out glasses at a Maasai village



More pictures of glasses. The organization that represents these elderly people has 1500 members so all of the reading glasses will go to very good use. All people were super excited about them!

Collaboration Corner

Task Force Update

Our three churches have a deep desire to be welcoming to all people in our community. To do this we need to understand and appreciate their culture as intimately as we understand and appreciate our own.

Recently over 100 people from our congregations took an assessment tool that measures “orientations toward cultural difference and commonality”, in other words, how we see differences and similarities in groups of people and how we relate and respond to them. This Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) provides results that can be reported individually or in groups. The people that completed the IDI met recently to discuss the results and interestingly, the results for each congregation were so similar to the other two that we could look at the overall results of all three congregations as one. WOW, talk about collaboration!

What we learned is that we have work to do. The results reflect “an orientation that recognizes and appreciates patterns of cultural difference in one’s own and other cultures in values, perceptions and behaviors. However, the results also indicate “that the group’s primary orientation toward cultural differences reflects a tendency to highlight commonalities across cultures that can mask important cultural differences in values, perceptions and behaviors.”

At our recent meeting we discussed some possible action items including:

1. Educating our entire congregations about the IDI tool and our results by:
 - Scheduling forums to discuss and answer questions.
 - Writing articles for church newsletters.
 - Other ideas?
2. Planning small group activities to become more culturally competent. Such as:
 - Eat a meal together at a restaurant and observe differences and similarities.
 - Read a relevant book and discuss it.
 - Watch movies that inform about cultural differences, discuss and eat pie.
 - Provide more opportunities to engage cross culturally with people in our community in small groups or one on one in service, conversation and daily living (tutoring, serving meals, housing stability, youth mentoring, elder care, law enforcement, etc.).
 - Learn from personal experiences of those in our congregations and our community who can share their own cultural perspective.
 - Other ideas?

Watch for these things to begin happening this spring. We encourage everyone to participate whether you have taken the IDI or not. If you would like to organize one of the small groups let us know. This is a simple one-time commitment.

If you are interested in taking the IDI you can contact Pastor Ben at House of Prayer via email, bsandin@hoplc.org. If you have already taken it, please feel free to provide input and ideas to any of the Collaboration Task Force members:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ben Sandin | House of Prayer | bsandin@hoplc.org |
| Cara Wright | House of Prayer | cwright@hoplc.org |
| Scott Dahlquist | Woodlake | sjaadahlquist@comcast.net |
| Laurel Johnson | Woodlake | laurelmjohnson11@gmail.com |
| Tom Zarth | Oak Grove | tzarth@oakgroveluthern.org |
| Julie Tvette | Oak Grove | jtvette@comcast.net |
| Mike Tveite | Oak Grove | mdtveite@gmail.com |
| Bonnie Oien | Oak Grove | bjoien@msn.com |

We have begun a journey together that may have incredible results if we work hard together and invite the Holy Spirit to be our guide. Will you join us?

- Your Collaboration Task Force

Joy Bell Concert at Oak Grove Lutheran Church (7045 Lyndale Avenue South)

The Joy Bells will be giving a free bell concert on Sunday March 25th at 3:00 in the sanctuary followed by light refreshments. Hope you can come!



Easter flowers

Order a beautiful flowering plant to decorate Woodlake for Easter! Your purchase can be dedicated to honor or remember a special person or event, if you wish. Those dedications will be listed in Easter worship folders. Place forms and payments in the offering plate, or bring them to the office. Plants should be taken home after the *last* service on Easter. **In order to ensure you receive your order, please have it to the church office by noon on Monday, March 12th.**

- Easter Lily (White, 6" pot) \$10.00
- Asiatic Lily (Pink, 7" pot)..... \$10.00
- Tulip (Yellow) \$13.00
- Mum (Purple)..... \$13.00
- Azalea (Pink) \$20.00
- Hydrangea (Blue)..... \$30.00

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (no tax)
(payable to Woodlake)

Ordered by _____
(Name as it should appear in bulletin)

Provide a dedication as you would like it to appear in Easter bulletins.

- In Memory of . . .
- In Honor of . . .
- Other (write out)
