

# The Messenger

## 'Real Presence'



**WOODLAKE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2120 West 76th Street

Richfield, MN 55423

(612) 866-8449

office@woodlakechurch.org

[www.woodlakechurch.org](http://www.woodlakechurch.org)

### Worship Schedule

#### Sunday Mornings

**Traditional Worship 9:00am**

Sanctuary

**Modern Worship 10:30am**

Fellowship Hall

#### Wednesday Mornings

**Matins Worship 8:30am**

Service in the Chapel

Fellowship in the Fireside Room

### April Worship Schedule on pg. 4

#### Church Office Hours

Tues., Weds., & Thurs.,

9am - 12pm. 1pm - 3pm

Articles for May issue of  
'Better Together' unified  
newsletter are due to  
office@woodlakechurch.org  
by April 15th. The theme for  
May is 'Rise and Shine'.

## Pastor's Article

Often faith can seem dead, but the #Real Presence of Jesus pushes us forward, challenges us to see God in new ministries, new places and people, and tells us to never be satisfied with how things are. The #Real Presence of Jesus pushes us to shape the world in God's image rather than our own.

In the next few weeks, we'll have many opportunities to practice, detect, sniff out, and notice the #Real Presence of Jesus. Community meals, collaborative Lenten Wednesday worship, Holden Evening Prayer, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are all opportunities to notice the #Real Presence of Jesus at Woodlake and in your life.

In fact, everything we do at Woodlake should give you the tools to help you successfully answer these two questions: What is God up to at Woodlake? And what is God up to in your life?

Hopefully after Easter, you'll know with crystal clarity that faith can seem dead, but Jesus has other plans.

My hope is that our worship theme #Real Presence is not just a cheap gimmick with free sunglasses, but offers a way to ask the question, what could be? Our world is hurting and God needs people who don't see a dead faith, but notice and proclaim the #Real Presence of Jesus at work in the world, in our church, and in our lives? This month, I hope you ask the hard questions of "what could be?" for it just might be the push we need to transform Woodlake and our ministry in Richfield.

In Christ,

**Pr. Micah Pearson**

# Communications

## Better Together Newsletter Coming Soon

*"The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all."*

-Acts 4:32-33

We are excited to introduce the 'Better Together' monthly newsletter, a collaborative publication highlighting the ministries done at House of Prayer and Woodlake Lutheran Churches. This newsletter will shine a light on the many groups, events, Bible studies, and initiatives that make our congregations vibrant and connected. For years, we have supported and promoted each other's events—now, we're taking it a step further.

By combining our efforts, we can work more seamlessly, reduce duplicated tasks, and allow our staff and volunteers to focus on other projects with greater intention and care. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to strengthening our ministry. We take pride in the efforts our collaboration team have taken to continuously, graciously and faithfully strive forward so the future of our ministry is strong in unification.

"The Better Together Newsletter will begin unified planning and production next month, with the first edition set to publish in May 2025. If you already receive an email version and/or paper copy of 'The Messenger' or 'Hi-Lines', no action is needed. To request a mailed copy, please contact [mweaver@hoplc.org](mailto:mweaver@hoplc.org) ( for House of Prayer) or [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org) ( for Woodlake). An email version is also available—reach out to the same contacts if you would like to receive Better Together via email."

**-Cindy Hanson (WLC President), Caity Wright (HoP President), Kristie Olson (WLC communications), Cara Wright and Mary Weaver (HoP communications)**

## 2025 Updated Directory

Good collaborative partnership will also mean it is extra important for our data to be correct and up to date. It is time for our newest addition of a directory as the last one published was over 5 years ago.

To check on/edit your information, please visit Kristie at the welcome desk Sundays in April during coffee fellowship.

OR feel free to send the following information to [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org).

- Last Name(s), First Name(s)
- Address
- Phone Number
- Cellphone, (& landline if applicable)
- E-mail address

If you would want to update your information but would prefer a category be unlisted in the printed directory, please note \*unlisted.

