

# Hosanna Highlights



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Senior Pastor

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## March 2020

Grace to you and peace,

As visitors come into our church this Easter Season, I think this article, taken from a site online, will help each us be aware of what that visitor may be experiencing, as we welcome them and show God's love to each of them:

**Have you ever watched people arrive on Sunday morning at your church and wondered what they're feeling in that moment?**

We know that feelings and emotions are incredibly powerful motivators and memory-makers. In fact, [studies have proven that](#) we make more decisions based on emotion rather than logic.

This is especially true when we think about people's reactions to discussions of faith and religion. It's an emotionally charged topic; similarly, people experience a wide variety of emotions when they visit a church for the first time.

It has often been said that polite conversation excludes both religion and politics, although we seem to live in a day that has discarded the idea of avoiding political conversations. The underlying concept of this "polite conversation" rule deals with the fact that people prefer to avoid emotional conversations, and religion certainly brings emotion to the surface. That being said, part of what we need to do is to understand the emotions people feel when they show up on a Sunday morning and to be able to respond by caring for and meeting people where they're at in life. **Our churches need to be first-time guest obsessed.**

Here are five emotions first-time guests likely feel when they're arriving at your church. I'd love to hear your thoughts, observations, and reflections on this topic in the comments below.

### Fear

arriving at a new church, there's often a running internal dialogue that goes something like this: *am I wearing the right clothes? Can these people see right through me? Can the pastor somehow tell what I did last night? Will I be judged?* All of these unknowns and questions can cause a tremendous amount of fear, which initiates that fight-or-flight reaction. Guests arrive at our churches wondering if they should have their guard up and be ready for a fight or if they should simply give up, turn around, and go home.

For a first-time guest

**Our job is to calm any fears our guests might have by ensuring they know that we expected them.** Regardless of where they've come from, we are glad that they are with us, and we should feel honored that they've decided to come and spend some time with us. Our job is to depressurize the environment and ensure that our guests know that God loves them dearly.

## Confusion

When you visit someplace new, your brain goes into overdrive trying to establish the patterns of that place's behaviors and processes. When someone checks out a church for the first time, there are so many new things for them to try and to understand—everything is new. Unfamiliar environments often drive us into a state of confusion as we try to figure out how to fit into their patterns.

In fact, people often try to understand what they are currently experiencing through their past experiences. Because so much of what happens in church doesn't connect with their past and feels a bit foreign, it ends up causing a deep sense of confusion.

Confusion is a disorienting emotion and our job is to ensure that we provide clear and obvious next steps to help lessen that confusion. *We need to remove obstacles in order to provide some sense of familiarity.*

Now, I understand that church is a transcendent experience, but **we need to take people from where they are to where we believe God wants them to go.** An early step in this process is to ensure that people understand or are informed about the basics when they come to your church, like where to drop off their kids, where to grab a cup of coffee, and where the bathrooms are located. While those may seem like trivial concerns, they are anchor points for familiarity that help relieve some of the confusion for people when they first arrive.

## Regret

Regret has the potential to be the most powerful emotion that people experience when they come to your church. **I like to think of this as comparable to buyer's remorse, the feeling you get when you've purchased an item, walk out of the store, and suddenly feel as if you made a mistake.**

When people step into the lobby of your church for the very first time, they often run into a deep sense of buyer's remorse. Some will almost immediately feel the desire to turn around and walk out. This regret means that they are in over-processing mode and are looking for any excuse to leave. If they get a text from their long-lost aunt that they haven't talked to in 25 years, that will take precedence over what is happening at your church on a Sunday morning. If they forgot the diaper bag, that will cause a mom to bail and decide not to drop her kids off at your programs. Regret drives (or inhibits) an incredible amount of action for first-time guests.

**To combat this sense of regret, we need to clearly articulate early on that we are expecting guests to be with us.** This impression is important because if a first-time guest with buyer's remorse at least understands that we expected them, it reduces some of their regret and makes them more willing to give us a shot, even for that one moment.

