

Hosanna Hotline

Monthly Newsletter of Hosanna Lutheran Church

July 2010

Growing to serve and praise the living Christ

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July 4-9 - CREW Mission Trip to Washington DC.

Andrew Greer
Anna Brown
Chelsey Oden
Emma Hartmann
Amber Walker
Pastor John

Bits and Pieces from around Hosanna and the Community

July 11 is Equal Exchange Coffee Sunday

July:

Worship-education schedule continues:

Adult education @ 9 AM

Worship with Communion @ 10 AM

Fellowship gathering following worship

Everyone... please wear your name tags.

Also: The Food Pantry in the north narthex is empty due to an increasing number of individuals and families seeking aid. Please bring non-perishable food items when you come to worship. Also, Hosanna's Helping Hands Fund is totally depleted.

A Quiet Grounding in a Home Abuzz

by Georgia Bargmann

Stumped for where to go on vacation this year? I recommend central Illinois.

It's flat, it's filled with one farm after another, and real excitement is going to the single-screen movie theater a few towns down the road. But, hey, I had a great time when we visited a couple months ago.

That's because, 51 years later, I got to see the town, population 900, where I spent my first few years.

I was so excited I stumbled over my words. I sang "That same small town in each of us" over and over. You know, from the Don Henley song? (Not your generation? Ah, well....)

Meanwhile, my husband's eyes glazed over, and my son kept making the sign for "go." They just don't know how to have fun.

Name a small-town cliché, and Stonington, Illinois filled the bill. Everyone knew everyone. When you started a new grade in school, the teacher probably already knew your mom. There were no stoplights, only a handful of stop signs, and no numbers on the houses. And yes, it's true; most people didn't bother locking those houses.

My home life wasn't quite ordinary, though.

Our house was on the edge of town, but it was "party central." People came and went at every hour. There was a gathering, often quite loud,

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Today, they continue to find new and powerful ways to build a better food system. We partner with co-operatives of farmers who provide high-quality organic coffees, teas, chocolates and snacks from all over the world, including here in the United States.

We invite you to join us. Together we can create stronger local communities, a more just food system and a healthier planet.

[Equal Exchange Website and News](#)

almost every night.



Our house now is home to a couple with a 4-year-old. Even so, it probably is a lot quieter than it used to be.

Daddy's business meant he brought home a lot of cash. Of course, everyone knew this. If Mama spotted a prowler casing the house on a night that Daddy wasn't home, she'd grab one of the handy loaded guns kept in every room, lean out a window, and shoot up in the air.

(If you wanted peace and quiet, you went to Grandma and Grandpa's house two blocks down the street.)

You might think a small child in Mama and Daddy's household would receive almost no guidance. After all, it was kind of a wild place, in its own fashion.

Mama made sure that wasn't true.

My mama, Ruth Styer Collenberger

There were a few times that Mama, who smiled and laughed a lot, became extremely serious.

Here's one. Mama sat me down on our living room sofa. She said I should listen carefully to what she had to say, and always remember it. She asked, "How does the Lord's Prayer start?" I shrugged and said, "Our Father who art in heaven." Mama said, "Our Father means God. Who art means who is. In heaven -- you know about heaven."

"OK, then what?" she asked. "Hallowed be thy name." She broke it down, word by word. "Then?" "Thy will be done." Again, Mama explained.

And so forth, through the entire prayer.

I guess you can learn some important things, even in the party-harriest house in Stonington, Illinois.

What episodes in your life contributed to your faith journey? What joys or difficulties have you encountered? How has your family life, schooling or work been memorable? Let other members of Hosanna



know! Please contact [Dale Bargmann](#).

Highlights - Congregation Meeting, June 6, 2010

Pastor John advised the congregation that the New Vision Church of God had requested they share a mission with Hosanna. Some members of New Vision, including Pastor Javier, were present at the meeting. Pastor John and Pastor Javier shared information about the New Vision church and their needs, expectations and past experiences. Pastor Javier and his congregation left the meeting and a motion was made to allow New Vision to use Hosanna's facilities at designated times. Motion carried.

The following were elected to fill open church council positions:

President: Nancy Agafitei
VP/Mission Focus Team Leader: Pat Gibbons
Lay Leadership Team Leader: Brach Waldo
Staff Support Team Leader: Valerie Oden
Financial Management Team Leader: Mark Chaney

Pastor John discussed Hosanna's finances for the period of January through April 2010. Giving has been lower than expected and the cash surplus recorded on January 1st has been depleted.