Final edits will be sent to Guidebook Publishing on May 1st, with copies being sent to members mid-May.



# Worship

## **Combined Choir Invitation & Schedule for the Lenten Season**

As part of our special offerings during the upcoming season of Lent, all are invited to sing with the Combined Woodlake & HOP Choir. From 6:30 to 7:00 pm, we will lead the Lenten Holden Evening Prayer services in the Fellowship Hall at Woodlake, followed by rehearsals from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Woodlake Choir Loft or Choir Room. We will together prepare beautiful choral music for our Lenten services, strengthening the community we share through the meaningful experience of singing together. WELCOME TO ALL!

Our Combined Woodlake & HOP Handbell Choir will have an adjusted rehearsal schedule during Lent, meeting from 5:00 to 5:45 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship at HOP/Interim Worship & Music Director at Woodlake, at [rhansonweber@hoplc.org](mailto:rhansonweber@hoplc.org).

**-Dr. Roselyn Hanson Weber**  
**Music and Worship Director**

As we continue with our theme of "Real Presence," we will continue singing our theme songs, "Let Us Be Known" by The Porter's Gate and "Make a Difference" by Rachel Kurtz, in Modern Worship. Good Friday will be led by Modern Worship Music Director Monica Livorsi and will feature musicians Jenessa Iverson (vocals) and Kyle Baker (guitar). As we prepare for Easter, we will continue promoting the spread of love and kindness in the world.

**-Monica Livorsi**  
**Modern Worship Director**

## **Leadership Board Article**

A prayer from the Cranberry Hymnal for the health of body and soul:

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Miraculous healings occur frequently in the Gospels, and after the Resurrection, they are some of the most dramatic events, offering clear evidence of Jesus's power. But as this prayer acknowledges, we do not possess or command this power. Are we completely powerless in the face of the distress of others? Certainly not. We can offer what physical assistance we can (think of the traditional act of dropping off a hot dish to the recently bereaved), offer a sympathetic ear, send an encouraging letter, give a warm greeting to others, and wish them Godspeed on life's journey.

Not too long ago, I was getting a meal at a downtown Subway restaurant. As I was leaving, an older gentleman in a wheelchair asked me to pause for a moment and said, "I just want you to know God loves you." I said thank you and offered the same to him. For a brief moment, we were the real presence of God.

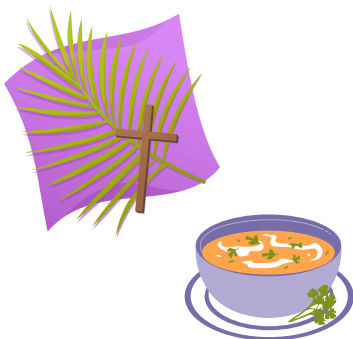
**-Scott Dahlquist**  
**Music and Worship Comissioner**



### Lenten Meal Serving Volunteers

We are looking forward to our Lenten Soup Suppers with our collaboration partners from House of Prayer each Wednesday night in Lent.

Each week we will need volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up from 5:00pm-7:00pm. If you are able to lend a helping hand, please contact Kirsten Hargreaves [kirstenhargreaves1@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenhargreaves1@gmail.com) to volunteer.



### Lent 2025: #Real Presence

Lenten Service and Suppers hosted @ Woodlake Lutheran Church

Join us this Lent as we share a meal, conversation, and worship together with House of Prayer. Our theme is #Real Presence, where we will look at all the ways God's presence is made real in our lives, church, community, and world. Each week we'll hear how God shows up and makes faith real. We look forward to this special collaborative ministry with House of Prayer.

### Wednesdays in Lent Schedule

- 5:30pm. Community Supper
- 6:00pm. Worship
- 6:30pm. Holden Evening Prayer

### Lenten Wednesday 4: April 2

#Real Presence of Care Ministry

### Lenten Wednesday 5: April 9

#Real Presence of Justice



*Photos from March 12 & 19*



## Favorite Bible Passages



A big thanks to everyone who shared your favorite Bible verse with me during the month of February. Here are some favorites.

