



Messenger

Woodlake

Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Charlie Plaster
Pastor Brice Eichlersmith

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

Church Office Hours

Monday9am – 12pm
Tuesday9am – 4pm
Wednesday9am – 4pm
Thursday9am – 4pm
Friday9am – 12pm
SaturdayClosed
Sunday .. Before and after worship

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

May Event Highlights

May 7 – Handbell Concert

Join us in the Narthex after the 10:00 worship service to hear a special performance from our bell choir. Please see Worship and Music Notes on Page 4 for more information.

May 14 – Sunday School Carnival

Please see Children and Youth News on Page 3 for info about the end-of-the-year celebration.

May 21 – Confirmation Sunday and Semi-Annual Meeting

During worship, we will confirm our young adults who have been studying hard this year. After worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our semi-annual meeting. Hear the latest from the Call Committee.

From our Collaboration team comes...

Pin Of The Month - Skittle Prayers

- Green: Name something you love about your family. Pray for them.
- Yellow: Who was your favorite teacher? Pray for all teachers.
- Orange: What do you like best about church? Pray for your pastors.
- Purple: What is your favorite thing God has made? Pray for creation.
- Red: Who do you know that needs help? Pray for them.

Beginning in May the Congregational Listening Team will be offering a 'Pin of the Month'. All pins will include activities centered around Families, Faith, and Fun. Why "Pin" you might ask? Because these ideas are all examples of things you can find on our Pinterest page. Check it out at www.pinterest.com/familyfaithfun2

Pastor's Corner

"READ THE BIBLE"

"These are written so that you may come to believe the Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name." - John 20: 31

Read the Bible. No surprise hearing your pastor say that. Some of you may be thinking, what else is a pastor going to say? There is some truth in that. It is what pastors are supposed to say to their church. Read the Bible.

But I say it to you now not because I am supposed to say it, but because I really believe that one of the best ways to grow in faith is to read the Bible. As we are reminded in the words above from the Gospel of John, this is what the Bible is meant to do. It is to create faith so that you may have life in Christ.

Read the Bible. Read a short portion (10-12 verses) each day. Choose what you read from a certain book of the Bible. Read through a certain book of the Bible. If you are like me, I like to read about different characters in the Bible and see what part of their life of faith or their struggle in life I can identify with. You make the choice. No matter what you choose, it will be good for you and your faith. God says so.

*Good reading,
Pastor Charlie*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

The season of Lent, a time that causes us to fast (give up something), give alms (donate time or money), and pray (repent of our sins) has passed, and we have celebrated the Resurrection of Christ at Easter. But the pillars of Lent don't need to be abandoned after forty days.

The idea of fasting is to put aside something that gets in the way of our relationship with God. Often we think of giving up a certain food, or a habit that isn't good for us anyway. But, fasting might be turned around to commit to spending the time or the money saved into something new in our relationship with God. How can we continue to give our time in the many missions of our church?

Giving alms causes us to think of others as being as important as ourselves. We might give money or time. Here at Woodlake, we had our Socks and Sacks drive in March. We collected more than 500 pairs of socks, and over 500 pounds of food and \$700 in cash for VEAP's March Food Drive. I see the giving spirit in so many small groups at Woodlake. Working at Families Moving Forward, or Loaves and Fishes, knitting hats and mittens, being a Homebound Minister are just a few of the ways Woodlakers give to others. How can we join in?

Repentance is the basis of our relationship with God. The sting of sin is a reminder that we need Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Asking for repentance makes the joy of His forgiveness incomparable. And knowing that we have that forgiveness allows me to ask Christ to bring my attitudes and actions in line with his will. How will our actions change if we commit to doing His will?

Heavenly Father, we ask for Your forgiveness and the guidance of Your Spirit to serve you according to Your will. Guide the board in the work of the church and the process of the call committee. We pray for the person you have picked to be our new pastor. Prepare their heart for our call. Amen.

Family Moving Forward will be at Woodlake again in June. With the commitment of each of our collaboration partners to one night, we are still in need of many volunteers. We may be bringing in more prepared food for our families, so donations of money would be appreciated.

Laurel Johnson, Mission and Outreach Commission

Children and Youth News

Summer is just around the corner and school's almost out.

Our last Sunday school class will be on Sunday May 7th.

Which Means.... **It's Time for the Year End Carnival!!!**

May 14th at 11a.m.



All are welcomed for prizes, games, snacks, and fellowship.

