



Better Together

Issue No.6, November, 2025



Reformation Sunday!

On October 26, we joined together at House of Prayer for a spirit-filled celebration of Reformation Sunday. It was a powerful reminder of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, which we symbolized by asking everyone to wear red. The day was a wonderful blend of worship and fellowship. We are #BetterTogether

PASTOR'S ARTICLE



Korla Masters

Growing Beans, Growing Faith

In the depths of last winter, I decided that this would be the summer I learn to grow food. I listened to my friends who cautioned me to have realistic expectations and keep it simple. So I made a plan: beans and greens. If I grew anything, great! If all I did this year was learn what not to do, every bit as great! And church, these little guys GREW. I am sitting in my office at home, with a trellis of beans drying next to me and about a pound of already-dried beans from the garden that I tend sitting in a bowl upstairs.

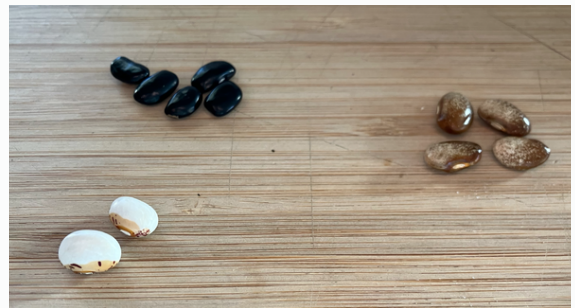


Life Refuses to Follow Our Plans

And I feel really aware that we programmed “one life” for November, right as the obvious signs of life around us are dying. I’m sitting here next to a bunch of beans that aren’t dead enough to harvest. Life is really strange sometimes, and it often refuses to obey the order of operations we try to impose. But in each one of these little beans, there’s the potential for a plant. And when we gather a bunch of beans together, there’s the makings of a meal. Even when the beans have gotten very dry, very dead.

A Word for This Season

We usually read Jesus’s words in John 12:24 in the Spring, when we know we are so close to seeing shoots emerge from the soil. Does that truth have a word of Good News for us as the season of obvious life winds down? Where might life still be plugging away around us in ways that aren’t as visible as a bean trellis collapsing under its own abundance?



An Invitation

As winter arrives and settles in, I’d invite you to check with each other about where you’re seeing life where death should be.

It is God’s promise to us. (Alleluia.)



SHARED MINISTRY TEAM ARTICLE



Brent King

The Shared Ministry Team meets monthly to thoughtfully plan and support the vitality of our collaborative efforts, ensuring they are sustained with care and intention.

SMT Members

Cindy Hanson
Caity Wright
Cindy Jacobs
August Schauer
Orv Holland
Brent King
Karen Amezcua
Kristi Gay
Muriel Holland
Kim Houle
Andry Jurcich
Tim Riley
Scott Dahlquist
Heidi Thomas
Betsy Paradise
Gary Nix
Laurie Nix

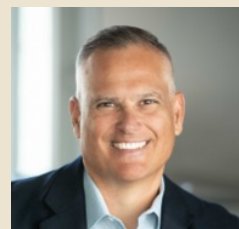
Shared Ministry Team Progress

Formed in May 2025, the Woodlake (WL) and House of Prayer (HOP) Shared Ministry Team (SMT) is chartered with enabling House of Prayer Lutheran Church and Woodlake Lutheran Church to become a unified faith based community in Richfield that is inclusive of HOP and WL, focused on putting our faith into action for the benefit of the Richfield community. The goal for achieving this objective is Reformation Sunday 2026.

The SMT is comprised of 9 Mission Teams (task forces) which are addressing key aspects of this unification (i.e., Worship, Finances, Property, Staffing, et al). SMT meetings are monthly, with Mission Teams also meeting to develop their detailed plans.



Jeff Marion



Mark Slaughter

New Consultants

We've recently enlisted the services of Jeff Marion and Dr. Mark Slaughter. Jeff and Mark will work with HOP and WL to develop a strategic plan for congregational merger alignment and leadership coaching. The SMT held a late October retreat with Jeff and Mark to craft plan details.

Scope Through December 2025

- ✓ Leadership coaching and training
- ✓ Creating a sense of urgency/action
- ✓ Developing a shared vision of success
- ✓ Training facilitators for congregational input
- ✓ Comprehensive communications plan
- ✓ Developing a comprehensive strategic plan

Tell Us What You Think

Finally, as you've already observed, Better Together SMT Team members are providing "Mission Minute" updates at WL and HOP (and joint services), with the goal being to ensure congregation members are getting frequent and transparent communications. Augie Schauer and I are serving as project managers for this unification effort. We welcome your questions, recommendations, and willingness to participate in our efforts.



BETTER MINISTRY TOGETHER

Woodlake Annual Meeting & Potluck

One Life is the theme for our stewardship conversations and the direction for our future. John 10:10 says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." As the weeks progress in talking about giving, be inspired by the stories and the faithfulness of God. On Sunday, November 16th, come to worship and turn in your pledge card. Stay for the potluck and hear the annual reports. This will help plan for the coming year with the help of a faithful God and His people.





Joy to the Camp!



CAROLS, DINNER, AUCTION—AND A WHOLE LOT OF
HOLIDAY JOY FOR LUTHER PARK.

Date: Saturday, December 6th, 2025
Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: House of Prayer Lutheran Church
(7625 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55423)



SILENT AUCTION • STORIES AND CAROLS WITH SANTA • CHRISTMAS DINNER



An evening filled with Christmas carols, a festive holiday meal, and opportunities to give back—all bringing joy to Luther Park's ministries.



