



**BELIEVE- the Jesus Way
LIVE like you BELIEVE it!**

November 2023

Dear Friends in Christ~

Living a life of generosity means many things; from time, to talent, to resources. Thank you for the many ways you give. To be generous is defined by the online dictionary as “showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected.” Generosity is not an obligation; it grows out of gratitude; it grows from the heart of Jesus.

Hosanna’s November preaching and teaching text: Mark 8:34-38

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Whoever wants to become my follower must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.”

This is one of those “tough teachings” of Jesus. What does it mean to LIVE like you BELIEVE it? Mark Twain warned: “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it’s the parts that I do understand.” How do you understand this text? There is a claim at the heart of Christianity that the way of Jesus is different than the way of the world. One way is about what you can get, earn, claim as your own, establish through your own efforts and therefore keep for yourself. The other way is about what you can give, lose, share, and receive from the grace and goodness of another in gratitude. Each promises life. But it is a different kind of life. Which, Jesus asks, will you choose?

As we prepare to both celebrate **Hosanna’s 50th Birthday**, and consider next steps for the Great Hall capital campaign: **Completing the Vision: Renew, Refresh, Rejoice**, it will be vitally important for us to end 2023 strong and move into 2024 with a Spirit of Gratefulness and Generosity along with a vision for living. loving and serving for the next 50 years!

Join Mark and me by making, both a year-end gift, and a financial commitment, a Giving Plan, to Hosanna Lutheran for 2024. Both the enclosed Estimate of Giving Plan Card and year-end donations are due to Hosanna by Sunday, December 31. Giving Plan Cards may be dropped off on Sunday mornings (in the donation box) or mailed (in the enclosed envelope). This card can also be accessed online, filled out and emailed to our Finance Manager, Roxanne Anderson at finance@hosannaforestlake.net. If you would like to see your 2023 year-to-date giving statement, please contact Roxanne (651-464-0796).

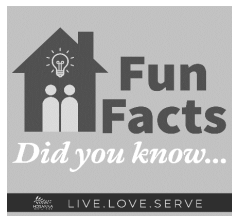
As always, your Giving Plan is not binding, and can be changed as your situation warrants. I strongly urge, and challenge you, to experience the benefits and blessings of making a regular commitment, of whatever amount, to Hosanna Lutheran.

Living, Loving and Serving Together,

Pastor Linda Friesen
651-334-0116
lfriesen@hosannaforestlake.net

ACTION STEPS:

- First, prayerfully consider your Giving Plan to Hosanna. If you currently give, consider an increase to help fund general expenses and new ministry opportunities. If you do not give consistently, consider making a plan. Make it doable, a dollar a day, \$5 per week, \$25 per month? Try it for three months, giving first, and see what happens!
- Enclosed you will find an Estimate of Giving Plan Card, please return the card by December 31, 2023.



- Our monthly payroll is \$24,200
- Our monthly Thrivent Mortgage is \$9,336
- Our monthly Electric/Gas payment is \$3,500

PLACES to GIVE:

- **General Fund:** This is the FIRST fund to support. This fund pays for all the on-going household expenses such as mortgage, insurance, utilities, staff salaries, maintenance and general repairs, snowplowing... and more!
- **Capital Projects Account (CPA)/Building Fund:** Giving to this fund is beyond a General Fund gift. This fund is used for all needed and necessary capital improvements to our home (building/mission post) such as resurfacing the parking lots, security system upgrade, tackling the back wall efflorescence, new carpet when and as we need it... and more! Under usual circumstances, this fund also serves as a reserve in the summer if giving lapses. Any funds used MUST be paid back by December 31 of the year borrowed.

WAYS to GIVE:

Forms and information can be found at hosannaforestlake.net/giving

- **ACH/Direct Deposit Giving:** This is the BEST way to stay consistent with your giving. Money gets transferred directly from your bank to Hosanna's bank. No service charge incurred.
- **Your Bank Bill Pay:** Set up Hosanna as a recurring payment (gift!). Typically, no service charge from your bank.
- **Online Giving:** hosannaforestlake.net use the GIVING tab. There is a bank charge incurred by Hosanna.
- **VANCO-Mobile App:** Download the app on Apple or Android devices. Search for Hosanna, Forest Lake and follow prompts. There is a bank fee associated.
- **Church Envelopes - checks or cash:** Hosanna can supply you with preprinted weekly giving envelopes. These can be brought to church or sent in the mail (you supply the stamp!). Envelopes serve as a reminder to give consistently. Hosanna is charged for printing and sending this product.
- **Directed giving from retirement or other plans:** Contact your plan administrator or Roxanne Anderson at finance@hosannaforestlake.net. There could be tax advantages for you.

NEED HELP? Contact - Roxanne Anderson at 651-464-0796 or finance@hosannaforestlake.net