



**Woodlake  
Lutheran Church**  
2120 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-8449  
[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://www.woodlakechurch.org)  
[youtube.com/woodlakelutheranchurch](https://youtube.com/woodlakelutheranchurch)

Pastor Neal Cannon  
Pastor Micah Pearson

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a  
congregation of the ELCA.*

**Worship Schedule**

**Sunday Mornings**

**10:00am** in the Sanctuary  
*(also livestreamed to YouTube)*

**Church Office Hours**

Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs,  
9am-12p.m. 1– 3pm

*Articles for October’s issue of The  
Messenger are due to  
[office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org)  
by **September 15**. Our theme for  
October is “*Becoming a  
Gathering Place for All God’s  
Children.*” We’d love to hear from  
you!*

**Pastor’s Page**

**Livin’ On a Prayer**

In the words of Bon Jovi, *(and sing along if you know the song)*

*Woah, we're half way there  
Woah, livin' on a prayer  
Take my hand, we'll make it I swear  
Woah, livin' on a prayer*



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At the August 12<sup>th</sup> Leadership Board Meeting,  
Woodlake unanimously voted to support the  
vision to **Become a Gathering Place for All  
God’s Children.** *Woah, we're half way there.*

As well as the mission to **Trust in Jesus,  
Form Relationships, and Create  
Community.** *Woah, livin' on a prayer.*

This vision and mission process was a reflection of your hopes and  
dreams and got the most votes in our congregational conversations  
over the summer. Now the fun begins. *Take my hand, we'll make it I  
swear.*

Pr. Neal and I will spend the next month in prayer and discernment to  
find ways to put our vision and mission in motion. *Woah, livin' on a  
prayer.*

Of course, if you have ideas, we’d love to hear from you and  
incorporate your wisdom and faithful suggestions into our plans as we  
set out to achieve our vision and mission.

We will present a plan for accomplishing Woodlake’s ministry  
dreams at the September 9<sup>th</sup> Leadership Board meeting. If you are  
interested in the nitty-gritty details of ministry action plans (MAPs)  
please join us at our September Leadership Board meeting to hear the  
plan and share your thoughts. Finally, please lift Woodlake and our  
future ministry, up in your prayers. *Woah, livin' on a prayer.*

Blessings,  
Pastor Micah

# Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

- † *Have you ever had difficulty hearing the Pastors or worship assistants?*
- † *Have you heard popping noises from the sound system in the sanctuary?*
- † *Have you watched the service online and wished you could better hear the music/singing?*

Our sound system is out of date and unable to support our services as well as we'd like. Although it has served Woodlake well for many years, an upgraded audio system is long overdue. Joshua Lindgren and I have been in talks with couple companies to determine what we can do to bring our system into the digital age. It is exciting to hear the possibilities!

COVID required us to quickly adapt to virtual services and our staff did a wonderful job producing these services with the technology available to them. By upgrading our camera system, in addition to our audio, we can make Woodlake more accessible through better quality streaming and sound. Of course it's been great to return to in person worship, and while coming together in the church is important to many, continuing to livestream our services is a wonderful way for homebound or sick members to stay connected to Woodlake, as well as a way to reach new members. So many opportunities ahead of us!

I believe these upgrades will help us live out the mission and vision at Woodlake. Stay tuned for more info in the coming months.

*God's Blessing,  
Deb Heinecke  
Commissioner of Worship and Music*

# Worship and Music Notes

For anyone who's spent more than 3 minutes in physical proximity to my person, it is well-known that I am an avid listener to SiriusXM Radio's Channel, "40s Junction." Songs from the 30s (think Depression and Dust Bowl) and the 40s (World War II) are rather upbeat, all things considered. In fact, I learned through a podcast or some segment on NPR that the "upbeatness" (or lack-thereof) of any genre of music can show us a direct reflection of its times. Think about this song from 1943, in the depths of World War II:



*Comin' in on a wing and a prayer  
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer  
With our one motor gone  
We can still carry on  
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer*

Now that's optimism! Maybe not something you can Lindy Hop to... but it's not despair! Not... how should one describe the vocal fry and unintelligible "words" of say, Death Metal in the 1990s? Ah! The 90s! Churches were FULL, brick was beige and SnackWells ruled... but some of the pop music? DEATH METAL.

Perhaps, just as the musical stylings of a period might be the "opposite flavor" of the everyperson's experience during that very period, sometimes when we pray, we expect a certain answer - one that we have decided is God's plan for us. As a spiritual practice, when we sing and dance our prayer, maybe we could be more open to the sway of the Holy Spirit. Listen to the alternate harmonies, the deceptive cadences and the suspended tones of God's still, small voice and live in the sure and certain hope of God's promises.

