

Hosanna Highlights



Jay Grave
Senior Pastor

(985) 727-9200

rev.jgrave@hosannalutheran.com

December 2018

Dear friends in Christ,

The Christmas Season is upon us!

Weekly, we join together in claiming our mission to “Proclaim the Love of God to all people, so they may know Jesus Christ, Grow in Faith and Follow Christ.” This is indeed our mission and our actions help us to live that into being as a congregation and as individuals.

Hosanna exists to proclaim the gospel and demonstrate the kingdom of God in a lost and sometimes painful world. In being faithful to God’s calling, Hosanna should be reaching people with the good news of the gospel and welcoming them in to a local community of believers. Welcoming people into our faith-family should be the natural overflow of our faithfulness to Christ Jesus. **The best way to welcome people is simply a one-to-one invitation.**

- 67% of Americans say a personal invitation from a family member would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.
- 63% of Americans say a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.
- 63% of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation or faith community from a family member.
- 56% of Americans are very or somewhat willing to receive information about a local congregation or faith community from a friend or neighbor.

So, people ARE open to an invitation to church, particularly if it is from someone they know. However, one simple invitation isn't necessarily going to result in subsequent attendance. You may need to offer repeat invitations. Neighbors may come to Hosanna because of your invitation, but they'll stay for our community.

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Hosanna Lutheran Church
 2480 Highway 190 East, Mandeville, LA 70448
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 office@hosannalutheran.com

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 [FACEBOOK.COM/HLCPAGE](https://www.facebook.com/HLCPAGE)

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Opportunities and Information

Mwana Missions Project

How you can help: The Giggling Gator, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit, is a used item store. Every purchase made at The Giggling Gator, goes to help people in Malawi Africa. The Mwana Missions Project helps provide education, teacher support, business entrepreneurship, feeding programs, and more throughout the central and southern regions of Malawi. Stop on by The Giggling Gator, and take a look! Mwana Missions accepts, tax deductible, donations as well.

See page 7, of this Newsletter, for more information on the Mwana Missions Project.

Volunteer Transportation Coordinator and Drivers Needed

Did you know, that Hosanna Lutheran Church provides transportation for those in need of a ride to church activities through out the month? We have members that count on us to get them to church! We are in need of a Transportation Coordinator and drivers to make sure that this happens. If you are looking for an opportunity to love the body of Christ and don't know what to do, this is an opportunity for you! For more information, contact the church office.

Christmas Dates to Remember:

Dec 5, 12, 19 Wed - 6:00 pm Advent Service
 Dec. 7 Fri - 5:30 pm NPAS Holiday Concert
 Dec 8 Sat - 6:00 pm **Jingle and Mingle**
 7:00 pm **Christmas Party!**
 Dec. 16 Sun - Youth Christmas Party
 Dec. 19 Wed - 11:00 am Preschool Christmas Program
 Dec. 24 Mon - 6:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
 7:30 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Service
 11:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 Dec. 25 Tues - 10:30 am Christmas Day Service



Church Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the online church calendar

- Dec 2 Youth Night
- Dec 3 Executive Council
- Dec 5 JOY
Divorce Care
Advent Service
- Dec 6 Quilters
- Dec 7 NPAS Holiday Concert
- Dec. 8 Jingle Mingle
Church Christmas Party
- Dec. 9 Youth Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 10 HIS Planning Meeting
Church Council Meeting
- Dec. 11 Stephen Ministry
- Dec. 12 JOY
Advent Service
Divorce Care
- Dec. 13 Quilters/Quilters Tutorial
- Dec. 16 Youth Night
- Dec. 19 JOY
Preschool Christmas Program
Advent Service
Divorce Care
- Dec. 20 Quilters
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 25 Christmas AM Service
Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 25-Dec. 27 Church Office Closed
- Jan 2 JOY
Divorce Care
- Jan. 3 Quilters
- Dec 31-Jan 1 Church Office Closed

