

**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 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 November’s issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
no later than October 15.*



October 2017

Messenger

Pastor’s Corner – 500th Anniversary

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. This action began what we now call the Lutheran Reformation and was also the beginning of the Lutheran Church.

Since this happens only once every 500 years, it seems appropriate to plan some special events. Here is what we are planning for the anniversary celebration here at Woodlake:

- October 8: Pastor John Ashland (son of the congregation) will be with us to do a first person skit as Martin Luther. His impersonation of Luther will be a part of the 10am worship on October 8. After the worship service, Pastor John will lead a discussion of the importance of Martin Luther for us today.
- October 15: Pastor Joanne will be preaching a sermon in which she speaks to us as Katie Luther, the wife of Martin Luther. Perhaps some discussion or guest speaker afterwards.
- October 22: We will gather at 4pm in Fireside Room to watch the classic 1953 movie "Martin Luther." This the movie we all watched in Confirmation. In spite of its age, according to the critics it is still the best depiction of the events of Luther's life in many ways.
- October 28 and 29: Special Reformation worship services at 5pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.

I hope you can join us for these special events. A reason to come?
Remember all this happens only once every 500 years.

In Christ alone, Pastor Charlie

Other Special Events in October

Reformation 500 Bookstore – Begins October 1

Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles. We'll have a table up after worship on Sundays in October. Make checks out to Woodlake. We'll place the order in early November and you can pick up your books here.

Blessing of the Animals – October 1, 2pm

Please join us on the lawn by the parking lot located on 76th and Newton. We begin with a short service outside and then move inside to the chapel where each pet will be individually blessed. Favorite stuffed animals and pictures of pets no longer living or too shy in a crowd can also receive a blessing. Treats for pets and humans will follow the blessings. There will be a collection of pet food and kitty litter to be given where needed.

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, October 22, before and after worship. Proceeds benefit the Scouts and Woodlake, so plan to have a great breakfast this morning!

Stewardship Pledges – Information about this will be mailed to you.

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

“Nailed It!!”

This October, 2017, the world's Christian churches are celebrating the 500th year anniversary of what's known to us as The Reformation...when Martin Luther, a young monk serving the people of the Roman church, came to realize that salvation was being determined by works, monetary gifts, and strict man-made rules, instead of by the gift of God-given grace and forgiveness. His two principle scripture guides were Psalm 46 and the book of Romans, a testament of the apostle Paul to the Roman people about grace, forgiveness, community, and eternal life.

What is often forgotten to be mentioned in all the teachings about the reforming that Luther wanted for his church is the importance he placed on the people, declaring in many different ways that it was a community of the people of God worshipping God. His writings often refer to and aspire to promote actions of the people gathering around the Word, worshipping together, loving each other as one in Christ. His was a desire for the people of God to enjoy Congregational Life. He nailed 95 points (historically referred to as Theses or topics for debate) to the door of the church in Wittenberg in the hopes that the people would come to see and realize the need for a shared congregational life. Because of Luther's 95 points, Lutherans and other Christians the world over can now live free and worshipful lives together in their respective congregations. We can say he "nailed it!"

I have been the Woodlake Lutheran Congregational Life Commissioner for the past two years. In those two years I have observed how much life there is in this congregation. We have "the usual" events of life in a congregation: food and coffee, worship, Bible studies, groups like circles and groups like SALT, Matins, etc. The list is long. All of the groups that meet - some small, some large - began because of a shared interest, an appreciation of shared devotion, and an interest in sharing a service project. In keeping with Luther's desire for the people to be the church together, anyone can start a small group...where 2 or 3 are gathered together...and add to the life of the congregation.

The position of Congregational Life Commissioner is an important and interesting one on the Leadership Board, and as I am through with my term WE NEED A NEW COMMISSIONER to replace me. That person can help folks find others with shared interests, or start a new interest group, and help all the needs of life in the congregation work smoothly, together, and for the best interests of all. You connect with a lot of people and the staff is always willing to help. Now YOU can help by stepping up and taking over the position of Commissioner of Congregational Life. We can "Nail It" together...

Kathy Hedman, Congregational Life Commissioner

God has blessed you with many gifts. As a member of Woodlake, could these gifts serve others? Do you have interests, abilities, or talents to serve in the following areas: President of the Congregation, Treasurer, Worship and Music, Properties, Congregation Life, or Youth Faith Formation? Soon, a new church year will begin and we are looking for members to make just a two-year commitment to serve. You are not alone when you do this! We all work as a team and support each other. If you have questions about what this would entail, please ask any Board member or Pastor Plaster. We would hope that you might step up and volunteer but if you are approached, please earnestly consider and pray that you are guided in the right direction. The Leadership Board is excited for the future of Woodlake and the calling of a new Pastor. This is our time to open our hearts and minds to new possibilities with new Leadership.