Jackie Johnson

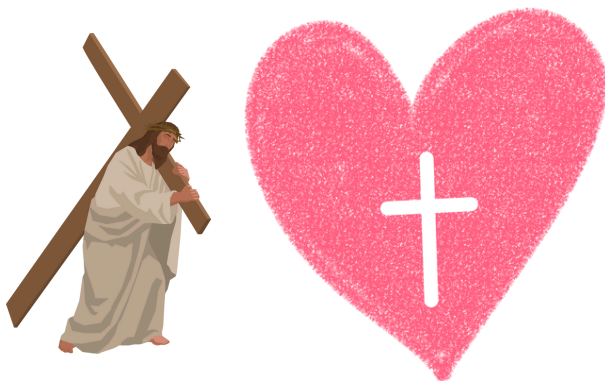
“Come to me all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens and I will give you rest.”  
Matthew 11:28

Alice Olson

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2:10

Rick Sunstrom

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”  
John 3:16



Mary Weaver (HoP)

“Guard your heart above all else, for it will determine the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23

Wayne Schmieg (2 passages)

“This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us, for this is our lot. Likewise, all to whom God gives wealth and possessions and whom he enables to enjoy them and to accept their lot and find enjoyment in their toil—this is the gift of God. For they will scarcely brood over the days of their lives because God keeps them occupied with the joy of their hearts.” Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.” James 3:13

Thank you for sharing these faithful words with me. I know that scripture has the power to change lives and I’m grateful for the ways it is working in your life.

Soli Deo Gloria,

**-Pr. Micah Pearson**

### Congregational Life Commissioner

Are you Interested in forming community? Do you have a passion for welcome and hospitality. If so, you might be interested in the Congregational Life Commissioner position at Woodlake.

The primary role of this position is to support on-going fellowship groups and encourage new ones at Woodlake. There are many community groups already gathering at Woodlake and many more opportunities to create new community/fellowship opportunities. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Pastor Micah Pearson  
[mpearson@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:mpearson@woodlakechurch.org).

# Building Report

## March Building Report

### Properties Commission

- The commission will work with Southside Electric to review the safety lights in the parking lot by 76th street.
- A discussion about landscaping for the ramp area has been started.
- The team worked together to clear out some no longer needed items in the boiler room.

### Cleaning Kits Now in Youth Wing Rooms

- There are now cleaning kits in each room of the youth wing. Each kit has instructions, sanitizing supplies and basic cleaning materials.

### Building Temperature Control

- The repairs to the steam pipe in room #3 took place on March 12th.

### Interior and Arts

- A new group will be formed to address art and interior design at Woodlake. Please reach out to [office@woodlakechurch.org](mailto:office@woodlakechurch.org) if you would be interested in joining this team.

### Youth Wing

- Conversation on security cameras for the youth wing remain in process.
- Wifi is now all set to go, thanks to Central Coast.

### New mechanical company

- The owner of Koch Mechanical has officially retired. We wish Jessie a splendid retirement and thank Koch Mechanical for their work over the years. Because of this, Scott Dahlquist has interviewed a new mechanical company to carry on with the building's heating and air conditioning needs.

### Stuff around Woodlake

- Volunteers continue to sort through stored items, much of which we have recycled, or have offered up for new life in our 'for free' area by the coat closet. Please be encouraged to continue grabbing what you or your community's needs.

# Upcoming Events and WLC Ministry

## March Worship Schedule

*all services at Woodlake unless noted otherwise*

- |          |                                                                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 6  | 9:00am Sanctuary Worship<br>10:30am Modern Worship                |
| April 13 | Palm Sunday<br>9:00am Sanctuary Worship<br>10:30am Modern Worship |
| April 17 | Maundy Thursday<br>7pm at House of Prayer                         |
| April 18 | Good Friday<br>7pm at Woodlake                                    |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday<br>10am at Woodlake<br>11:30am Easter Egg Hunt      |

## Prayer Group

*Wednesday, April 2nd @9:30am - Fireside*

The Woodlake prayer group will get together Wednesday, April 2nd at 9:30am. The group has a list of people, places, and world events from the congregation along with communities who are in need of prayer. Confidentiality is highly honored. All are welcome to join.

