

The Messenger

'Real Presence'



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

March Worship Schedule on pg. 4

Church Office Hours

Tues., Weds., & Thurs.,

9am - 12pm. 1pm - 3pm

Articles for April issue of
The Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
by March 15th. The theme
for April is 'Real Presence'.

Pastor's Article

In college, I was a Young Life leader. Young Life is a parachurch organization (parachurch meaning not connected to any singular denomination) that works with youth. Their mission is to share Jesus Christ with young people, particularly those who might never otherwise hear about Jesus.

So, in order to reach youth who have heard very little about Jesus, you had to go to where those were. In other words, the majority of that work was not done in the church. Instead, we were sent to high school basketball games, choir concerts, and orchestra recitals. As a Young Life leader, my instructions were this: Go to the student section (you know... the rowdiest, loudest, and most intimidating part of the crowd) and sit right in the middle of that group and get to know the kids there (**insert all your middle and high school anxieties here**).

Young Life liked to talk about this practice as incarnational witness. The word incarnational comes from the latin word carnis, which means, flesh. So in carne means in the flesh. The idea here is that when the Holy Spirit is with us, Jesus is a part of us. So when we share the gospel with a young person, it's like Jesus himself shows up through our actions.

Of course, you don't have to sit in a crowd of high schoolers to experience God's real presence. This coming month, Woodlake and House of Prayer will share a monthly theme of Real Presence where we'll explore the various ways that God is really showing up in our life and ministry. God routinely shows up through our choir, youth ministry, service and justice initiatives, visitation ministry, and so much more. Real presence then, is our way of describing incarnational witness. It's how God shows up!

So this month, we ask you to consider the following:

How does God show up in your life?

How does God show up through you for others?

Remember, God is at work in your life for you and through you! We are God's Real Presence in the world!

In Christ,

Pr. Neal Cannon

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.

-Dr. Roselyn Hanson Weber
Music and Worship Director

For our next worship theme, "Real Presence" we've got 2 new theme songs coming your way in Modern Worship! For our Gathering Song, we'll sing a song called "Let Us Be Known" by The Porter's Gate, which we sang this past summer during the Veteran's Park collaborative worship. This song will feature singing in both Spanish and English. To close out each service, we'll be rockin' out to Rachel Kurtz's "Make a Difference" as a reminder to keep spreading love in our communities.

-Monica Livorsi
Modern Worship Director

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.

Ash Wednesday: March 5

Join us as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season. There will be two Ash Wednesday services, hosted at Woodlake.

- 8:30am. Chapel
- 7:00pm. Sanctuary

Wednesdays in Lent Schedule

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

Lenten Wednesday 1: March 12

#Real Presence of Choral Music

Lenten Wednesday 2: March 19

#Real Presence of Youth

Lenten Wednesday 3: March 26

#Real Presence of Instrumental Music

Lenten Wednesday 4: April 2

#Real Presence of Care Ministry

Lenten Wednesday 5: April 9

#Real Presence of Justice

Maundy Thursday: April 17

7:00pm @ 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.

#REAL PRESENCE

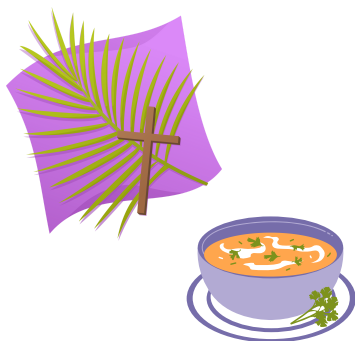
LENT 2025



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. Contact Scott Dahlquist at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net if you would be able to help.



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.

Join Our AV Assistant Team !

We're excited to welcome Dan Ferber as our lead AV Technician! He'll be in the booth each week to train, mentor, and help improve our worship sound and visuals.

We're working to make displaying words and images on our Sanctuary screens a regular part of worship, and we need your help! If you're comfortable using a computer, consider volunteering to run the slideshow—no experience needed, and we'll provide training.

