



April 2022

# Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.

## Woodlake Lutheran Church

2120 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richfield, MN 55423  
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office@woodlakechurch.org

[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://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 May's issue of The  
Messenger are due to of-  
fice@woodlakechurch.org  
by April 15th.*

## Pastor's Page

### Arise and Shine!

Did you know that in a forest fire, it is often the oldest trees that survive? It's true! Older trees have thick bark that is somewhat resistant to fire. Also, as they age some trees drop their lower branches to stop the upward spread of fire. Some things are just meant to survive and thrive through almost anything!

In the church, these past two years of Covid have been experienced like a forest fire in some ways. Covid has come through and wiped out much of the undergrowth beneath the shade of the giant sequoia's of our faith.

After a year of online ministry, we did drive-in worship and Covid numbers were low! And just when it seemed like all this might be over, another wave of Covid came and crashed into our planning. Youth summer trips and retreats were planned and cancelled. Woodlake dreams were put on hold for the time being. A fire after the fire, it seems.

Our personal lives were upended as well. The emotional strain of Covid took its toll on young and old alike. Our plans and our way of life were changed. In some ways, things are getting back to normal. In other ways, things will never be quite the same.

These waves of fire have left a starker landscape than before. But like any fire, this has created new opportunities for growth! Did you know that many varieties of trees have fire induced sprouts? It's not until a fire comes that spouts, protected from the fire underground, burst forth from the roots! And did you know that many varieties of trees have fire activated seeds? The fire literally breaks the dormancy of the seeds and causes them to grow!

In this way, it's not unlike the Easter story. Death that leads to life. Fire that leads to growth.

Covid has changed lives and upended plans. However, our worship and faith have weathered this storm like a giant sequoia, and new life will spring forth because of it! In this coming year, we hope to turn a new page at Woodlake. We celebrate what has come, 75 years of ministry! And we look forward to new opportunities presented to us. We're finding new people joining Woodlake. New relationships are being formed. And most importantly, new faith is sprouting all around us! There is new growth, even if some of it is yet under the surface.

*Pastor Neal Cannon*

# Holy Week Worship

All services are in-person in the sanctuary and livestreamed to [youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch](https://youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch)

## **Palm Sunday | April 10th 10am**

Jesus is riding into town on a young donkey! Let us worship our gentle king, the Son of David.

## **Maundy Thursday | April 14th 7pm**

The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum”, which means “to give” or “to order” — command. In this worship service, we will remember when Jesus told the disciples after the Last Supper “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”.

## **Good Friday Worship | April 15th 7pm**

The darkest day in history was the day we (humanity) killed Jesus. With humility and a contrite spirit, we will worship the lamb who was slain.

## **Easter Worship | April 17th 9am & 10:30am**

He has risen! He has risen indeed, Hallelujah! We welcome you and yours to this celebratory worship service!



## **Family Easter Egg Hunt | April 17th 10am**

Between our two Easter services will be an Easter egg hunt for any little ones around that day! Invite your friends and family to have their children join the search for eggs, candy, and prizes!

# Around the Table

After the murder of George Floyd, the Woodlake Lutheran Leadership Board transformed the Mission & Outreach Commission into the Service and Justice Commission (SJC) out of a conviction that we need to be more deeply engaged in the fight for racial justice.

Since then, the SJC has met monthly to learn about the history and structure of racial injustice and consider ways to bring this conversation and work to you as the congregation. Our first effort in doing this was through last fall’s Life Groups series centered around the “Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man” video series. It is easy to play it safe and remain distant from the unpleasantness of injustice and my/our part in maintaining it, but it is good for us to say engaged in these uncomfortable conversations. We will soon make a proposal to the Leadership Board about new ways we all, as a congregation, can stay engaged in learning about and seeking justice.

Until then, I invite you to read and reflect on Isaiah 58. It is a good place to look for guidance, especially in the recurring sentence structure of “If you \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_”. Like a parent or teacher trying to guide a child in doing what is good, we hear God’s correction to his people in Isaiah 58.

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

... 9b If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places...

There are so many voices out there vying for our attention, many of them building on our fears and biases. So, let’s use Isaiah 58 to guide us as we move through an increasingly difficult, chaotic and dangerous world.

*Dave Thompson*

*Service and Justice Commissioner*

# Children, Youth, and Family

RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth) leadership met recently to finalize early plans for a jam-packed summer of programming! Details will be filled in throughout the spring, but we can share the broad strokes now!

## Luther Park - Danbury

June 19th - 22nd (Grades 1st - 4th)

June 19th - 24th (Grades 3rd - 4th)

RALY is excited to send youth of all ages to Luther Park Danbury again! This is your traditional summer Bible camp experience, and we hope to send all youth together for the same week! More registration and cost information coming soon.