*Comin' in on a wing and a prayer  
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer  
With our full crew on board  
And our trust in the Lord  
We're comin' in on a wing and a prayer*

*Soli Deo gloria,  
Joshua Lindgren,  
Director of Worship and Music*

# Business Manager Musings

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Living' on a Prayer? Ok, ok. Someone has to....

*"Tommy used to work on the docks...*

*Gina works the diner all day...."*

If any of you rocked out a little while you read that, you must be my fellow Gen Xers.

What in the world does that have to do with my role as business manager??? As many of you know, my role covers finance, administration, human resources and of course, overseeing our dear old home at 2120 West 76th Street.



The song contemplates living a hard life. It is fairly bleak in the beginning. Working and working, without an end in sight. Thinking we have to do it all on our own. Our tireless volunteers have worked hours in the sun, on the lawn, the parking lot, the gardens, the classrooms, the kitchens, all the while, their hope lies in creating a gathering place. The outside and inside of our home shows the rough spots of many years of hard work. Yet, it keeps giving. Because of all the people who are there. We are not alone.

We continue to make use of the gifts that have been bestowed upon Woodlake. So many members have entrusted Woodlake with their financial resources to create a place of gathering. They have allowed us to hire people to facilitate more youth gatherings. Gifts have allowed us to shine light into the darkest corners of our fellowship hall to so we can actually see who we are gathering with. Imagine that! But in the meantime, we, the people at Woodlake, still have to work with what we have. Oh, perfect time for a song break. Everyone sing with me...

*We've got to hold on to what we've got  
It doesn't make a difference if we make it or not  
We've got each other and that's a lot for love  
We'll give it a shot"*

We cannot let the frustrations of waiting until everything is perfect to live. We cannot wait for outward perfection to welcome others in to gather with us. We have to trust that God knows what we need and will be faithful to give it to us as we work to continue to make Woodlake a place of welcome.

Today, we do have a gathering place. We gather, as we work together. We gather on a broken parking lot, we gather in front of a shed waiting to be replaced, we gather together while relaxing on the mid century modern chairs in the Narthex. We gather to serve those who just lost a loved one, hoping the coffee pot will make it one final time before the new one is

installed. We work together to serve those who need a hot meal, while we fight with our old dishwasher. We gather together for volunteering and fellowship in a room that has seen better days, whose 30 year old emerald green carpet could probably tell stories back to Reagan, maybe Carter? We gather, because the people are what we have. Our home provides a place of shared memories and experiences and I hope all of the above made you smile. Perfection is not the goal. Being with each other and relying on God is. The people that we know will...

*"Take \*our\* hands, we'll make it I swear*

Because we know... we are... *"livin' on a prayer"*

*- Linda Lutgen, Business Manager*

## The Numbers

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### Offering, July 2021

Building Rental Receipts	\$14,375
Regular Envelope	\$12,868.00
Simply Giving	\$9,067.00
IRA's	<u>\$510.00</u>
TOTAL	\$36,820.00
Expense Totals:	\$48,854
TOTAL	*(12,034)

\*2020 Endowment disbursements have not been made yet, when they are, this number will become positive.

## Worship Attendance, July 2021

7/4/2021	In Person 75	Online 87
7/11/2021	In Person 86	Online 80
7/18/2021	In Person 82	Online 91
7/25/2021	In Person 95	Online 77

## Leadership Board Update

Board openings anticipated for November 2021 include:



- 1) President
- 2) Treasurer
- 3) Children, Youth, and Family Commissioner;
- 4) Properties Commissioner;
- 5) Youth Representative (non-voting).

**If you have a passion to grow deeper in relationship at Woodlake, have a specific skill set, and feel called to lead in any of these areas, we'd love to speak with you! Contact the office for more info: 612-866-8449 or [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org)**

## CYF Updates

### **\*What is Shared Youth and Family Ministry?**

Woodlake, as part of the Woodlake 2020 Goals, saw a need for youth and family outreach within the Richfield community.

Pastor Neal Cannon was hired but realized there was more work to do than he could do alone. Woodlake started the hiring process for a half-time position which would be focused on community engagement and outreach.

Around the same time, Ben Whalen, House of Prayer's Director of Youth Ministry and Community Engagement, left for other employment. Woodlake and House of Prayer talked and it seemed like a natural fit for the two to hire someone full time to run and expand a shared youth ministry. The costs were split evenly between the two congregations.