## Matins Wednesday Worship

*Every Wednesday, 8:30am - Fireside*

Matins services are held in the Chapel every Wednesday morning at 8:30am. It is followed by fellowship, singing, community service, Bible studies, speakers, prayer and of course coffee and treats.

Week 1: Prayer Group

Week 2: Bible Study

Week 3: Cleaning

Week 4: Speaker

Week 5: Community Service and Lunch

## Grief Coalition Winter Series

*Thursday, March 27 – Thursday, May 15, 2025, @4:30pm to 6:00pm - Woodlake Lutheran Church*

April 3 “Intimacy” Bob Bartlett	May 1 “The Teeter Totter of Grief and hope” Ted Bowman
April 10 “Grieving through Grief and Multiple Loss” Julie Ditzler	May 8 “The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help on the Path to Healing” Dr. Rene Garpestad
April 17 No Meeting	
April 24 “How Families Grieve” Mary Anne Kelly-Wright	May 15 “Sibling Loss” Maggie Bauer

## Speaker about End-of-Life (Death) Doulas at Matins

*April 9 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room*

The continuing education for the Visitation Ministers will be done in collaboration with Matins. The speaker from [tendingthespirit.care.com](http://tendingthespirit.care.com) is an end-of-life (death) doula. She will talk about how death doulas facilitate conversations around making end of life plans and assist in fulfilling those plans.

Please join Matins and the Visitation Ministers continuing education on April 9th for:

- Service at 8:30 am in Chapel
- Coffee & Treats at 9:00 am in Fireside Room
- Speaker at 9:30 am in Fireside Room

We hope to see you there. All are welcome to attend.

## Maundy Thursday

*April 17th, @7pm - House of Prayer*

Join us as we worship together with Woodlake, House of Prayer, and Oak Grove. Holy Communion will be served as well as music from a combined collaborative choir.

## Good Friday

*April 18th, @7pm - WLC*

Join us for Good Friday worship as we reflect on the depth of Christ's sacrifice and the power of his love. Through scripture, music, and prayer, we will gather in solemn remembrance and hopeful expectation of the resurrection to come.

## Easter Sunday

*April 20th, @10am - WLC*

We will come together as one congregation to celebrate the Risen Christ. This service will be a combination of Sanctuary worship and Modern worship.

## Easter Egg Hunt

*April 20th, @11:30am - WLC Lawn*

Come one come all for our annual Easter egg hunt

## Faith and Fiction Book Club

**‘The Wishing Game’ by Meg Shaffer**

*Tuesday, April 24th @7:00pm - Heritage Room*



Lucy Hart, a 26-year-old teacher's aide, dreams of adopting orphaned Christopher Lamb but lacks the means. When her favorite author, Jack Masterson, announces a contest for the only copy of his new book, Lucy is chosen to compete on Clock Island. Facing fierce rivals and the brooding illustrator Hugo Reese, she soon realizes Masterson has a life-changing twist in store for them all.

## **GATHER Twin Cities** **an ELCA Young Adult Ministry** **GATHER Made in God's Worship**

*Friday, April 11 at 7:30pm - Luther Seminary*

We are partnering with Luther Seminary's Reconciling in Christ Advocacy committee to create space for all to come as you are, made in God's Image. Join us as we worship together, observing Trans Visibility and National Day of Silence.

### **A Pint Sized Gathering**

*April 13, @6-8pm -Broken Clock Brewing*

We traditionally meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month, but in April, that is Easter Sunday! Therefore, we'll meet a week earlier for a Pint Size Gathering! Come hang out, meet some young adults in our cities, play games, and enjoy each others company over a beverage of choice! .



