

December 2011



*An ELCA
Community
in Christ*

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December Palm

A Message From Our New Pastor



Throughout my years in ministry I have had many conversations about why we spend time in church on things other than praise. We desire to be drawn into a deeper relationship with God. In all of our relationships we spend time with each other in all the seasons of our lives. We don't share only the good times. The same is true with God. If we only spend time with God in praise and thanksgiving we miss a whole dimension of his life. The church year is designed to reflect all of the seasons of his life. Advent draws us into preparation. Preparing our lives according to a God who prepares his creation for us. We look to a new world with a new king. Our advent theme this year focuses on interruption. When God interrupts our lives how do we respond? What is our reaction? These interruptions often draw us into different seasons of our own lives and transform us. Interruptions can be incredibly positive. They can also be a struggle. God walks with us through these moments both positive and negative. Are we prepared for a God who does this for those he loves? Advent opens the door for God in our world and in our lives. Advent allows us to be filled with hope and possibility. The seasons to come will draw us into different dimensions of Christ including praise and thanksgiving. For now we wait in hope. We trust that the God who interrupts our lives will surround us and guide us through those other interruptions with hope and assurance. We pray for a new world. Are we ready for the kind of world Christ calls us into? Are we prepared? Can we be prepared or will God simply interrupt us? We make ourselves vulnerable in this season to the unexpected, the unexpected God. May your season be blessed, shaped by possibility and filled with hope.

Pastor Tim Hackbarth

Christmas Worship Services



Blue Christmas: Sunday, December 18, 4 – 5 p.m.

Services with Candlelight and Holy Communion:



Christmas Eve, December 24: 3 – 4 p.m., 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., 9 – 10 p.m., and 10:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25: 9 – 10 a.m.

Higher Ground Sleep-Out for the Homeless A Huge Success

Our youth camped outside Hosanna Lutheran Church in tents and cardboard boxes on Saturday, November 19, all for a great cause. Our youth not only raised awareness about homelessness, they raised an astonishing \$1,038! The money they raised will go to the Hugo Community Food Shelf Emergency Fund. Many thanks to our youth and their leaders for ongoing ministries that make a significant difference in our communities. Thanks kids.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:1-11



Christmas Pageant December 18

The Hosanna Children's Christmas Program will be in the Garden Chapel on Sunday, December 18, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Parents, we will have practice with older students (kindergarten and above) on Sunday December 11 and possibly December 17. Email or call with child's name, grade and acting or speaking preference. There will be sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center as well. Thanks everyone! Colleen Kargel and Jill Heins-Nesvold.

Sharing The Good News

The General, Building and Benevolence Fund Giving through November

	Budget	Actual	Difference
2010	\$641,800	\$589,885	\$(51,915)
2011*	\$552,919	\$541,644	\$11,275

Finance Update :

As the end of the year is rapidly approaching here are a few reminders:

- If you are planning a stock gift, please contact Holly Parsons at ext. 2013 for assistance.
- A number of tax provisions expire on December 31 including the ability to make a gift through a direct transfer from your IRA to a charitable organization. This option is only available if you are over 70 1/2. Please consult with your tax and/or financial professional.

To be counted as a contribution for 2011, we must receive your gift by December 31. Soon, you will receive information regarding your pledge for 2012. Your prompt response assists in budgeting. As we anticipate the celebration of our Savior's birth we reflect on our many blessings and are grateful to all of you who support Hosanna not only with your financial gifts but with your time and prayers.

2012 Hosanna Leadership Opportunities

The Hosanna Nominations Committee is seeking names of members who are interested in serving in 2012. A number of interesting leadership positions will be open and are included in the list below. If now is the right time for you to answer the "call" please submit your name to the Church office or send to: genemaryjanicke@midco.net. You can also personally encourage someone whom you would like to see in leadership, or let us know your ideas and a Nominations Committee member can make the initial contact. The Nominating Committee will put together a recommended slate to be voted on by the Congregation at the 2012 Annual Meeting. The members of the 2011 Nominations Committee are: Gene Janicke, Wayne McRoberts, Andrew Wachholz, Dave Sauer and Julie Ohman. For more information on each position contact Pastor Hackbarth or one of the Nominating Committee members. Positions to be filled for 2012:

Hosanna Church Council:

- President Elect (serves one year, then moves to President for one year, and then one year as Immediate Past President)
- Treasurer (2 year term)
- Member at Large (2 year term)

Delegates to Synod Assembly (several synod meetings per year):

The delegates to the synod assembly attend the synod assembly in May as voting representatives of Hosanna. They learn about the ministry of the wider church at the synod level and the national level and report back to Hosanna. They usually host a forum or share in worship a summary of the assembly as well as provide a written synopsis for the church publications. Time commitment is Friday and Saturday assembly as well as the follow-up at Hosanna. The alternate attends if one of the elected delegates cannot.

- Delegate I
- Delegate II
- Alternate

Nominations Committee (several meetings per year): • 4 positions

Adult Ministries

Sarah Circle—Meets 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Youth Room

Connector: Barbara Johansen: 651.433.5592

Quilters, Crocheters, Knitters

2nd Tuesday of each month. 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Connector: Diane Zak, 651.334.9658

SAM Luncheons

Meets 1st Thursday of each month. 12 - 1:30 p.m. Connector: Kathy Kuehn

sam@hosannaforestlake.net or 651.433.1130

Prison Ministry

Every third Sunday of the month

Nancy Alexis Craig Anderson Ed Jones

Lisa Sauer Dave Olson

Robert Maho Jan Herold-Maho

Choir

Every Wednesday evening at 7:45 p.m.

Director: Charlie Ollman

Hand Bells

Every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Connector: Mary Gookins

Praise Singers

Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Connector: Steve Kennedy

Christmas Toy Drives

We will once again be participating in the following gift outreach ministries this Christmas:

Angel Tree - Select Angel tags from our table to provide gifts for children who have a parent in prison. These gifts are delivered the week of Christmas [in person by Hosanna volunteers] to families in the Twin Cities area. Those families in remote areas will have their gifts mailed to them.

Hugo Community Food Shelf Toy Drive - Select tags from our tree to provide gifts for children in a family with needs this holiday season. These gifts are handed out to families when they pick up their Christmas meal package a week before Christmas.

There are many volunteer opportunities with these gift outreach ministries from calling to gather up-front info, preparing tags with gift requests, being present when people sign out tags during Sunday services, to sorting gifts as they come in, wrapping presents, preparing for delivery and delivering items to families. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Sue Palmer at 651-329-1098 or Anne Myre at 651-433-3294.

A Word of Thanks – Giving from Pastor Lamont

Salaam wadada na wakaka yangu,

Asantini sana, kwa zawadi yenu kubwa kwa watu wa Tanzania! Tunawatakieni neema na amani kutoka Mungu Baba yetu na Bwana Yesu Kristo.



[Greetings my sisters and brothers,

Thank you all for your great gift to the people of Tanzania! May you be given grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.]

In this season of thanksgiving and holiday celebrations, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for your generosity to the people of Tanzania and to give you a quick update on what your gift will accomplish.

Construction of the first student dorm, which will house 50 students, and the kitchen / dining room started Thanksgiving week. The buildings will be ready for the first class of nursing students when the term begins on March 10, 2012.

Your gift of \$5450 will be enough to supply the dorm with 25 bunk beds, 50 mattresses and some small free standing closet/storage areas in the dorm rooms. In addition your gift will supply 5 long tables, 10 long benches and ten stools for the dining area. Finally, your generosity will also make it possible for each of the four class rooms to have a large movable blackboard.

Because of your good stewardship of the gifts God has given you, students at Ilula Nursing School will arrive on campus to find the buildings well equipped and ready to warmly welcome them. You will be a big part of starting these students along a path that will not only transform their lives but the lives of countless others whom they will serve throughout their careers!

I promise to send you pictures as the furniture is built and put in place. I will be sure you receive pictures of move-in-day for the students. And, of course, all you need to do is say the word and I will be more than happy to help you plan a trip over to Ilula to see for yourself how what you are doing is changing lives. Through your hands and your gifts, God's work is being done half a world away.

