

Hosanna Highlights

December 2020



Teresa Abram
Council President

Blessings in this last month of 2020,

As we enter the holiday season, with so many changes this past year, I reflect on the changes in my young life of almost 38 years. Christmas has always been a special time in our family but of course celebrating now is much different how I grew up. Big family gatherings with cousins, aunts and uncles, lots of food and gifts flood my memories from childhood. Now living so far from family Alex, I, and our 4 kiddos celebrate together at home quietly with presents, a big brunch, and seeing family online. Though I love remembering the big loud celebrations, I also am so thankful for the quiet, PJ days at home with my husband and children.

As I think of how Mary and Joseph must have felt on the night their first child was born, I am in awe of the quiet stillness, and yet wonder if the animals were loud in the stalls, moving and making noise. Now in my life having chickens I imagine how it must have smelled, and the difference there is in the way my children were born compared to Jesus. I imagine their meager dinner of bread and wine or whatever they could find, as Mary possibly famished after labor, and Joseph starving after hours and days unable to provide for his family in the changing census times. Yet they remained faithful? That this was the plan? To have their child born in such surroundings?

With all the differences God's **love** has never changed and is ever constant. I see his **love** in fresh chicken eggs, ripped wrapping paper all over the floor, and in scrapbooks of pictures of my past. I hear his **love** in the quiet cracking of the ice rink my dad and I used to care for in town while the stars twinkled in the clear freezing Iowa nights, and in the buzzing of mosquitoes getting snatched up by bats at twilight in the Louisiana winter evenings. I smell his **love** in fresh baked pumpkin bread around the holidays, a fresh fir Christmas tree, and in the mounds of freshly dried laundry memories from all the college years when I came home for the holidays. I feel his **love** in warm cuddles with my kids during movie nights, cool crisp air on the deck while spending time with Alex for morning coffee, and in long anticipated hugs from family far away.

I pray that in this month of reflection and anticipation you find God's **love** everywhere you look, hear, smell, taste, and touch; as that will lead us into every new day.

[Luke 1:38](#)

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Blessings,

Teresa Abram
Church Council President



Let there be Peace on Earth

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

*"Glory to God in the highest,
Peace on earth,
Good will towards men"*



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

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

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

Notes and News:

Join our Hosanna Family online Sundays at 10:30 am! What! Can't join us online? Come join us in person, at 9:00 am.

- We are asking that everyone please wear a mask.
- We will have greeters at the door that will take your temperature and give you hand sanitizer.
- We won't have coffee or the tables in the Narthex.
- Members will immediately go to the sanctuary and find a place to sit in the chairs that will be spaced throughout the sanctuary. We will be able to have 140 people in the sanctuary for the service. If we have more than this number, then we will have to utilize the Narthex for worship space as well.
- The Nursery will not be open, and we will not have the kids' bags available yet.
- Offering plates will be kept at the back of the Sanctuary rather than passed down each row.
- We will have music, but we will ask that the congregation not sing at this time.
- Communion will be held at the end of the service. There will be little disposable cups of juice and wafers available for you to pick up as you leave the Sanctuary.

With these changes, we are trying to offer a service in the cleanest, safest environment for everyone. We can't wait to see you! For those members that would still like to continue to worship from home, please follow our service online.

To watch Online go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/hlcpage>

DECEMBER
2020

Church Calendar

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

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov 30 | Hosanna Hot Meals TO GO
Hosanna Teens |
| Dec 2 | Wednesday Food Ministry |
| Dec 3 | Quilters |
| Dec 5 | Night of Praise |
| Dec 6 | Sunday AM Service |
| Dec 7 | Hosanna Hot Meals TO GO
Hosanna Teens
Executive Committee |
| Dec 9 | Wednesday Food Ministry |
| Dec 10 | Quilters |
| Dec 11 | NPAS Concert |
| Dec 13 | Sunday AM Service |
| Dec 14 | Hosanna Hot Meals TO GO
Hosanna Teens
Council Meeting |
| Dec 16 | Wednesday Food Ministry |
| Dec 17 | Quilters |
| Dec 20 | Sunday AM Service |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Services:
Family 6:00 pm
Contemporary 7:30 pm |
| Dec 25 | No Service
Merry Christmas! |
| Dec 25 - Jan 3 | Office Closed |
| Dec 27 | Sunday AM Service |
| Dec 28 | Hosanna Hot Meals TO GO |
| Dec 30 | Wednesday Food Ministry |
| Jan 3 | Sunday AM Service |



YouTube Live
Facebook LIVE
PHASE 3 UPDATE ...
ONLINE & ON SITE
JOIN US SUNDAYS FOR LIVE FEED WORSHIP OR IN PERSON AT HOSANNA
IN PERSON - 9:00 AM CST
ONLINE - 10:30 AM CST
Facebook: @hlcpage
YouTube: Hosanna Lutheran Church



Christmas Schedule

Dec 5 Night of Praise 7:00 pm

Dec 6 Sponsor a Christmas gift Star Deadline

Dec 10 Poinsettia Deadline

Dec 11 NPAS Christmas Concert 7:30 pm

Dec 24 Family Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm
Contemporary Service 7:30 pm

Dec 25 No Service -

Have a wonderful Christmas!