## **New Visitation Members Needed**

When we started the Visitation Ministry about 10 years ago, it was called the Homebound Ministry and we had between 60 and 65 members. Today we have only 35 members. Our numbers keep dwindling. The majority of our members are elderly and many have died, particularly during the pandemic. We even changed our name to the Visitation Ministry because there was a stigma surrounding the name "homebound". We have 19 visitation ministers, but currently 3 of them do not have anyone to visit.

Over the past 10 years, all of us have aged, so many of you may be in need of a visit or a call or even a card. During the pandemic it was proven that isolation and loneliness are not good for us, so the Visitation Ministry could provide someone to visit. We have many different options to be a visitation member. We try to tailor the options to what you would like.

- All members receive cards made by Woodlake Ink for Valentines Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and some just receive cards.
- Some like "full service": a visit once a month plus communion. Others may just want a visit because they come to church and get communion or get communion at the facility where they live.
- Some enjoy getting a call once a month rather than a visit.
- Some would like us to provide devotion books whether we deliver them or mail them.

If you are interested in any of these visitation member options or you know someone who might be interested, please call the church office at (612) 866-8449.





Richfield  
Area  
Lutheran  
Youth

***Come as you are, build community,  
and have fun!***

## **RALY Wednesdays, Grades 6-9**

Every Wednesday night join us for faith, fun and youth fellowship! We start with dinner, then do a variety of activities such as service projects, games, and more. Friends are always welcome! RALY meets at House of Prayer weekly then Woodlake on the last week of the month.

## **Second Sundays, Grades 9-12**

We gather every second Sunday of the month in collaboration with other local churches. Come and hang out with friends, play games, and build community with each other! Location changes monthly.

Reach out to RALY Director, Rachel Larson with any questions: [rlarson@hoplc.org](mailto:rlarson@hoplc.org) or 612-409-7275



***Scan the QR Code  
for all RALY  
information  
(registrations,  
calendar, and  
social media),***

***or go to [linktr.ee/raly55423](https://linktr.ee/raly55423)***

## **RALY CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, April 2nd**

**7-8pm, Woodlake**

6-12th graders will share their stories from RALY for our annual Thank You Video & stuff Easter Eggs!

**Wednesday, April 9th**

**6-7pm, Woodlake Blue Room**

After Lenten dinner, help crack open (plastic) eggs and stuff them with candy and goodies to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt!

**Second Sunday, April 13th**

**5-6:30pm, Woodlake**

Join Diamond Lake and RALY youth in 9-12th grade for Game Night (Jackbox!, Uno No Mercy, oh my!)

**No Confirmation; Happy Easter!**

**Wednesday, April 23rd**

**5:30-8:30pm, House of  
Prayer/Luther Seminary**

6th-12th graders are invited to Luther Seminary for a synod wide youth night! Carpool meets at House of Prayer by 5:30pm, returning by 8:30pm. RSVP with Rachel by April 9th!

**Wednesday, April 30th**

**6-7:30pm, Woodlake**

Bring your friends and join us at Woodlake for pizza dinner and games (Just Dance, anyone?!)

## RALY RECAP

RALY is on break during Lent but we are still plenty busy! Before the Lenten season began, RALY played Giant Relay Pictionary, racing around Woodlake to get clues to draw using a giant pool noodle pen! But with teamwork, we guessed all the silly drawings. We packed meals with Woodlake and House of Prayer at Feed My Starving Children, embodying our faith in community. Then during Lent, RALY served supper and talked about Real Presence, how God shows up in our lives, and “aura points” (Gen alpha slang for “coolness”). Finally, Second Sundays went out to WhirlyBall, playing a cross between bumper cars and lacrosse... goofs ensued!

## Where's Rachel?

This month RALY youth were busy performing and playing! A chamber ensemble night featured Leo and Kiera, along with a few familiar faces from Boys & Girls Club. I joined family and friends celebrating Max achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at House of Prayer, only received by 7 out of 100 scouts! Soon I'll be off to Our Lady of Peace to see Quinn perform and Evelyn as assistant director for The Magical Land of OZ. Our youth are everywhere!