Cultivating an environment of expectation helps our people feel at home and understand that God has a great plan for them.

## Hope

A deep sense of hope also fills the hearts of first-time guests. The only reason why guests have come to your church is because there is some sort of need that they are hoping you will fill. **Hope is the driving emotion that brings people to your church for the first time.** As such, we need to ask ourselves a couple of questions:

Do we understand the needs that drive our guests to our churches?

Are we acknowledging what those needs are in order to fulfill that sense of hope?

The reality is that if guests don't believe that the church can meet their needs, they simply won't come back. We know that somewhere close to only 1 in 10 guests ever return to a church in the future. One of the reasons they may decide to come back is because they have a sense that their needs are going to be met by that church sometime in the future. Their needs may be relational or maybe they're struggling with raising their kids or wrestling with theological matters. Some people struggle with who is God and wonder what difference He could possibly make in their lives, while others understand God but wonder why they're here and what their purpose is in the world.

Have a robust understanding of the needs of your people and take the time to address those needs in your printed material

## Distracted

Frankly, when people arrive on a Sunday morning, they're distracted. This may very well be the most prominent mindset that people experience as they join you on a Sunday morning. We are just one, very thin slice of their overall week. In the back of their minds, there are many other things they're wondering about, including:

- What's for lunch?
- Is my team going to win their game today?
- Will my kids enjoy the program?
- Does the pastor at this church have anything to say that's relevant to me?
- I wonder what's going to happen at work tomorrow.
- I wonder what my boss really thinks of me.
- Is my mom going to call today and complain that I haven't called her?
- I wonder what my wife really thinks about that date we went on last night.
- I'm so confused about why this church uses Comic Sans font in their advertising.
- What's going to happen next month? Next year? 10 years from now?

All of these distracting thoughts and many, many more are firing in people's brains at all time. Even as you're reading this article, you are likely distracted beyond belief. Our culture has fed on this habit of distraction and we've heightened it with the cell phones in our pockets. This distraction means that we need to go out of our way to ensure that we are communicating clearly and simply.

**We need to simplify what's happening on Sundays.** Too often, we try to communicate in subtle ways and that approach simply doesn't work; subtlety doesn't grab attention. We need to make the main thing the plain thing. We need to ensure that whatever it is we are trying to get across to our people that we communicate it in an incredibly simple and straightforward manner. We do not want to distract people with four things that will cause further distraction when we can present one key thought for them to focus on.

To get inside the emotions your guests feel when visiting your church, go somewhere new and evaluate how you respond during the experience"

I hope we can take these emotions in mind as we proclaim God's love to our visitors this season.

God bless,

Pastor Jay



# Hosanna Highlights

Hosanna Lutheran Church  
 2480 Highway 190 East, Mandeville, LA 70448  
 (985) 727-9200 FAX (985) 727-9275  
 office@hosannalutheran.com

GET CONNECTED: CLICK ANY LINK  
[hosannalutheran.com](http://hosannalutheran.com)

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

 [@HLCMANDEVILLE](https://twitter.com/HLCMANDEVILLE)

## Notes and News:

### Easter Worship Schedule

Lenten  
 Devotionals

Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:00 pm,  
 Beginning March 4th

Various Council Members and Staff will share a devotional following the theme of the day found in the '40 Day Journey with Luther'.

