



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

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

Building will be closed on
Monday, May 28 in
recognition of Memorial Day.

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

The busy, busy month of May...

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 6

Join us for Sunday morning worship at 10am and show your support for this year's Confirmation students. Stay after worship for a reception.

Final Wednesday Night Supper (5:30 – 6:30) and Choir Practices for the programming year

Wednesday, May 16

Please see weekly announcements for choir practice times, and sign up for suppers either in person in the church office or by sending an email to office@woodlakechurch.org. Remember, kids and teens up to 18 years eat free, and only \$5 for adults!

Farewell Reception for Julie Windler and Sunday School Carnival

Sunday, May 20 after worship

See Page 2 for Julie's retirement announcement. Our annual Sunday School carnival celebrates another great programming year with fun and games!

Musician Appreciation Party

Wednesday, May 23

See "Worship and Music Notes" on Page 3 for more information.

Woodlake 2020 Listening Sessions in May

Woodlake 2020 is a new plan intended to support ministries where Woodlake is vibrant and healthy, and address the areas where it is not. The goal is to help the church learn about its present reality and grow into a hoped-for future.

The first step is simply to listen to you. Join Pastor Micah and a Leadership Board representative during one or more congregational listening sessions, and be part of the conversation as we plan our future together. Sessions are expected to last approximately one hour based on attendance and participation.

Sunday, May 13, 11:15am (Fellowship Hall after worship with Pastor Micah and Mary Olson, Vice-President)

Wednesday May 16, 5:30-6:30pm (during supper in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Micah and Scott Dahlquist, President)

Saturday May 19, 6:00-7:00pm (Chapel after worship with Pastor Micah and Laurel Johnson, Mission and Outreach)

Please see Pastor Micah's column on Page 2 for more information about Woodlake 2020 and these listening sessions!

Pastor's Page

"God's love is upon you, our church, and our world now and as we step into an unknown future."

Psalm 33:22 (translated)

What will the future of Woodlake hold? It's a beautiful thing to have the opportunity to imagine, discuss, and create something new for Woodlake, ourselves, and future generations.

Should we create an after school tutoring program with Richfield Middle School to help share the good news of Jesus through service? Should we create a ministry with Minnesota Life College to equip and empower adults with learning and social difficulties? Should we focus on Best Buy and the thousands of workers that are literally steps from our church? Maybe we focus our time and energy on our neighborhood? What do our neighbors need? Affordable housing, community, a gathering place? Should we focus on global missions, helping the church grow abroad? Possibly providing clean water, education, or medical care for those around the world?

Woodlake is blessed with strong tradition, a faithful following, and opportunities to grow. Woodlake 2020 is about figuring out the best ministries to participate in with our limited resources. Should we sell our building? Should we turn our church into a homeless shelter or community resource center? Should we create a Spanish or Hmong worship service? Should we put our focus on the next generation and invest in youth, making sure our VBS, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group programs are well equipped to meet today's demands? Should we focus on young adults, parents with kids, empty nesters, seniors? The possibilities are exciting and endless.

I invite you to join a congregational listening session or schedule an appointment for an individual listening session to share your thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

The following questions will be asked at the congregational listening sessions. Consider which ones you would like to speak to.

What are Woodlake's Strengths? Weaknesses?

What is Woodlake's niche in Richfield?

What will help us connect with new people?

What are the real spiritual needs in your life? And how can the church meet them?

How do we become a church for those who are not here? What do they need? What do their kids need to attend church?

What is our insider language that is preventing people from coming to Woodlake? How do we become a church for outsiders?

If Woodlake could better connect with a specific demographic of people, who would that be? Please be as specific as possible.

If you could create a new mission statement for Woodlake, what would it be?

Are there other things that you think would be helpful to know going forward?

When considering Woodlake 2020, what new and old ministries would you be willing to support? Once a clear direction emerges, I will ask you to support this ministry with both your time and resources. If you aren't able to do that, then consider what you might be able to do to help Woodlake live into its future. Join us during this exciting time.

In Christ, Pastor Micah

You – yes, YOU! – are invited to schedule an individual listening session with Pastor Micah. Appointments are available between 9am and 8pm on Tuesday, May 15, Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 17. Please contact Julia in the office (612-866-8449 x10, office@woodlakechurch.org) to schedule an appointment.

Julie Windler, our financial coordinator and building manager, has announced her retirement effective May 31, 2018. Please join us for a farewell reception after worship on Sunday, May 20th.

April 1st of this year marked my 20th year anniversary of working at Woodlake Lutheran Church. It has been an interesting path going from working with primarily the financial aspects of the church to the past 5 years of dealing with all the building aspects also. The installation of new flooring in both the Fellowship Hall and Narthex has been one of the major goals I have been working towards along with making the whole building attractive and organized. I have achieved this goal and also now have a one-year-old granddaughter named Elizabeth who I love to spend time with. I will always treasure the relationships I have built over these many years. I have been very fortunate to work with wonderful staff now and in the past.

