



May 2022

Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.



Pastor's Page

Woodlake Lutheran Church

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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 June's issue of The
Messenger are due to of-
fice@woodlakechurch.org
by **May 15th**.*

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21

God loves to laugh. The Bible is filled with laughter. Genesis 21:6, "Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.'"

Pastor Paul Romstad once said, "If it's not fun, it's not church."

Pentecost, June 5th, is traditionally considered the birthday of the church, so let's celebrate by singing, laughing, eating cake, and having a good time.

For this festive Sunday, I encourage everyone to submit a joke [here](#) and we'll consider using it for our Pentecost worship service.

Job 8:21 says, "God will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouts of joy."

We hope you join us this Pentecost as we take time to celebrate Woodlake's birthday. 75 years of faith and fun in Richfield.

In Christ,

Pr. Micah

Worship

All services are in-person in the sanctuary at 10am and livestreamed to [youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch](https://www.youtube.com/WoodlakeLutheranChurch).

May's worship will lead us from the third through the seventh week of Easter. That's right, the celebration of Easter doesn't just last one Sunday! The truth of Jesus' resurrection will carry our joyful hearts all 50 days until June 5th, where we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The stories often remembered in this part of the church year include Jesus' appearances to the disciples and the beginnings of the church. Some of the stories are quite funny in their situational humor, like in John 21 when Jesus, having risen from the dead, appears to the disciples in a very similar way he called them the first time: with an absolutely massive catch of fish. This jolted their memory and helped them realize it was Jesus who was talking to them from the shore! The disciples exploded with joy and, with incredulous faces and lots of laughter I'm sure, eventually counted all 153 fish and enjoyed breakfast together with Jesus.

Other stories from this period of time between Easter and Pentecost are more serious but just as consequential, like Jesus' reinstatement of Peter in response to Peter denying Him in the garden, the ascension of Jesus, the conversion and missionary beginnings of Saul/Paul, and the church's first opportunities to share the gospel through bold proclamations of truth and following Jesus' commandment to love each other as He loved them.

With gleeful hearts we will worship the risen Jesus in this time between Easter and Pentecost, anticipating the sending of the Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate, Helper, and deposit of our future inheritance.

*Logan Pankratz
Communications Director*

Around the Table

Whew what a year 2022 has already been! We are moving forward and, with the easing of the pandemic, starting to change things as we worship and engage with each other. I just want to acknowledge this feels strange (it sure does to me) and good at the same time. It has been tricky to find the right balance while we also remaining protective of the most vulnerable in our midst. Our new vision as a church is *Becoming a Gathering Place for All God's Children*. Congregational Life Commission is certainly

looking forward to being more active as we move closer to being able to gather in larger groups, tell jokes and laugh over coffee and treats, offer activities and events, and hold our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Proverbs 17:17 says "A friend loves at all times, and a brother (insert - sister, family member, friend, neighbor) is born for a time of adversity." As a church body we have stepped into that for congregants in the past two years. Now our challenge is to grow outside of ourselves and Create Community with the community as a part of our mission. In the coming months there will be opportunities for supporting our efforts to Create Community in the form of expanding Life Groups, helping with coffee and treats, providing smiles at the Welcome Desk, and participating in events and activities including the 75th Anniversary activities. If you have ideas to expand our ability to Create Community please contact me. I welcome and need your involvement as we progress on this journey together. Thank you as always for the support you offer the Leadership Board, Pastors, and Church Staff.

*Cheryl Lundsgaard
Congregational Life Commissioner*

Children, Youth, and Family

RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth) has decided to forgo our traditional financial fundraiser this year. Through prudent spending and the cancellation of the National Youth Gathering, we still have much of the money raised last year.

But we do need your help! Throughout the month of May, RALY will be doing a Friend-raiser! We'll be recruiting volunteers for VBS, as well as collecting materials needed for our summer programs. To hear more about the Friendraiser and upcoming programs, [subscribe](#) to RALY's email updates. You can also email me at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org with any questions!

Upcoming programs *including changed details*****

Camp Sunday: VBS & Summer Stretch Kick-Off

Sunday, July 10th, House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Everyone is welcome to join us at House of Prayer for a fun camp-style worship!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

July 11th - 14th from 5pm—8pm at House of Prayer
All Ages (Recommended for Grades K-6, must be potty trained)

Continued on next page...