The renewed hiring process began in late summer 2020, and Daniel Ditmanson was hired as Outreach and Program Director in December.

### **\*What is Daniel's job?**

Daniel oversees the shared youth and family program, which includes Wednesday night youth group (Confirmation and other small groups), special events, summer programs such as trips and VBS, and most youth and family fundraising events.

Daniel also spends time attending community and school events cheering on our youth, and connecting with other groups, churches, and organizations. Long story short, if it's a combined youth and family event/activity, Daniel is probably the planner/facilitator.

### **\*Is there anything Daniel doesn't lead?**

Yes! As he puts it, any church specific ministries. Those include Sunday School, Christmas and Easter programs, Rally Sundays, etc....

### **\*I have questions!**

Great! You can email Daniel at:

[dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org)

[dditmanson@hoplc.org](mailto:dditmanson@hoplc.org) Or you can call at: (612) 866-8449 (Woodlake) (612) 682-3162 Ext 507 (HOP)

### **\*I want to help!**

Yay! Thank you! Daniel is always looking for volunteers to help with programming and appreciates the overwhelming support the shared ministry has received so far!

## Upcoming Events

### **Rally Weekend:**

#### **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

We invite everyone to Woodlake Lutheran Church on September 11th for a drive-in movie! This film will be appropriate for all ages and starts at 7:30 pm. We invite you to bring snacks!

#### **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Rally Day service @ 10 (in person and live-streamed) with balloon clusters in the Narthex and the Sanctuary.

- † Godly Play (Woodlake’s Sunday School) kicks-off with our first session during the Children’s Message.
- † Following worship, we will have a box lunch picnic outside. No charge.
- † The Justice and Service Commission has three special service projects for members:
  - Making cards inviting children in the neighborhood and Richfield Middle School to Godly Play and after-school learning, play and supper opportunities on Wednesdays.
  - Cleaning up Donaldson Park.
  - Checking to see if your home deed has a racial covenant attached to it and taking steps to remove that racial restriction.



- † Confirmation is every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30p.m. in collaboration with House of Prayer. Supper included. The theme will be Luther’s Small Catechism and all classes will be at Woodlake.
- † This year we are adding special events! These events do not occur on Wednesday Nights, and we’ll have events for youth of all ages!

\*\*\*WATCH FOR DATES AND DETAILS\*\*\*

- † LOCK-IN in mid-September.
- † Joint fundraisers with House of Prayer.
- † TRUNK or TREAT at the Ice Arena.
- † A youth band will lead Wednesday worship.
- † Various retreat/events throughout the year.

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

We invite all families with youth in grades 4-12 to a meeting on **Wednesday September 15th, 6:30 pm**, at Woodlake Lutheran Church. The youth will have fun while Pastors and leaders will discuss the upcoming year with parents.

A quick overview of the Shared Youth and Family Ministry for the ’21-’22 academic year:

- † Wednesday nights will be Youth Group Nights. We have three small groups for our youth this year:
  - 4-6th grade
  - Confirmation (7-9th grade)
  - High School (10-12th).
- † Youth group nights rotate between three themes: **Learning, Fun, and Service.**
  - Learning nights focus on curriculum and applicable religious learning.
  - Fun nights focus on games and fellowship events.
  - Service nights our youth will be serving our church and wider community through service projects.

Youth Group will start the academic year at Woodlake Lutheran Church and will transition to House of Prayer Lutheran Church after Christmas.

## Music Ministry

2021-2022 rehearsal schedule. I hope many of you will join!

\*\*\*Masks are required for all music events, at all times. All accommodations will be made to physically distance and increase the room air-exchange to its maximum capacity as we are *still* in a time of COVID\*\*\*

### +Starting Wednesday, September 8+

Praise Ringers - **5:30 pm** in the Choir Room

<Meal break... potential Community Meal starting **October** -stay tuned>

Sanctuary Choir - **7:00 pm** in the Choir Room.  
*More Singers' Masks are still available. Regardless of what mask, masks are required for all rehearsals for the time being!*

# Vision and Mission Challenge

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*Woodlake is seeking creative members to design a logo for our new Vision and Mission statement. We'll take drawings, paintings, word art, collages, and any other type of creative work in any format (digital or print) that works for you. We can't wait to see what you will come up with. \*As an added incentive, if your logo is chosen you will have bragging rights within the congregation for generations.*

**Vision: Become a Gathering Place for All God's Children.**  
**Mission: Trust in Jesus, Form Relationships, and Create Community.**