

Grace to you and peace,

I have been asking a lot of questions lately. Important things like, when are the services? Where is the bathroom? What is your name, again? And importantly, how do we do things here? This last question of How we function is a very important question for us as individual Christians and as a church body.

As you we all do things differently. I cook differently than each of you, I preach differently than many of my pastor friends, share my faith differently and as Elizabeth will tell you, we make decisions differently. That is part of life. We are each, individuals with differing gifts and talents. And truth be told, if we were all the same the world would be pretty boring. Can you imagine if everyone’s tuna casserole tasted the same? Or if we all wore the same outfit each day. Can you imagine how boring life would be if there were only one movie to enjoy or one kind of ice cream flavor.

Imagine how dull it would be if there were only one kind of church? Sounds great if you love it like it is, but not so great if there are pieces that don’t seem to challenge you or console you. Thank God, and I mean that with all seriousness that Hosanna is a congregation of great variety. As I get to know you and start to recognize God’s call to this congregation I can see how fantastically we are gifted. We are primed to reach out to the neighbor in word and service.

Even as I write this article I hear the bustling voices of about 100 little kids at our vacation bible school, each unique individuals who will be called to be the hands and feet of God in ways we can’t even imagine. Our Purpose Driven Church structure lifts up this diversity. Our five purpose areas overlap in such a way that we connect and reconnect with God’s people in worship, ministry, and evangelism events. Discipleship groups and fellowship times bring us both deeper in relationship with God and closer to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

No doubt, I will continue to ask questions. I will console and challenge. I will do things in ways that are perfectly clear to you and at times you may be scratching your head wondering what the heck I am up to. In this time of holy wondering and getting to know each other we can all celebrate the variety in our congregation and in our world and know without a doubt that God is yearning for us to share God’s good news with a world that is, itself, asking all kinds of purpose and future questions.

God Bless and I’ll see you on Sunday,  
Pastor Jay

## Purpose Driven Focus

### Worship

As members of council, we would like to include a monthly highlight focusing on one of our five purpose areas. This month we will focus on worship.

What is the definition of worship? Merriam-Webster defines it as: the act of showing respect and love for a god especially by praying with other people who believe in the same god: the act of worshipping God or a god.

True worship is felt inwardly, and then comes out through our actions. "Going through the motions" out of obligation is unpleasing to God, and is done completely in vain. He can see through all the hypocrisy, and He hates heartless worship (Amos 5:21-24). A powerful example of this is the story of Cain and Abel, the first sons of Adam and Eve. They both brought gift offerings to the Lord, but He was only pleased with Abel’s. Cain brought the gift out of obligation. Abel brought his finest lambs from his flock out of true faith and admiration for God.

Healthy churches grow stronger through worship. We were planned for God’s pleasure. It isn’t just what we do on Sunday that God considers to be worship. It’s what we do every single day of our life. Healthy churches help people worship God through every area of their lives, every day of the week.

As we prepare to worship together on Sunday mornings, there are several functioning groups of people that help make this happen. There is Pastor Jay, but we also have greeters, ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, scripture readers, musicians, A/V techs, counters, and an altar guild. We do all of this for God’s glory!

If you would like to serve on any of these areas, please contact the church office.

Gina Weber,  
Hosanna Lutheran Church  
Council’s Worship Representative

The deadline to submit information for the next newsletter is 9 am on July 18th.



## Milestone Moment

Celebrating Lena Gunn’s first time serving as an acolyte.



Registration is **July 30th, August 6th & August 13th** after both services.

Kick Off  
**August 20th**  
5:30-7:30pm  
3rd-12th Grade



Join us on **August 13th** for the Blessing of the Backpacks. Kids will be invited to come forward for a special blessing and to receive a gift for their backpacks for the year.

**Sunday, August 13th**  
A day of Faith, Fellowship and Fun; as we celebrate Faith Formation at Hosanna. Be a friend—bring a friend!

## Seeking Adult Leaders

Are you Authentic? Youth call this being real. Are you able to affirm others, lift them up and see their gifts? Are you available on Sundays from 5:30pm-7:30pm?

If you answered yes to these questions, you have some of the gifts that we need in adult leaders for Sunday Night.

