



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

March 2022

Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.

Pastor's Page

Morrie, Brad, and Wes have been friends for a long time. Each week they gather to make music, laugh, and share life together. You may have heard their musical gifts at Woodlake, House of Prayer or Oak Grove Lutheran Churches as they are each members of different churches, yet come together to enrich us all.

"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Romans 12:5

Woodlake's mission is to **Trust in Jesus – Form Relationships – Create Community** and none of these things are possible on our own. Churches have not historically been good at sharing ministry together. Churches tend to compete with each other rather than share. Churches tend to steal members rather than send members. Churches tend to invite rather than show up to other churches events.

During March, we'll look at what it means to create community in the following ways. On Sunday's, we'll begin a sermon series looking at ways Woodlake can create community. Then on Wednesdays, we'll attempt to practice what we preach and create community. If Covid allows and it's safe to do so, we'll join together at House of Prayer for a simple community soup supper. After, we'll share in Lenten worship together. In fact, we'll even hear from Morrie, Brad, and Wes as they teach us how to be community and inspire us through music.

After Lenten worship, we'll have shared learning opportunities such as youth group, confirmation, Bible Study, Life Groups, or service projects to participate in.

Our goal is to create community. We hope you will join us.

In Christ,
Pr. Micah

Worship and Music: Lent

March 2nd | Ash Wednesday worship
Noon at Woodlake Lutheran Church
6:30pm at House of Prayer

We invite you to come to this special worship service where we will remember our mortality with the imposition of ashes. It may sound grim, but we do this core ceremony in community to remember our need for salvation from our own sin and its consequence, death. Understanding this gives us perspective and gratefulness for Jesus' self-sacrificial love and generosity in offering freedom from sins and never ending life in Him. It encourages us to be self-sacrificial, loving and generous as well. Whether you've been to an Ash Wednesday service before or not, we welcome you.

March 9th - April 6th | Comm/unity



Comm/unity

Lent Programming at House of Prayer
with Woodlake Lutheran Church

Starting March 9th

5:30-6:30pm	Soup Supper
6:30-7pm	Worship
7-8pm	Learning Options

Learning options include RALY Youth Group, Bible study, and Life Groups.

Lent is a special time in the church year where we reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ. This year our theme for Wednesday worship will be "Comm/unity"! Jesus spent his life deeply engaged in community with people, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, until the last moments of his death. His most isolated days between his death and resurrection were the darkest days of all creation. Being the source of life, He conquered death and was restored to community with God.

We'll be living into the Comm/unity Jesus modeled by experiencing Wednesday meals, worship, and learning options at and with House of Prayer Lutheran Church. We will grow deepen our Comm/unity with God and with each other.

The 7-8pm learning options will include your choice of a RALY Youth Group, Bible study, or Life Groups.

Lent | Life Groups

Life Groups:

"Faith like a Child"

Small group series learning from young peoples' thoughts on life, faith, and the church

Sign up at
tinyurl.com/lifegroups2022lent

Week of March 9th - week of April 6th. Variety of times and locations



If you are looking to form relationships at Woodlake, we highly recommend you join a Life Group! This round of Life Groups, "Faith like a Child", will welcome House of Prayer folks as well, and will give us a chance to listen and learn from our youth! Watch the preview video [here](#), and sign up at tinyurl.com/WLfaithlikeachild or by reaching out to the church office.



 Preview Video



 Sign up!

Around the Table

From Bill Bullock, Treasurer

Years ago, when I was with Northwest Airlines, I accepted a position that required me to move to Seattle, WA. I lived there for less than two years before accepting another position and moving back to the Twin Cities.

After getting settled in my apartment, I decided to see what churches were in my neighborhood. There were two ELCA churches, one almost walking distance from my apartment, the other a couple of miles down 320th Street past SeaTac Mall. I checked out the closest one to me first. The building was modern, the preacher led a great worship service, it all seemed great – except nobody talked with me. I attended two Sundays in a row in case the first week was an “off” week, but neither time did anyone greet me other than during the passing of the peace.

So I drove down 320th Street to the church past the mall. Again, nice building, a sermon that I could relate to, but on my first Sunday there I was greeted by a number of people, including another Minnesota transplant! The second week led to a bigger surprise – one of my co-workers, Loren “Big Pete” Peterson (and yes, there was also a “Little Pete” at work) and his wife were there. After church that day, Pete and his wife invited me to join them for brunch at a nearby Village Inn.

Guess what church I joined? Not only did being greeted by perfect strangers help me feel part of that church, it also strengthened my friendship at work with Big Pete.