PURCHASE YOUR POINSETTIA IN
HONOR, THANKSGIVING OR
MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE THIS
CHRISTMAS!

—
ENVELOPES CAN BE FOUND AT
THE WELCOME DESK

ENVELOPES ARE DUE BACK BY
DECEMBER 10TH

NIGHT OF *praise*



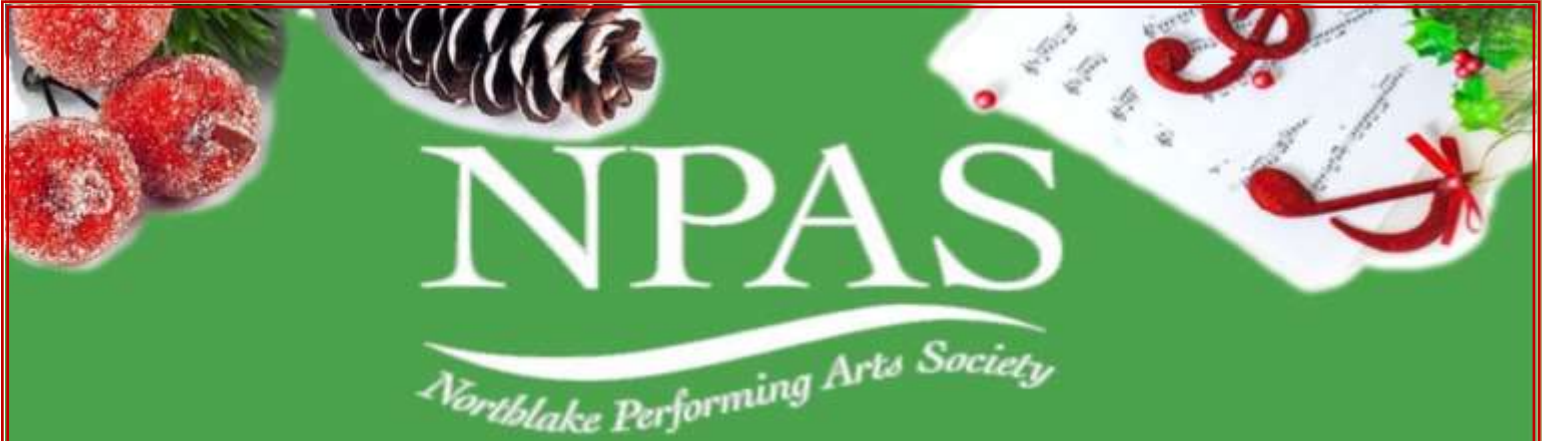
Saturday December 5, at 7pm

Hot Cocoa and Sweet Treat Reception to follow
with two very Special Guests!

Christmas At Hosanna

Christmas Eve 6pm Children and Family Service

Christmas Eve 7:30pm Worship Service



NPAS Presents "An Old-Fashioned Christmas"
Friday, December 11, 2020 @ 7:30
Hosanna Lutheran Church

Reservations are required
See 'Hosanna Happenings' for website link

**Give scrip for Christmas *and* benefit the
Youth at Hosanna Lutheran Church!**

What is Scrip: Scrip are giftcards to use at various every day businesses.

How do I buy Scrip: Purchase Scrip online at 'ShopWithScrip.com' or in the church office.

How does Scrip work: Use Scrip giftcards the same as any giftcard, and our youth group receives a percentage spent!

The gift that
gives back



For more information contact the church office or see the flyer at the Information Desk

ShopWithScrip.com

Eagle Scout Prayer Garden

Help Logan Raymond fund his Eagle Scout project. He plans to put in a Prayer Garden here at Hosanna! His goal is \$1,500.

Will be completed Dec. 12th!
(weather permitting)

BE A STAR THIS CHRISTMAS!

HELP BRING LIGHT TO
THOSE IN NEED

Sponsor a Christmas Wish List Today!

Choose a star(s) from the board in the Information Area. Purchase the wish list items, and return unwrapped by December 6th. See the flyer at the Wish Board for more information!