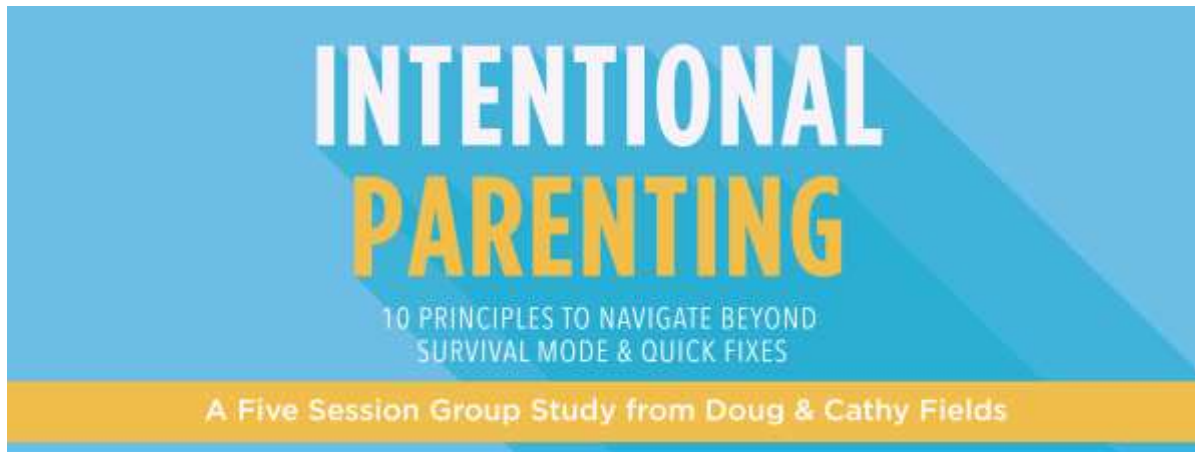


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10 WAYS TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL PARENT IN A QUICK FIX WORLD
Every parent has dreams for their children. As parents, we all start out with the best intentions. Although, at some point, we move from **DREAMS** to **DUCT TAPE** and hope that each day everything will just stick together. Raising kids in today's culture is a difficult challenge and it requires a plan. Without a plan, parents usually default to Quick-Fix Parenting. Surviving each day is much easier than taking the time and energy to consider how parenting actions impact a child's future. To be an exceptional parent, you need to be an intentional parent. It's never too late to become an intentional parent. Remember, you are the **GREATEST** influence on the life of your child (no matter their age)! And it can all begin with these resources. Let's be intentional in 2019!

Beginning in January, Mondays 6:00 pm



DivorceCare helps you recover from the pain of separation and divorce. You will learn how to deal with the pain of the past and look forward to your future.

**Wednesday Evenings
7 :00 pm- 9:00 pm**

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HIS Planning Meeting- 1st Monday each month.

The next meeting will be **December 10**

HIS Service Project- 4th Saturday each month- **Cancelled for Dec. due to the holiday season!**

Contact: Jill Smith (985) 789-1861 or (985) 276-4546

Check upcoming bulletins for updates on what HIS Ministry is up to next!



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

We all experience challenges in life. There are times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend that will keep our visits confidential. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care one needs when faced with a difficult time. If you, or someone you know in the congregation or community, could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please call or ask the person to call the number below.

Stephen Ministry is **CONFIDENTIAL** Contact: Lois or Blair Sundquist (985) 327-7047.

Congregational Care Team

The Congregational Care Team of Hosanna Lutheran Church spends time praying and caring for individuals and families who are going through illness, are homebound or facing any personal struggles. The group keeps in contact with them by sending cards, making phone calls and visits. They also find out if they need help or anything else during their time of struggle. If you need help or know of anyone please contact Lois Sundquist (985-327-7047), Julie Dautat (985-264-5951) or the church office (985-727-9200).



