

The Messenger

'Light of the World'



WOODLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2120 West 76th Street

Richfield, MN 55423

(612) 866-8449

office@woodlakechurch.org

www.woodlakechurch.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Traditional Worship 9:00am

Sanctuary

Modern Worship 10:30am

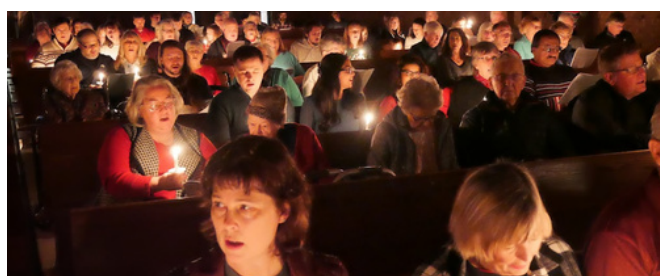
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Mornings

Matins Worship 8:30am

Service in the Chapel

Fellowship in the Fireside Room



Photos from Christmas Eve service

**January Worship
Schedule on pg. 4**

Church Office Hours

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

*Articles for February issue
of The Messenger are due
to*

*office@woodlakechurch.org
by January 15th. The theme
for February is also 'Light
of the World'.*

Pastor's Article

You never know how you could make a difference in someone's life.

I was talking to Starr Carriere, a longtime Woodlake member, the other day about her family of origin. Her father had passed away at a young age, and she was being raised by her mother, uncle, and aunt. Starr told me that after the death of her father, her family surrounded her with sacrificial love and support. Despite no woman in her family ever having earned a college degree, her uncle urged her to go to college. He saw something special in her. Eventually, Starr did end up going to college and got a degree in Home Economics, becoming the first woman in her family to do so. Starr told me, "I don't think I ever would have thought to go to college if my uncle hadn't encouraged me. That's why I think it's so important to encourage young people. You never know where that encouragement will lead!"

Worship

As we come into the season of Epiphany, Starr's words struck me as especially fitting. Not only do we say that Jesus is our light, but Jesus encourages us by saying that WE are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14-16 reads

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

How important those words must have been to the disciples! How empowered they must have felt to hear Jesus say that to them! So many of us walk around in the world without realizing the gifts and abilities that we have to offer, and it often takes an outside force for us to realize that we have those gifts in us! But when we hear that good news, it can change the course of our lives.



As Christians we need to let our light shine! We all have a goodness inside of us, a light that comes from God, an ability to make a difference. We should not take this for granted! We should not hide it, but let it out. You can make a difference in somebody's life today. You can be a light. And if you notice that light in someone else, make sure to point it out... because you never know how you could make a difference in someone's life. Amen!

-Pr. Neal Cannon

WELCOME ALL MUSICIANS! COME MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

HOP & Woodlake Lutheran Winter through Spring Music Ministry



Welcome to a new season of shared music ministry, gathering for Wednesday evenings rehearsals and Sunday services. Come join us as we sing and worship together, building community as House of Prayer and Woodlake Lutheran continue as partners in Faith. Our schedule is as follows:

Wednesday evenings:

(most often at HOP, with occasional rehearsals at Woodlake)

- 5:45- 6:45 p.m. – HOP/Woodlake Combined Hand Bell Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7- 8:15/30 p.m.– HOP/Woodlake Combined Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7- 8/8:15 p.m. – HOP Brass rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday mornings:

- HOP - 8:45 a.m. (generally) rehearsal; 9:30 a.m. service
- Woodlake – 8 a.m. (generally) rehearsal; 9:00 a.m. service

For questions regarding the Combined Choir and Handbell Choir, contact HOP Director of Liturgical Worship/Woodlake Interim Worship & Music Director, Roselyn Hanson Weber
rhansonweber@hoplc.org.

-Dr. Roselyn Hanson Weber (Music and Worship Director)

Building Report

December Building Report

Youth Wing Construction Progress

The young wing construction is finished! The grand opening will be on January 5th.