Want to get involved? Contact Scott Dahlquist at sjaadahlquist@comcast.net.

In Need of a Builder!

We have a new lectern microphone that was donated by a congregant.

We are now in search for someone handy to build a small wood base for our new lectern microphone? Please contact Dan Ferber if you feel like you have the gifts for this dferber72@gmail.com or 651-322-0274.

Building Report

March Building Report

Fireside Room

- The old wall paper has been stripped and the walls have a fresh coat of paint
- The flat screen tv has been installed and wires cleaned up along with the TVs in the Narthex and the Nursery

Building Temperature Control

- Scott Dahlquist and John Call are monitoring temperatures in different areas of the building.

Narthex

- Cole, a student from MICC has begun watering, administering plant care and damage control for the plants in the Narthex along with plants in the porch. He has a passion for plant health and development. We are grateful for his gifts.
- Gary Berquist fixed up some of the chairs in the Narthex

Youth Wing

- Conversation on security cameras for the youth wing remain in process.
- Wifi installation will happen this month

Matins Cleaning

- Matins cleaned the Fireside Room after the painting was done along with the Chapel in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

Leaky Roof

- A big shoutout to Scott Dahlquist and Orv Holland for helping prevent further damage from a leak due to ice build up on the roof above the Oliver hallway.

Upcoming Events and WLC Ministry

March Worship Schedule

all services at Woodlake unless noted otherwise

March 2 Mardis Gras Collaborative
Worship at HoP

March 5 Ash Wednesday 8:30am
Ash Wednesday 7:00pm

March 9 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

March 16 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

March 23 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

March 30 9:00am Sanctuary Worship
10:30am Modern Worship

Prayer Group

Wednesday, March 5th @9:30am - Fireside

The Woodlake prayer group will get together Wednesday, March 5th 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

*Ash Wednesday, March 5th-In place of the usual worship format . Prayer Group will take place on Wednesday, March 12th.

Grief Coalition Winter Series

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

March 27	April 24
"Soul Work"	"How Families Grieve"
Bob Bartlett	Mary Anne Kelly-Wright
April 3	May 1
"Intimacy"	"The Teeter Totter of Grief and hope"
Bob Bartlett	Ted Bowman
April 10	
"Grieving through Grief and Multiple Loss"	May 8
Julie Ditzler	"The Courage to Ask: Embracing Help on the Path to Healing"
April 17	Dr. Rene Garpestad
No Meeting	
(Maundy Thursday)	May 15
	"Sibling Loss"
	Maggie Bauer

VEAP A Strong Start to 2025!

January kicked off with an incredible 97 lbs of food donations—thank you! Let's aim even higher in February. Then, get ready for our biggest giving push of the year: VEAP's March Food & Fund Drive, running March 1 – April 6 as part of the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign.



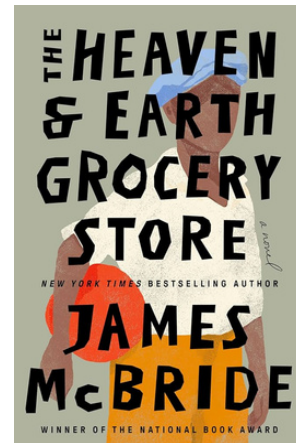
Last year, we collected an amazing 305 lbs in March—can we meet or beat that this year? Every pound and every dollar counts toward VEAP's goal of \$300,000 and 75,000 lbs of food!

-Kandy Gerber, VEAP Coordinator

Faith and Fiction Book Club

'The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store'
by James McBride

Tuesday, March 27th @7:00pm - Heritage Room



In 1972, a skeleton found in a well unearths the hidden struggles of Chicken Hill, a diverse but marginalized community. Through Moshe and Chona Ludlow's efforts to protect a deaf boy with Nate Timblin's help, the story reveals themes of survival, injustice, and the enduring power of love and community.