THERE IS NO COFFEE AND PRAYER IN
DECEMBER. Will begin again Jan. 30



Hosanna Quilters

Meet every Thursday 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM and on the second Thursday of each month 12:30 PM-3:00 PM for quilting tutorial to learn new skills and for quilting. No experience necessary. All are invited to come see what love creates!



Love in Action



Stockings were a big success!

A big 'THANK YOU' to all the people involved in making stockings and filling them full of gifts and goodies! The entire Samaritan Center was blessed by the love shown by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Delight, excitement, and laughter filled the room as the cart was wheeled in carrying 5 tubs of filled stockings. You all were included in their prayers that morning! Each year, Bebe Stich, who began this ministry, says "I'll never do this again", but each July begins to wonder just how many stockings will be needed for the next Christmas! We will see to it that she has as many as possible! Sincere Thanks from the Hosanna Quilters and the Samaritan Center



Thanksgiving Food Baskets:

Thank you Hosanna Servants! Your generosity provided 20 Thanksgiving food baskets for families in our community. Under the direction of the Samaritan Center, support from Thrivent Financial, and our volunteers, the baskets were distributed on Saturday, November 17th. Your small groups, family members, church youth, and coworkers made this possible and share in the joy of helping our neighbors.!



Christmas Packages for the Mariners!

Hosanna Youth filled packages with scarves, mittens and hats for mariners on the river, that cannot make it home for Christmas. Chaplain Tom Rhoades with Seamen's Church Institute distributed the Christmas packages to Florida Marine. Chaplain Tom writes: "In the Lower Mississippi River Region, where I serve, we distributed 448 Christmas gift boxes this holiday season. Adult towboaters become like eager little children at Christmas to receive and dive into these expressions of love and care"!



Mwana Mission Project Update:

This past June, Jan Sawa was asked to come to Malawi by Field Director Francis Chulinga.

He wanted to show her the devastation and impact on the villages surrounding the Mwana Mission Project property. Since the flooding in 2015, severe

drought has plagued this very small country. The borehole/Well on the property after many attempts to go deeper is currently dry. So many in the village have died or are starving and begging for food. Prior to the trip Fair Haven Ministries in Covington had also asked Jan if there was any way possible to check on a container, and clear it through customs. Beans and rice earmarked for a maternity hospital about 20 miles away from the Mwana Mission Property would include 2,000 pounds of beans and rice for the Mwana Mission Project! The "good news: traveled fast through the villages and food distribution was on hundreds of peoples minds. There was a most heartbreaking story about a very OLD man who walked 15 miles to the compound exhausted gently kneeled down before Jan and Francis and rubbed his belly saying "anjala", "anjala" and "zikomo quambiri amai ndi amuna", then "Zilomo America ndi mzungu". He was saying "I'm so hungry, no eating for days, thank you to the mission and the American people". This is a great reminder that relief and development need to work hand in hand. It's hard to develop people without first offering relief, so that there are no obstacles. God has provided for the people in our village with help from all of you in our community and our Hosanna village. We can't offer relief without a plan of future development, which includes financial assistance from you to continue nourishing their spiritual lives and daily needs.

Then Mwana Mission Project staff here in the States and the staff in Malawi thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It is your prayers, support and monetary donations that allow this mission to go forward.

Jan & Greg Sawa

What is the Mwana Mission Project?

The Mwana Mission Project, Inc. was founded in September of 2003 by Jan Sawa, with a memorial gift to a charity in Malawi, in the name of Bill and Jasmine Bray, her late parents.

Jan was raised in Nyasaland during British Colonial Rule (now known as Malawi) from infancy in the 1950's to young adulthood in the mid-1970's. This was her home, her life. One day she anticipated returning to the "Warm Heart Of Africa" but had no idea what a life changing experience would occur in her life on the journey back in 2007, thirty years later.