Youth Wing Key

*YW = youth wing

The Porch (formerly room A and room B): Open Room

YW Orange(formerly room C and room D): Recreation Room

YW Blue (formerly room F & G): Youth Room

YW Green (formerly room H): Godly Play

Youth Wing Items in Progress

- Furniture has been delivered and set up. Ping pong table pending!
- Lenny Swanson put up shelving in the new youth wing storage room.
- Godly Play room, furniture has been put back and Anne and Wayne Schmieg have re-organized it.
- Gary Nix and his plumber are working on taking care of youth wing bathrooms and are waiting on parts.
- Gary and John Call moved back sofas to the Blue room in the youth wing that were stored in the choir room.

Winter Preparations

- Ice melt has been purchased in bulk through Business Essentials for the remainder of the winter.
- A conversation with Business Essentials will take place next month for custom fit winter rugs to potentially be in the youth wing and Oliver hallway. Measurements and quotes will need to be done before moving forward.
- Contracts with Shwaders Lawn Care have been reviewed and renewed for snow plowing this winter.

Cleaning Adjustments

Citywide, our professional cleaning company, will return to cleaning the youth wing bathrooms mid January and will then discontinue cleaning the windows at the front entrance.

Sound Booth Update

- Ryan with MICS Construction came out to work on some continued issues with Dan Ferber.
- Ethan Alberg was hired for the Christmas Hymn Sing. He is the AV technician at House of Prayer. Thank you Ethan!

Choir Room Update

The Choir room is getting cleared and furniture has been moved out so it will ready to be vacuumed and set up for choir practice.

Construction Supplies

Leftover supplies, materials, paints have been moved to the basement for storage.

Building Temperature Control

Scott Dahlquist and John are keeping track of different area temperatures.

Poinsettias

Scott was head of the poinsettia orders, organizing and post clean up. He worked with Kristie (communications) and Orv (financials) for a easy and streamlined ordering process this year.

The Coat Room

The coat room is back open and ready for usage. Thank you for your patience while it was being occupied for construction needs.

Narthex Plants

- Joshua Lundgren with 'Indulge and Bloom', has replaced our four rental plants in the Narthex.
- White Poinsettias from Barb Ashland's funeral, were donated to decorate the Narthex during this Advent/Christmas season.

Upcoming Events and WLC Ministry

January Worship Schedule

all services at Woodlake unless noted otherwise

January 5th 10:00am Woodlake Worship
in Sanctuary

January 12 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

January 19 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

January 26 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 8th @9:30am - Fireside

The Woodlake prayer group will get together Wednesday, January 8th 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

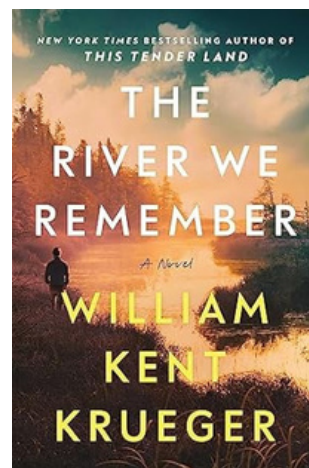
Faith and Fiction Book Club

'The River We Remember'

by William Kent Krueger

*Tuesday, January 23rd @7:00pm -
Heritage Room*

The River We Remember is a 1958 Minnesota murder mystery where Sheriff Brody Dern must uncover the truth behind Jimmy Quinn's death amid prejudice and buried secrets. This bestseller explores war's scars, justice, and the healing power of storytelling in small-town America.