LORD, LET ME LEAN ON YOU

By Colette Venson

Lord, can I lean on you to get me through the struggles that keep me from getting close to you – knowing that you care, and knowing that you're there, moving in and through me, helping me be free - from feeling all alone? I can't make it on my own.

Lord, keep me in your mercy and grace so I can finish this race and I can live in your holy place.

So, Lord, let me lean on you and show me the new kingdom of your mercy and grace and the loving smile on your face.

Lord, fashion me in you so I can see the truth and let your love shine through and let me, Lord, lean on you.

Worship and Music Notes

This year is the 500th anniversary of Reformation.

Last spring, I toured Germany and visited St Anne's church in Augsburg. The place played an important role in the history of the Reformation. Luther stayed there with Carmelite friars in 1518. The room Luther stayed in has been turned into an exhibit called the Lutherstiege (Luther Staircase).

There was an exhibition where I could learn about his life and the Reformation. Lutheran manuscripts were also displayed there.

This is one of description: Luther arrived in Augsburg on 7 October 1518, accompanied by magisterial Reiff, tired and weary from a severe stomach upset. They had walked 550 kilometres from Wittenberg in twelve days. He was aware that refusal to recant could put his life in danger. This is why he wrote to Melanchoy on 11 October: Keep living as a man, as you certainly do, teaching the students to follow the right path. I will not offer myself as a sacrifice for you and for them, if that is God's will. In fact, I would rather die (...), than recant what I have said in truth (...)."

Looking at the exhibition made me realize how much of an impact Psalm 46 had on his life. It was really surreal to know that Luther was there at that place roughly 500 years ago. It was the same place. Just a different time. The feeling I had while I was there made me to think about his life again.

He didn't aim to change the world or history. Around 1500, the popes and churches were making increasing use of the trade in indulgences as a source of income. Luther was also shaped by the fear of God. But he changed when studied St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. One of reason was his self-reflection.

Struggling to find the relationship between himself and God changed not only himself but also the people. His struggling changed our history, not only for Lutherans but also the world. His understanding about faith changed people's lives. To understand the Word of God, one had to read and know the Bible. He translated the Bible into easy German to let people read by themselves and advocated education for all, no matter what their gender or social status.

He memorized the whole Bible and studied it. That's why he could figure out that the doctrine of justification by faith comes from the word of God and God's mercy, not by human achievement or money.

Knowing is our responsibility, not others. That's our right. Therefore we need to learn and struggle to find answer, the knowledge to become of ourselves.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2)

That's why we need to find the way of the heart.

HyeonJeong Lee, Director of Worship and Music

Support the Annual Craft Sale

We invite all members to support the craft sale coming up on November 11! Here are some ways that you can participate:

1. Attend the event yourself
 - a. Look for great homemade gifts for your family and friends
 - b. Eat lunch and enjoy the famous sloppy joes or tuna sandwich, along with a dessert
2. Invite friends, family or coworkers to attend
 - a. Post a message on your Facebook page
 - b. Send an email invitation
 - c. Extend a personal invite
3. Donate to Grannie's Attic
 - a. Drop off items to sell at the church
 - b. Profits are shared with VEAP, Loaves and Fishes, and Families Moving Forward
4. Donate baked goods
 - a. Sign up to donate homemade treats for the bake sale
5. Donate books
 - a. Drop off your soft or hard cover books

Timber Lodge Fundraiser – The rest of the year, and into 2018

As you start setting up your 2018 calendars and planners, go ahead and add Woodlake's Timber Lodge dates! All you have to do for this easy fundraiser is head out to Timber Lodge Restaurant on our specified day of the month, have a great meal, tell your server that you're a friend of Woodlake, and they'll donate 15% of the ticket price back to us.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 2017

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 2017

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 2017

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2018

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, MARCH 13th, 2018

THURSDAY, APRIL 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, MAY 8th, 2018

TUESDAY, JUNE 12th, 2018

THURSDAY, JULY 12th, 2018

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14th, 2018

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 2018

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, 2018

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 2018

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 2018

Mission and Outreach

VEAP

Thank you so much for your donation to the Back to School program at VEAP. With your help, VEAP provided school supplies to nearly 2,600 children from Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina. Excess school supplies have been shared with local schools so that students have access to what they need all year long. *See the full letter on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall!*

Families Moving Forward

Thank you to our volunteers!