Katie Phillips, representing the Lay Leadership team, presented servant awards to 15 people, along with crosses made by John Gabrielson, in recognition of "the gifts they freely share."

Maureen Kennedy
Secretary

Independence Day Quiz

1. Which of the following did not sign the Declaration of Independence?
 - a) Samuel Adams
 - b) Benjamin Franklin
 - c) John Hancock
 - d) George Washington
2. Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner, the national anthem of the United States?
 - a) John Philip Sousa
 - b) Francis Scott Key
 - c) Katharine Lee Bates
 - d) Samuel Francis Smith
3. Which of the following was not one of the thirteen original colonies?
 - a) Georgia
 - b) Virginia
 - c) Vermont
 - d) Massachusetts
4. The "midnight ride" of which American patriot was later immortalized by poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow?
 - a) John Hancock
 - b) Samuel Adams
 - c) Joseph Warren
 - d) Paul Revere
5. After losing New York City to the British, which icy river did George Washington and his men cross in the winter of 1776 in a prelude to a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison?
 - a) Hudson River

- b) Potomac River
- c) Connecticut River
- d) Delaware River

6. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?

- a) Benjamin Franklin
- b) George Washington
- c) Thomas Jefferson
- d) John Adams

7. What happened on July 4, 1776?

- a) The first battle of the Revolutionary War was fought.
- b) The Second Continental Congress declared independence from Britain.
- c) The wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress.
- d) The Declaration of Independence was signed.

8. According to legend, who sewed the first American flag?

- a) Dolly Madison
- b) Martha Washington
- c) Eleanor Roosevelt
- d) Betsy Ross

9. The Second Continental Congress met in which city to draft The Declaration of Independence?

- a) Boston, MA
- b) New York, NY
- c) Baltimore, MD
- d) Philadelphia, PA

10. In 1773, what was thrown into Boston Harbor as a protest against taxes?

- a) Coffee
- b) Tea
- c) Tobacco
- d) Cotton

11. Which European power did not fight on the side of the colonists in the Revolutionary War?

- a) Spain
- b) France
- c) The Netherlands
- d) Germany

12. Which state was admitted to the union in 1876, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence?

- a) Missouri
- b) Utah
- c) Colorado
- d) Minnesota

13. What fictional president, played by actor Martin Sheen in the TV series "West Wing," was named for a signatory of the Declaration of Independence?

- a) James Marshall
- b) William Thornton
- c) Josiah Bartlett
- d) Andrew Shepherd

1. The correct answer is "d," George Washington, who was already in the field fighting for independence.
2. The correct answer is "b," Francis Scott Key, who observed the bombardment of the American forces at Fort McHenry from a ship during the Battle of Baltimore the night of September 13-

September 14, 1814. When the smoke cleared, Key saw an American flag still waving and reported this to the prisoners below deck. On his return to Baltimore, he was inspired to write a poem describing his experience, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," published in the September 20, 1814 edition of the Patriot. He intended to fit his poem to the melody of "[To Anacreon in Heaven](#)," an English drinking song written by John Stafford Smith. It became known as "The Star Spangled Banner."