Grief Coalition Winter Series

*Thursdays, January 2nd - February 20th,
2025, @4:30pm to 6:00pm - Peace
Lutheran*

January 2

"Losing a Spouse"

led by Margarita
Alvarez

January 9

"Healing From Loss"

led by Norine
Larson

January 16

"The Puzzle Called
Grief" led by Donna
Mathiowetz

January 23

"Resilience"
led by Brenda
DeMotte

January 30

"Principles of Grief"

led by Brenda
DeMotte

February 6

"Moving Forward
with Hope" led by
Jay Hillestad

February 13

"Understanding Grief"
led by Mary Marcoux

February 20

"Staying in Your
Story" led by Annie
Lumbar Bendson

Renew & Refresh: Women's Retreat 2025

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart." – Romans 10:8



Escape the busyness of life and join us for the second annual Renew & Refresh: Women's Retreat—a weekend of tranquility, worship, and growth. Reflect on the stories that shape us and explore the greatest story of all: God's Word bringing life and salvation. Through scripture, worship, and fellowship, we'll connect deeply with God and one another.

Dates:

- February 7–9, 2025
- February 21–23, 2025

(Same programming—choose the weekend that suits you!)

Details:

- Check-in by 5:00 PM, with dinner at 6:00 PM. Optional early arrival at 1:00 PM.
- Depart at 12:00 PM on Sunday.
- Activities include worship, crafts, guided sessions, meals, and free time.
- Price options available for commuting or overnight stays (starting at \$146, scholarships available).

Music will be led by someone familiar...

Monica Livorsi! (Woodlake's Modern Worship Director) and Andrea Griner will be the guest session leader. Come experience a weekend of renewal, connection, and inspiration!

If interested, please contact Kristie Olson kclo239.2@gmail.com. She will be connecting with Caity Wright from House of Prayer to help organize interested participants.

Service & Justice Commission

ELCA Truth and Healing Movement

In April 2023 the ELCA started the Truth and Healing Movement with their mission being "to provide opportunities to learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people". To support this movement the Service & Justice Commission is doing three activities.



First, within the new Woodlake welcome in the Sunday bulletins we have included a land acknowledgement statement: "Woodlake stands on the ancestral land of the Dakota people. We honor Indigenous histories and cultures and acknowledge the need to engage in reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbors".

Second, we plan to have a Minute for Mission at the 9 am service on January 19 and three adult forums after the 9 am service in the Fireside Room to learn about the history and current realities of Indigenous people.

- January 26: Native American History
- February 23: Native American Land
- March 23: Native American Powwows

Third, we plan to add an Indigenous nonprofit that we can contribute money and give service to. The organization will be announced at a later date.

We hope you will be able to support and participate in these activities for the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement.

-The Service & Justice Commission

Festival of Carols: Hope, Love, Joy & Peace on Earth



On Sunday morning December 8th the musicians of HOP and Woodlake joined together to create a special Festival of Carols service for the Second Sunday of Advent.

The joyous tones of voices, handbells, wind /brass instruments and organ created a festive musical celebration through word and music. It was a wonderful community collaboration, bringing together the Combined Choirs and Handbell Choir from HOP and Woodlake Lutheran, the HOP Winds, and the Combined Children & Youth Ministries.

Based on the Lessons & Carols tradition of the Church of England, the music was interspersed with scripture readings that relayed the story of Christ's coming into the world. Children and Youth volunteered to serve as readers.

The congregation also joined in singing many of the beloved Advent and Christmas hymns. A festive time of fellowship followed the Festival of Carols service, with warm cider and Christmas treats enjoyed by all.

GATHER TWIN CITIES - ELCA Young Adult Ministry

*Saturday, January 18th @1pm -Sunday, January 19th @11am
- Luther Crest Bible Camp*



Join us for the FIRST EVER Gather Twin Cities Retreat! Picture snowy trails, hot cocoa by the fire, reflective worships, and meaningful moments with friends old and new. For more info and registration go to www.gathertwincities.org.

Invite your friends, roommates, neighbors! Gather is a ministry for young adults, which we roughly define as 19-35, though that age range is meant to clarify, never exclude. If you have any questions, email gathertwincities@gmail.com

Join Our AV Team !

We're excited to make displaying words and images on our Sanctuary screens a regular part of worship, but we need your help to make it happen!