The trip back in 2007 was mind shattering, the sheer number of orphans and destitute people was overwhelming. There are virtually no government resources in Malawi to tend to the growing amount of orphans, geriatric people caring for all of their grandchildren and Albino's being trafficked for body parts... Something needed to happen, so the Mwana Mission Project, Inc. was started and partnered with many individuals and charities already established in Malawi, to help provide education, teacher support, business entrepreneurship, feeding programs, and more throughout the central and southern regions of Malawi.

The Mwana Mission Project, Inc. is based in Mandeville, Louisiana, and Blantyre, Malawi. It is a registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit, governed by a working board. It is a registered NGO (Non Governmental Organization) in Malawi. Please consider making your tax deductible donations no matter the size, it is desperately needed. With your donation, you will certainly lift the spirits and create a great many smiles on the faces of the Malawian people...

Church Council

See end of Newsletter for October
Church council meeting minutes.



President-Tara Bremond
Vice-President- Julie Brown
Secretary- Ryan Weber
Treasurer- Brad Phillips

Purpose Area Liaison
Worship- Carlos Pearse
Discipleship- Ginny Sirera
Evangelism- Alex Abram
Fellowship- Ron Entzel
Ministry- Stephen Wetekamm

Jesus is the Reason!

Happy holidays to all of you. The end of the year always brings a time of reflection for me as I focus on the birth of Jesus and all of the beautiful things God puts into this world, our church and my own life. I search for ways to be better, learn more, and spread love. I think this also sums up this year on council.

2018 proved to be another exciting year of learning for us as we continued to seek God's guidance in His vision for Hosanna and us as leaders. This year we moved forward with a change in banks to become better stewards of our finances. We rearranged and changed our office staff. We added policies and procedures to streamline processes. We further implemented the RAISE team, and set up worship, fellowship, ministry and safety team's. We are in the process of solidifying council roles and responsibilities. We added a third worship opportunity, and accomplished many other things.

We continue to work as a team, listening and learning from each other. Together, we have future visions of endowments, increasing our staff, adding to our AV capabilities, growing in numbers and in faith, focusing inward and outward through discipleship and fellowship, and in all things seeking God as we fulfill our mission to proclaim His love to all.

I pray in the New Year that each and every one of us is set on fire with God's spirit, that we do not hesitate to jump when God gives us those tiny whispers to do something to bring Him glory, and that He leads us boldly as we continue to proclaim God's love to all people. May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts and homes with the magnificent love of God. May our hearts shine with the light of an everlasting candle, the light of Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas. Peace on Earth.

Love,
Tara Bremond
Council President

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship Ministry December 2018

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

Live
WITH
A
Thankful
Heart 



Katie Sepcich
youthdirector@hosannalutheran.com

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Like most people, the Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year. This season is filled with so much joy, and the Jr. and Sr. High have already begun to celebrate at Youth Night. We put Vaseline and cotton balls on our faces to make Santa beards. We ran around the sanctuary playing "Mistletoes" where we picked up candy canes with our feet. It was joyous, and my hope is that our events in December continue in the same spirit.

December 1st: Ms. Heidi Rhea's Holiday Market

December 2nd: Regular Youth Night

December 8th: Jr. and Sr. High volunteers needed for the Hosanna Christmas Party! Please arrive at 4pm.

December 9th: No Youth Night for Jr. and Sr. High at Hosanna, but an opportunity to sing Christmas carols at 4:15pm at Christwood Retirement Community.

December 16th: A Very Merry Black and Gold Jr. and Sr. High Christmas Party!

There will be no Youth Night on Dec. 23rd, and Dec. 30th due to Christmas break.

Last Youth Night, one of the Jr. Highers showed me their calendar on their phone and how it was filled with all her friends' birthdays. On December 25th, she had that it was her favorite person's birthday- her favorite person being Jesus. Her simple gesture of labeling Jesus as her favorite person reminds me that the joy of this holiday season does not end on December 25th. It continues everyday because of December 25th, the day where the Lord has come and the earth received her king! With all of the business this holiday season brings, my prayer is that "Jesus being our favorite person" is at the center of it all, and that us celebrating Him and all He has done brings "Joy to the World" or at least joy to our small community here.