3. The correct answer is "c," Vermont was not one of the thirteen original colonies. It joined the Union March 4, 1791.
4. The correct answer is "d." Paul Revere, a prosperous Boston silversmith, was celebrated after his death for his role as a messenger in the battles of Lexington and Concord. He helped organize an intelligence and alarm system to keep watch on the British military.
5. The correct answer is "d," Delaware River. Washington's dangerous winter crossing, December 25, 1776, was the first move in a successful surprise attack against Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey.
6. The correct answer is "c," Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence opens with what has been called one of the best-known sentences in the English language and the most potent and consequential words in American history: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It has often been used to promote the rights of marginalized groups, and came to represent for many people a moral standard for which the United States should strive.
7. The correct answer is "c." The wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved July 4, 1776. The signing date has been disputed. Most historians have concluded that the actual signing took place August 2, 1776, a month after the Declaration's adoption, and not July 4th as is commonly believed.
8. The correct answer is "d." Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress and upholsterer, is credited with making the first American flag. In 1870, Ross's grandson, William J. Canby, read a paper before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in which he claimed that in June of 1776, George Washington visited his grandmother's Philadelphia shop. According to Canby, he brought a rough sketch of a striped flag with thirteen six-pointed stars in a blue field. Ross folded a piece of paper into neat triangles, and "with a single clip of the scissors" produced a five-pointed star. Within days, she completed the first American flag. In fact, there is little to support Canby's story. Washington was at the front when he is supposed to have visited Ross, and the design of the flag was not fixed that early in history. However, Betsy Ross did make flags for the new nation; in 1777 she received payment from the Pennsylvania State Navy Board for making ships' flags.
9. The correct answer is "d," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which served as the first capital of the United States.
10. The correct answer is "b," Tea. Boston officials refused to return three shiploads of taxed tea to Britain. A group of colonists boarded the ships and destroyed the tea by throwing it into Boston Harbor. The Tea Party was the culmination of a resistance movement against the Tea Act, passed by the British Parliament in 1773. Colonists objected to the Tea Act because they believed it violated their right to be taxed only by their elected representatives.
11. The correct answer is "d," Germany. Spain, France and the Netherlands all fought against Great Britain in the Revolutionary War. Hessian soldiers from Germany fought with the British.
12. The correct answer is "c." Colorado was granted statehood August 1, 1876, and nicknamed the "Centennial State."

13. The correct answer is "c," Josiah Bartlett. Martin Sheen played Democratic President Josiah "Jed" Bartlett on the television series "West Wing," which ran for 7 seasons on NBC. Both the fictional and real-life Bartletts were from New Hampshire.

The Global Church

ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Gaza Ship Convoy Incident on May 31.

Expressing regret for the deaths and injuries that resulted when Israeli military forces intercepted a ship convoy seeking to deliver humanitarian goods to Gaza, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), called for "a full, international and independent investigation into the matter," in a June 1 public statement. Read more at www.elca.org/news. Read the full statement at <http://www.elca.org/bishop/messages>. Find other statements, analysis and background information about Israel/Palestine, including Gaza, at www.elca.org/peacenotwalls.

Learn about the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land at www.elca.org/israelpalestine. Also: <http://www.elcjh.org>.

Did you know that there are five Lutheran congregations in Israel/Palestine? They are:

- *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope of Ramallah*
- *Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation of Beit Jala*
- *Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer of Jerusalem*
- *Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church of Amman, Jordan*
- *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Beit Sahour*
- *Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church of Bethlehem*

For the Sake of the World: ELCA Global Ministries

A concise six-minute video at www.elca.org/handyresources introduces ministries that make a world of difference: ELCA Mission Support, Missionary Sponsorship and World Hunger. View and share the presentation to better understand "who does what," how we work together and where to learn more.

The Lazarus Effect

Have you seen "The Lazarus Effect?" Find out how 40 cents a day can save someone's life. Watch the 31-minute film on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...), then donate online at www.elca.org/aids to support life-saving HIV and AIDS ministry around the world.

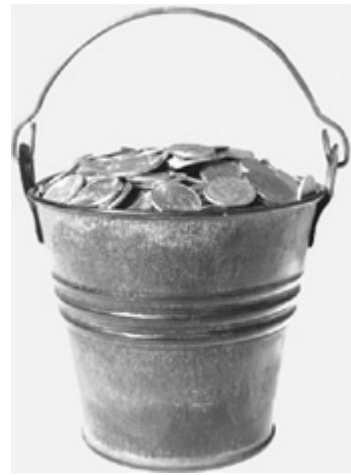
Mission of the Month "Noisy Offering" Sunday, June 20 Northwest Assistance Ministries Back to School Drive

This month we are supporting NAM's Back to School Drive. Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) is seeking cash donations to provide needy children with basic school supplies and clothing to help prepare them for school in the fall. Last year, NAM helped over 2,200 students from the Spring, Klein, Aldine and Cy-Fair school districts. More than 80 percent of Aldine Independent School District students, over 65 percent of Spring ISD students, 35 percent of Cy-Fair and 31 percent of Klein ISD students are economically disadvantaged, according to Texas Education Agency reports. For young people to start this school year feeling good

about themselves and ready to learn, they need the required school supplies and clothing.

A donation of \$55 provides supplies, clothing and shoes for one student. Supplies and clothing vouchers will be distributed to pre-screened families. Donations will help make a difference in the lives of area children in need, and there is no shortage of need. Last year Hosanna provided funds to assist 12 children. Let's help 15 (or more) children this year!