## Vacation Bible School

July 11th - 14th at House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
All Ages (Recommended for Grades K-6, must be poty trained)

This cherished annual program will be provided in an evening model this year. We have all sorts of ideas brewing for VBS this year, so stay tuned for more information coming soon!

## NEW Summer Stretch

July 11th - 14th at House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Middle schooler-only fun will happen in the afternoons before VBS! All youth who are able to attend are invited but not required to stick around to participate in or help with VBS.

## Sunday Fun Days

(High School, Grades 9+)

With the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering, and after talking with our high school youth and their families, we are reviving Sunday Fun Days from last summer! Last summer we went to a high ropes adventure course, and this year we have a ton of new ideas! Watch for coming dates and new activities!

## Special Events

All Ages

In previous summers we've participated in all sorts of special events like movie nights, Twins/Saints/MNUFC games, afternoons at the Richfield pool, and more. We plan to have multiple fun events again this summer, some of which RALY will plan, and others

will be put on by RALY's partnering churches, Woodlake Lutheran Church and House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

## New website coming

RALY leadership has been working to create a new brand and website that will represent the organization well and serve the congregations, families, and community we have the joy of connecting with. The new website will be published this spring and will be the new go-to spot for programming information and registration.

*Daniel Ditmanson*

*Youth Outreach and RALY Program Director*

# Upcoming Events

## Homebound Ministry

### Continuing Education

**Sunday, April 24th, 11:15-12:15pm in Fireside Room**

Our next Homebound Ministry continuing education will be on Sunday, April 24 after the church service in the Fireside Room. The purpose will be to continue to build our relationships and community within the Homebound Ministry and welcome anyone who is interested in being a homebound minister. We will share our experiences and challenges ministering to our homebound members during the pandemic and Pastor Neal will give a devotion. Please join us if you are a homebound minister or you are interested in becoming one.

God's Peace,

Homebound Ministry Leadership Team

*Pastor Neal, Starr Carriere, Muriel Holland, Sue Kelly*

## 75th Anniversary

### Commemorative Worship

**Sunday, April 17th 10am Worship**

It's our 75th anniversary as a church, and every third Sunday of the month will have some special dedication or aspect to worship to celebrate! In March we celebrated current and past Woodlake support staff, and in April we will celebrate volunteers and all the volunteer work that has happened over the last 75 years! Don't miss out on this special Sunday.

## Richfield-Bloomington Grief Coalition

Thursdays from 4:30pm-6pm in Fireside Room

March 31st—May 19th

Churches in the Bloomington-Richfield area are working together to provide free support and education for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. This spring series will include an educational presentation from 4:30-5pm and support small groups from 5-6pm. You can jump into the spring series at any time, and there is no commitment on attendance and no cost. The speakers will include psychologist Bob Bartlett, licensed marriage and family therapist and grief counselor Brittany Squillace, grief therapist and psychotherapist Branda DeMotte, grief speaker Donna Mathiowetz, and former leader of the TRUST grief group in Minnetonka, Norine Larson.

# The Numbers

## February 2022

Reg. Envelope Offering	\$14,170
Electronic Giving	\$9,227
IRA's	\$1,333
Rental Income	\$13,350
Holiday Giving	\$150
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$2,977</u>
Total Receipts	\$41,207
Properties Expense	-\$11,733
Personnel Expense	-\$35,662
<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>-\$9,903</u>
Total Expenses	-\$57,298
<u>Month Net Receipts over Expenses</u>	<u>-\$16,091</u>
Note: Dedicated Fund Giving	\$5,369

## Worship Attendance in February

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
Feb 6th	90	50
Feb 13th	64	NA
Feb 20th	98	NA
Feb 27th	88	NA

## Volunteer at Woodlake

### NEW Worship and Music Committee

A new team is forming under the Music and Worship Commission who will work alongside our Commissioner for Worship and Music (Deb Heinecke) and our future Director of Worship of Music. This team will not be responsible for volunteering for weekly worship, but instead may be doing tasks like developing and maintaining our music library, influencing the worship budget, helping put on special community concerts or community members to connect with each other and Woodlake, and assisting the commissioner and Director with other needs. Please reach out to Deb Heinecke if you're interested!

### Endowment Fund Committee

The Woodlake Lutheran Church Heritage Endowment Fund is looking for two volunteers to fill vacancies on the Endowment Fund Committee. These volunteers would monitor the investments and have meetings once every other month to approve disbursements. Please contact Orville Holland if you are interested. (612) 866-8449 ext. 15 or [oholland@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:oholland@woodlakechurch.org)



Above is a picture from the Easter Egg Hunt from 2015! Hope to see you at this year's hunt on April 17th at 10am!