We don’t have a lot of visitors these days at Woodlake due to Covid (that will change soon I hope), however I’m certain there are members you see on Sundays who you don’t know that well. So let’s practice greeting people we don’t know that well. Until we get back to having coffee in the narthex, think about inviting someone you don’t know well to Bruegger’s for coffee and a bagel! Start up a conversation and greet that person the next time you see them at church (or even at Target!).

In Hebrews 13:2, Paul writes “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” So next Sunday, think about looking for an angel!

- Bill Bullock

Children, Youth, and Family

In January, RALY was voted “Best Youth Group” in the 2022 SUN MEDIA READER'S CHOICE AWARDS! Sun Media is a local newspaper publisher and publishes the Richfield Sun Current.

Here's my best attempt at an acceptance speech:

I am blessed to serve two congregations (Woodlake and House of Prayer) who have such a strong desire to care for and serve children, youth, and families! The time, energy, talents, and resources dedicated to providing excellent programming for all family members is overwhelming.

Thank you to Pr. Ben and Pr. Neal for their initial conversations that led to this partnership, and to Pr. Jeff and Pr. Neal for their continuous support and leadership.

Thank you to the Shared Ministry Team for their hands-on support of programming and acting as a sounding board for program and ministry ideas.

Thank you to all the youth and their families for their participation in this new partnership and their ongoing flexibility throughout the Covid-19 pandemic!

And again, thank you to the congregations and every individual who has supported children, youth, and family programming! We look forward to continuing to provide all members of the family excellent opportunities to trust in Jesus, form relationships, and create community. If you have any questions about how you or your youth can be involved in RALY or other Children, Youth and Family programming, don’t hesitate to reach out to me at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org.

- Daniel Ditmanson

Upcoming Events

Milestones Classes: First Bible & First Communion

Please go to tinyurl.com/WLmilestones to register or contact Pastor Neal (ncannon@woodlakechurch.org).

Sunday, March 20th, 11:15-12:15pm | First Bible

Many have said that the Bible is the cradle that holds the Christ child. It's a tool to help us learn about our faith and begin our relationship with God. But the Bible is a complicated tool! We all need instruction as to what it is and how we use it. So, all 3-6th graders are invited to participate in our First Bible Class led by Pastor Neal on Sunday, March 20th from 11:15am-12:15pm at Woodlake. Those who complete the class are given their very own Bible on April 10th, Palm Sunday, and will be invited forward for a special blessing!

Sunday, April 3rd, 11:15—12:15pm | First Communion

At Woodlake we practice an open table, that means we believe all are welcome to participate in communion, no exceptions, even the very young! That's because we hold that communion is not about what you know or what you do, but what God does for us! Why then, are we holding a first communion class? Simple! There comes a time in a person's life when they want to know more. When you understand what communion is and what it means, then it takes on a whole new meaning in your life. So, all 3-6th graders are invited to participate in a first communion class led by Pastor Neal on Sunday April 3rd starting at 11:15am. Those who complete the class will be invited to participate in communion on April 10th, Palm Sunday, and will be invited forward for a special blessing!

Easter Cards for Homebound

Sunday, March 27th after 10am Worship

Come one, come all to make Easter cards for our homebound members. We missed making valentines in January because of the pandemic, so we hope you will be available to join us for this fun and meaningful event!

There will be no Godly Play on the 27th, so children are welcome to participate as well as adults of all ages. Confirmation students are encouraged to come and make Easter cards and help the younger children as a service project. Woodlake Ink will supply the materials and will be there to help out. To adhere to covid safety procedures, card making will be done in the Fireside Room, and afterwards a box lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall.

75th Anniversary Commemorative Worship

Sunday, March 20th 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! This month there will be a special recognition of past and present staff of Woodlake. Don't miss out on this special Sunday!

Woodlake Supports

Veap March Food Drive

Join VEAP, the Twin Cities' largest food pantry, as we participate in the annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign engaging in the fight against hunger in our own communities. Help us ensure no family goes hungry this spring! Go to veap.org/march-drive/ to learn more about the drive and what items are most needed. You can either bring items to the church office, or make a monetary donation by indicating on the check that your donation is for VEAP. For every \$10 donated, you provide food for 30 meals. Thank you for your continued support!

The Numbers

January 2021

Reg. Envelope Offering	\$26,095
Electronic Giving	\$9,880
IRA's	\$8,853
Rental Income	\$13,500
Holiday Giving	\$195
Other	\$227
<hr/> Total Receipts	<hr/> \$58,750
Properties Expense	-\$11,071
Personnel Expense	-\$36,673
Other Expenses	-\$360
<hr/> Total Expenses	<hr/> -\$48,104
<hr/> Month Net Receipts over Expenses	<hr/> \$10,646

Worship Attendance in January

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
Jan 2nd	42	62
Jan 9th	55	53
Jan 16th	80	55
Jan 23rd	54	63
Jan 30th	83	50