Another successful hosting week with Families Moving Forward (FMF) wrapped up on September 17th. Woodlake Lutheran was a temporary home to three families for a week as they worked with staff at the FMF day center on transitioning to stable housing. One family was successful in this during the week, and moved into their own apartment. Members of Hope Lutheran Church (Minneapolis) and House of Prayer (Richfield) greatly assisted us during the week. Recruiting enough volunteers to assist with the many tasks during a hosting week continues to be a challenge. My thanks to all those who helped by volunteering during the week, dropped off food, and took laundry home with them. If you have a couple of hours to spare, please consider volunteering for our upcoming 2018 hosting weeks of March 4-11 and September 2-9. Be sure to check out our recently revised FMF Handbook on the volunteer opportunities tab on the church website at: <http://woodlakechurch.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Contributions to the FMF dedicated fund are also welcome.

Ending Homelessness Together Fundraising Lunch

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, Noon to 1PM at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Ballroom A
Money is being raised to help Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative (Families Moving Forward) end homelessness through housing, shelter, and advocacy. It is Beacon's vision that everyone should have a home. Tonight 14,000 of our neighbors will be without a home. The luncheon is free and runs from noon to 1PM. The lunch and parking is provided by sponsors. Contact Cheryl Buranen, Anne Romstad, or Wayne Schmiegl no later than October 10th to let them know you will attend (all are listed in your directories, or call the office if you need their numbers).

Building and Finances

As the end of the church year is fast approaching (October 31) there are several items we should all be aware of:

- Are you on track for fulfilling your pledge for the 2016-17 church year? Any questions, call Julie Windler 612-866-8449.
- Endowment requests are due by October 15. Submit endowment requests to Orv Holland. They may be placed in his mail box in the front office or e-mailed to him at oholland@woodlakechurch.org.
- Our endowment fund investments have risen by over \$34,000 so far this year due to favorable stock market trends allowing us to maintain a balance in excess of \$1 million!!!
- Although our budgeted income is a little behind schedule, expenses have been trimmed resulting in a favorable financial condition at this time.
- Time to think about stewardship for next year. You will be hearing more on this later.
- Many rooms have received a fresh coat of paint and are looking much better these days.
- Many LED lights have been installed inside and outside of the church. The LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights benefit us by providing better lighting and save us on utility bills going forward. Although all the lights in the parking lot have been replaced, a couple more lights will be installed on the shorter parking lot light poles to give better lighting in the area nearest the church.

Of course, everyone is anxious to see what the new flooring in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall will look like. Rest assured that progress is being made. The final decision has been made on which carpet will be installed in the Narthex and what flooring will replace the carpeting in Fellowship Hall. We are currently soliciting bids for removing the old flooring and installing the new. By using carpet squares (24" x 24") in the Narthex fixing damaged areas will be as simple as replacing just the damaged carpet squares. The Fellowship Hall flooring is a hard surface wood plank look tile (9" x 36"). The benefits of this flooring include easier cleanup of food and drink spills, long lasting with a 40-millimeter wear surface and easy replacement of damaged tile similar to replacing the carpet squares.

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

Esther Circle: October 3 (1st Tuesday), 9:30 am at Barb S.'s home (Apt 237)

Faith Circle: October 3 (1st Tuesday), 7:00 pm, at Cheryl B's home

Lydia Circle: October 10 (2nd Tuesday), 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Rebecca / Sarah Circle: October 11 (2nd Wednesday), 1:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Sunday Morning Circle: October 22 (4th Sunday), 8:45am in the Heritage Room

Matins Speakers

Our speaker program resumes in September! 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.

Oct. 4: "Kathryn Conquers the World," Ann Audierto

Oct. 11: "A Call to Solve Overpopulation," Karen Shagge

Oct. 18: "Birdman of Lauderdale," Clay Christianson

Oct. 25: Bible Study

Homebound Ministry Update

Bev Erickson will give a Homebound Minute for Mission on Sunday, October 22 during the church service.

There will be continuing education for the homebound ministers on Saturday, November 4 from 10:00-11:30 AM in the Fireside Room at Woodlake. The topic for training will be "Sacred Listening" presented by Pastor Joanne. There will also be time to share your homebound experiences and ask questions.

Faith and Fiction Book Club

Next meeting is Thursday, October 26, 7:00pm in the Heritage Room (fourth Thursday). Our book for October is *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. Join at any time!

Collaboration and Community Events

Convening: An Artful Death

Where: Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis

When: Sunday, October 29 from 11:30 AM-4:30 PM

Presenters: Caitlin Doughty, author, art historian and mortician known for her work in the death acceptance movement and MPR's Cathy Wurzer.

Description: What if, instead of fearing death, we worked to embrace it as one of life's most important transitions? How might that change how we live right now? MIA presents a day of activities that use art as a lens to explore living and dying well. Join us for tours of art along with guided sessions that feature music, body movement, art-making opportunities, storytelling, and meditation to encourage the concept of befriending death and dying.

