

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Chanhasen
8:15, 9:30, 11:00am
& 5:00pm

Minnetonka
9:30 & 11:00am

*LIVE WITH OPEN HANDS...
AND BE AWAKENED,
BE PREPARED AND
BE A BLESSING.*

For stories of God at work in and through the people of Westwood visit westwoodcc.org/stories

Ride the Wave

Many people describe Christianity by one adjective—"boring." But what if God was building a wave and inviting you and me to surf it? Join us for this message series as we see how God's power transformed early followers of Jesus and how He does the same in our lives today.

January 8 - April 16

Ride the Wave



westwoodcc.org

Chanhasen • 952.224.7300
Minnetonka • 952.224.7400



January 15, 2017

WELCOME TO WESTWOOD!

Is this your first time here? So glad you came!

Welcome to Westwood! If you are unfamiliar with the flow of our service, here's the scoop: We begin with a few worship songs. The lyrics are found on the big screens. The songs are followed by a couple announcements, a time of prayer and offering. The sermon message is given, and the service typically concludes with a song.



Stop by the Info Spot before or after the service. We'd love to meet you, answer any questions you have, and give you some handy information. For kids and students, we offer great programs specially tailored to their ages. Our Westwood Kids' desk would be glad to help you. Come, let's give our love to God, who first loved us.



NEW CLASSES START SOON

Learning is a lifetime process. One that never stops. Wherever you are in your faith, there is a class for you. For additional classes and to register, go to our website.

Chanhassen campus

Tuesday evenings, beginning January 17

- Alpha
- Financial Peace University
- Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People
- LifeKeys

Minnetonka campus

Wednesdays, January 18–February 22, 6:30–8:30pm

- Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People



CHILD DEDICATION CLASS

Child Dedication is a special way to give thanks to God for the gift of a new arrival and to pray for the family. If you would like to have your child dedicated at Westwood we invite you to attend this informational class. Sunday, January 22, 9:30–10:30am. Contact Krista Petersen to register at krista.petersen@westwoodcc.org or 952.224.7366.

Acts 1:1–11 (NIV)

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
⁶Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"
⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Who is Luke and why did he write Acts?

Acts 1:1–2

40 Amazing Days With Jesus—what did He teach them/us?

- The reality of His resurrection Acts 1:3a
- The coming of His kingdom Acts 1:3b
 - Spiritual in nature
 - International in membership
 - Gradual in expansion
- The gift of the Holy Spirit Acts 1:4–8
 - Wait and receive
 - Power and mission
- The assurance of His coming again Acts 1:9–11

Ride the Wave #2
The Antidote to Boring Christianity

1. Icebreaker Question: What is a favorite book you've read and why?
2. Read Acts 1:1-11. A Hollywood producer once said that for a movie to be successful it must start with an earthquake and work up to a climax. Luke wrote two volumes – the Gospel of Luke and Acts. The events in Acts are anything but dramatic. Why didn't he just start with Pentecost in Chapter 2?
3. Who is Luke and why did he write Acts? Read Luke 1:1-4, and Acts 1: 1-2. Have members of your group ever studied Acts before? If so, what effect did it have on your personal faith journey?
4. Jesus taught many things during the forty days after his resurrection and before his ascension. Here are four the things he taught. Answer the question related to each.

#1 The reality of His resurrection (Acts 1:3a). There were some early followers who doubted. What evidence did Jesus give to his resurrection and why was it so important? Why is it so important today? Many people today believe in Jesus' humanity. The resurrection declares his divinity. Who is Jesus to us if He did not rise and what are the implications for our life?

#2 The coming of his kingdom (Acts 1:3b). Jesus spent his whole ministry talking about the Kingdom of God. How is the "kingdom" he had in mind different than the apostles? Explain the qualities of the Kingdom of God as described below. What does each mean? And why is it so important to the Great Commission?

- The Kingdom of God is spiritual in nature – in what sense?
- The Kingdom of God is international in membership – who is included?
- The Kingdom of God is gradual in expansion – how does it unfold?

#3 The gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)

- a. Why is it important to have times of waiting before receiving what God wants to give us? What happens while we wait on the Lord and why is it so hard to do this?
- b. Do you share the concern that some Christians tend to be "professional carriers" and spend disproportionate amount of their time and energy in enjoying their personal relationship to God while scarcely getting around to moving out and sharing God's love with others?
- c. Why was receiving the power of the Spirit so critical to being agents of God's mission. What happens to Jesus' mission without this power? And what happens to us?

#4 The assurance of His coming again (Acts 1:9-11). What was the main message being sent by Jesus, interpreted by angels, concerning his ascension? What are we to be giving our best energy to today?