



Woodlake Lutheran Church

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

www.woodlakechurch.org

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-12p.m. 1- 3pm

*Articles for January's issue of
The Messenger are due to of-
fice@woodlakechurch.org
by **December 15.***

December 2021

Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.

Pastor's Page

Isaiah 9:6 –

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

The giving season is here! Secret Santas, trains under the tree, & treats and sweets for neighbors and friends are all approaching. Are you ready to give?

This time of year, we spend a lot of our time focusing on what to give to whom and why. It's one of the blessings of the Christmas season. We love seeing the joy light up on a child's face, or the surprise when a friend opens a gift thoughtfully given.

Of course, this is also a season of receiving. We get neatly wrapped gifts in the mail with our names on them. We put them under the tree. We wait and wonder what they could be! The giving spirit is the central theme of this time of year, and rightly so, because this is a time where we celebrate the greatest gift ever given.

The writer of Isaiah foreshadows this gift when he writes, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us." God's son, born in a manger, is God's gift to the world. This gift captures our imagination. It compels us to share with others. It's no wonder then that Christmas is a time of year when we are compelled to give. This celebration is based on the greatest gift, given for us.

As you prepare gifts, meals, and treats, maybe this Christmas you will consider sharing another gift, the gift of invitation to worship. By inviting someone to worship, we offer an experience of God through song and story. We invite them to receive the greatest gift, the Christ child in the manger. This is a gift of community and relationship with God and those gathered together. It's a gift of salvation. It's a gift of love.

Jesus has been given unto us. As you prepare each and every gift this year, remember the greatest gift given and ask yourself, "Who can I share this gift with?"

Worship and Music

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th at 3pm, 5pm, and 7pm

Bring friends and family to the worship time that works best in your Christmas plans, and join us in anticipating the coming of Jesus into the world! We're excited to welcome guest musician Dan Bridston who will bring his wonderful, jazzy flair to worship.

December 26th Worship: Christmas Hymn Song

Woodlake is doing a Christmas Hymn Sing the Sunday after Christmas Day. Mandy Ylvisaker will lead us through the Lukan Christmas story while accompanying each reading with a song. There will be no sermon this week as we will let the Christmas story and it's joyous songs preach to us on their own. Come ready to sing!

Winter Worship Series

Beginning in January, the worship services at Woodlake are going to be themed around our new mission statement: *Trust in Jesus, Form Relationship, Create Community*. In January, we will elaborate on what it means to Trust in Jesus.

- January 2nd – Get out of the Boat
- January 9th – Serve and Do Justice
- January 16th – Pray
- January 23rd – Give Back to God

Then, beginning January 30th, we'll start a series that elaborates on what it means to "Form Relationship".

- January 30th – Love
- February 6th – Encouragement
- February 13th – Growth
- February 20th – Friendship

And finally, beginning in Lent, we will conclude the winter worship series by elaborating on what it means to "Create Community."

- February 27th (& March 2nd, Ash Wednesday) – God Sends us Out
- March 6th (& March 9th) – One Body
- March 13th (& March 16th) – Worship
- March 20th (& March 23rd) – God's Hope
- March 27th (& March 30th) – God's Holy Spirit at Work in the World

Each series will be accompanied by a new musician and style of worship. During our "Trust in Jesus" series, we will be led by Jerry Buhl who led a contemporary service for us this past summer. Then, for the "Create Community Series", we will be led by Dan Bridston and David Fienen who each bring their own style to the liturgy.

Lenten worship is still being scheduled. We hope and pray that this winter worship series will drive us towards our mission in the world!

Around the Table

Notes from your Leadership Board

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA), to which Woodlake belongs, came into existence in 1988 when several Lutheran church bodies merged. These predecessor church bodies were largely organized around an ethnic identity from Scandinavia and northern Europe, whose immigrants brought their faith and traditions when they immigrated to the United States. Some years ago societal changes, which affected church membership, led the three ELCA congregations of Richfield (Woodlake, Oak Grove, and House of Prayer) to consider ways they could work collaboratively. A ruthless and efficient business model would suggest that all three of us pool our resources into one church. Churches do not operate on such a model, however, and there are many other impediments to such a vision. Still, we have continued to find ways to work together. Prior to the pandemic we held joint outdoor worship services, shared a pastoral intern, and were ready to begin an after school youth program with the Boys & Girls club at the middle school. While the Boys & Girls club effort is on hold due to personnel changes within that organization, an opportunity presented itself to jointly hire a youth director with House of Prayer. This has proved to be successful, and I hope we will continue along this path.