If you're comfortable using a computer, consider volunteering to run the slideshow during services. You'll partner with our AV technicians, and no prior experience is needed—we'll provide training.

This is a great way to support our congregation and contribute to an enhanced worship experience. Interested? Contact Scott Dahlquist sjaadahlquist@comcast.net



RALY Christmas Pageant

"We were blessed to witness the beautiful telling of the Christmas story in our collaborative Christmas Program "Do Not Be Afraid" with House of Prayer Lutheran Church and Woodlake Lutheran Church. You can watch the whole thing on Woodlake's Youtube channel! We're so grateful for the children, youth, parents, staff, and volunteers who made this possible, bringing their gifts together to help tell the Christmas story. " -Dir. Rachel Larson

The rest of the service felt jolly and light. We were reminded of the questions our littles have for us and how we can proclaim the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ during this season and beyond. We got to hear from Caity Wright, the President of House of Prayer invite members of all ages to Luther Park summer programming, along with sharing the gift of communion in collaboration. We even got to see Pr. Eric on the drums, what fun!

MPLS Area Synod Youth Choir

Musicians Alyssa Schwitzer and Kent Goodroad are teaming up with the Minneapolis Area Synod to launch a Youth Choir for ages 5-18, fostering connection, faith, and compassion through music. The choir will gather monthly from January to June to learn songs, build community, and perform at the Synod Assembly and another special event. Rehearsals will rotate between three host sites which will be churches located in S. Mpls, N. Mpls and Western Suburbs.

Woodlake Heritage Endowment Fund

Applications are now being accepted for scholarships from the Woodlake Lutheran Heritage Endowment Fund for the 2024-2025 academic year. These funds are available to those associated with the church - members, children or grandchildren. Applications are in the church office and should be submitted by January 31, 2025. If you have any question, please contact Bill Bullock at 612-869-6394.



Richfield Area Lutheran Youth

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

RALY Wednesdays, Grades 6-9

Happens weekly and is packed with faith, fun and youth fellowship — we invite all to come and dine in community followed by a variety of team building activities. We will primarily be at House of Prayer except the last Wednesday of the month at Woodlake.

Second Sundays, Grades 9-12

Gathers 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!

Reach out to RALY Director, Rachel Larson with any questions: 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*

RALY CALENDAR – Available
online: <https://shorturl.at/5MHq7>

RALY Wednesday, January 1st

No RALY, enjoy the start of the New Year!

Second Sunday, January 5th 5-6:30pm, Woodlake

Our high school night will happen a week early so we can plan for the JUSTMove Lock-in! Note the time change!

RALY Wednesday, January 8th 6-7:30pm, House of Prayer

We will attempt trick shots and challenges a la Dude Perfect!

RALY Wednesday, January 15th 6-7:30pm, House of Prayer

Dinner and a movie - bring blankets, pajamas, or stuffed animals for our "slumber party"!

JUSTMove Lock-in, January 19-20th

1/19 1pm - 1/20 7am, Woodlake

For more information, see the announcement below.

Wednesday, January 22nd

No RALY; recovery from the Lock-in!

Wednesday, January 22nd 6-7:30pm, Woodlake

Solve the real-life version of CLUE!
Parents & older youth are invited to fill in roles; email Rachel to sign-up!

RALY RECAP

This month, RALY Wednesdays continued our tradition of partnering with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's Youth Holiday Gift Program, spreading joy and warmth to families in need by purchasing cozy comforter sets, kitchen utensils, and baby clothes and toys. Our youth took the lead, embracing the spirit of generosity and service. The next week we had fun putting together our Christmas program, "Do Not Be Afraid," with around 25 youth! Ending the year with a Christmas party for both Second Sundays and RALY Wednesday was so fun. We played reindeer games, drank hot chocolate, and shared white elephant gifts. The season has truly been filled with joy!

Check out the RALY Facebook page for more photos!

<https://shorturl.at/btqPv>



Where's Rachel?