Join us Online at <https://www.facebook.com/hlcpage>

### Holy Week

April 5th - Palm Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am

April 9th - Maundy Thursday 4/09 6:30 pm

April 10th - Good Friday 4/10 6:30 pm

Easter  
 Sunday

April 12th - 9:00 am Traditional Service  
 10:30 am Contemporary Service

If you are interested in participating in the stripping of the altar during the Maundy Thursday service on April 9th, please contact the office at 985-727-9200 or [officemanaser@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:officemanaser@hosannalutheran.com)

Your participation would take place at the end of the service as we read through Psalm 22 and remove all the items off the altar in preparation for Good Friday

### March 2020

#### Church Calendar

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

- Mar 7 FCF Family Picnic!
- Mar 8 FCF/Exclamation
- Mar 9 Hosanna Hot Meals
- Mar 11 Reading the Bible Class
- Mar 12 Morning Bible Study  
**Women's Book Club**  
 DivorceCare
- Mar 12 Quilters/Quilters Tutorial  
 Interim Worship Team
- Mar 13 Confirmation Retreat  
 -14
- Mar 15 Council Orientation  
 1st Communion Class  
 FCF/Exclamation
- Mar 17 Hosanna Hot Meals
- Mar 18 Morning Bible Study  
 JOY  
 Divorce Care
- Mar 19 Preschool Art Show  
 Quilters (OFF SITE)
- Mar 20 Together: Beyond Welcoming  
 -22
- Mar 22 FCF/Exclamation
- Mar 23 Hosanna Hot Meals
- Mar 25 Morning Bible Study  
 DivorceCare
- Mar 26 Quilters  
 Interim Worship Team
- Mar 29 FCF/Exclamation
- Mar 30 Hosanna Hot Meals
- April 1 Morning Bible Study  
 JOY  
 Divorce Care

# BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

April 4th, 2020

10am-12pm  
at Hosanna Lutheran Church

Presale Tickets:

Family 3+ kids: \$25;  
Individual: \$5

After presale ends on  
March 21st, 2020:

Family 3+ kids: \$35;  
Individual: \$10

All proceeds will benefit Hosanna Teens and  
Children Summer 2020 Programs

Sign at the information booth or online at

<https://hosannalutheran.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/31/responses/new>

All are Welcome to Hosanna Lutheran's  
Annual

## Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY  
APRIL 11, 2020

10:30 AM

**Easter Egg Hunt!** We will be having an Easter Egg hunt on April 11th. We are in need of the following items: Plastic eggs, candy, stickers, or small toys. Candy, stickers and small toys must be able to fit inside plastic eggs. Please do not donate candies that melt. Candy needs to be able to withstand outside heat!

For questions or more information or to volunteer to help, contact Erin Fogarty at [families@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:families@hosannalutheran.com) or (504) 457-1419

Help Hosanna win some CASH!!! We have entered our church in a competition for Non-Profits in our area. The organization with most votes, will win \$30,000.00! Vote EVERYDAY this Month at [www.gulfbank.com/vote](http://www.gulfbank.com/vote) . Pass it on!



**Vote for HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DAILY from March 2-March 31, 2020  
at [www.gulfbank.com/vote](http://www.gulfbank.com/vote)**

**The non-profit with the most votes at the end of the month  
wins a \$30,000 CASH PRIZE!!!**

The background image for the Adult Sunday School announcement shows a wooden surface with a green plant on the left, a red megaphone on the right, and an open Bible at the bottom. A pink text box is overlaid in the center.

**ADULT SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
8-8:50AM**

**BEGINS AFTER EASTER  
BRING A BIBLE AS WE LOOK AT THE PREACHING TEXT FOR THE DAY**



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## 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 home-bound 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 Dauzat (985-264-5951) or the church office (985-727-9200).




**Every Monday**



Join Hosanna and the Mandeville Community for dinner every Monday night from 5:30-7pm.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

## DIVORCE Care

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**

## 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!



# FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Sunday

March 15, 2020

5:30pm

children and adults welcome!



If you are interested, sign up  
at the information booth or  
at the church office.



## Pastors Wednesday Bible Study

Is taking a break in March  
We will resume in APRIL!

9-10:30AM

### **Hosanna Hot Meals**

**NEEDS TUPPERWARE!!!!**

Hosanna Hot Meals is hitting the streets!

Please drop off any unwanted  
Tupperware to the Information Desk!