Upcoming Events

House of Prayer Fellowship Group

Thursday, May 12th, 1pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church

The House of Prayer Fellowship Group will hold its first post-pandemic meeting on May 12th. There will be coffee, treats, fellowship, a brief devotion, and a presentation about scams and fraud prevention by Richfield Crime Prevention Specialist, Jill Mecklenburg. Members and friends of Woodlake, House of Prayer, and Oak Grove Churches are welcome to attend.

75th Anniversary + Missionary Visit Worship

Sunday, May 15th, 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 May we will celebrate and thank those who have served in the church government (ex. Leadership Board)! On the same Sunday, we will receive the gift of hearing about the ministry of Dr. Neerah Ekka and Dr. Nijhar Minz-Ekka with the Navin Doman Theological College in northern India. They will also lead us in worship!

Prayer Knitters

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month
10am—11am in Fireside Room

Do you know anyone who would like a prayer shawl? The Prayer Knitters have been busy, and our shelves are full of beautiful handmade shawls infused with prayer. They are free of charge, but donations are always welcome (so we can buy more yarn)! If you'd like to learn how to make prayer shawls (knit or crochet), we invite you to join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. The handiwork is a ministry in itself, with past creations going to those who would like one just to enjoy or to be covered in prayer in hardship like illness. Connect with Kristine Hawkinson at 612.861.3928 with questions or to request a prayer shawl.

Confirmation Sunday

May 22nd at 10am worship in the sanctuary

Confirmation is always a joyful Sunday of celebrating young people in the church who are affirming their baptism. Don't miss out on this special day!

Summer Stretch

July 11th - 14th from 1pm—6pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Middle School (Grades 6-8), Cost \$50/participant

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.

Luther Park - Danbury ****Date Change****

July 24th - 27th (Recommended entering grades 1st - 4th)

July 24th - 29th (Recommended entering grades 3rd - 6th)

Parents of children going into 3rd or 4th grade: you can choose how long your children are at camp based on what you think will be best for your child.

This change in times will allow youth in Minneapolis Public Schools to attend now that their school year is ending in late June.

Daniel Ditmanson

Youth Outreach and RALY Program Director



Vacation Bible School is so full of giggles and laughs that group pictures easily become silly moments! It's fun to think of the great VBS group from 2021 (above) and get excited about this Summer's VBS starting June 11th!

Woodlake Supports

The Hospitality Center Friendraiser

May 14th, 11am – 1pm at Como Park Pavilion, St. Paul

The Hospitality Center for Chinese (HCC) was founded to share Christ's love through hospitality to Chinese students and scholars at the University of Minnesota, as well as their families. Woodlake has supported the HCC financially and by supplying food and fellowship at Friendship Meals. In 2019, the Center started extending its mission and programs to international students beyond the Chinese community. In order to reflect this transition, the name of the Center has become The Hospitality Center. The goal is to reach all 10,000 international students in the Twin Cities with genuine love and hospitality.

The Friendraiser will be a time to hear from international students who have been impacted by the work of The Hospitality Center. Connect with others over an international meal of choice (children are welcome at a reduced cost). There will also be games and live music. To attend, sign up at: thehospitalitycenter.org/friendraiser or call 651-659-9740. To carpool to the event, call Cheryl Buranen at 612-670-1016 or email her at cheryl@buranen.com.



Eastern European Crisis Relief

The Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our partners in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. Have 100% of your donation go to supporting refugees with immediate resources and supplies by going to <https://elca.org/disaster>. You can also make checks payable to Woodlake Lutheran Church with "Ukraine" in the memo line, and we will move your donation on to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The Numbers

March 2022

Reg. Envelope Offering	\$12,499
Electronic Giving	\$10,704
IRA's	\$6,133
Rental Income	\$13,575
Holiday Giving	\$1,323
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$218</u>
Total Receipts	\$44,452
Properties Expense	-\$15,742
Personnel Expense	-\$36,007
<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>-\$16,081</u>
Total Expenses	-\$67,830
<u>Month Net Receipts over Expenses</u>	<u>-\$23,378</u>
Note: Dedicated Fund Giving	\$8,514

Worship Attendance in March

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
Mar 2nd Ash Wed	56	28
Mar 6th	55	NA
March 13th	68	43
Mar 20th	121	38
Mar 27th	84	26