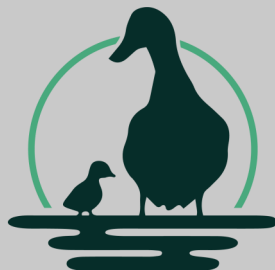


The Messenger

“Becoming a gathering place for all God’s children”



WOODLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2120 West 76th Street
Richfield, MN 55423
(612) 866-8449
office@woodlakechurch.org

www.woodlakechurch.org

Pastor Neal Cannon
Pastor Micah Pearson

*Woodlake Lutheran Church is a
congregation of the ELCA.*

Worship Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Woodlake Worship 9:00am
in the Sanctuary
Modern Worship 10:30am
in Fellowship Hall
(9am service livestreamed to
YouTube)

Church Office Hours

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

Articles for November’s issue of
The Messenger are due to
office@woodlakechurch.org
by **October 15th**. The theme for
November is Vision.

Pastor’s Page

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The disciples wanted to put up some boundaries around Jesus. After all, Jesus was a busy man. He had people to heal, meals to attend, and humanity to save. No time for the little children! But Jesus was indignant towards the disciples for this boundary imposed on him. Of course little children are welcome! Of course he has time for them! After all, the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these!

Unfortunately, barriers and boundaries have often kept children and adults apart from one another and from God! Sometimes these barriers are seen, and sometimes they are unseen. There was a time in our country where black people were simply not allowed to worship in white churches. Those were seen boundaries. But unseen boundaries exist as well. They are unspoken social cues that let people know if they’re welcome or not. Music, art, and liturgy that are created almost exclusively by white men tell a story of who is welcome and who is not, even if they are not intended for that purpose. In this way, churches who think they are welcoming to all people, often are not as they fail to include the voices from people outside their perspective.

At Woodlake, we want to be a gathering place for all God’s children. This work begins with the inclusion of a variety of different voices and ideas from different cultures, race, age, and gender backgrounds. The work continues with intentional conversation and listening to others who are outside of our usual perspective. And the work is perfected in listening to Jesus Christ who says, “Let the little children come to me!”

We are all God’s children, so let’s take down those barriers to Jesus!

In Christ,

Pr. Neal Cannon

Worship

This past month we celebrated a lot of new changes at



Woodlake. We have officially started Modern Worship.

On RALLY day, our new logo was presented to the community. This day was filled with plenty of games and a bouncy house. Sandy Engen enjoyed visiting with her friends and watching all the kids play with the games. To the right we have Sanna P. enjoying the slide. Ike and Otto Gottenberg and their dad played cornhole delightfully as old and young alike had fun. Thank you for all those who joined and helped Woodlake make RALLY day enjoyable to all.



Around the table

Notes from your Leadership Board

Becoming a Gathering Place for All God's Children. For October, we are focusing on "All God's Children" part of the Woodlake vision statement. The "All God's Children" phrase includes ALL OF US. Woodlake provides a great variety of opportunities for "All God's Children" to gather together.

The Congregational Life commission offers many ways to build relationships and create community: life groups,

events, outings, etc. Another commission, Congregational Care, provides homebound ministry to reach out to those who are unable to join us at church. You can check out our new website to find out what might best suit your interests and talents: sing and make a joyful noise, assist with worship, provide technical support for live streaming services, sign up for the Sunday coffee team, join the book club, use your handyman/landscaping skills with building and properties, help out the CYF (Children, Youth and Family) commission with Godly Play (toddlers through second graders), the new Kid's Club (third through sixth graders), or with RALY (Richfield Area Lutheran Youth which promotes faith and fellowship for teens). You may even consider becoming a commissioner to help guide how Woodlake becomes a gathering place for us all. We welcome you and the amazing gifts that you bring as a Child of God.

Jean Kass, Secretary

Children, Family and, Youth

Even though the school year has already started, its not too late to sign up for our school year activities. If you would like to join Godly Play, Kids Club, Confirmation or RALY, please email Pr. Neal Cannon to learn more information at ncannon@woodlakechurch.org.



Upcoming Programs

Middle School Lock In

October 8th at 5pm—October 9th at 10am in Fellowship Hall

To start off the spooky season, Woodlake is hosting our annual lock In. This event will run though the first service on October 9th. Registration is not required but is rec-

ommend. Please contact Daniel Ditmanson at dditmanson@woodlakechurch.org for more information. Come join us for a fun overnight event!

Trunk or Treat

October 15th at Nilson Funeral Home from 4pm—7pm

This fun free event is a great way to get involved with the community. Come dressed in your favorite costume with a bucket or pillow case to store all your candy. In addition, please bring food or household items to be donated to VEAP as the funeral home tries to fill their hearse.

High School MEA Getaway

October 20th at 3pm—October 23rd at 3pm

Come join RALY as we head up to Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, MN. All highschooler are welcome to come join. To learn more about this fun event visit MEA-getaway.com. Stay tuned to the weekly e-news and announcements for more information on our team leader, registration, and prices.