Hosanna Lutheran Presents

# Together

Women's Retreat

March 20-22, 2020

Fontainebleu State Park  
Conference Center

There is still time to sign up! You won't want to miss this time of fellowship and ministry! Register online at: [hosannalutheran.com](https://hosannalutheran.com) or sign up at the information booth or online at: <https://hosannalutheran.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/30/responses/new>

## Beyond Welcoming

KEYNOTE  
Peggy Hahn

\$102

Includes:  
Lodging & Food

## FOOD DRIVE FOR SAMARITAN CENTER FOOD BANK

Through Thrivent Financial's Action Team program, Carl & Sharon Hilt, are sponsoring a spring food drive for the Samaritan Center Food Bank in Mandeville. The food drive is to assist in replenishing food bank's inventory.

Donations of the following items are needed – tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorants, canned vegetables, beans-canned and dry, soups, canned pastas, juice (100%), macaroni & cheese.

There will be a drop box in the lobby area at Hosanna for your donations for two Sundays, April 5 & April 12. In addition, as Thrivent members through the Action Team program the Hilt's have \$250 to purchase additional above mentioned food items. Let's reach out and help those in our area that are less fortunate and are dealing with a life crisis.

The Food Bank is supported by local food drives held by individuals, schools, civic organizations and businesses, as well as monetary donations and Second Harvest donations.

The Food Bank is managed and operated by a handful of employees and hundreds of loyal and dedicated volunteers who serve in various roles such as: sorting, packing and distributing food to recipients; providing pick-ups for food donations; providing office support; and assisting with special events and food drives throughout the year. The center is always looking for additional volunteers.

Thanks for taking time to care.

For additional information, please contact Carl or Sharon Hilt at 985-287-1387 or 985-287-1388.





Director:  
Marilyn Boudreaux  
(985) 624-5525



[hosannapreschool.com](http://hosannapreschool.com)

[facebook.com/hosannachristianpreschool](https://facebook.com/hosannachristianpreschool)

## Registration

**Started January 13th for the 2020 - 2021 school year**

If you have little ones that need structure, socialization, and want to prepare them for a classroom setting in a safe loving environment, come check out our Preschool!

We are now taking registration for 2020 Summer Camp.  
Please call the Preschool Office for details!

## Art from the Heart

**March 19, 2020 Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.**

You and your family are cordially invited to our annual art show at Hosanna Christian Preschool.

Our students have worked hard all school year to display some of their finest crafts. The artworks will be displayed in the fellowship Hall and Welcome Area. Each class has made a group project to be auctioned off.

Please join us for an evening of family fun. Light refreshments will be served.



**Make it a Pizza night!**  
Every third Wednesday of the month, Hosanna Preschool will receive 20% of the proceeds for each pizza ordered through Dominos Pizza



*Mrs. Boudreaux's Tea Party*



**MARDI  
GRAS**



# Church Council

See end of Newsletter for December  
Church council meeting minutes.



## 2020-2021 Council Members:

Sandy Nieto  
Rob Rhea  
George Michell  
Teresa Abram  
Ashely Burbank  
Steve Beene  
Sarah Keezar  
Doug Burbank  
Kim Dauzat-Thompson

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mardi Gras season celebrating all the blessings we have in our unique New Orleans home. While many have been at the parades, several members are hard at work making Hosanna a better place to worship. We have some amazing building improvements coming including a new electrical, lighting, larger stage, new flooring and a new stain glass frame along with two new cross fixtures out in front. It takes lots of work from our volunteers to get these done. If you want to help please contact and or thank the following people that have been so instrumental at improving Hosanna:

Sanctuary Electrical: Scott Quillin, Brad Phillips

Sanctuary Stage build: Bob Busfield,

Sanctuary Flooring: Phyllis Giffin

Sanctuary Stain Glass: Carl Hilt, Bob Busfield

Outdoor Crosses: Burbank and Beene families donated in memory of their grandparents

Outdoor Cross Installation: George Michell/Steve Beene

Tree Trimming and General Repairs including Bat Room: Alex Abram

Thanks to Ron Entzel, Carlos Pearse, and George Michell for all the help with these projects as well!!