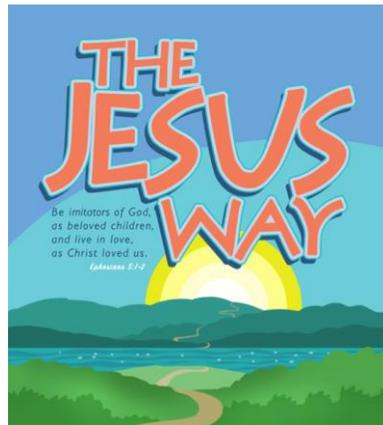
The carnival will be held on the front lawn after worship (weather permitting.)

Looking for volunteers to run games and snacks. Just show up ready to help on May 14th at 10:50 a.m.

Thank you! We hope you are able to spend part of your Mother's Day with us!

Spend some time this summer here at Woodlake Church!

Vacation bible school is coming soon!



"The Jesus Way" with Luther Park August 6-10

A different theme each day, we will learn about:

Feeding, Forgiving,
Loving the neighbor,
Serving humbly, and
Praying.

Registration forms will be available soon!

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Tuesday, May 16, from 4:00p.m. to 8:00pm at Davanni's Pizza & Hot Hoagies

(6345 Penn Ave S.)

Please let the staff know that you are there to support Woodlake's Youth, and 20% of your sales will be donated for their trip this summer.

Summer Stretch: Youth entering 6th – 10th grades next fall have an opportunity to participate in this Gospel-centered program on Thursdays in the summer. Typical days include small group prayer and Bible discussion, a morning at a service site, and afternoons for recreational activities. For more information or to sign up, stop by the front desk to pick up an info packet, or contact Pastor Brice (612) 998-2128; beichlersmith@woodlakechurch.org).

Worship and Music Notes

This is the last month before we enter the summer season.

Officially, I would like to thank everyone and everything. I appreciate everyone's dedication, hard work, effort, and your commitment to creating a better place to share God's love at Woodlake.

Thank you to all who participated in our Good Friday service to serve as readers, musicians and other volunteers. I especially want to thank the choir who came together to prepare during the Lenten season - which means there was not nearly enough time! But they followed every direction without any complaints. I always tried to put together a diverse group of people from young to old age to share in special moments, especially during Advent season and Holy Week. I hope even more people are able to participate in these events in the future. It is your right to receive and share the blessing from God.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to the One and Together Project. We held this fundraiser for new pianos all throughout April.

Your gift will make an immediate difference at Woodlake! I'm glad that we will be able to get two pianos right away. The pianos will be placed in the Chapel and Choir Room. We don't need to suffer anymore from untuned notes like Beethoven. What a relief!

Thank you again for your generosity. This will make it possible to create much better sounding music!

Ding Dang Dong time!!!!

Please join us for a concert of joyful sound of the bells. Handbell choir will have a concert after 10:00am service on May 7 in the Narthex. They will present 'Thy Holy Wings,' 'Lord of the Dance,' 'Theme from Love Story,' 'Edelweiss,' and 'My grandfather's clock.'

Our handbell choir is having rehearsals every

Wednesday at 5:00pm. Everyone from high school students to senior are welcome to join.

Children's Choir will sing on May 14 for 10:00 am service.

This will be a last opportunity this year to sing as a children's choir. They will sing "This Little Light of Mine." Please let your children participate in this great experience. Music is a great tool to teach children the Gospel. "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19). "Let the word of Christ dwell in richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)

Musician's Party

Musician's party for all musician from children's choir to adult groups will take place on May 24. Please register if you are not musician but you'd like to join the party. Please register in the office by May 21 or email Jeong Lee at jlee@woodlakechurch.org.

Thank all musicians for all of their hard work! From the Spirit Singers, guitarists, cantors, choir, handbell choir, children's choir and their parents, Eileen, Loryce and other musicians who attended our church.

We have lots of opportunity to become involved in music groups at Woodlake as adult choir, handbell, the spirit singers and Children's choir or cantor group. Please consider participating in any of these groups; either temporary attendance or regular attendance will be okay.

I hope many people are able to join to each music group in the fall, and together we can make a difference.

Thank you for all you have done!

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Building and Finances

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Each year the Woodlake Heritage Endowment Fund awards college scholarships to graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in a course of post-high school education. While formerly these scholarships were available only to freshman students entering an ELCA sponsored college or University, these scholarships are now available for students in any accredited school of higher education, including trade or vocational schools and non-ELCA church affiliated schools. These scholarships are also available to students beyond the freshman year in college.