Upcoming Events

Woodlake's Music Ministry Programs

"Some Sing Low and Some Sing Higher..." Grace and peace to you, siblings in Christ! I'm Andy Pokel, the new Director of Worship and Music at Woodlake. In my short time here, I've already seen how this community pulls together to offer abundant hospitality and meaningful worship. Hearing this congregation sing hymns with gusto makes my heart soar, but I also love the sound of laughter erupting from an office down the hall; it's all part of being in God's family. October's theme of "All God's Children" is a perfect opportunity to introduce Woodlake's Music Ministry programs. First, the details: our handbell ensemble rehearses 6:00-7:00pm, Wednesday nights, in the choir room. Our choir rehearses 7:00-8:00pm, Wednesday nights, in the sanctuary. Both groups will contribute to the 9:00 worship service about once a month, including exciting collaborations with the ensembles at House of Prayer Lutheran Church. If you're busy but want to join, stay tuned for

"pop-up choir" opportunities. Music Ministry is a perfect way to live out our vision statement by gathering together with the shared purpose of glorifying God through music. Just like in God's family, imperfections or insecurities don't diminish the value of showing up, ready to serve. You—and all that you are—are welcome to join us. If you want to praise God through music, surrounded by a crew of faithful, funny, friendly people, there's a place for you.

You can register online or by reaching out directly: apokel@woodlakechurch.org.

Book Discussion

Saturday, October 22 from 10:00-11:30 AM

The Homebound Ministry is sponsoring a book discussion on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00-11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. Laurel Johnson will lead us in a discussion of the book **"We Know How This Ends: Living while Dying" by Bruce Kramer and Cathy Wurzer**. "For some, this book will primarily be the stories and reflections of Bruce Kramer as he lived with ALS and Cathy Wurzer as she cared for her dad as he lived with dementia. But for others, it is an invitation to ask and reflect upon important questions about living well and dying well." This is the continuing education for our homebound ministers, but because others may be interested in this book, the congregation is invited to join us. Books are available to purchase in the church office for \$11.95 on Sundays between the two church services and during the week when the church office is open.

God's Peace, Homebound Ministry Leadership Team
Pastor Neal, Starr Carriere, Muriel Holland, Sue Kelly

Life Groups

Starting October 23rd

The Woodlake Life Group team would like to invite everyone to the Fall 2022 Life Group session as we discuss the theme of Service. Our discussions will include service in our church, service in the community and service in the world. Join a group to have casual conversations and grow our relationships with our faith community. The series will start the week of October 23rd and run for 4 weeks. There are groups meeting at different times during the week and we'd love to connect you with a group that meets your schedule. Contact the church office at 612-866-8449 or by email at office@woodlake.org. You can also sign up at the website: <https://woodlakechurch.org/grow/life-groups/>

Woodlake Supports

Beacon Interfaith Housing

The vision of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is that all people have a home, and it's mission is that as a collaborative of congregations united in action, we create homes and advance equitable housing. Beacon does this by sheltering homeless families, by developing affordable supportive housing for those with the lowest income, and by advocating for policy changes to establish a world where home is a solid foundation. Woodlake has been involved with Beacon, and it's predecessor organizations, for more than 20 years. In the time ahead, there will opportunities to participate in advocacy efforts, especially around the newest proposed supportive housing development Aster Commons, to be located at the intersection of Portland Ave. and 66th St. To achieve it's goal, Beacon will require the investment of both public and private funds. 'Light the Way Home', a fund-raising luncheon on Friday, November 11th., offers an invitation for community members to give generously and come together to address housing instability. There is no requirement to give, cost to the luncheon, or any minimum gift. For more information visit the Beacon website: www.beaconinterfaith.org, the Beacon information table in the narthex, or contact Community Builder Scott Dahlquist at (612) 798-5708.

The National Lutheran Choir's All Saints Concerts

Live Concerts: Life Changed, not Taken Away
In the fall, nature around us enters its annual cycle of dormancy. While this may seem like death, it is merely a preparation for new birth. People of God understand death not as the end but as a transition. Through our annual All Saints Program, we will honor those who have passed while recognizing our past, present, and future journeys. This program will feature John Rutter's iconic work, *Requiem*, along with hymns, candles, and the reading of names of our new saints.

Friday, November 4th - 7:30pm

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

Sunday, November 6th - 4:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN

Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students (with valid ID): Pay

what you can | 18 and Under: Free

For group discounts (parties of 10 or more), contact the NLC office at 612-722-2301.

Visit NLCA.com to purchase tickets or learn more.

Virtual Program: The Journey Home

This program will feature selections from NLC's 1995 recording "soul" with soloist Tom Tipton including Edward Bairstow's *I Sat Down Under His Shadow*, David Menicke's arrangement of *Down in the River to Pray*, Charles Stanford's *Beati Quorum Via*, and others – highlighting the spiritual connection between Heaven and Earth, and the Hope this connection brings all of humanity.

Available to all beginning Saturday, November 5th.

Watch at NLCA.com.

Numbers

August 2022

Reg. Envelope Giving	\$12,790
Electronic Giving	\$10,302
IRA's	\$1,333
Rental Income	\$13,625
Other income	\$522
Total Receipts	\$38,572
Properties Expense	\$16,747
Personnel Expense	\$37,981
Other expenses	\$7,410
Total Expenses	\$62,138

Month Net Receipts over Expenses -\$23,566

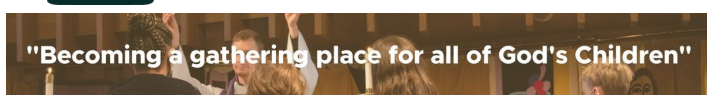
Note: Dedicated Fund Giving \$644

Worship Attendance in August

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Online</u>
Jul 7th	104	42
Jul 14th	142	34
Jul 21st	113	68
Jul 28th	95	42



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