3 Ways to Give



ONLINE

www.hosannalutheran.com
Click 'Give' on right side




MAIL

2480 Highway 190
Mandeville, LA 70448



SMART GIVING

Text 'hosannalutheran'
to 77977

Online giving through  Pushpay

To give now, click here: www.hosannalutheran.com

Hosanna Highlights

Office Staff: Officer Manager
Grace Schneider

Secretary/Bookkeeper
Janice Robin



**The office has re-opened. The new office hours are:
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Monday - Thursday**

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 Julie Dausat (985-264-5951) or the church office (985-727-9200).



Hosanna Hot Meals

**DRIVERS ARE NEEDED.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
DELIVERING MEALS MONDAY
NIGHTS, PLEASE CONTACT
STEVE BEENE**

Every Monday
Join Hosanna and the Mandeville Community for dinner every Monday night from 5-6pm due to day light savings.
GRAB N GO ONLY RIGHT NOW

**2480 Highway 190
Mandeville, LA 70448**

Hosanna Quilters

Hosanna Quilters meets every Thursday.

For more information contact:

Debbie Coleman
(504) 905-6162



NEED PRAYER?
PRAYER REQUEST

To submit prayer requests Click [here](#): Complete the form, and submit your request.



Director:
Marilyn Boudreaux
(985) 624-5525



Hosannalutheran.com/preschool

facebook.com/hosannachristianpreschool

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dominoes Pizza Fundraiser December 16th
(see ad below)

**No Preschool Dec. 21st - 1st. We will be
returning on Jan. 4th**

**Any questions regarding the new drop off protocol,
please contact the Preschool Office at (985) 624-5525**



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



We are still collecting Community Coffee Labels

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.



A Big THANK YOU to all that participated in the Change for Cancer. We were able to donate \$344.22 to give to the Chemo Care Ministry for Christmas!

Our Food Drive



We give Thanks!



Thanksgiving Feast

Church Council

See end of the Newsletter for the Church council meeting minutes.



2020-2021 Council Members:

Teresa Abram– President
Sarah Kezar– Vice President
Doug Burbank– Treasurer
Sandy Nieto– Secretary
George Michell– Worship
Kim Dausat-Thompson–
Fellowship
Steve Beene– Ministry
Ashley Burbank– Fellowship
Rob Rhea– Evangelism

Earlier this year, the church council solicited feedback from the congregation by sending out a SWOT survey. A SWOT survey is intended to ascertain the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats of an organization. The following paragraphs summarize the results that were received from members of the congregation. From the time of the survey, circumstances have changed with the departure of Pastor Jay, but the council is actively following up on these results to improve areas that are weaknesses, reinforce areas that are strengths, pursue intriguing opportunities, and mitigate and address threats.

Response Numbers:

A SWOT survey was sent to all members of the congregation (about 500). Forty-seven (47) responses were received. Of those 47, twenty-nine (29) have been members for more than 10 years, and the responses were evenly split between the first and second service. Forty (40) of the 47 respondents are involved in one or more ministries and 24 are members of a Small Group. Responses for the preferred form of communication varied broadly: emails (29), texts (22), phone (16), social media (13), Sunday announcements (12), newsletter (9), Church Builder (2), message in a bottle (0).

Results Summary:

The survey identified several areas of **strength** that can be grouped into three broad categories: people, welcoming, and outreach. Respondents emphasized the strong sense of community, camaraderie, and friendliness amongst members. A sense of family was mentioned frequently. The people of Hosanna persevere despite problems, are inclusive, and have an established community of faith. Long term relationships and fellowship are also strengths. Hosanna is very welcoming to people. Visitor and members alike are welcomed at the door and the atmosphere is friendly and inviting to all. Another strength is Hosanna's outreach. Several programs within Hosanna were cited including the feeding ministries, Quilters, Hosanna-In-Service, and the ministry groups. The council is committed to continue supporting these areas of strength.

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The survey also identified several areas of **weakness**, specifically in the areas of communication, leadership, liberal policies, dwindling membership, and youth. Communication (lack of) was mentioned frequently as an area that needs improvement. A resistance to change, an unwillingness to address problems, and an absence of volunteerism was cited. Respondents referred to a lack of communication with church staff and a limited connection with the younger generation. Leadership was another area of weakness. Leadership was perceived as ineffective and unwelcoming of conservative views, social media posts were “off-putting, and there was a lack of direction. The survey mentioned policies of the Pastor and the ELCA as a weakness, seemingly to focus on left-leaning views and as a cause for membership departures. Finally, respondents alluded to the shrinking membership and youth as areas to work on. The council has discussed these weaknesses and is actively addressing these in the planning of 2021 activities and in the call for a new pastor.

Hosanna has many exciting **opportunities** to pursue and programs to continue. The survey identified opportunities in the areas of community need, feeding, meeting space, and small groups. The largest group of respondents mentioned community needs as an area of opportunity. These areas include our current programs (Faith gardening program and Hosanna In Service) and opportunities to pursue such as outreach to those more vulnerable or who are struggling, outreach to older adults and men, growth and improvement of the pre-school, and expansion of the Caserole Club. Another area of opportunity is our food ministry and Hosanna Hot Meals. As well, the survey suggested various means to utilize our space such as renting space to outside groups and inviting other congregations to worship. Lastly, small groups could be expanded and could include youth groups. The council is eager to examine and exploit these areas of opportunity that have been identified by the membership.

Hosanna also faces significant **threats**. One of the primary threats that the survey mentioned was member discontent. A common complaint was divisiveness over politics, beliefs and church doctrine. Other grievances included a lack of tolerance, close-mindedness, bullying and the inability to apologize. Some mentioned a feeling of club mentality and power-playing. Another main area of concern is the drop in church membership. A few respondents cited the threat from other churches, and some mentioned our building/infrastructure as a liability. The council is keenly aware of the threats imposed on HLC and is discussing means to mitigate divisiveness and to increase our membership in 2021.

The church council appreciates the feedback received from the 2020 SWOT survey. The council is committed to incorporating results of this survey so Hosanna can pursue its mission, “To proclaim the love of God to all people, so that they may know Jesus Christ, grow in faith, and follow Christ.” Please feel free to provide feedback or suggestions at any time to members of our council.

Doug Burbank
Council Treasurer



Katie Sepcich
Youth Director
youthdirector@hosannalutheran.com

It's hard to believe that it is already December! I want to congratulate everyone on making it through 2020! I am sure everyone is excited to see this year go, but I hope everyone can take a moment and pause to remember what we've been through this year. A pandemic. An unprecedented hurricane season. A presidential election. A change in our church leadership. It's been a lot and hope rather than looking back at this year with bitterness we can be incredibly proud of all we've done and all we've adjusted to. I also hope that as you look back, you can see where God has shown up in the unexpected.

One thing that I've learned this year is the Lord's ability to be creative. How He meets us where we are and can't be put in a box. All we have to do is be willing to show up. Every Monday, our teens have an opportunity to meet up and help with Hosanna Hot Meals. I've been driving a few students from Madisonville each week, so I do my virtual law school classes from Abita Roasting. Last week as I was about to start class, one of our teens came after school to sit with me and do her homework before we picked up other teens. It was a moment that under any other circumstances wouldn't have happened. It's moments like these that I am reminded of how creative God is. How this year and this season looks different than the last, but He is not limited by our circumstances. He is not exhausted like we are. He is not worried about what 2021 will look like. He is steady and trustworthy, and I hope you take time over the holidays to lean on Him and thank God for how He's creatively shown up in your life this year.

With Love,

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

Monday Night Meals
WITH
Hosanna Teens

5:00-6:15 P.M.

COME GRAB A HOSANNA HOT MEAL & HANG WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Our Teens



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



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 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.



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.

December Birthdays!



Dec 1	Joe Brocklesby	Dec 10	George Michell	Dec 21	Toni Matherne
Dec 1	Andrew Moore	Dec 11	Allee Bild	Dec 21	Maximus Johnston
Dec 1	Lisa Warren	Dec 11	Connor Ettinger	Dec 22	Zach Nichols
Dec 1	Ashlynn Elwood	Dec 12	Bill Wallace	Dec 22	Troy King
Dec 2	Jamie Wetekamm	Dec 13	Brianna Warren	Dec 23	Gray Thorpe
Dec 2	Sean Warren	Dec 13	Zachary Dale	Dec 23	April Gidman
Dec 2	Alan LeVasseur	Dec 13	Terrence Mathers	Dec 23	Walker Entzel
Dec 3	Jay Bearden	Dec 14	Kate Tournillon	Dec 23	Karter Perry
Dec 4	Stephen Wetekamm	Dec 14	Madison Horst	Dec 23	Rebecca Darga
Dec 4	Christine Cousins	Dec 14	Mary Wilson	Dec 23	A.J. Hood
Dec 5	Jake Tournillon	Dec 16	Brittany Macha	Dec 24	Cullen Campo
Dec 5	Angie Tennant	Dec 16	Katy Soong	Dec 24	Elijah Soong
Dec 5	Jacob Goodgion	Dec 16	Chris Bild	Dec 24	Glenn Giffin
Dec 6	Steven Michell	Dec 16	Maxine Eiserloh	Dec 26	Jill Burbrink
Dec 6	Holly Turgeau	Dec 17	Stacy Robertson	Dec 27	Nora Ruth
Dec 6	Teresa Abram	Dec 18	Carol Torrey	Dec 28	Hayden Helmlinger
Dec 7	Stacy Hurley	Dec 18	Karen Wohlers	Dec 28	Lena Gunn
Dec 7	Haley Dean	Dec 18	Ron Clark	Dec 29	David Schaeffer
Dec 7	Vickie Lemieux	Dec 19	Christine Johnston	Dec 30	Jonathan Davis
Dec 8	Jill Maloy	Dec 19	Ariel Moore	Dec 30	Josh Bearden
Dec 8	Shanickwa Jackson	Dec 20	Bill Kemp	Dec 30	Charlotte Lescale
Dec 9	Janet Michell	Dec 20	Reid Patterson	Dec 31	Caitlyn Williams
Dec 10	Janis Mayfield	Dec 20	Scott Watson	Dec 31	Bill Laurence
Dec 10	Charles Colbert			Dec 31	Loanne Ibele

December Anniversaries



Dec 14	Michael & Shelley Batte	Dec 27	Ginny & Martin Sirera
Dec 20	John & Karlyn Ball	Dec 29	Greg & Sharon Bennett
Dec 26	Michael & Sandy Nieto	Dec 29	David & Mable Rees
Dec 27	Bob & Linda Busfield	Dec 30	Skip & Valerie Smith
Dec 27	Yuki & Cynthia Naka	Dec 30	Sean & Lisa Warren

Hosanna Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 19, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

Quorum established.

- Present : Kim Dauzat-Thompson, Teresa Abram, Sarah Kezar, Steve Beene, Doug Burbank, George Michell, Pastor Jay Grave, Ashley Burbank, Rob Rhea and Sandy Nieto

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jay

President's Report

- Hosanna 2040 visions from council members have been collected and will help with Planning Arrow
- Security system for preschool part of campus, quote (without cameras) \$1900. Will consider once budget is discussed.
- Planning Arrow discussion in November meeting
- Kickoff: Consider Open House possible in spring

Pastor's Report

- Successes include completion and analysis of SWOT surveys, "It's Complicated" group meeting to discuss racial inequality, Wednesday morning Bible study of Acts and "Night of Praise" music .
- Pastor's submitted his resignation letter. It was read by council and discussed at length. Pastor's last day will be Nov 15, 2020. Council will be guided by Pastor Tracy Schultz who is assistant to the bishop to obtain an interim pastor and call a new pastor. Council hopes to have a shorter term for interim pastor than we did with Pastor Paul. A call committee will need to be formed with interested members.

VP Report

- Plans to help with communications

Secretary Report

- Meeting minutes: Sarah motioned to accept the last month's minutes and Steve seconded. All were in favor.
- Tammany Utilities working up a quote for us in the next 3 weeks for connection to water and sewer,

Worship

- Re-instituting readers and lighting of candles. This will be on video which may entice people to come back to church
- Consider services at 9(traditional) and 11(contemporary), with Sunday school and Adult Bible study 10-11, or perhaps Traditional at 9, adult Bible study 10-11, and Contemporary service at 11 with Sunday School 11-12 for grades K-6.

Discipleship

- Ashley will look for Sunday School curriculum

Ministry

- Last week HHM served its 10,000 meal!
- Working on grant for 45 fruit trees
- Working on grant for new kitchen equipment
- Rob motioned to approve \$934 to get the water to the FAITH boxes, George seconded. All were in favor.

Fellowship

- Baby Shower for Grace is Nov. 1st
- Women's night in scheduled Nov 6th
- Christmas gathering to occur on Night of Praise in December 5, hopefully with Christmas lights set up around FAITH garden and parking lot.

Evangelism

- Started putting together materials for a booth or table to bring to events

Treasurer

- Congregational Budget Meeting on Nov 8. Council needs to have budget ready by then.
- \$75,000 projected shortfall projected for 2020 (Income minus expenses).
- Member giving has significantly declined this year. There is \$144,000 shortfall from actual member giving compared to what was budgeted for 2020.
- Lengthy , line by line, discussion of budget. Some expenditures were decreased or cut. Budget will be presented to the congregation and will be voted on November 8, 2020 at the annual Congregational Budget Meeting.

Rob motioned to adjourn meeting and George seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sandy Nieto