



June 2022

Messenger

Trust Jesus. Form Relationships. Create Community.

Pastor's Page

I recently took my oldest son to a birthday party for one of his kindergarten classmates. Of course the day was filled with all the usual birthday traditions; bowling, cupcakes, pizza, & arcade! He took particular care in picking out the gift, a Nerf street hockey set! We bowled, laughed, & played skee-ball together. It was a great time! When we were ready to leave, every kid got their own little gift bag, a paper bag dinosaur with gifts and treats inside!

So, on the birthday of the church and in celebrating 75 years of ministry I'm struck with the question, what are the gifts we bring and what are the gifts we receive from God? The Bible clearly states in the book of John what gifts God gives to us. "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Everything we have is a gift from God. Take a moment and take a deep breath in. Take a deep breath out. Go ahead. I'll wait!...

Even that breath is a gift from God. If our very breath is a gift from God, it follows then that every blessing we have is also from God. How do we say thanks for such a gift? Well, the Bible is helpful there as well. I Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." Receive a gift. Give a gift. This is the Jesus way and rhythm of life.

Take a moment to ponder the gifts that you have to give. Go ahead. I'll wait!...

What gifts can you offer to God? The best gift you can give is the gift of service to one another, to use your gifts and abilities to make an impact in the world. Volunteer at church or in your community, give generously, love charitably.

Breathe in. Breathe out. There you'll find the gifts of God.

*In Christ,
Pr. Neal*

Woodlake Lutheran Church

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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 [youtube.com/woodlakelutheranchurch](https://www.youtube.com/woodlakelutheranchurch))

Church Office Hours

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

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

Worship & Music

The Worship and Music Director hiring committee has been making progress!

We used the results of the music survey of the congregation to inform our updates of the Director's job description, revamping the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities we collectively desire. This updated job description was approved by the Leadership Board and has since been posted in a variety of locations. I am excited to report that we have already received resumes from interested candidates, and interviews will be conducted over the next month!

Thank you for your feedback and support as we search for someone who will be a good fit at Woodlake.

Deb Heinecke
Worship and Music Director

Around the Table

By Bri Tharp

Happy 75th Birthday Woodlake! What a milestone! Being a new member to Woodlake, this 75th Anniversary Celebration we have coming up reaches far beyond my recollection. How exciting is it to be able to celebrate 75 years of growth? I mean, isn't that what birthdays are about? Celebrating the first day of life, along with the life lived on since?

I think about the history that exists within the walls at Woodlake and it's given me pause. Our church has spent three quarters of a century celebrating and spreading the word of Jesus. It's mind blowing, yet in the grand scheme of things, this is just a blink in comparison to the Christian Church as a whole.

As Christians, Pentecost Sunday is viewed as the birth of the Church within the New Testament. It commemorates the day in which the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and able to reach the hearts of many by spreading God's word in languages other than their native tongue. God gave the disciples the ability to reach far beyond their own belief and in turn, grow the church to what it is today.

As we celebrate both Pentecost and the 75th Anniversary of our church, I think it's important to take inventory of where our church has been, along with where we are going. Similarly to how God equipped the disciples with the ability to speak His word, I believe that God is equipping our church in a similar fashion.

As the Children, Youth and Family Commissioner I have had the pleasure to see this in action. Woodlake is taking necessary steps to continue to spread the Word of Jesus by being a welcoming place for all God's children. I'm especially excited to see how our church is prioritizing family and youth outreach. We are changing to meet the needs of new generations and finding ways to facilitate their faith journey. We have exciting things in the works and I'm looking forward to how God plans on bringing new life into our old walls.

By leaning on Jesus and allowing Him to speak through us, we will have the opportunity to continue to grow as a church and celebrate even more birthdays!

Bri Tharp
Children, Youth, and Family Commissioner

Children, Youth, and Family

RALY

The Children, Youth, and Family Ministries of Woodlake and House of Prayer came together and formed Richfield Area Lutheran Youth (RALY) in September 2021, and we've seen amazing support and success in serving our congregations and the Richfield community!

Since forming, there has been prayer, discernment, and conversations within the leadership of RALY to develop the following mission statement:

Welcoming and Affirming, Engaging Families and Engaging Community, Celebrating Wonder

Welcoming and Affirming

RALY believes all people are made in God's image and as such deserve to be fully seen, fully known, and fully loved. We strive to be a program where all voices and identities are cherished and celebrated.

Engaging Families & Engaging Community

RALY programming focuses around engaging and supporting the families of its partner congregations and stepping out into the wider Richfield Community.

Celebrating Wonder

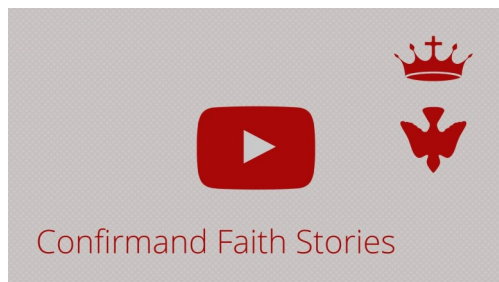
RALY is blessed to accompany youth during their formative years and commits itself to supporting and celebrating the wonderings and development of youth.

