

**Woodlake
Lutheran Church**

2120 West 76th Street
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449

www.woodlakechurch.org
youtube.com/woodlakelutheranchurch

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 – 3pm

*Articles for September's issue of The
Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
by **August 15**. Our theme for
September is "Livin' On a Prayer."
We'd love to hear from you!*



August 2021

Messenger

Pastor's Page

Ready, Reset, Go!

The runners are milling about the track. The men and women are shaking their muscles loose, stretching, getting ready for the race ahead. A familiar "beep" lets the runners know it's time to get on the line. Nerves are high, everyone is anxious for the race to start. Everyone gets in their stance. 3... 2... several runners shoot off the line! An official waves them off – it's a false start.

This past year felt a bit like a false start at a track meet. We were ready to go! We were anxious for the fall. And then, a false start due to Covid. Everyone back to the line. But for us, this was not wasted time! We used it to prepare for the race ahead. We built a youth ministry partnership with House of Prayer. We hired a new youth director. Went ahead with life groups. Experimented with different kinds of worship.

And this year we are reigniting our plans! Our mission and vision are starting to take shape. Our after-school program is starting in the fall. Our vision for youth ministry is coming to fruition! New programs and ideas are hatching all the time.

Finally, the time is here. The moment of the race has begun! We're not redoing things as they were, but we're lining up again for this new race that is beginning. As it says in Hebrews 12,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

With Jesus at the center of what we do, and an emphasis on outreach and youth ministry we are more prepared for the race than ever. Ready. Set. Go!

Pastor Neal

Hello Woodlake! A quick update on the Cannon family. Baby Cannon has arrived! Lucas Albright Cannon arrived on July 19 at 10:39am. We're so excited and blessed to have this little one in our lives. Mom and baby are healthy. Noah and Miles love their new baby brother. Thank you for your prayers and support!

I will be on paternity leave until August 31. If you have youth ministry questions, please contact Daniel Ditmanson (dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org). For pastoral questions contact Pastor Micah (mpearson@woodlakechurch.org). I'm grateful for this time to spend helping my family adjust to our new addition, and I'll be back and ready for ministry this fall!

*Always grateful,
Pastor Neal*

Around the Table

Notes from Your Leadership Board

Ready, Reset, Go!

As the newest member of the Leadership Board, I've been impressed at how the Board has adapted to the constantly changing circumstances of our pandemic-altered world. We've gone from online worship and drive-in worship to in-person sanctuary worship, while still offering the online worship services that broadened the outreach of the church. We both reset and grew.

The Leadership Board has been discussing options for reimagining Rally Day, fall youth activities, and Woodlake's upcoming 75th Anniversary in 2022. This is a good opportunity to rethink Woodlake traditions. Please let us know if you would like to help guide these plans. For example, if you would like to present ideas during the monthly Open Forum (the next Board meeting is August 12th), or you would like to be involved as a Board Member (elections are coming up), please contact a Board member or the church office. And, of course, we welcome your help with the actual programs as they become more defined.

Woodlake is working to be Ready for the start of a new school year and a new church year. We know there will be changes that cause Woodlake to Reset again. There are always things we cannot foresee, but we also know that Woodlake will persist (Go) and not lose sight of its goal.

Jean Kass, Secretary

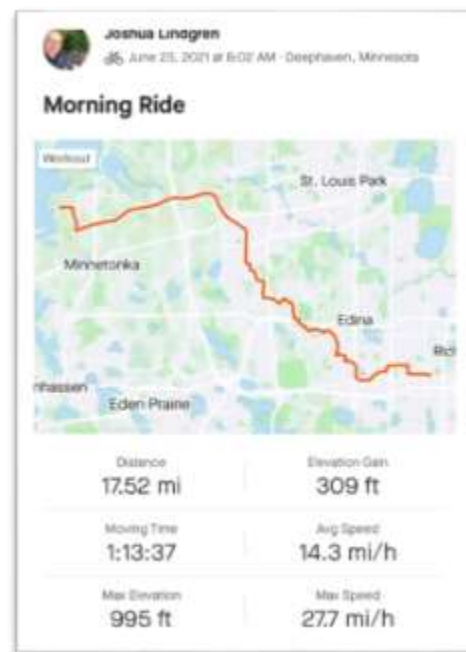
Board openings anticipated for November 2021 include: 1) President; 2) Treasurer; 3) Children, Youth, and Family Commissioner; 4) Properties Commissioner; 5) Youth Representative (non-voting). If you have a passion to grow deeper in relationship at Woodlake, have a specific skill set, and feel called to lead in any of these areas, we'd love to speak with you! Contact the office for more info: 612-866-8449 or office@woodlakechurch.org.

