



Woodlake Lutheran Church

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www.woodlakechurch.org

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

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

*Articles for March's issue of The
Messenger are due to of-
fice@woodlakechurch.org
by February 15.*

February 2022

Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.

Pastor's Page

*Mission: Trust in Jesus, **Form Relationships**, Create Community*

It was my senior year of high school, and I had just received my yearbook. I was nostalgic as I leafed through looking at friends and acquaintances. But then a funny thing happened. As I looked at the class pictures, there were a surprising amount of people that I *did not* know. Our class was only about 250 people, and, having lived in Park City, Utah since the third grade, I thought I knew everyone. But as I flipped through the yearbook, I didn't know a significant number of my classmates! How could this happen? How could I miss knowing people that I've spent years of my life sitting next to in class?

The reality is this happens often in our lives. We simply overlook the people who are sitting right next to us in class, at work, or in the pew. What's their story? What are their lives like? Who are they? The only way that we can really answer these questions is with intentionality. In order to know our neighbor, we have to seek them out, strike up a conversation with them, and listen to what they have to say.

At Woodlake, part of our new mission statement is to Form Relationships with those around us. We want people in the pews to move from being strangers to being friends and family. We are seeking to accomplish that through Life Groups, circles, choir, bells, youth group, S.A.L.T and other small group activities. Several people have told me independently that Life Groups have helped them get to know people better that they've sat next to in church for years! This is the goal! To form real relationships with one another.

If you see someone new in the pew, you could wait for them to join your Life Group and get to know them there, but why wait? Seek them out! Strike up a conversation! Listen to what they have to say!

First Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." At Woodlake, we will intentionally create new ways to form deep and meaningful relationships with one another in the coming years so that we encourage one another and build each other up. This is part of the life of faith. As we develop our trust in Jesus, we begin to form relationships as well. So this Sunday, take note of who you don't know, and say hello.

Worship and Music: Lent

Lent is a special time in the church year where we reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ. It often encourages us to review ourselves and our spiritual practices, and this year we'll be able to do that while creating relationships with congregants of our sister church, House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Wednesdays from March 2nd to April 6th at House of Prayer there will be a community Simple Soup Supper from 5:30-6:30pm, Lenten worship surrounding the theme of "Comm/unity" from 6:30-7pm, and Lenten learning options from 7-8pm. The learning options will include your choice of a Bible study, Life Groups, a service project, or programming for youth. You will see many Woodlake members and staff there as well as House of Prayer folks as we experience these special Lent programs together.

Around the Table

From Deb Heinecke, Worship and Music Commissioner, and the Director of Music and Worship Hiring Team: Paul Olson, Mary Olson, Karen Nilsen, Morrie Nilsen, Carol Olson, Anne Romstad, Deb Heinecke, and Pastor Neal Cannon

I wanted to provide an update on the status of Woodlake hiring a new Director of Worship and Music. A group of church members has been meeting regularly to discern the skill set for our next director. The director will be responsible for planning and leading the current Sunday morning worship service, alongside the pastors.

We have a draft of qualifications and responsibilities that are being finalized in the next few weeks after the January 23rd and 30th worship services where we asked those present to complete a short survey about how people feel about music in worship and what styles of music are preferred. We also have an online version of this survey. The results and feedback will be incorporated into the final job description for our next Director of Worship and Music!

We plan to find a director who will bring some variety and creativity to our current 10:00am worship service. However, there is a totally different team meeting to develop a modern worship service as an alternative to our 10am worship service. There will be a different person hired to plan and lead the modern worship service, and it

will be designed to reach people who may not be currently worshiping with us. As a result, the music may be quite different than what is being offered in our current worship service.

Business Manager Musings

In the last five to ten years, new ways of creating relationships have become ubiquitous thanks to the development of computers, phones, and internet. People can now easily leave reviews of churches via their smart phones, instantly share pictures of community events, and even join online for worship from almost anywhere in the world.

According to Pew Research, in 2014 about 58% of US adults had a smart phone. As of last year this time, they found that number rose to 85%. Pair that with computing power doubling roughly every 18 months, and we have a much larger load on internet infrastructure!

Much of Woodlake's internet infrastructure was installed in 2014. It has served us well and lasted much longer than usual for technology equipment. Today though, with most visitors having smart phones, our programs utilizing the internet more, our many staff requiring stronger internet in their work, and our tenants having their needs too, our system has been consistently failing under the immense load. The time has come for a complete refresh of our hardware.

With the costs approved at a recent Leadership Board meeting, we hope to complete the hardware foundation installation by the end of February or early March. Then visitors will have quality, hospitable internet, staff will be able to be productive, and relationships with our tenants can continue to be fruitful.



Woodlake has been forming relationships throughout our history, especially through music. Above are some choir members from 2018!

Upcoming Events

Life Groups | “Faith like a Child”

Week of March 2nd—Week of April 6th

If you are looking to form relationships at Woodlake, we highly recommend you join a Life Group! Life Groups are quarterly conversational small groups with new topics every round and with varying meeting times and locations so there is a good option for everyone. This round of Life Groups will happen during Lent and will give us a chance to listen and learn from our youth as they teach us about the kingdom of God. **Sign up here: tinyurl.com/lifegroups2022lent** or reach out to the church office by email at office@woodlakechurch.org or by phone at 612-866-8449.

“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” - Mark 10:15

1940s Dress Worship Service

Sunday, February 20th 10am

Maybe you’ve heard, but this year is our 75th anniversary as a church! In light of that, every third Sunday of the month will have some special dedication or aspect to worship to celebrate 75 years of trusting in Jesus, forming relationships, and creating community. At worship on February 20th, whether at home online or in person, you are invited to dress up like it’s the 1940s! Women might consider wearing items like hats, dresses, pumps, gloves, and tights. Men might wear suits, ties, and hats. Grab whatever you have and have fun with it! Our worship on the 20th will also be guided by a worship service from 75 years ago.

RALY Date Night

Saturday, February 12th at Woodlake from 5-8pm
Fireside room, Dinner served

We want to provide opportunities for you to form relationships not just within the church, but within your family as well! Let RALY provide a fun time and dinner for your potty-trained children, and go enjoy a few hours to yourself! You can pick up your child(ren) at any time after connecting with a staff or volunteer at the event.

The Numbers

December 2021

Reg. Envelope Offering	\$30,970
Electronic Giving	\$9,966
IRA’s	\$9,328
Rental Income	\$14,700
Holiday Giving	\$3,447
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$704</u>
Total Receipts	\$69,115
Properties Expense	-\$9,595
Personnel Expense	-\$33,284
<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>\$12,983</u>
Total Expenses	-\$55,862
<u>Month Net Receipts over Expenses</u>	<u>\$13,253</u>

Worship Attendance in November

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
Dec 5th	96	58
Dec 12th	92	48
Dec 19th	92	No data
Dec 24th		
3pm	108	75
5pm	90	
7pm	35	
Dec 26th	59	43



As we’ve been going through pictures from life at Woodlake in the last 75 years, we’ve found gems like the photo above. Clearly there were relationships forming in this image and leading up to this moment. We welcome any details and context you can share for the picture above at office@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449!