Continued on next page

Along with this renewed mission statement, Richfield Area Lutheran Youth is excited to debut a new website! All summer programming information and registration can now be found on our website, as well as information about RALY's partner congregations, community events, and academic year programs! Go to Raly-mn.org to check it out!

Daniel Ditmanson
Youth Outreach and RALY Program Director

Confirmand Faith Stories



Three youth from the church were confirmed recently! They're final project before affirming their faith and baptism was to record a faith story video sharing a bit about their faith and why they wanted to get confirmed. Click the image above to hear their stories! Go to woodlakelutheranchurch.org/media/newsletter to get the digital version of the Messenger.

Upcoming Events

Pentecost

Sunday, June 5th at 10am in the sanctuary and livestreamed on YouTube

Join in worship for this joyful remembrance of the day the Holy Spirit was poured out and the church was born!

Family Bike Ride

June 5th starting at 11:15am-2pm at Woodlake

Grab your bike and let's all meet at Woodlake and ride over to Heights Park in Edina! Lunch will be provided.

75th Special Worship Service

Sunday, June 19th at 10am

We've been going through all the people who have made Woodlake what it has been in the past 75 years, from Leadership Board members and volunteers to support staff. On June 19th we'll be celebrating past and present pastors, with some former pastors in attendance!

Woodlake Meet-Ups

During the summer there are so many activities happening all over the Twin Cities that the Children, Youth, & Family team thought, why not "meet up" at some of these events? Events are open for you to come and go as you please, and we'll be there if you want to "meet up" with other families from Woodlake! Two meet-ups are listed below with more to follow in late July and August. If you think of it ahead of time, feel free to email me (Pr Neal) at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org and we'll make sure to watch out for you!

Wednesday, June 15th 6:30-8:30pm

20th Annual Ice Cream Social at Martin Luther King Jr. Park ([4055 Nicollet Ave. S.](http://4055NicolletAveS.com)): free ice cream from Sebastian Joe's, face painting, music, crafts, rides for kids!

Saturday, July 2nd, 5:30-9:00pm

Richfield Lil Sparkler Celebration Family Night: Police, Fire, and Public Works vehicles, ice cream, popcorn, Kidsdance, Movie in the Park (Raya & the Last Dragon, begins at 9pm). City of Richfield Lil Sparkler [webpage](http://webpage.com).

Camp Sunday

Sunday, July 10th at 9:30am at House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Everyone is welcome to join us at House of Prayer Lutheran for a fun camp-style worship!

Vacation Bible School

**Monday, July 11th through Thursday, June 14th
5pm - 8pm each evening at House of Prayer**

**Recommended for Grades K-6, must be potty trained
Free for all participants**

We are excited for another Vacation Bible School! This year's curriculum will tell God's big story through learning about His immeasurable goodness, love, welcome, forgiveness, and generosity. Learn more and register at Raly-mn.org.

Below: Gaga ball is a favorite VBS activity!



Summer Stretch

Monday, July 11th through Thursday, June 14th
1pm—6pm at House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Cost \$50/participant

Middle schooler-only fun will happen in the afternoons before VBS! All youth who are able to attend are invited but not required to stick around to participate in or help with VBS. Learn more and register at Raly-mn.org.

Volunteer at Woodlake

Homebound Ministry

Invite to volunteer

The Homebound Ministry at Woodlake ministers to members who cannot come to church on a regular basis, many of which have been members of Woodlake for a long time. They want to stay connected to Woodlake and be reminded of the love God has for them. There are several different ways that we minister to them including giving communion if they don't get it where they live, giving cards, and chatting in person or over the phone. If you know of a member who is homebound or you are interested in becoming a homebound minister, please contact Sue Kelly at sdkelly4@icloud.com.

RALY Friend-Raiser

Until June 12th

RALY is searching high and low for volunteers for VBS (July 11th-14th from 5pm-8pm) and folks to provide some of the items they need, like food! Financial gifts will also be accepted if that is how you'd like to support their work. Check out the trifold board in the narthex after worship or go to [this link](#) for ways you can be a friend to RALY!

Woodlake Supports

Eastern European Crisis Relief

Have 100% of your donation go to supporting refugees through the Lutheran Disaster Response at <https://elca.org/disaster>, or by making out a check to Woodlake Lutheran Church with "Ukraine" in the memo.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The Numbers

April 2022

Reg. Envelope Offering	\$13,606
Electronic Giving	\$10,477
IRA's	\$3,000
Rental Income	\$13,950
Holiday Giving	\$4,157
Other	\$780
Total Receipts	\$45,970
Properties Expense	-\$15,272
Personnel Expense	-\$29,851
Other Expenses	-\$10,610
Total Expenses	-\$55,733
Month Net Receipts over Expenses	-\$9,763

Worship Attendance in April

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
April 3rd	95	23
April 10th Palm Sun	140	43
April 14th Maundy Thurs	88	45
April 15th Good Fri (w/HoP)	75	26
April 17th Easter 9am	88	-
April 17th Easter 10:30am	147	73
April 24th	88	39