From Scott Dahlquist, President

Share the Word

Thoughts and updates from your Communications Director

Advent is the season of waiting for Christ to come. It's not passive waiting, though. We are preparing and actively awaiting Jesus' arrival.

At Woodlake Lutheran Church, we don't want to passively wait for new people to come in our doors, either. We want to be actively preparing to welcome them in and share about what the church and Jesus are about. In the next few months, this will look like revamping our visual identity, or brand, to better communicate who we are and who God is molding us into: a gathering place for all God's children.

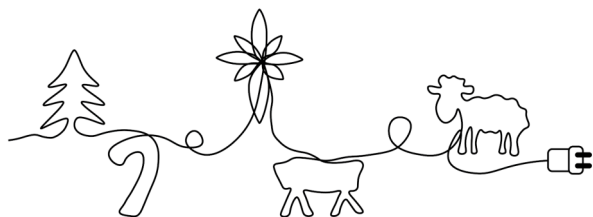
A committee and some staff will work together with de-

sign consultants to create a visual identity that includes a new logo, colors, fonts, and visual motifs. After the final options are reviewed and chosen by the church, we'll be able to incorporate the visual identity in clear and hospitable on-ramps for new people to get involved in the life in the church. That includes updated signage, invites for people to subscribe to our updates like the Messenger and E-news, an easy-to-understand website, and anything else that helps us be prepared to welcome people well.

We don't want to passively wait to welcome new people into the church, or Jesus into the world. We want to actively wait and prepare. Blessings to you as you actively await the child born for us this Advent.

Logan Pankratz, Communications Director

Children, Youth, & Family Updates



Plug-and-Play Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 12th and 19th

This winter the Christmas pageant is open to anyone who would like to be involved! Don't worry about learning lines, the speaking roles are already covered by RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth). Just come to church at 8:30am on December 12th and/or December 19th to learn your non-speaking role and be a part of the fun in worship those Sundays! All ages welcome!

If you have any questions, please email Daniel Ditmanson at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org.

Stop, Drop, Shop

Friday, December 3rd, 5-8pm

Stop by Woodlake Lutheran Church, drop off your youth (must be potty trained), and shop for the Christmas Season! This will be a fun time of food, games, and Christmas movies for the youth, and child-free shopping for adults. If your shopping is done, maybe use the free evening for a date night or visit some friends! Email Daniel Ditmanson with any questions at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org.

Upcoming Events

Piano Recital by Pianist Dr. Soojung Hong

Thursday, December 2nd, 7:30pm (Doors open 7:15pm)

Come enjoy a special, free admission performance by Dr. Soojung Hong, a prize winner pianist of many national and international competitions. Dr. Hong actively performs internationally and at regional concert venues in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and we are excited to host her again. To learn more about Dr. Hong and her work, visit the website of the annual piano competition she founded and directs, pianofunmn.com.

Northern Winds Concert Band Winter Concert

Sunday, December 19th, 3:00pm

Spend a bit of your afternoon getting in the Christmas spirit with this full and interactive community band from Richfield! Sing along with the carols and try to hear each individual instrument like the bassoon, oboe, trumpets, and much more.

The Numbers

October 2021

Offerings	\$34,734
Rent	\$13,578
Income	\$48,312
Properties	-\$18,775
Personnel	-\$32,967
Other	-\$8,407
Expenses	-\$60,149
Month Net	-\$11,837
For the year	Under budget \$94,000

Worship Attendance in October

	In Person	Online
Oct 3th	112	-
Oct 10th	95	53
Oct 17th	114	45
Oct 24th	88	85
Oct 31st	94	65

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