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

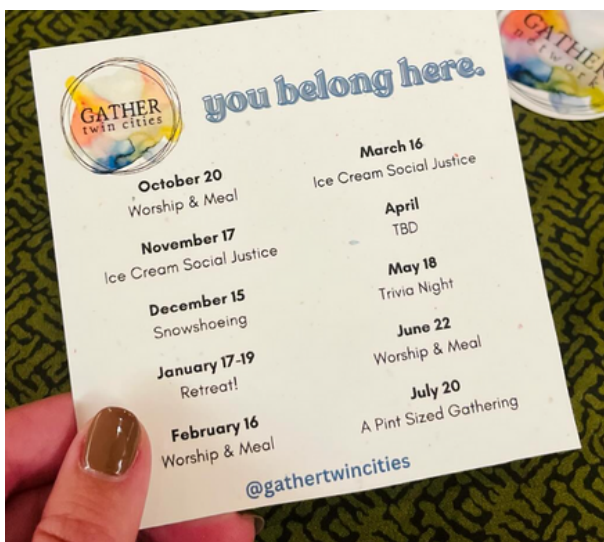
April 9 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room

The continuing education for the Visitation Ministers will be done in collaboration with Matins. The speaker from tendingthespirit.care.com 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.



GATHER Twin Cities an ELCA Young Adult Ministry

Saturday, March 16th 7:00pm

Gather will meet for 'Ice Cream for Social Justice' on March 16th. More details to come, please contact Kristie Olson kclo239.2@gmail.com for more information or check out their facebook or instagram page @twincitiesgather



The funeral planning retreat was held at Woodlake and hosted by Pr. Korla Masters from House of Prayer.

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 planned a Minute for Mission at the Sanctuary 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



**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! Meets at House of Prayer weekly then Woodlake on the last week of the month.

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! Location changes monthly.

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>

Sunday, March 1st

1:45pm-4:15, House of Prayer

Join HoP and WL to pack food at Feed My Starving Children! See the announcement for more details.

Second Sunday, March 9th

6-7:30pm, Location TBA

Go for the strike with Second Sundays as we go bowling! RALY will cover shoe rental and lane reservations.

Sunday, March 16th

Confirmation, 6-8pm, Woodlake

Confirmation meets in the Blue Room in Woodlake's Youth Wing

Wednesday, February 19th

Lenten Worship and Discussion

RALY will be featured in the Lenten discussion series! Join us to help serve dinner then share stories from RALY and confirmation.

RALY RECAP

This month, we embodied our faith in a variety of ways. We gathered around burning hot wings to ask our burning questions about the world and faith, discussing everything from why bad things happen to baby names. Next time, we put our faith into action, building furniture for our neighbors

in need with Bridging MN. Then picked up our brushes and channeled our creativity during a watercolor painting night! Be sure to check out the RALY Facebook page for more photos!

<https://shorturl.at/btqPv>

Where's Rachel?



I had the chance to enjoy some great music from our youth! Leo from RALY plus some of our Boys & Girls Club friends performed in the winter band concert at RMS (with a new sound system!), which had standing room only! Then Megan, Niyana, Mia, and more Boys & Girls Club pals sang at the Districtwide Choral Festival, filling the RHS auditorium. It was an incredible month of music from all. And tubing with WL, HoP families and

friends (despite the cold!) was a blast with the chance to chat over cocoa and personalized word finds! Thanks to everyone who came out!

UPCOMING EVENTS Boys and Girls Club

We're thrilled to partner again with the Boys and Girls Club at Richfield Middle School, hosting 12-16 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? Email Pr. Neal Cannon at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org with your name, preferred activity, and availability. A background check is required for all volunteers.

TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2025! *High School Summer Trip*

July 25-August 3, Finished Grade 8-12



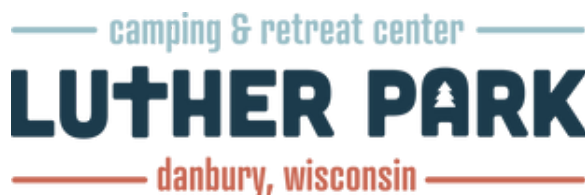
RALY is joining Diamond Lake for our high school trip this summer for a road trip down to partner with Spark'Dwell in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Spark'Dwell is a program where, "SPARK and The Dwelling Church collaborate to provide youth and leaders with an experience filled with seeing our neighbors for their uniqueness made in the image of Christ. This week you will sojourn with community members and unpack prejudices and biases surrounded around homelessness, serve in the community with a breadth of opportunities during the daytime. In the evenings we will enjoy time together with new friends through meals, Winston-Salem sight-seeing and community engagement." Contact Rachel (rlarson@hoplc.org) with any questions. Registration is to help gauge interest, with more information to follow! Friends are invited, as always! Scan the QR



Code or follow the link for more information and registration

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

Luther Park Various dates; Grades 1-12



We are once again going to Luther Park in Danbury, WI! Join the fun - 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, we ask that everyone 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)

Summer Stretch July 7-10; Grades 6-9 (in Fall 2025)

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



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



Vacation Bible School Registration is now Live!

July 7-10; Grades 1-6 (in Fall 2025)

Leadership opportunities for Grades 6+



Scan the QR Code or visit

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

RALY Vacation Bible School is happening again this summer (July 7-10th) hosted by Woodlake! We're excited to bring back Luther Park staff, Woodlake, and House of Prayer youth and adult volunteers to ensure a fun and faith filled week! All the info you need is below. If you have any questions, please contact RALY Director Rachel Larson (rlarson@hoplc.org). We hope you join us for a summer filled with faith activities expressed through songs, games, crafts, skits and more!



Woodlake welcomes Jeanne Hanson to our staff! Jeanne's office hours will be in the office Monday and Wednesday. See Jeanne's introduction below:

"Hello. I am Jeanne Hanson. I am a member of Oak Grove Lutheran Church, and am excited to begin a partnership with you as Finance Administrator. I have served as administrator at Oak Grove and at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St Paul in past years. My duties in both positions included financial management for the church. I live in Richfield with my husband Gordon, a dog and a cat. I enjoy reading, crafts and travel."

The Numbers

The Numbers for January 2024

Envelope Offering	\$15,945
Electronic Giving	\$9,203
IRA's	\$8,210
Holidays	\$109
Rental income	\$3,200
Other	\$2,839
Total Receipts	\$39,506
Properties Expense	\$18,259
Personnel Expense	\$41,617
Other Expenses	\$10,389
Total Expenses	\$70,265
Monthly Net Receipts over expenses	\$(30,759)

Worship Attendance in January

	Sanctuary Worship	Modern Worship	Online
Jan 5	126	Woodlake Worship	45
Jan 12	49	23	116
Jan 19	34	27	31
Jan 26	110	Collaborative Worship	44

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

Pastor Neal Cannon Pastor Micah Pearson

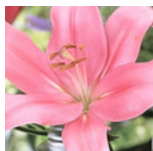


WOODLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**DEADLINE
TO ORDER:
MARCH
30TH, 2025**

Easter Flowers Fundraiser Order Form 2025

Place your flower orders here, and they will be utilized to adorn the sanctuary for the Easter service. Funds raised will go to the general fund to help support WLC ministries.

	PLANT and CHOICES	NUMBER/COLOR	PRICE FOR EACH	= TOTAL COST
	Easter Lily 6"pots in white	_____ white	\$15/pot	\$
	Asiatic Lily 6"pots in yellow or pink	_____ yellow _____ pink	\$15/pot	\$
	Azalea 6" pot in pink	_____ pink	\$30/pot	\$
	Hydrangea 6" pots in blue or pink	_____ blue _____ pink	\$30/pot	\$
	Mum 6" pots in yellow or purple	_____ yellow _____ purple	\$15/pot	\$

Total Purchase Cost \$ _____ (checks payable to Woodlake Lutheran Church; memo Easter Flowers)

Ordered by (name as it should appear in bulletin) : _____

Phone Number (for proofing purposes): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

(Other dedications):

**Plants can be picked up after the
service on Easter Sunday**