I also want to thank the Council for all that they do. It can be very challenging but it's also critical to Hosanna's congregation.

Finally, many thanks go out to our office staff! Grace has saved Hosanna thousands of dollars and has developed comprehensive documentation, policies and much more as office manager. Janice has been instrumental in professionally managing Hosanna's books and supporting Grace. It has been challenging getting all these administrative items in place, but it's critical for our church to move forward.

It's been a bumpy year but hopefully we're on the path for putting all our differences aside and worshipping our Lord and Savior! God does love us all, no matter what we wear, what we look like, or even how we act. God is Good!!!

Many Blessings,

Julie Brown



**Katie Sepsich**  
Youth Director  
youthdirector@hosannalutheran.com

On Sunday nights before Exclamation, you can usually find me at Canes getting dinner with some of our Hosanna Teens. This past Sunday, while eating chicken fingers, I read with one of our Teens, Day 5 of our 40 Day Devotional with Martin Luther. This two page devotional sparked such a sweet conversation. In it, we discussed prayer and a time when our hearts were only focused on God. We discussed how in the verses, Martin Luther doesn't focus the answers to our prayers. He focuses on our relationship with God when we pray. Over this meal and over this simple devotional, it was so apparent that our teens' faiths are growing, and that deserves all the praise!

We have some exciting events coming up in March! One event I am particularly excited about is our Breakfast with the Easter Bunny coming up! It is a new fundraiser to help benefit multiple children and teens programs that take place during the Summer. I hope everyone can come and enjoy this awesome event! Exclamation is also occurring every Sunday in March!! Anyone and everyone is invited to come hang out with us from 7:15 to 8:30 pm on Sundays.

- Exclamation every Sunday!!
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Retreat at Hosanna! All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome!
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: Lutherhill payments are due online through your portal! If you have any questions please let me know.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>: Presale for tickets with Breakfast with the Easter Bunny ends. Proceeds will help with our Youth programs participate this summer!

Katie Sepsich  
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Director  
Hosanna Lutheran Church





# YOUTH MINISTRIES

A graphic with a sunburst background of orange and red rays. The text is centered and reads:

**confirmation  
retreat**  
**March 13th to 14th**  
8 pm - 8 am @ Hosanna  
for 7th and 8th graders

A graphic featuring a Texas state flag waving on a flagpole against a blue sky. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid on the flag with white text:

**LUTHERHILL**  
JR. HIGH BIBLE CAMP  
PAYMENTS DUE TO LUTHERHILL  
BY MARCH 15TH





#### VBS Items needed:

- Boxes of cornstarch
- Colored craft sand
- 4 Hard plastic kiddie pools
- 2 Clean 50 gallon drums
- Colorful yarn
- Black plastic table cloths
- Paper lanterns for decorating
- Newspaper
- Balloons - colorful, sizes
- Silver Star Paper Plates from Dollar Tree
- Tin foil
- Baby oil
- Paper towels
- 20 oz water of soda BOTTLES - Empty and clean with lid
- Silver glitter
- Cotton balls
- Popsicle or craft sticks (large or small)
- 2 Reams black card stock
- 2 Reams white card stock
- Packing tape
- Hot glue guns or low temp glue guns (lg and sm)
- Hot glue sticks (lg and sm)
- Foil cupcake papers
- White paper plates

Registration page and more information coming soon!



Our children's department wants to know more about you and your children.

Click here [Youth Survey](#) to take the survey and help Fun Church Fun meet the needs of the children at Hosanna. Thank you!

A graphic for a youth survey. The background is white with a faint image of five children jumping joyfully. The title 'Youth Survey' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below the title, four survey questions are listed in bold black text.

