

Raising faith in

The Backyard

with a passion for generous stewardship ■ February 2010

What is God's purpose for Hosanna?

Why do we do what we do? This is what we try to capture in a few words called a "mission statement." A required portion of our Hosanna Constitution states that we must adopt a mission statement:

*** C4.05. This congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.**

The mission statement in Hosanna's original bylaws was:

Our mission as a congregation is to be a vehicle through which God carries on his work in the world and in which he confronts people in every age. We are the Body of Christ, proclaiming the Gospel and engaging in his mission to the world which includes fellowship, education and service of mankind.

The constitutional provision also encourages us to change the mission statement "from time to time". After the ELCA was formed, Hosanna revised its constitution and bylaws in 1995, and re-worded the mission statement to be clearer and updated in language:

As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hosanna's mission is to be the body of Christ in our community and throughout the world, spreading the Good News of the Gospel, and showing our love for God through worship, education, fellowship and service.

In January 2002, we made changes to our Constitution and Bylaws in order to implement the "God's Servants, Working Together" reorganization plan. Once again, this process included a revision of the mission statement.

As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hosanna's mission is to grow to serve and praise the living Christ.

The way our 2002 mission statement was written included a listing of some of our core values, although we did not word it that way:

Keeping the presence and grace of God at the center of our lives.

Growing in our faith and sharing it with others.

Caring for each other and for our community.

Wisely managing the gifts that God has given us.

Now we are engaged in a revision process once again. Our membership and our community have changed in the 35 years since Hosanna's founding, and we want our mission statement and core values to reflect who we are today.

We want them to communicate what is important to us, and what makes us distinctive.

We want them to inform every decision we make and every dollar we spend.

We want them to inspire us to action!!

You are invited and encouraged to be part of this revision process. Let us wisely use the gifts that God has given us in our 35 years of history, and form a new way forward into the future!

— Nancy Agafitei, President

From RAMEL ARSOLON
January 09, 2011

THANK YOU SO MUCH HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH!!!

May God in heaven continue shower His blessings to all of you.

We're so happy of receiving Christmas gift packages from you. Everything is useful. It's a wonderful blessings for us. It reminds everyone why God sent His Son into this world. JESUS CHRIST as Gift for everybody.

We are glad to you Hosanna Lutheran Church people for having generous hearts and helping hands. You show good example.....How Almighty God prepares Precious Gift for everybody.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!
MORE POWER AND GOD BLESS!!!**

Ramel & Josephine Arsolon
M/T MARINEX

On December 16, a group of Hosanna Care Partners and friends from the Wednesday Morning Bible Study met with Chuck Fleming of Interfaith Care Partners for dinner at Chili's. Afterward, we adjourned to the Hosanna kitchen to pack home-made cookies for Hosanna's care partners and shut-ins.

We have been doing the cookie ministry for about 5 years and it seems to be well-received. And, it just wouldn't be Christmas without our cookie sampling!

That night several of our Care Partners received President's Volunteer Awards. It was a great way to end the year and start a "New Year of Caring."



For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25:35-40

Hands-On Evangelism

Coffee is brewing in the basement of Bethesda Lutheran Church in rural Illinois, but there's no time to drink it. The women who gather here every Wednesday have a strict quota to meet: 25 quilts before they call it a day at 3 o'clock.

"This is my church family, you know, the family of God." Bernice Janssen said. "It is a type of evangelism, and it is a type of reaching out. And so as our quilts leave us, they go many, many places. So they are reaching out. We are touching someone, someplace. Each quilt they make by hand is a reminder that someone, somewhere, cared enough to create a gift of warmth and beauty. If someone would say to me that I'm a hero or that we are heroes for what we do down here, I think we would all say, oh no, we just are doing what is good for us, which we like to do, and fortunately it's helping somebody else. My faith is what I try to live, and so maybe just coming down here and doing."

Kayle Frock responded, "When my father found out that I was involved he couldn't believe it, because all these years he had made me go and help. And he couldn't believe I was attending it myself and wanting to do it and enjoying it. So he thought it was great.

Last year, the women of Bethesda Lutheran made 1,195 quilts. In 2009, ELCA congregations across the country shared approximately 220,000 quilts with people in need around the world. This includes our own Hosanna Quilters — Nerisa McConnell, Dorothy Petersen, Nancy Wunsche, Judy Rhodes, Barbara Dejmajal and Lynne Coles — who make about one quilt per month. The quilts are given to children, families and individuals served by area social service organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Interfaith Hospitality Network Homeless Recovery Program, Domestic Violence Programs and Children's Clinic.

Hosanna's Quilters also participate in the Interfaith Charity Quilting Bee, held this year on Saturday, February 19, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 16535 Kleinwood Drive, 9 AM-1 PM.

During worship on Sunday, February 13, we send the latest batch of quilts out with a proper blessing.

Glimpses of Grace 2011

Year-to-Date

Through January 31, 2011:

World Hunger **\$80.00**

African Initiative:

WomenCraft **\$7,700.00**

Kagera Scholarship Fund

Buffalo Wings Fundraiser **\$600.00**

Benevolence **\$1,989.37**

Helping Hands **\$50.00**

Mission of the Month Gifts:

January—WomenCraft **\$775.57**

Helping Hands

January: Two families received money for assistance; Four individuals received items from the food pantry.

Helping Hands Fund balance on hand: **\$587.57**

Members of the Hosanna Care Team gather to pack homemade cookies for Hosanna's care partners and shut-ins.



Sampling the cookies before packing them in plastic tubs (need to make sure their good enough to send out!)



Through the Back Gate

Growing to serve and praise the living Christ.

Dream - Something that somebody hopes, longs, or is ambitious for, usually something difficult to attain or far removed from present circumstances.

Vision - The ability to anticipate possible future events and developments.

Renew - To give somebody or something new energy, strength, or enthusiasm.

Look back 5-7 years and ask:

Has our community changed?

Has Hosanna's congregation changed?

Has your family changed in what they want and need?

Have you changed regarding what you want and need?

What were you focusing on in this congregation?

Now, think about 5-7 years in the future:

What do you think our community will look like and what will they need from us?

What does Hosanna's congregation look like?

What should Hosanna be focusing on?

Has your family's needs and yours changed?

I would venture to say that life has changed in many ways and will do so in the future as well.

Do you have dreams of what the future will be for Hosanna? Do you think that what we are now will respond to the needs of the future? Will our current Mission Statement and Core Values fulfill God's purpose for Hosanna in the future?

The Mission Focus Team has begun the quest to renew the Hosanna dream/vision by looking at our current Mission Statement and Core Values. We are trying to determine if God's purpose can be accomplished as Hosanna *was* and *is*. We are seeding new thoughts and asking this congregation to prayerfully think about the future. I ask you to look at this congregation not as it was but as it may need to be. One of our next steps is to seek input from "Forming Our Future" Retreat in March, 2011. Every one of you will have an opportunity to eventually participate in the Mission Focus of Hosanna.

This is an exciting time for Hosanna. We have disciples who want to renew, dream and develop our vision so we are here to minister to God's people in all their needs in the future.

Pat Gibbons

VP/Mission Focus Team Leader