Much love,
Katie





Erin Forgarty
Families@hosannalutheran.com

Happy Holidays to one and all! It is hard to believe that we have reached the Christmas Season already! To foster a feeling of generosity and good tidings during this miraculous time of year, I have orchestrated a festive and fun-filled event that will benefit Hosanna's youth and the residents of Christwood's care facility. Next Sunday, December 9th during the standard time for Youth Night, our youths will sing traditional Christmas carols, and present personalized cards and treat bags to the Christwood community. We will meet at Christwood for 4:15 and begin our program shortly afterward. Anyone, child or adult, is welcomed and encouraged to attend and to bring holiday cheer to the residents.

In preparation for next Sunday's event, Hosanna's youth customized thirty adorable Christmas cards during our Youth Night meeting on December 2nd. We also rehearsed the songs that we will be singing next weekend. I must say that we have some extremely artistic children in our congregation. I look forward to next Sunday, and I hope that more members of the congregation will take part in this wonderful event to give back to the community and spread the magic of Christmas!

Sincerely,
Erin Fogarty



Milestone Ministry

Baptism Milestone

If you are interested in being baptized or having a child baptized.

Contact the office.

[Milestone Ministry Website](#)



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 the office.



Hosanna Youth put together boxes to bless Mariners on the river that cannot make it home for Christmas!
See page 6 for more details.





Director Marilyn Boudreaux

(985) 624-5525

hosannapreschool.com



 facebook.com/hosannachristianpreschool

Registration

Will open for the 2019—2020 school year
Monday, January 14, 2019

Plastic Bottle tops are still needed for the Hosanna Preschools "Art from the Heart" art show. Please bring them by the church office or leave at the information center! We appreciate your help!

Community Coffee Labels

Continue to save your Community Coffee proof of purchase labels and place in container at the Info Center to help raise funds for supplies for Hosanna Christian Preschool.

Where to find Proof of Purchase:


- ◆ Coffee Filter Boxes
- ◆ Cream & Sugar Dispensers
- ◆ Bags of Coffee
- ◆ Boxes of K-Cups



Hosanna Christian Preschool
Would like to invite you to their
upcoming **Christmas Program**
on Wednesday, December 19th
at 11:00am in the sanctuary



January Birthdays!



Jan 3	Kathryn Duris	Jan 18	Graham Peck	Jan 25	Chase Colbert
Jan 3	Thomas Warren	Jan 18	Todd Tournillon	Jan 25	Vera Grauch
Jan 3	R.J. Murphy	Jan 19	John Coleman	Jan 27	Mathew Deason
Jan 4	Steve Mayfield	Jan 19	Ashley Ruth	Jan 28	Jill Smith
Jan 4	Jace David	Jan 20	Cathy Gomila	Jan 28	Jay Grave
Jan 4	Jorden Meader	Jan 21	John Gomila	Jan 29	Carleen Chase
Jan 5	Joyce Meyer	Jan 22	Derek Brown	Jan 29	Morgan Abram
Jan 6	Michael Lemmond	Jan 22	Robert Francke	Jan 30	Allen Thompson
Jan 6	Bethany Putnam	Jan 22	Robert Donald	Jan 30	Hunter Boynes
Jan 6	Jake Gros	Jan 22	Channing Thompson	Jan 31	Shavondria Jackson
Jan 7	Rachel Gelbke	Jan 22	Ryan Dwyer		
Jan 8	Lee Pearson	Jan 23	Mason Johnston		
Jan 9	Hannah Gowland	Jan 23	Ilsa Grave		
Jan 10	Olivia Starner	Jan 23	Rachel Entzel		
Jan 10	Richard Hodgson	Jan 23	Johnny Griffitt		
Jan 10	Nathan Gunn	Jan 23	George Heffker		
Jan 10	Matthew Decker	Jan 24	Madison Gray		
Jan 11	Mable Rees	Jan 24	Nathan Miller		
Jan 15	Harland Johnson	Jan 24	Sue Provo		
Jan 17	Peyton Kemp	Jan 25	Ronnie Couvillion		