**YOUTH SURVEY**

- What is your need and hope for Christian Education for 5th graders and younger at Hosanna?
- Do you want more family events to meet other families with children?
- Have you participated in Sunday night Fun Church Fun, why or why not?
- What night of the week would you bring your kids to a youth event?

# Resources and Information

This video Bible study library is for every person in our church.

Watch over 2,000 kid's episodes in the RightNow Media Kid's Library. Stream them in the living room or on the road. These Bible-based shows will educate and entertain children of all ages.

Contact the Church Office for access.

[office@hosannalutheran.com](mailto:office@hosannalutheran.com)



We are now on YouVersion Bible app: Get the YouVersion Bible App on your phone to follow along with Pastor Jay's message each Sunday. Download the app, select 'More' in the bottom right corner, then select 'Events'!

## New Online Resources

Check out our new additions the church website:

- [ONLINE COMMUNITY](#)
- [Online Church Calendar](#)
- [Find a Group List](#)
- [Online Directory](#) (Log in required)
- [New Online Giving](#)
- [Register for Events or Classes](#)



### Online

Visit [hosannalutheran.com](http://hosannalutheran.com) and click [ONLINE GIVING](#)

### Text to Give

Text [HOSANNALUTHERAN](#) to 77977

## Did you know?

**Amazon** donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Hosanna Lutheran Church. AmazonSmile is the same

**Amazon** you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your church by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).



## Baptism Milestone

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

Contact the office.

[Milestone Ministry Website](#)


## Milestone Ministry



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.

# April Birthdays!



Apr 1	April Aguillard	Apr 12	Erin Joyner	Apr 18	Grant Honold
Apr 1	Christian Hansen	Apr 12	Brittany Bennett	Apr 19	Sylvia Wallace
Apr 1	Shuntez Jackson	Apr 13	Shane Ulfers	Apr 19	Colton Phillips
Apr 3	Asger Hansen	Apr 14	Ella Pearson	Apr 19	Reese Langevin
Apr 5	Jessica Nolan	Apr 14	Jacques Dufrene	Apr 21	Joey Reese
Apr 5	Colleen David	Apr 14	Catherine Lucas	Apr 21	Rebecca Decker
Apr 6	Harold Flettrich	Apr 15	Poki Hampton	Apr 22	Jackson Greenleaf
Apr 7	Tristan Mohr	Apr 15	Anthony Wetekamm	Apr 26	Tristan Peck
Apr 8	Christina Gardner	Apr 15	Alecia Peck	Apr 28	Anna Dwyer
Apr 8	Beverly Jakes	Apr 16	Sandy Nieto	Apr 29	Donna Lacoste
Apr 8	Terri Huet	Apr 16	Emma Pearson	Apr 29	Kylie Kieff
Apr 9	Daryl Daus	Apr 16	Brenda Schwartz	Apr 30	Morgan Growden
Apr 10	Michael Nieto	Apr 16	Gil Boudreaux	Apr 30	Tiffany Lemus
Apr 11	Ryan Adams	Apr 17	Daniel Lewis	Apr 30	Wendy Lewis
Apr 11	Zachary Wetekamm	Apr 17	Mary Ann Meader	Apr 30	Jeanette Mayo
Apr 11	Ethan Bearden				

# April Anniversaries



Apr 4	Alan & Kristene Furan	Apr 14	Andrew & Rhonda Moore
Apr 4	Roy & Cecile Keenan	Apr 14	Danny & Jillian Garretti
Apr 6	Tom & Edith Casey	Apr 15	Steve & Janis Mayfield
Apr 9	Don & Sue Provo	Apr 18	Todd & Toby Tournillon
Apr 12	Gerard & Judy Junot	Apr 25	Jesse & Miller Davis
Apr 14	Myron & Lisa Greenleaf	Apr 28	Mike & Mandy Slye
Apr 14	Terrence & Stacy Mathers		

# Hosanna Lutheran Church Council Meeting

## January 20, 2020

### Opening

The regular meeting of the Hosanna Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:07 pm on January 20, 2020 by Brad Phillips. Ashley opened with prayer. A quorum was established.