Worship and Music Notes

Zoey and Scrappy have had their breakfast. We went on a walk. I've showered and put on some funky, spandex shorts with a weird, saddle-pad inside of them? Make sure to pick out my nicest Orvis shirt and shorts (98% spandex, each), fill two water bottles, put my lunch, a snack...and a sugar-free Redbull in my bag (for the afternoon return-trip), trudge downstairs and put on my "biking shoes" (your standard hiking shoes). I pull my bike out of the garage, put on my sunglasses and helmet. Air up the tires. Ready... set... WAIT. Where are my biking gloves? The ones with the pads on the palms so I don't pinch a nerve and end up at Church with my arms asleep (it doesn't make it easier to play piano or organ!)? Time to reset my mileage tracker...

Sometimes, it seems like we plan, and plan... and plan some more for whatever is coming in life. North Americans are unique compared to a great deal of the rest of the world when we do the "normal, everyday thing" of turning on the news to hear the weather forecast. We are always planning ahead! We need to *know* what the weather will bring: how else will we know how to dress, or if we have to reschedule that outdoor happy hour... or if we can bike to Church today or not?

As we are waist-deep in our planning and preparing for fall programming to resume here at Woodlake Lutheran Church, how much of it feels like we are just...running in place? Are we relying only on ourselves, or are we trusting Jesus' promises told to us through "a great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1); trusting in those who have come before us and laid the path so that we may "run with perseverance?" This "cloud of witnesses" is not pushing us out, casting us into the world to run some race *by ourselves*...No, this is where we need to reset, to be reminded that we are not alone, not by a long shot! Our forebears have come before us and laid the foundation, and we are able to build upon that sure footing as we maintain and prepare to even build upon and improve this trail for those who will come to run this same race after us. Whether preparing to kick-off from my driveway or getting behind the wheel (you know, because there's rain in the forecast...albeit 7% chance...), let us throw off everything that hinders and truly fix our eyes on Jesus. Ready, Reset, Go!



Soli Deo gloria,

Joshua Lindgren, Director of Worship and Music

Business Manager Musings

Ready, Reset, Go?

It is interesting to look at the theme for our August Newsletter. If you are like most people, you skim many articles and therefore headlines. I am definitely not immune to that. When Pastor Cannon gave us this theme, all I saw was Ready Go. Then. I took the time to see the bible verses that he refers to. *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”* Hebrews 12:1-2. And NOW I can see the word - **reset**. Running a race with perseverance often calls for a reset. It might be a mindset shift or even a physical shift, but it calls for us to be willing to push the reset button in order to continue forward.

OK... so wait.

What does running a race with perseverance have to do with a business manager role at Woodlake? Well, way more than one might think. For brevity's sake, I am going to choose to just focus on just a few



property items. This morning, we had the site visit for the “new to us” dishwasher install, and wouldn’t you know, we ran into challenges. Plumbing was plumbed through the old dishwasher. Yes, you read that right.... *through the dishwasher*. The drain installation was concerning and the electrical amp might not support the new dishwasher. The old dishwasher was installed in 1972, and things were a little different then.

As the numbers for the installation cost were rising before my eyes, I was thinking, “Do we need a full stop on this project?” No, we actually just need a reset to our mistaken mindset that this would be easy. The race is marked out, we know that the old dishwasher served us well for 50 years, we already were able to secure a “new to us” dishwasher... These are just challenges in the race that mean we need to do a reset.

Sometimes, God puts a reset right in front of us. The parts and pieces to our old coffee urn have slowly degraded over time to the point where our appliance repairman has recommended being ready to replace that. On a scouting mission to see what systems other churches use, we happened to be in a literal tunnel connecting a church to a school and stumbled upon a very, very lightly used coffee urn that the school didn’t need. (I mean of course, why would grade school children need 100 cups of coffee - can you imagine?) After some discussion with the school, they are willing to part with it for half the cost that they would be able to get in the resale market. Just because we happened to stumble on it. As our property commissioner, Ed Morrow, said to me, “What is strange about God putting what you need right in front of you?”