Unlike pastors, I am allowed to remain a member of the congregation but will take a temporary break to allow my successor to get established. I bid you farewell as an employee of Woodlake but will remain your fellow congregational member.

- Julie Windler

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

How Do We Show That We Care?

Woodlake has been a congregation since 1947 and from the very beginning we have been a caring congregation. We have taken to heart the words from the book of Hebrews 6:10, *For God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love for him by caring for other believers, as you still do.* From the beginning we have reached out to help our neighbors and have been supportive of our fellow members as they have dealt with the trauma of living.

Currently we have five small groups who get together to provide care to fellow members at Woodlake. These include our Homebound Ministers, Prayer Chain Members, Prayer Shawl Knitters, Table Blessing Preparers and Woodlake Ink, the stamping card group. Occasionally in the Messenger we will highlight one of these groups in the Congregational Caring Corner so that you will be aware of how they are serving our congregation and so you may join them in caring for others if interested.

With the ending of our Stephen Ministry program, we have had a lapse in one-on-one member care especially for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. This January we began again to distribute the *Journeying Through Grief* booklets to help support these members. Our homebound ministers are delivering some of these booklets. Gary Johnson has volunteered to coordinate this distribution.

This summer we hope to contact most of our inactive members through a phone call to let them know that they are missed and to encourage them to reconnect with us at worship and social events. If you would like to be one of these callers please contact me at 952-881-4213. I will be forming a small group in May to create our message and organize the calls.

The Congregational Caring Commission also has members representing some of the major life events that take place at Woodlake: baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals. We would like to hear from you if you have ideas on how we can better support our members at these important times.

Also, you may have an idea for a new small group whose mission would share God's love with fellow members in a caring manner. I would love to hear from you and will support you in setting up your group and sharing your work with the Leadership Board and the congregation.

When my children were growing up in the 90s a new fad was popular with teens, wearing bracelets with the letters WWJD which stood for What Would Jesus Do. It helped them to focus on Jesus' example and try to be more like him. In closing I will remind you of Matthew 25: 40 *and the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* Jesus wants us to continue to be a caring congregation. Please contact me when you are ready to serve.

Anne Schmiege, Congregational Care Commissioner

Worship and Music Notes

Music Appreciation Party on Wednesday, May 23, 6:00PM

Thank you for being a part of our music ministry here at Woodlake. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, spirit, energy, and effort!

We are growing and working together. We are sharing our joy, positive energy and happiness. We're throwing a party on May 23 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for all musicians at Woodlake including children's choir and their parents, the Spirit Singers, Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, cantors, and guitarists. Or anyone who were involved with our special services and would like to share your talents with us in the future.

There will be a mini concert from the handbells during the event.

Also, we will have fun with games, songs and quizzes. Please bring your family or friends and don't hesitate to join this party if you were involved with our special services, like the lessons and carols, and would like be more involved in the future.

Please contact Jeong Lee, Worship and Music director (jlee@woodlakechurch.org, 612-866-8449 ext 15) or Julia in the office if you would like to attend and share your talents or have something you want to share with people. Be sure to register your name and numbers on the paper in church office by May 13, Sunday.

Let us all get together for a whole lot of fun with you!

Contributions to Worship and Music Ministry

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." Psalm 96:1-2

There is a chance to let us have new music every Sunday. Every penny can support our music ministry.

"Worship and Music Notes" continued on Page 4

Mission and Outreach

Mission Trip Fundraiser: Woodlake's Youth going on the mission trip are hosting a fundraiser at Panera Bread on **Wednesday, May 2nd, from 4pm – 8pm**. Bring the flier to Panera Bread at 980 W 78th Street in Richfield, and 20% of your ticket price will be donated to the youth. We must raise at least \$100 to earn the donation, so please take part! The flier for this fundraiser is included on Page 6 of this newsletter and will be included in all bulletins the weekend before the fundraiser.

VEAP: VEAP and many of your neighbors in need extend their thank you's for the contributions you have made for the VEAP March Food Drive this year. Our congregation gave 431 lbs. of food and \$1,042 in monetary donations during the month of March. We want to thank the Target Corporation for donating the grocery bags again this year, and thanks to Debbie Jungers and the Youth Group for putting the VEAP list on the bags and handing them out to us as reminders. Please continue to pick up extra items when you are out shopping and place them in the grocery carts in the corridor or church office. VEAP appreciates the variety this provides. However, if you would rather donate monetarily, please use one of your church envelopes and mark it for VEAP. VEAP is able to purchase \$10 of food items for every \$1 donated. Thank you again for your continued generosity.