Beginning May 1, scholarship application forms are available at the church in two formats. One application form is for high school seniors going on to additional schooling in the fall and a second application form is for students who received this scholarship in a previous year(s) and are continuing their college education, up to a maximum of four years. Completed applications should be returned to the church no later than June 15.

CONFIRMATION CARDS: The Church has an abundant supply of Confirmation cards that are available for your taking on the main office counter. These are mainly for a relative (parents, grandmother, aunt, uncle etc.) to give to the confirmand. If you need a Confirmation card this year, please check out our selection. They are free, but if you would like to drop a small donation in the small church outside the main office door, that would be appreciated.

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS: Thanks to your due diligence in keeping your pledges up to date, our regular envelope offering through March 31 is running \$13,500 above budget (about 7%). Total expenses are running about 9% below budget which leaves us in good financial shape going into the summer months.

Updates from the Properties Commission

Hello congregation. Here are a few updates on some upcoming projects around the church, that I hope you are excited about.

We have been working to obtain carpet and resilient flooring samples for the replacement of the carpeting in both the Narthex area and the Fellowship Hall. Within the next couple weeks we should have samples to review and select for both areas. Look for more information and contact Paul Olson if you are interested in the process.

We are also looking for volunteer helpers to assist with the gardens around the church grounds. We wish to set up a team to assess and determine the best methods to clean up the planting areas, and maintain throughout the year. Also contact me if you are interested in helping! (Check your member directories or contact the church office.)
Thanks!

Paul Olson
Properties Commissioner

Fall Craft Sale News. There was a possibility that the Fall Craft Sale was not going to take place. Diana Olson has coordinated it so well for several years, but has the need for a break. Christina Hardy has shown an interest in taking on Diana's duties, so the sale will be the second Saturday in November as usual: November 11, 2017. Dede Tollefsrud will assist her. Thank you!

Mission and Outreach

Our next hosting week for Families Moving Forward (FMF) begins in the evening of Sunday, June 4th, and goes until the morning of Sunday, June 11th. Families who are experiencing homelessness work with volunteers 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 hospitality, and a place to sleep for the night. In the morning they are bused back to the day center. FMF is operated by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative; check out their website at <http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/>. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and take down rooms, act as hosts, prepare meals, wash dishes, do laundry, and stay overnight. Check out the sign up table in the narthex starting May 14th, or contact lead coordinator Scott Dahlquist at sjaadahquist@comcast.net or at [612 919 9232](tel:6129199232) to see how you can help.

For this hosting week in addition to commitments made by The Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer and Hope Lutheran Church, members of our collaboration partners, Oak Grove Lutheran Church and House of Prayer, have committed to help with the hosting week. In Hebrews 11:1 we read "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." I have faith that the desire to be a hosting congregation for FMF continues to reside in the several congregations involved in this ministry, and I have therefore committed Woodlake to be a hosting congregation for two weeks in 2018. I will hope and pray that my faith will be rewarded.

Scott J. Dahlquist, Lead Coordinator

Warm Lenten Greetings

from the Ekkas!

Our time in the US is going well as we continue to share God's Word and his works in India with many Church partners, Bible study groups and individual friends and mission partners. While we encourage others for God's mission we are also encouraged by their positive response to mission in India specially for a Christian Boarding School in Ranchi. Recently, we participated in Word Mission Prayer League mission event in Okoboji, IA.



The family in front of Okoboji Camp, IA.



Maani shared Missionary's kids perspective of Mission. As part of her presentation Maani washed the children's feet. Washing feet of special guest is a very important tra-dition of Oraon Christians in India.

For the full update and more pictures, please see the Ekkas' newsletter on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

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

Attention, Circle leaders! We will assume all Circles are off for June, July, and August unless informed otherwise. If your circle intends to meet over the summer, please contact Julia in the front office (612-866-8449 or office@woodlakechurch.org) so we can include your schedules in summer newsletters.

Esther Circle: May 2 (1st Tuesday), 11:30 am in the Yorke Room at 7500 York.

Faith Circle: May 2 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Bev J's home

Lydia Circle: May 9 (2nd Tuesday), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room (Time changed for potluck lunch)

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: May 10 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: May 21 (one week early due to Memorial Day), 8:45 am, Heritage Room

May Matins Speakers (Wednesdays, 9am in the Fireside Room)

May 3: Orville Holland, "New Zealand"

May 10: Rev. Morris Wee, "Lutheran Church in Leipzig"

May 17: Jennifer Mayerle, "WCCO TV"

May 24: Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, May 25, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for May is *Simon's Night* by Jon Hassler. Join at any time!