"Joy to the Camp" Holiday Fundraising Dinner

Join us **December 6 at House of Prayer from 3-6pm**. Get ready for an afternoon of Christmas carols, a festive dinner, with both a silent and live auction to support Luther Park. Celebrate the season while helping provide life-changing camp experiences for kids and families. Your presence and generosity will help keep the spirit of camp alive all year long!

Ways You Can Spread Camp Cheer & Support Luther Park

- **Attend the Event:** Bring your friends and family for a memorable time!
- **Sponsor a Table:** Host a table of 8 for \$1,000 and help make a bigger impact.
- **Donate to the Auction:** Contribute an item or service for the silent auction.
- **Make a Donation:** Make a gift at -> lutherpark.com/donate-online.html



BETTER MINISTRY TOGETHER

Collaborative Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM at Richfield Lutheran Church

Gather with friends from Oak Grove, Woodlake, Tapestry, House of Prayer, and new to the group this year Richfield Lutheran and Richfield United Methodist Churches.

- **Combined Choir:** All are welcome to sing! Rehearsal begins at 6:00 PM at Richfield Lutheran.
- **Pie Fellowship:** Stay after worship for conversation and dessert. Bring a friend, neighbor, or out-of-town guest! Everyone is welcome to share in gratitude and joy.



All Saints

We pause to honor and remember all those faithful loved ones who have gone before us and now rest in the eternal light of God.

From House of Prayer: Louis (Louie) Larson, Robert Jahnke, Gil Frosig, Jim Gilhousen, Janice Kiehl, and Jim Doering.

From Woodlake: Robert Anderson, Barbara Ashland, Gail Huwe, Jim Carriere, Richard Clough, Thomas Hofflander, Rachael Hayford, Oiva “Herb” Lindquist, Diana Johnson, Diane Whitely, Elmer Lalim, Joseph Norgaard, Gary Davison, Paul Hagen, Darlene Becken, Gary Giles, Marlys Ensrud, and Grace Skjefte

Advent Highlights

Advent is the time of year where we anticipate the coming, or arrival of Jesus. Below are ways that we will join together to anticipate the arrival of the Christchild through worship:

- December 3 – Blue Christmas Worship (6pm, at HOP) – coffee and fellowship included
- December 10 – “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (Children’s Pageant) (6pm, at HOP) refreshments following
- December 28 – “Hymn Sing” worship (10am, at HoP)



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RALY RECAP

Trunk or Treat 2025

What does fall at RALY look like? Encouraging friends as they climb to new heights, face fears, and gather around a fire to tell stories.

Follow along on Instagram and Facebook (found on linktr.ee/raly55423)



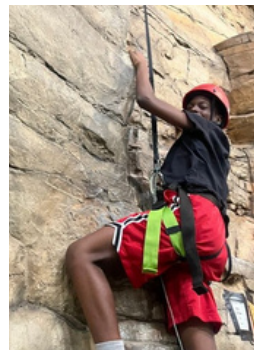
Fear Factor



Bonfire Worship



Northern Star Base Camp



Where's Rachel?

The end of fall sports is here but not before I got out to cheer! Shout out to Mia for finishing tennis for the year and teaching me the nuances of doubles tennis. And Keira ran cross country among students in costumes ranging from a traffic cone to a banana!



Is there a meet, game, performance coming up? Email rlarson@hoplc.org and she'll be there, ready to cheer!



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Christmas Pageant 2024

NOV 5

RALY Wednesday

6 – 9pm | Woodlake | Grades 6-9 and family

Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children! Dinner provided; family & friends welcome!

NOV 12

RALY Wednesday

6 – 7:30pm | Woodlake | Grades 6-9

Become an architect, challenge your creativity and team work at LEGO Night!

NOV 16

Confirmation

6 – 8pm | Woodlake | Grades 7-9

Learn about Ancestors in Faith! Email Pastors Neal & Eric if you cannot attend.

NOV 19

RALY Wednesday

6 – 7:30pm | Woodlake | Grades 6-9

Shop from a Christmas list for Lutheran Social Services! Dinner provided.

NOV 23

Ignite

5 – 7pm | House of Prayer | Grades 9-12

It's Charlie Brown Thanksgiving! Bring a friend and something to share with dinner!

NOV 26

NO RALY Wednesday

Join us at our shared Thanksgiving Eve worship service!

DEC 3

RALY Wednesday

6 – 7:30pm | Woodlake | Grades 6-9

Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant! Dress Rehearsal will be 12/7 from 1-3pm

DEC 10

Christmas Pageant

6 – 7pm | House of Prayer | All Ages

Join RALY for A Charlie Brown Christmas, celebrating its' 60th anniversary! Light reception to follow.

**Want more
information?**



Scan the QR Code
for registrations, year-
long calendar, and
social media, or visit
linktr.ee/raly55423

Woodlake Lutheran Church2120 West 76th Street

Richfield, MN 55423

612-866-8449

office@woodlakechurch.org

House of Prayer Lutheran Church

7625 Chicago Ave

Richfield, MN 55423

612-866-8471

office@hoplc.org

Pr. Micah Pearson

Pr. Neal Cannon

Pr. Eric Luedtke

Pr. Korla Masters

Fall Worship Schedule*Beginning September 14th*

10:00am Blended Worship

Fall Worship Schedule*Beginning September 14th*

9:30am Traditional Worship

11:00am ReFuel Worship

**B E T T E R T O G E T H E R**

The Better Together Newsletter is published by both House of Prayer and Woodlake staff and volunteers. Any questions can be directed towards Cara Wright at cwright@hoplc.org, or the WLC office office@woodlakechurch.org.

All submissions for next month's newsletter are DUE to either office on the 20th of the month.