### Present

Ashley Burbank, Brad Phillips, Teresa Abram, George Michell, Julie Brown, Sandy Nieto, and Pastor Jay Grave were present.

### Open Issues

1. Did we shine for Christmas? Outdoor and indoor decorations were great. Attendance in December was down by 40 people compared to 2018. Flyers sent to nearby neighborhoods went out but not sure if it generated new visits.
2. Should we reach out to members who have not been attending?
3. Should we ask greeters to also speak to visitors as they are leaving?
4. Easter: Easter Bunny Brunch, Easter Egg Hunt on weekends before Easter.
5. Reaching out to community by sharing our facility:
  - a. 2 AA groups meeting here
  - b. SAT prep class here
  - c. 2 music schools have concerts here
  - d. Hosanna Hot Meals every Monday night

### Executive's Report

1. Church metrics: Council interested in # of new members vs. # of members that have stopped attending/giving. Pastor will get this info off CCB and forward to council members.
2. Need to reach out to newer members to be on committees. Council members need to set up committees to carry out their focus area. Need to get list of new members so that council can recruit them. Get council and congregation members to take classes again: 101, 201, 301, 401. Longtime members need to get to know newer members.
3. Nominations and Election Status: Nominating committee in process of calling people nominated. So far, 1 member agreed to run for council and 1 member agreed to run for nominating committee.
4. Council Reports Need to be Completed and to office by end of January for Annual Meeting

### Pastor's Report

1. Operating system: Concealed carry weapon procedure continues.
2. Youth Ministry: Focusing on small groups. Participation increasing.
3. Staff: Musician Leader for 10:30 service has not been found yet. Still advertising on multiple job search sites. Meanwhile, volunteer singers will assist Carter with music.
4. Reportable: Tuesday night series on "How WE Read the Bible" has begun, Wednesday morning Bible study grows, 2 scheduled weddings and 1 hospital baptism this year
5. Dates: Feb 27-March 2 : Pastor vacation  
March 2-5: Pastor at Exponential conference as requested by Synod  
March 20-22 : Women's Retreat with Peggy Hahn preaching March 22  
March 29 : Assistant to Bishop Chris Markert preaching  
April 12: Easter  
May 22-23 : TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod Assembly, New Orleans

### Financial Items

1. Accounting Transition Update: Janice learning correct codes to use. Meanwhile, financial statements have some things coded incorrectly. Brad expects deficit may be more than the \$60,000 expected and may approach \$93,192. (\$38,000 of this is due to IRS payment made).
2. Financial reports were viewed and unexpected expenses discussed.

### Calendar Review/ Biblical Purpose Area Report

1. Sanctuary Revamp: Consider adding nursing mom's area, cry room ( use preschool room next to sanctuary with TV broadcasting service in room)
2. Youth fundraising committee: Easter Bunny brunch
3. Brad stressed importance of getting committees established to carry out functions of Biblical Purpose Areas
4. Seems to be decreased volunteering especially for HIS events.

*Continued on next page*

***Church Council Meeting Jan. 20, 2020 Continued:***

**New Business**

1. November minutes: George motioned and Steve seconded to approve minutes. All were in favor. Minutes were approved.
2. Scrip: motion by Teresa and seconded by Steve to use \$5000 from scrip account and \$3000 from church account to cover youth transportation costs for 2019. All were in favor, motion passed. Will need to decide to approve Scrip procedure proposed and consider moving \$25,000 of cash in Scrip account to interest bearing fund.
3. Will discuss website next meeting

**Next Council Meeting February 17, 2020 at 7 pm.**

1. Review final 2019 report
2. Annual mtg and elections prep
3. Review council handbook for any changes needed

**Adjournment**

Julie motioned to adjourn and Steve seconded. All were in favor. Pastor Jay closed with prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m. by Brad Phillips .

Minutes submitted by: Sandy Nieto