Men's Fellowship Group gathering - Thursday, May 11, at House of Prayer (7625 Chicago Avenue S)

All men and interested young adults are welcome and invited for fellowship, devotions, chit-chat, and to hear SFC Patrick Holland, from the US Army Career Center, discuss his participation and experience with US Army Recruitment. Lots of fellowship, plan to attend and join us! For more information call Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833.

Collaboration Environmental Interest Group

Do you have a passion for the environment? Do you know what the Bible teaches about creation? Can Science and Religion co-exist? Would you like to be better informed about global warming, alternative energy, clean air and water? Do you want a healthy Earth for your children and grandchildren? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we invite you to be a part of a planning group to study these issues. Call or email Karen Steenson ([612 866 1641](tel:6128661641), d2ksteenson@gmail.com) or talk to Pastor Ben Sandin at House of Prayer, bsandin@hoplc.org.

SPRING SERIES: Bloomington-Richfield Grief Support Coalition
Thursday, April 6 – May 25, 2017, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Oak Grove Lutheran Church
7045 Lyndale Ave S, Richfield MN

Topics for May:

May 4: "Will I Always Feel This Way? Surviving The First Year," Nancy Sullivan

May 11: "The Greatest of These is Love: Cherishing What Remains," Nancy Sullivan

May 18: "Where Are We Now?" Lizz Clevang

May 25: SERVICE OF HEALING

Christ In Community – Richfield ELCA Churches Collaboration Team

May 2017 Newsletter

The Christ In Community Collaboration Team met on April 3 at Woodlake Lutheran Church. It's great to see all the work the Listening Teams are doing! If you have some news or an event you would like the Collaboration Team to share or a group you would like to organize, please send your announcements to our Communication Chair, Lesley Farnham at lesleyfarnham@gmail.com. If you are interested in connecting with one of the Listing Team chairpersons directly, here is their contact information: Spiritual Listening Team: Bonnie Oien – bjoien@msn.com, Congregation Listening Team: Elisa Tveté – emtvete@gmail.com, Community Listening Team: Laurel Johnson – laurelmjohnson11@gmail.com.

We start each meeting with updates from the pastors about each congregation. Pastor Charlie Plaster from Woodlake shared their progress toward calling and a new pastor. The Call Committee (also WL's leadership's team) is working diligently on a Ministry Site Profile, one of the initial steps in the call process. We were excited to hear that ongoing collaborative efforts will be a piece of WL's profile. Pastor Ben Sandin from House of Prayer shared news about staffing changes. Pastor Linda Lund, Visitation Pastor, will be retiring at the end of April. House of Prayer welcomed Cara Wright onboard April 1 as Director of Operations and Communications. Pastor Tom Zarth from Oak Grove passed on thanks for the great community support for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser that supported a family in their congregation injured in a car accident.

The Community Listening Team has been working to identify community contacts and resources to partner with and promote. They had a great meeting with Ben Whalen, Director of Youth Ministry and Community Development at House of Prayer, and hope to continue working together. They plan to use our network of churches to engage and support ongoing efforts in the Richfield and help publicize events already happening in our community. Watch for more information about Unity in the Community on May 25.

The Spiritual Listening Team continues to provide thoughtful and meaningful prayer petitions that are shared during worship each Sunday at all three congregations. Many of these requests have come from the booth at Penn Fest this past summer where community members completed a survey asking what we as a collaboration of Richfield churches could pray for on their behalf. Also during Lent, the same wonderful prayer petition was shared each week as we prayed together, *“As a collaboration of Lutheran people, Lord, we pray for Your love to fill us, Your joy to lift us, Your peace to quiet us, Your patience to calm us, Your kindness to reflect in us, Your generosity to be contagious in us, Your faithfulness to steady us, Your gentleness to soften us, and Your self-control to be our guide.”*

The Congregation Listening Team continues to develop ideas from the Youth and Family Ministry survey completed by all congregations last fall. Look for an exciting new Pinterest page to roll out in May called Family, Faith & Fun with great ideas to share faith in our families and with our community. Our Senior Citizen groups have done a great job connecting for events happening at each church. Kudos to them for sharing fun and fellowship with each other!

Each congregation has added a Collaboration Tab to its website. Check there for contact information as well as the minutes from each meeting. We encourage you to look for opportunities to engage in the Richfield community and with members of other congregations. Attend events, share news, invited friends and bring opportunities to the collaboration team!

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Christ in Community Collaboration of Richfield ELCA Churches. Feel free to reach out to me as well with questions or comments.

Cara Wright
Collaboration Team Steering Committee Chair