Collecting Books! Maya Burkstrand and Bridget Foley are working on their Girl Scout Silver Award. They are attempting to collect one Spanish and one English Book to give each student at Richfield Dual Language School. If you would like to contribute, there will be a collection bin in the narthex through mid-May. Spanish books are especially needed and are available at Barnes and Noble, through Amazon, and other local book retailers. Titles of interest to this age group include these series: Diario de Greg, Diario de Nikki, Elefante y Cerdita and Escalafrios. Thank you for your help! - Maya & Bridget

Blessing Bags

We are collecting items to add to Blessing Bags that we can give to people in need. Items will be collected in the office, and our VBS children will assemble the bags over the summer. Keep reading for a list of what we can use.

Gallon Size Ziploc Bag: This is key for several reasons:

- Helps to keep everything together & in one place so they can easily access the supplies in their bags/backpacks
- Keeps the items from spilling/leaking onto their personal items in their bags
- The bags can later be used for other storage options within their bags – storing toiletries, snacks

Bottle of Water: Mini water bottles (8oz.) work great so they don't take up too much space.

Band-Aids: These are something that may often be needed but may not be something they would be able to spend money on or think about having. A few boxes can be distributed among several bags.

Hand Sanitizer: Another great option to help them feel cleaner

Toiletries: *Travel-size toiletries work great and a Dollar Store offers most items.* Needs include: Toothbrushes, Toothpaste (travel size if you have a lot of items to put into your bag), Soap (we bring home soaps from hotels if we don't end up using all of them), Shampoo/conditioner (these are also great products to save from hotels), Comb, Chapstick

New Socks:

White Men's socks are best – this size fits most and white is best for diabetic feet

Non-Perishable Foods: Granola Bars, Energy Bars, Tuna/cracker packs, Cheese/cracker packs, Gum/hard candy

“Worship and Music Notes,” continued

Your \$25 contribution can support the children's choir. Your \$50 contribution is able to bring new music for adult choir and handbells. Your \$100 contribution can support guest musicians at Woodlake.

Please make checks payable to Woodlake with WMM (Worship and Music Ministry) in the Memo line. Thank you for all your support and prayer for the music ministry at Woodlake!

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

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

Faith Circle: May 1 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Mickey L's home.

Lydia Circle: May 8 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room. Potluck salad luncheon!

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: May 9 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: May 20, 8:45am in the Heritage Room (rescheduled due to Memorial Day weekend).

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.

May 2: Jim Hoey, "Honoring Heroes – the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad"

May 9: Gary and Laurie Nix, "Trip to Tanzania"

May 16: Terry Eggans, "Caregiving for Aging Parents and Housing Options"

May 23: Pastor Joanne Sorenson, "Jamaica Trip"

May 30: No speaker – celebrate another great programming year!

Matins morning prayer services will continue throughout the summer, but the speaker program will break for the summer and resume in the fall.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, May 24, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for May is *Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. Join at any time!

Enjoy softball and looking for a "joy of the game" experience rather than competitive success?

Consider playing with the Woodgrove Saints, a composite team made up of members of Richfield churches and their friends. Games are on Thursday evenings at Dred Scott fields in S/W Bloomington starting April 26th. Contact team manager Scott Dahlquist for further information at sjaadahquist@comcast.net or at (612) 919-9232. Men (18+) of any ability are welcome.

Attention, Funeral Workers!

Please join us for coffee and dessert in the Fireside Room on **Wednesday, May 16th, at 1:00pm** (rescheduled). We want to thank you for all your hard work throughout the year! Please RSVP with Betty Wilhelmson if you are able to come: 612-866-4343.

Homebound Ministers: Please check your homes and cars and make sure you have returned used communion kits to church. We seem to be missing a few. We apologize for having run out early recently and will be creating new home communion kits as soon as we can.

From the Records



First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018

Congratulations to our children who have met this milestone! Pictured above: Christopher Shirk, Audrey Olson, Emma Govenat, Pastor Micah, Tessa Myers, Kari Hargreaves

Baptisms

Sanna Grace Pearson, child of Pastor Micah Pearson and Linnea Pearson, baptized on 2/25/2018

Deaths and Funerals

Thank you for keeping these families in your prayers.

Marlys Jacobsen (April 6, 1937 - March 21, 2018), funeral service held at Woodlake on March 26, 2018

Gerald "Jerry" Erickson (December 15, 1932 - March 22, 2018), memorial service held at Woodlake on April 7, 2018



HELP SUPPORT

WOODLAKE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

WHERE 980 West 78th St, Richfield, MN 55423

WHEN Wed, May 2nd

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?*

Enter **FUND** as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

*Gift card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event.
Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

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