If your passion is for youth or passing on faith, or for more information; please contact our Youth & Family Minister, Emily Clamser at: [emilyclamser@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:emilyclamser@hosannalutheran.com)

## Thank You Trudy Miller

For faithfully serving Hosanna Lutheran Church for 17 years! We hope you enjoy retirement!

## Campshare August 6th at noon

Come see a slide show and hear campers share their experience. A light lunch costing \$2 per person will be served. We need a head count to have enough food, please let us know you are coming by noting on your connection Card on Sunday or calling the church office at (985) 727-9200

## Children’s Church

There will be no Children’s church for the month of July. Instead Pastor Jay will be giving a Children’s sermon during both services.



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Website: [www.HosannaLutheran.com](http://www.HosannaLutheran.com)  
Jay Grave - Senior Pastor  
Emily Clamser - Youth & Family Minister  
Marilyn Boudreaux - Preschool Director  
Troy King - Bookkeeper  
Brian Johnson-Osborn - Director of Music at 10:30 am



Now taking registrations for the  
**2017-2018 School Year**  
Please call Director Marilyn Boudreaux, at  
(985) 624-5525 for additional information.

### HCP Summer Camp June 5th - July 28th

Our program is 9 am - 1 pm for 18 month through 5 year olds.

- \*18 month to 2 year olds  
Tues/Thurs or Mon/Wed/Fri
- \*2 and 3 year olds  
Mon - Fri
- \*2,3,4, or 5 year olds  
Mon - Fri

Monday and Wednesday we offer extended days until 3 pm.

Call Marilyn Boudreaux, Director at  
(985) 624-5525 for additional information.



### Sr High Retreat at the Lakehouse August 4th & 5th

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to attend.

## GOD MOMENTS

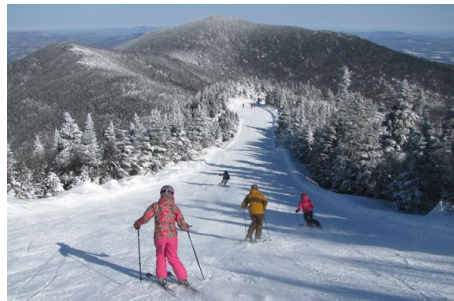
We would like to highlight in each newsletter God moments that happen around Hosanna for example, small groups, outreach, and youth events. Please send in a picture and brief description to [rebeccadarga@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:rebeccadarga@hosannalutheran.com)

## Faith Formation



### Children's Church Ages 4 – Grade 3

During the summer months, our youth will be learning about Martin Luther, as we prepare to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation. Our youth will also receive a "Flat Martin" to take pictures with wherever they go. What a wonderful way to demonstrate that our faith is always with us.



### Ski Trip December 26th-30th

Youth and adults interested in information about a ski trip to West Virginia, Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to receive more details.

## Summer Youth Ministries

There will be no Youth Night or Sunday School during the summer.

Youth Night and Sunday School will resume in August.

Find out more info on our  
website:  
[www.hosannalutheran.com](http://www.hosannalutheran.com)



Our new Splash program provides support for families and provides Faith Practices which can be used in the home. Home is Church Too! Each month, a newsletter will arrive with ideas for gameplay with your child, prayers, blessings, and they are all developmentally appropriate for your child's age. If you would like your child to be a part of this program, please see contact Emily Clamser at: [emilyclamer@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:emilyclamer@hosannalutheran.com)



## Confirmation Retreat

For 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth  
August 25 & 26

## Mandatory Confirmation Meeting Sunday, August 27th at 5:30pm

Receive all the information and expectations required for Confirmation.

## Adult Leaders Meeting

Date change –Monday, July 31 at  
6:30 pm

On the agenda: Curriculum and plans for the upcoming year.



Samaritan Center is starting their Back to School Program. Help is given to qualifying families with students in the West St. Tammany area. A sponsorship of \$75.00 provides uniform, school supplies and shoes. Please pick up a commitment card at the Info Center—they need to be received at the Samaritan Center by **August 4th**.

## Children's Church & Sunday School Leader Meeting

July 30th after second service



Please sign up quickly so we may submit for scholarships. The Gathering will be June 27th - July 1st, 2018. We need to send in Registration and Deposits in September. ELCA Youth Gathering team announced the theme of the 2018 gathering. "This Changes Everything," based on Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved..."