In this season of thanksgiving, I give thanks for you. Let us together say, thanks be to God!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Lamont

OPEN HOUSE Hugo Community Food Shelf 5611 152nd St. N Hugo

Open to the public / Hosanna families

9 - 11 a.m., December 17

Please join us to tour our new facilities and to see the mission you've been a part of.





HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hosanna's Mission Statement:

We are called, gathered and sent to be people living, loving and serving as Jesus did so that all may know him.

Save the Date!

New Worship and Sunday School Times

Beginning January 8, 2012

Sunday Worship Times: 9 - 10 a.m. and 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9 - 10 a.m.

Public Prayer Requests 12/2/11:

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for what He has done." Philippians 4:6

Thanks and Praise

Jesse Johnson- Julie (Ross) Ohman's brother- healing of cancer

Comfort in Grief

Jan Minner and family-death of Jan's mother, Adeline Watson Scott and Lu Curtis and family-death of Scott's mother, Joanne Ogren

Comfort and Peace

Doris Von Barga-Elaine Schumacher's mother- hospice care

Pastor Tim's grandfather-hospice care

Health

Amelia Ezeno and baby-Linda Hackl's future daughter-in-law- premature labor

Marilyn Gladitsch-strength

Kathryn-Carna Brandt's mother- heart problems-strength, guidance, and peace for Kathryn and family

Delilah-Marilynne Olson's 6 yr. old relative- upcoming surgery

Wendell-Deb DeVore's uncle

Scott- Deb DeVore's brother-in-law

Del-Dick Westcott's brother-in-law- major stroke recovery

Lynn-Robin (David) Hopkins' cousin- rehabilitation from spinal infection

Ericka and family-Donna and Terry Beck's daughter- multiple sclerosis

Jerry Krenner-Paul (Linda) Hackl's relative- cancer treatment

Niki-Sharon Sill's friend- serious kidney disease

Jody Schaefer—Kidney transplant & Joshua Schaefer kidney donor— Dec.8th

Support in Cancer Journey

Donna Beck - chemotherapy

Lisa and Emma Phillips and family

Shannon- Julie (Bob) Masche's daughter- cancer treatment

Sonny-Donna and Terry Beck's friend- cancer treatment

Lynn- Nick (Andrea) Acker's sister

Marcy-Bob and Gary Olson's sister-in-law- leukemia treatment

Emily- Susy Richey's relative-chemotherapy

Dennis Bittrich-Jen Bergan's relative- throat cancer surgery

Keri Johnson- Ron and Jan Ward's niece

Ray-Elaine Schumacher's friend- cancer recurrence-treatment

Cindy Silianoff-Sharon Sill's friend- cancer and other illness

Vicki Meister-Darlene Brandt's friend- recurrent cancer-treatment

Jeanne Strom-Mary Thompson's friend- stage 4 breast cancer

Joanne Benick-Randi Bildeaux's friend

Protection and Blessing for Military Troops Stationed Overseas

Katherine Kane- Bob Hill's granddaughter- Afghanistan

Fiance of Syra Johnson- DeLaine and Ron Rebeck's niece

Sam- Karen and Lyle Alm's relative

Other

Kirk Swenson and family-support in challenges

Adult Male Mentors Needed: For "Friends Make a Difference" mentoring program in the Forest Lake schools, volunteers are paired with a junior high student, to have lunch with them several times per month. At lunch you will be able to get to know them and offer encouragement. No special skills needed-just a willingness to be a consistent, stable presence and make a difference in the life of a young person. Contact Kathy Bystrom 651-257-8439 or kbystro1@fairview.org for more information.

Need Help with Lawn or Household Chores? If you are 55 or older and live in Forest Lake, you are eligible for help. Contact Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau Job Connection and fill out a registration form. Local youths ages 12-17 are available for winter shoveling or household chores. Time and pay are to be negotiated with the specific youth doing the work. This is a great way to support local youth! Contact: Tovah at Lake Area Youth Service Bureau 651-464-3685.