Tickets: Free, but must have reservations

Online: tickets.artsmia.org

Phone: [612-870-3000](tel:612-870-3000)

Men's Fellowship Group Gathering

Thursday, October 12, 9am at House of Prayer
(7625 Chicago Ave, Richfield)

All men are invited for fellowship – devotions, topic (Deep Water Scuba Diving, Dean Soderbeck), meet, greet, chit-chat, and hear Dean discuss his participation and experience scuba diving Lake Superior and other waters, with youth and adults. Sign up in Woodlake's church office before 10/9/17. For more information, call Noel Sagness at 612-866-0833.

Pin of the Month – October

October is a time when many kids are dreaming about the wonderful treats that they will collect on Halloween night while Trick or Treating. For some though, it is not so fun due to food allergies. This is beginning to change though thanks to Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE). In 2014 they created a movement that they named the Teal Pumpkin Project to include all children in the Halloween festivities and keep kids with food allergies safe. The idea is not to change the tradition but to have non-food items available to hand out for kids who have food allergies and a Teal Pumpkin to let kids (and parents) know that the house is allergy safe. To find out more about this project visit our Pinterest board with more Halloween Tips and Tricks at <https://www.pinterest.com/familyfaithfun2/halloween-tips-and-tricks/> Or Search Pinterest for familyfaithfun2.



A JAMAICAN ADVENTURE - BACK to the GARDEN! March 24-31, 2018

“IN OUR HANDS,” Pastor Joanne’s service adventure group, will travel to Kingston, Jamaica March 24-31, 2018. Take a step outside your everyday experience and bring stories back home to share!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Every morning volunteer at a conservation project at the Botanical Gardens (with option to assist at a nearby school)
- Afternoon learning group for everyone lead by Joanne: “Sacred Conversations: Becoming Everyday Peacemakers”
- Sharing our stories across cultures
- Cultural visits to “Devon House”, “Port Royal”, and Charles Town “Maroon” Tour
- Evening “Practice Jamaican” lead by Jamaican Volunteer Program (dance, language, food sampling!)
- BEACH time!!!

Group size: 10 adults (or adult and older youth)

Lodging: “Smokey Manor” dorm

Cost: \$1500 plus cost of flight

\$500 down payment due November 1; total payment due January 24, 2018

To sign up:

A \$500 downpayment can be mailed to:

In Our Hands
PO Box 14494
St. Paul, MN 55114

- OR -

Call 651-398-3989 with a credit card

For more specifics on this trip, please call 651-398-3989. Also check out our host’s website at www.jamaicavolunteerprograms.com

Call ASAP to get the scoop on this adventure - it will be a TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

See the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for more photos and news from the Ekkas, our partners in Global Missions! Please enjoy an excerpt below.

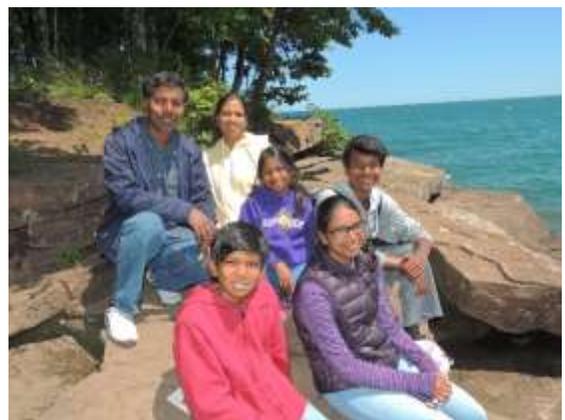
“I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:3-5)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Woodlake

Lutheran Church, It is time for us to travel back to India. We are so thankful to the Lord for a wonderful year of home assignment. It was also so special for us to see many of you. We are excited as we go back to India to start a Christian Boarding School and continue other ministries already underway. Thank you so much for praying and supporting us in God’s Mission in India. May the Lord continue to bless our mission partnership for his glory and his glorious kingdom.

Join us in Prayer

1. Thank God for new students who joined the seminary in June
2. Thank God for good year of home assignment in the USA
3. Pray for visa for Nijhar, Puna and Jhumpa
4. Pray for Maani and Urbas and our friend Patty with whom Maani and Urbas would stay to continue their education in the US
5. Pray for wisdom and favor as we start the process of establishing the boarding school
6. Pray for Neeraj as he travels early to see his ailing mother and important meetings



Picture taken during our first family camping in WI.

We pray for God’s continued hand upon each one of you. Grateful for your prayers and support – Neeraj and Nijhar (jnekka@gmail.com)