In December, I got to enjoy the Richfield Middle School Choir Concert and the Advanced Band Concert! Megan and Niyana shined in the choir concert, I even recognized the song Siyahamba (We are Marching), which made it difficult not to join in. The Advanced Band took over Southdale's main level, holiday music filling the mall on our first big snowfall of the year. Keira and Jackie did a wonderful job. Sleigh Ride was my personal favorite, of course! I saw some familiar faces from Boys & Girls Club at both concerts! Such a great way to end the calendar year.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Our high school youth are invited to Woodlake's new Youth Wing on **January 5th, 5-6:30pm** (moved from the regular week and time). We will have some leadership training specific to the JUSTMove Lock-in (1/19-20), practice games they will lead during JUSTMove, and reflect on the new year. This is a great chance to practice leadership skills or just hang with friends! Contact Rachel with any questions.

JUSTmove Lock-In: One Body!

Mark your calendars! The JUSTmove Lock-In is back at

Woodlake on **January 19th 1pm - January 20th 7am**. Youth from all over the Twin Cities will come together for a justice themed Lock-In centered on being one body with many members. All 6-9th grade youth and their friends, 10-12th graders are invited to participate as leaders.



Scan the QR Code to register, or click here: <https://shorturl.at/OgG07>

Confirmation Retreat

Due to low registration, we've decided to cancel the confirmation retreat this year. If you have already paid a deposit, please let Pr. Eric know and we will reimburse you. Instead, our January confirmation time will shift to the JUSTmove Lock-In (Jan 19-20)! Please [register](#) your child today! Attendance at the Lock-In will be considered as your January confirmation attendance. For questions, contact Pastor Eric eluedtke@hoplc.org.

Boys and Girls Club

We're thrilled to partner again with the Boys and Girls Club at Richfield Middle School, hosting 10-16 students every Thursday from 3:45- 5:00 PM at Woodlake! This ministry is only possible through volunteers signing up for a month to lead an activity of their choice—like baking, card making, games, etc. You'll handle supplies and RALY Dir Rachel and Pr. Neal Cannon will help with set up. Woodlake will reimburse costs and provide snacks.

Excited to join? Fill out this flyer, rip off and turn into the Woodlake Office or Email Pr. Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org with your name, preferred activity, and month. A background check required for all volunteers.

Name(s) :

Contact (email & cellphone):

Preferred Activities: art/craft STEM/Science cards/games reading/writing
(circle all that apply)

sports/physical activity cooking/baking trade/life skills

Other (write in): _____

Month(s) available (circle all that apply): Jan Feb March April May

High School Summer Trip

July 25-August 3, finished grades 8-12

RALY is joining Diamond Lake for our high school trip this summer for a road trip down to partner with Spark'Dwell in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Spark'Dwell is a program where, "Participants engage in a week of relationship- building, education, story-telling and service alongside formerly or currently homeless individuals."

More information can be found on their website and will be announced later.



SPARK'DWELL

WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF BEING KINGDOM PEOPLE

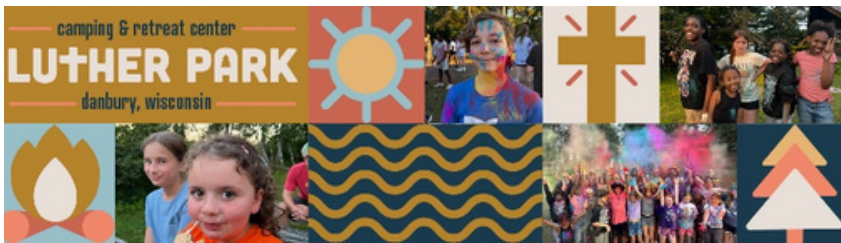
“Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice; church people often put church work above concerns of justice, mercy, and truth. Church people think about how to get people into the church; Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world. Church people worry that the world might change the church; Kingdom people work to see the church change the world.”