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALL

### FOR CANDY!

#### CALL FOR CANDY!

Spring is in the air, Easter is nearly here! Help us fill Easter Eggs with candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Woodlake. Please bring bags of mini individually wrapped candies to Rachel's office at Woodlake or House of Prayer. Donations will be accepted through April 9th!

Sunday, April 13th, 6-8pm, Woodlake  
Meet in the Porch for Confirmation!

## TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2025!

### *High School Service Trip*



### **July 25-August 2, Finished Grades 8-12**

Join RALY and Diamond Lake for our high school service trip this summer as we roadtrip down to partner with Spark'Dwell in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Friends are invited, as always! Contact Rachel ([rlarson@hoplc.org](mailto:rlarson@hoplc.org)) with any questions. Follow the link for more information and registration.

(<https://shorturl.at/la7R6>)

## *Luther Park*

**Various dates; Finished Grades 1-12**



Join friends and more at Luther Park - play games, do arts and crafts, swim/boat in the lake, worship and sing by the campfire, build relationships, hear stories, and develop faith. Historically RALY attends Week 1, but youth can pick any week that works for them. No matter what week you are attending, please register with both Luther Park and RALY (found on RALY's Linktr.ee, the QR code, or here <https://shorturl.at/hhj7s>).



Questions? Contact Rachel  
([rlarson@hoplc.org](mailto:rlarson@hoplc.org))



## *Summer Stretch*

**July 7-10; Current 5-8th Grades**

Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and fellowship! This was a blast two years ago with possible activities such as an escape room, bowling, or swimming.



Scan the QR Code or follow the link for more information and registration.

(<https://shorturl.at/jYMQX>)

## *Vacation Bible School*

**July 7-10; Current PreK-5th Grades  
Leadership opportunities for  
Grades 6+**

RALY Vacation Bible School hosted by Woodlake brings back Luther Park staff for a week of faith, music, and games! Join us for a family meal from 5-5:30pm, followed by VBS programming until 7:30pm.



Scan the QR Code or follow the link for more information and registration.

(<https://shorturl.at/6JSRs>)

# RALY SUMMER

2025

**22-25**  
JUN

## LUTHER PARK CAMP

OTHER DATES AVAILABLE

Half week for Grades 1-4; Full week for grades 3-12  
Register with RALY and Luther Park!



**7-10**  
JUL

## SUMMER STRETCH

CURRENT GRADES 5-8; 1-5 PM

A week of fun activities, devotions, and connecting with RALY and friends! Family dinner & VBS follows



**7-10**  
JUL

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CURRENT PREK-5 GRADES; 5-7:30 PM

Learn about faith with music & games! Grades 6+, join as leaders!



**25-2**  
JUL/AUG

## HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP

CURRENT 8-12 GRADES

Join RALY & Diamond Lake as we drive to The Dwelling in NC, with fun stops along the way!



MORE INFORMATION  
& REGISTRATION  
WITH QR CODES OR  
LINKTR.EE

[linktr.ee/raly55423](https://linktr.ee/raly55423)

Questions? Contact Rachel  
[rlarson@hoplc.org](mailto:rlarson@hoplc.org)



## The Numbers

### The Numbers for February 2024

Envelope Offering	\$14,911
Electronic Giving	\$4,319
IRA's	\$9,753
Holidays	\$300
Rental income	\$14,543
Other	\$5,503

Total Receipts \$49,329

Properties Expense \$12,804

Personnel Expense \$38,639

Other Expenses \$12,584

Total Expenses \$64,007

Monthly Net Receipts over expenses \$(14,678)

### Worship Attendance in February

	Sanctuary Worship	Modern Worship	Online
Feb 2	81	27	47
Feb 9	75	32	86
Feb 16	67	32	65
Feb 23	59	22	59

"Becoming a gathering place for all of God's Children"

Pastor Neal Cannon Pastor Micah Pearson



WOODLAKE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH