

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Hosanna Hotline

Monthly Newsletter of Hosanna Lutheran Church - October 2011

Serving God, Changing Lives -- 365.

October Highlights

Saturday, October 1
10:00 AM - Blessing of
the Animals

Sunday, October 2
Equal Exchange Coffee
Sunday
11:30 AM - Church
Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 4
7:00 PM - Care Team
Meeting

Saturday, October 8
Seniors Trip - West
Houston East Asian Tour

Sunday, October 9
11:30 AM - Core Values
Discussion with Lunch

Monday, October 10
Columbus Day - Office
Closed

Wednesday, October 12
5:30 PM - WELCA
Board Meeting

Thursday, October 13
3:00 PM - Bishop's
Worship Excellence
Team Meeting-Synod
Office

God's Purpose for Hosanna The Next Steps

God has spoken through the people of Hosanna, and we selected a purpose statement during the worship service on September 18:

Serving God, Changing Lives -- 365.

Although this purpose is "new," looking back over Hosanna's history shows us that God has been leading Hosanna in this direction for many years. The original mission statement when the congregation began in 1976 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.

Revision and updating of the mission statement was done in 1995:

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.

When the congregation decided to do a major building program in 1999, the theme we chose for the capital campaign was "Growing to Serve."

Major changes were made to Hosanna's leadership structure in 2002, with a reorganization plan called "God's Servants, Working Together." The new mission statement adopted at that time was:

October 14-16
1st Communion Retreat
at Lutherhill

Sunday, October 16
Mission of the Month
Noisy Offering:
Seafarers Gift Boxes
11:30 AM - Core Values
Discussion with Lunch

Saturday, October 22
8:00 AM Annual Fall
Classic Golf Tournament
6:00 PM Book
Discussion

Sunday, October 23
Blessing of Driver's
Licenses

Saturday, October 29
Annual Fall Festival with
BBQ Cook-off

Sunday, October 30
Reformation Sunday

Monday, October 31
Reformation Day
Halloween.

Quick Links

Hosanna Website

Weekly Cyberline

I'm New to Hosanna:
Find Hosanna



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

Hosanna's Congregation Council has always had either a Christian Service Committee or a Care Team as part of its structure. The congregation has been searching for a way to reach out and impact our community through our service. The new purpose statement pulls this all together. Through our service, we will change lives -- our own lives and the lives of those in our community and beyond. The addition of the "365" adds our commitment to do this every day of the year, in our families, in our volunteering, in our schools, and in our worklife.

If you haven't noticed it before, pay attention to the sign over the door the next time you leave the worship space. It has been there for several years, and it says "We go to serve." This is literally "a sign" that the Spirit has led us to discern God's purpose for Hosanna.

The Next Step

Our next step is to articulate the guiding principles that will help us focus and make decisions as we work toward fulfilling God's purpose. Using input from our current documents and from our recent small group sessions, we will continue our congregational conversation together. Please plan to be part of this process by attending a 90-minute session on either Sunday, October 9 or Sunday, October 16 after the worship service. The Mission Focus Team will serve lunch so there is no need to bring anything except a willingness to actively engage in congregational renewal.

Hosanna Constitution Revision -- Official Notification:

To make the new Purpose Statement, "Serving God, c Changing Lives -- 365," an official part of the Hosanna bylaws, the congregation will need to vote to adopt the change at the November congregational meeting.

The current wording is:

C4.05.01 As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hosanna's mission is to grow to serve and praise the living Christ. We are God's servants, working together to keep the presence and grace of God at the center of our lives; to grow in our faith and share it with others both within and outside of our congregation; to care for each other and for our community, and to wisely

manage the gifts that God has given us.

The proposed new wording is:

C4.05.01 As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hosanna's mission is "Serving God, changing lives - 365." We are God's servants, working together to keep the presence and grace of God at the center of our lives; to grow in our faith and share it with others both within and outside of our congregation; to care for each other and for our community, and to wisely manage the gifts that God has given us.



Generous Giving Provides Hosanna Growth Opportunities

During the first year of the Forward With Faith debt reduction campaign (6/1/09 - 5/31/10) your gifts enabled Hosanna to make \$130,000 advance principal payments to reduce mortgage debt. During this period Hosanna debt was reduced from \$771,823 to \$597,038. Since signing the original Promissory Note of \$1,550,000 February 28, 2001, your giving has allowed Hosanna to make advance principal payments totaling \$615,000.

Your generous giving has allowed Hosanna to retire our mortgage sooner which reduces the total cost of the facility. Our lenders estimated our advance payments have saved Hosanna approximately \$147,000 of interest thru May 31, 2010.

During the second year of Forward With Faith (6/1/10 - 5/31/11) Hosanna negotiated a restructured mortgage commencing October 21, 2010 at a 5.75% interest rate.

On July 17, 2011 the Building Finance Committee reviewed the Forward With Faith financial condition and approved an additional \$25,000 prepayment of principal. This will leave a July 31, 2011 loan balance of approximately \$525,000.

Currently monthly mortgage payments are \$5,726. For the 12 months ended May 31, 2011 Forward With Faith monthly receipts averaged \$7,436. Monthly receipts of \$8,434 will be needed to retire our mortgage loan by September 21, 2017, coinciding with the date our present mortgage interest rate resets. The maturity date of the existing mortgage is May 21, 2022.

Maintaining monthly receipts of \$8,434 will provide Hosanna an opportunity to pay-off the existing mortgage five years early and save additional interest expense. Your continued gifts will retire our mortgage early and will allow us to

celebrate our second burning of a mortgage.

Future Hosanna programs without a mortgage will provide financial resources to expand our Christian Stewardship ventures.

We Thank You for your Generous Giving and continued financial support to reduce our mortgage early and provide extensive opportunities for Hosanna to expand serving our community needs.

Hosanna Building Finance Committee

Family Life

- **Kids' Church** continues the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month, led by our favorite twins, Angela and Monica Martin.
- **Fourth Sunday of the month is Hosanna's Worship and Mentoring Sunday.** Please let Amber Walker know if your child would like to participate in worship.
- **CREW**
 - Bible Study every Sunday at 9:00 AM in the CREW Room (except the 1st Sunday of the month when they meet for breakfast at Denny's on FM 1960).
 - CREW will chose one servant event at the breakfast (Lutherhill cleanup is planned for October).
 - First CREW fundraiser begins in October. Each youth will be asked to sell "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets. 200 have been ordered to raise funds for next year's youth gathering (possible proceeds of \$720)
- **Children who love to sing** and play instruments are welcome to join the fun every Sunday morning.
 - Students in grade 7 meet in the choir room from 8:45-9:00 AM
 - Students in Kindergarten - 6th grade meet from 9:00-9:45 AM.
 - Come and make a joyful noise!!
- **Confirmation Sunday School**, with Ken Loudermilk, meets at 9:00 AM in Classroom 9.
- Confirmation Instruction - Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 PM.
- **Every month, there will be outreach events** for ALL youth and families, alternating between service and fellowship:
 - Sunday, October 16 (following worship): families are asked ti bring items to make bags for those in need. They will be available for all Hosanna members to take and pass out as needed. See the sign up.

Future events:

- Annual Advent Workshop is Sunday, November 20 at 6:00 PM.
- December - Families will gather after worship to wrap the Seaman's Boxes.
- Camp Lutherhill is coming June 10, 2012. Registration opens in November. A \$100 deposit is due October 31. Make checks payable to "Hosanna Camps" and give it to Amber.

Upcoming Lutherhill Retreats:

- 1st Communion Retreat is October 14-16
- Family Fall Retreat is November 4-6
- Junior High Retreat is November 18-20
- Upper Elementary Retreat Advent Retreat is December 2-3

Go to Lutherhill.org for information. See Amber to register.

Events of Note in October

Parent-Grandparent Learning Exchange
Part of the 2011 Faith Together Parenting Workshop Series
October 1 - November 19

Join other people in this pilot project as we learn from each other in directed conversation.

This 5-week series will be offered in 11 locations around the synod beginning the first week in October. Each session is just 1 1/2 hours.

Each week you will deepen your own understanding of our faith in Jesus Christ and our part as adults in passing on our faith in our households. You will also receive over \$100 worth of great resources, tons of activities to do with your children and networking time with people in your season of life.

The cost for this Learning Exchange is \$50 for two people from each household.

[Register now!](#) The nearest location to Hosanna is Kinsmen Lutheran. Other area locations: Spirit of Joy in The Woodlands and Holy Comforter in Kingwood,

The annual **Fall Classic Golf Tournament** will be Saturday October 22 at Bear Creek Masters Golf Course, 16001 Clay Road, Houston; phone 281-859-8188. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM.

The tournament is open to all high school youth who golf

and men and women adult golfers from Hosanna or Kinsmen and their friends. We will play a scramble format where each player hits a golf ball and the team selects the best shot. Each team member shoots their next shot from the same spot. Cost per player is \$56 which includes your greens fee, cart, free range balls and a hamburger buffet lunch immediately following the tournament.

Form your own foursomes. Individual trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place team members. There will also be two longest drive contest holes for men and two longest drive contest holes for women. On each of the four par three holes there will be a closest to the pin contest. Winners will be awarded prizes after lunch.

See the sign-up poster starting Sunday, September 4 and form your team as soon as possible. Pay golf fee to Bob McConnell in cash or a check made out to "Men of Hosanna." Deadline is Sunday October 16. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you have any questions, contact Bob McConnell: home 281-440-5432, cell: 832-541-5432.

October Book Discussion

Saturday, October 22, 6:00 PM

Title to be Discussed: **"Same Kind of Different As Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore.**

Summary: This is the emotional true story of a homeless man, an international art dealer, and the praying woman who brought them together.

Everyone who enjoys reading and discussing what they have read is invited to come to this session. Those who wish adjourn to a local restaurant after the gathering to continue the discussion. For more information, contact Nancy Agafitei at nancy.agafitei@gmail.com

Reformation and All that Jazz 2011

Friday, October 28th, 6:30-10pm
Cadillac Grill, 1802 Shepherd, Houston

An evening of fellowship, dinner, and dancing featuring Jazz Sunday! Event proceeds will support the ministries of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

Each congregation is encouraged to donate a themed basket (for example, a wine basket, movie themed basket, be creative!) to be auctioned at the event. Contact Pastor Steve Quill for more information.

Tickets are \$35. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets or to make a donation in honor of someone/an organization for the event.



Annual Fall Festival

Saturday, October 29, 3:00- 6:00 PM

This year's event features a Barbecue Cook-Off. Nueva Vision will join us and the Eckenroht Elementary School community is being invited to participate, as well. There also will be a costume parade, Trunk or Treat, moon walk and more.

Looking Farther Ahead

Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering Called! Equipped! Sent!

July 22-24, 2012 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Our vision for the 2011 Lutheran Men's Gathering is that every man attending would be a new man in Jesus Christ, living a life that makes a difference. And, our vision is that every man will leave the Gathering with the tools and inspiration to do just that. For more information and to register go to lutheranmeninmission.org

Hosanna Seniors Tour the Heights

This past Tuesday (September 27), 22 of Hosanna's fifty-plusers toured Houston's Heights district, Houston's oldest planned community (circa 1890). Originally a very small area, it was annexed to the city of Houston in 1918. Why is it called the "Heights"? After all Houston is described in one guidebook as "flat, flat, flat." Well, according to our guide, Dean Swanson, the Heights is 63 feet above sea level, some 30 feet higher than downtown. There are actually six homes in the Heights with basements, which do not flood.

Here are some pictorial highlights of the day:



One of many well-preserved homes in the Heights. Some Interesting facts: The Houston Heights passed a prohibition on alcoholic beverages in 1912, and the annexation agreement followed by the city of Houston stipulates that the Heights remain "dry." Furthermore, the Heights is said to be home to the highest concentration of professional artists in Texas. (We saw several artist's homes/galleries, one with white theater masks imbedded in a side wall, another with a painting of a young girl on the front wall).



Bonnie and Clyde stayed in this residence for a time (or so Dean told us).



A few of the hundreds of antique phones at the Telephone Museum, donated by a private collector. The Heights also is home to the Art Car Museum.



Two of the huge white president sculptures by David Adickes at the Adickes SculpturWorx Studio off I-10 in the Heights. You can get up close and personal with several presidents (Lincoln, Obama, Bush Sr., Jackson, Truman, Roosevelt and more). Most are behind a locked chain-link fence, but you can still see them easily. In case you're interested, the address is 2500 Summer St.

Hosanna Lutheran Church | 16526 Ella Blvd. | Houston, TX 77090
Sunday Adult Education - 9 AM
Sunday Worship with Kids Church and Communion - 10 AM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - 10 AM

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to dalebargmann@sbcglobal.net by dalebarg@att.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Hosanna Lutheran Church | 16526 Ella Blvd. | Houston | TX | 77090