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT SERVICE WITHOUT EDUCATION IS EMPTY.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE AS PEOPLE NOT ONLY ENGAGED IN SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS, BUT ALSO AS BEING FIERCE ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE.

Because justice issues related to homelessness, hunger, poverty, racism, education disparity, and more are complex situations that require complex conversations and answers, SPARK and The Dwelling team up (Spark'Dwell) to offer opportunities for young people and adults to spend a week during the summer or fall/spring break participating in Spirit and Service Learning Experiences.

Hosted (housed) at a local partner church, participants engage in a week of relationship-building, education, story-telling and service alongside formerly or currently homeless individuals. In doing so, participants will better understand the complexity of the systems and institutions perpetuating injustice and inequity, how the church is responding as Matthew 25 people, and ways that they can continue to advocate for justice in their own communities.



RALY

RALY's 'Camp Week' will be
Week One: June 22-25/27

LUTHER PARK SUMMER CAMP 2025

DATE/WEEK	AGES	PROGRAM
PRE-SUMMER		
May 31-June 3	Leadership Staff	Leadership Staff Training
June 3-19	Summer Staff	Summer Staff Training
June 19-22	Grades 9-12	High School Leadership Training Camp
WEEK 1		
June 22-25	Grades 1-4	Half Week Cabin Camp
June 22-27	Grades 3-6	Full Week Cabin Camp
June 22-27	Grades 4-12	All-Skills Horse Camp
June 22-27	Grades 7-12	Full Week Treehouse Camp
WEEK 2		
July 6-11	Staff are off site facilitating VBS programs in different church communities. TBD on locations	
WEEK 3		
July 13-16	Grades 1-4	Half Week Cabin Camp
July 13-18	Grades 3-6	Full Week Cabin Camp
July 13-18	Grades 7-12	Canoe Camp
Summer Celebration July 19	All ages, All Day!	10am-4pm - Full of Camp activities, worship & fun!
WEEK 4		
July 20-23	Grades 1-4	Half Week Cabin Camp
July 20-25	Grades 3-6	Full Week Cabin Camp
July 20-25	Grades 4-12	All-Skills Horse Camp
July 20-25	Grades 7-12	Full Week Treehouse Camp
WEEK 5		
July 27-31	All Ages!	Reserved for St. Croix Ojibwe Tribe

camping & retreat center

LUTHER PARK

danbury, wisconsin

We are once again going to Luther Park in Danbury, WI - historically RALY attends Week 1, but youth can pick any week that works for them. There are lots of camp experiences your child(ren) and youth can experience. There are also whole family opportunities as camp is for everyone! Check out a couple below:

Summer Celebration: July 19 (All ages, 10am-4pm for camp activities, worship, & fun!)

Grand Camp

Sunday, August 3 - Wednesday, August for grandparents and their grandchild(ren), with some staff led activities.

More information can be found on Luther Park's website.

<http://www.lutherpark.com/summer-camp-2025.html>

Summer Stretch



July 6-11; Grades 6-8

Summer Stretch is an afternoon program focused on fun and

fellowship! This was a blast two years ago and I am excited to bring it back. Possible activities include Urban Air, bowling, or swimming. There will be opportunities for High School leaders to join!

The Numbers

The Numbers for November 2024

Envelope Offering	\$15,794
Electronic Giving	\$8,895
IRA's	\$17,321
Holidays	\$190
Rental income	\$14,318
Other	\$728

Total Receipts	\$57,246
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Properties Expense	\$4,308
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Personnel Expense	\$29,926
Insurance Expense	32,462

Other Expenses (after offsets)	(\$4,489)
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Total Expenses	\$74,035
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Monthly Net Receipts over expenses	\$16,789
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Worship Attendance in November

	Woodlake Worship	Modern Worship	Online
Nov 3	90	25	86
Nov 10	92	34	41
Nov 17	90	Annual Meeting	41
Nov 24	100	32	89
Nov 27	125	Thanksgiving Eve	45

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

Pastor Neal Cannon Pastor Micah Pearson



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