January Anniversaries



Jan 2	Greg & Kim Thompson	Jan 21	Eally & Jill Smith
Jan 5	Roger & Joan Hoffman	Jan 22	Greg & Gina Weber
Jan 5	Nathan & Erica Hoffman	Jan 26	Peter & Carol Torrey
Jan 17	Marc & Dana Reed		

October 19, 2018 Hosanna Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Alex, Brad, Ron, Ryan, Jay, Tara, Stephen, Julie, Carlos

Absent: Ginny

Tara called meeting to order at 7:00 pm and announced a quorum is established

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes & Reports

Brad motioned to approve September's meeting minutes as amended by Ron, Carlos Seconded, no discussion, all were in favor

New Business

Brad motioned that Ron and Ryan serve as Council representatives in the nominating committee for 2019 candidates for council; Julie Seconded, all were in favor.

After the Treasurer presentation; Julie motioned to accept September's Treasurer's report, Carlos seconded; no discussion; all were in favor.

Carlos motioned that Executive Council, acting as the Investment Committee until their establishment, authorizes the transfer of \$100,000 of the current funds designated as part of the Restricted Building Fund account to the newly established brokerage account at Gulf Coast Bank. This brokerage account was established as a managed brokerage fund using a moderate growth portfolio. All interest and dividends from this brokerage account are to be directed back into the same account to become additional funds directed solely for use under the Restricted Building Fund; Julie seconded; Discussion questioned the portfolio allocation suggesting concern with investing in equities' and suggesting rather to pay on debt. Additionally, the need for a brokerage account was questioned in order to accept certain donations and minimum balance/value was unknown. After 45 minutes of discussion, Tara motioned to postpone a vote until next Council session while Treasurer gathers more info on portfolio options and minimal requirements; Stephen seconded the motion; in discussion, Council was reminded of the monthly brokerage fee for the current account with Chase; 5 were in favor of postponement, 2 opposed, 1 abstained.

Ron motioned that the Executive Council, acting as the Investment Committee until their establishment, authorizes the transfer of \$50,000 of the current funds designated as part of the Restricted Building Fund account to a 13-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) at an agreed upon annual percentage rate of 2.3%. The CD will also act as collateral for the office staff's church credit cards so no financial data from the individual staff members and church will be required. All interest from this CD is to be directed into the checking account to become additional monies under the Restricted Building Fund only; Julie Seconded; No discussion; All were in favor.

Carlos motioned that the Executive Council, acting as the Investment Committee until their establishment, authorizes all stock transfers from congregational members to the church be placed in Hosanna's secondary brokerage account. Once transferred, all stock will be sold from this account by the Gulf Coast Bank representative at the optimum time based on their market research, but not longer than 30 days after transfer, and all resulting monies placed into the church checking account. From here, distribution will be made by the Treasurer or his designee into the appropriate ledger accounts as directed by the congregational member making the donation; Stephen seconded; No discussion; All were in favor.

Julie motioned to authorize \$800 for the purchase of 2 microphones in sanctuary due to current frequencies in conflict with wireless phone frequencies; Tara seconded; No discussion; All were in favor.

Ron motioned to accept the terms of Advanced Office Systems proposal to supersede previous leases for the copier and toner and extend for Five years; Carlos seconded; no discussion; All were in favor.

Old Business

Council then reviewed the current status 2018 Stewardship Campaign and reviewed the forward plan.

Tara motioned to adjourn; Ron Seconded; All in favor; Council closed with Lord's Prayer at 9:05pm.

Purpose area discussion – ministry moved to next Council session

The deadline to submit information for the next newsletter is December 27th at 9:00am
Click [here](#) to submit information