I love that thought of being able to trust God with the details of our lives. Who would think he cares about our old coffee pot? God provided the reset.

- Linda Lutgen, Business Manager

The Numbers

Offering, June 2021

Regular envelope	\$22,444.08
Simply Giving	9,409.03
IRA's	<u>1,332.71</u>
TOTAL	\$33,185.82

Worship Attendance, June 2021

6/6/2021	106
6/13/2021	101
6/20/2021	103
6/27/2021	94

Online Worship Views, June 2021

6/6/2021	113
6/13/2021	87
6/20/2021	94
6/27/2021	68

Woodlake is Hiring - Communications Director

We are hiring a full time communications director! Woodlake is looking for a candidate who supports all ministry areas by developing communication resources that connect members, visitors, and community to the life and ministries of the church, including utilization of a variety of online tools. This position will collaborate with all ministries to develop and maintain a cohesive communication plan to ensure Woodlake’s vision and mission are consistent and impactful in all forms of communication.

For more information, please contact office@woodlakechurch.org. To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to Jean Kass at office@woodlakechurch.org.

CYF Updates

High School Fun Day August 22nd

Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend!

Schedule

9:45 am Meet at Woodlake Lutheran
10 am Sunday Worship
11 am Lunch (Bring your own)
12 Noon leave Woodlake
1-4 pm Kerfoot Canopy Adventure Park (High Ropes Course)
5-6:30 pm Dinner (Provided)
6:30- ??? pm St. Paul Saints Game
??? pm Return to Woodlake Lutheran

Cost:

\$35 per participant (Scholarships available if needed). For more info or to register, contact Daniel at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org or 612-866-8449. **Registration closes August 16th, 2021**

Eight youth from House of Prayer and Woodlake

had a wonderful time at Luther Park Danbury during their Olympics week! We learned a lot about Paul and his letters and his constant encouragement to never give up and run the race! The mornings were spent in Bible study, Worship, and Cabin choice time. The afternoon activities included swimming, watercraft usage, arts and crafts, canteen, and field games. The evenings included all camp games, campfires, and daily check-ins and recaps. As one camper put it while in church the following Sunday, "I've got it, Mom. I know all the God things now."

A big thank you to all who gave during our Spring Fundraising Drive! Due to your generosity, we were able to cover half (Yes, 50%) of all registration fees for our campers!



Vacation Bible School

was amazing! Our youth learned so many Bible stories and ways to care for God's Creation! We learned about caring for Earth, Water, Animals, Ourselves, and Each Other. Mornings were spent reading and learning the Bible stories, doing arts and crafts, and playing games. The afternoon included fun science

experiments, applicable learning activities, and camp-style games! Thank you to the following: Everyone who volunteered during the week and gave financially to help support VBS! The Luther Park-Danbury staff for their music, games, and station and small group leadership throughout the week! All of our kitchen helpers who helped make sure everyone stayed hydrated all week and the camp staff and volunteers were fed! And finally all the parents who sent their youth! It was a wonderful week!

Upcoming Events

Summer Pop-Up Choir:

Sunday, August 8

Lend your voice to our Summer Pop-Up Choir! We will sing twice this summer with a brief rehearsal just before the service to learn the music. Note: We will wear Singers' Masks (available through the Church for \$10 each) and it is greatly encouraged that only fully vaccinated members participate - thank you for understanding!

Rehearsal will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:15 am on Sunday, August 8.

Past, Current, and Future Funeral Workers

As we open up and start having funerals and lunches, let's get together and talk about what our plans are. If you want to be part of the decisions, meet at **10am on Wednesday, August 11 in the Fireside Room**. There will be someone on hand to share what some other local churches do.

Summer Music Series

4th Sunday of the Month During 10am Worship

Next: Sunday, August 22

This summer, for the 4th Sunday of the month we have been featuring a rotation of guest musicians. Music and liturgy styles vary, but have generally been more contemporary in expression. Be sure to join us for the final installment on August 22!

The goal is to explore a variety of worship styles that reflect the broad musical interests of our community. We'll solicit feedback to help us consider additional worship offerings in the future.