So save your spare change and extra dollars for Sunday, July 18 to support NAM's Back-to-School Drive.

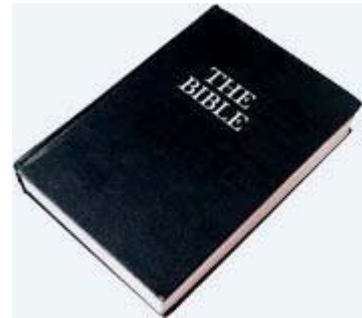


Make some noise, and make a difference in the World!

The Bible: Some Things You May Not Know

It took hundreds of years to write the Bible

Starting with Moses and ending with John, God inspired the writers of the Bible to record important histories, traditions, songs, wise sayings, poetry and prophesy. All told, from the first stories in Genesis to the final visions of Revelation, the Bible was formed over a span of 800 to 1,400 years.



There are multiple creation accounts in the Bible

There are actually several different creation accounts scattered throughout the Bible -- two in Genesis alone -- and each paints a different picture. In [Genesis 1:1-2:3](#), God starts big and creates the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Then it describes the transformation of creation in six days from chaos to a state of order that culminates with the creation of two humans in God's own image. The second narrative, in [Genesis 2:4-25](#), tells of God forming the first man, Adam, from dust, then planting a garden, then forming animals and birds for him to name, and finally, creating the first woman, Eve, to be his wife.

There are even more creation stories. [Psalm 104](#) says that God "set the earth on its foundations" then set everything in motion. In [Psalm 74:13ff](#), monsters are on the scene: God "split open the sea" "broke the heads of the monster in the sea" and "crushed the heads of the Leviathan," monstrous forces of chaos, to create a safe, orderly place. Other creation accounts are in [Job 38](#) and [Proverbs 9](#).

Two biblical books never mention God.

One is the book of Esther, the story of Jewish survival in the face of attempted genocide. The second is the Song of Songs which is essentially a collection of love poetry. Both books were controversial additions to the biblical canon. Esther is the only book of the Old Testament not represented in the Dead Sea Scrolls, suggesting the the Qumran community did not view it as scripture. One thing that helped these books "make the cut" was seeing God working behind the scenes. And

many have interpreted the Song of Songs as an allegory about the loving relationship between God and Israel, or Christ and the church.

The gospels differ

Each of the four gospels in the New Testament offers a unique perspective and interpretation of the story of Jesus, like four witnesses describing the same event. Often, they disagree on details. For example, each names different witnesses to the empty tomb and there are two different accounts of the death of Judas.

Although every gospel is unique, three -- Matthew, Mark, and Luke -- also have things in common. They share much of the same content, sometimes even word for word. Yet each is also very different. Mark is the shortest of the three, and because Matthew and Luke include most of it, scholars conclude that Mark was the earliest gospel (about 70 AD) and that Matthew and Luke both used it as a source. But Matthew and Luke also share a good deal of other material that is not part of Mark, mostly the sayings of Jesus. Therefore scholars, hypothesize that Matthew and Mark got that material from a shared source that was a collection of Jesus' sayings known as Q, for the German *Quelle*, "source."

The Bible is not a book

While your Bible looks like a book, it really isn't. It's a collection of books. In fact, the English word "Bible" is from the Latin *biblia*, from the Greek phrase *ta biblia*, literally "little papyrus books," derived from *bublos*, "papyrus," from the ancient Phoenician city of Byblos which exported this writing material. Saint Jerome, a Latin translator, had another name for it: *bibliotheca*, or "library." That just may be the best way to think of it.

How did these various pieces come to be regarded as Scripture by Jewish and, later, Christian communities? No committees sat down to decree what was or was not a holy book. To some degree, the process of Scripture-making, or canonization as it is often called (from the Greek word *kanon*, a "measuring rod"), and several criteria were used to "measure" or determine if a book was part of the canon:

1. Was the author an apostle or have a close connection with an apostle?
2. Was the book accepted by the body of Christ at large?
3. Did the book contain consistency of doctrine and teaching?
4. Did the book show evidence of high moral and spiritual values that reflected the work of the Holy Spirit?

Have you ever read the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation?

Here is a handy guide [to print](#). Each daily scripture reading in this chart has been developed to assist you in your goal of reading the entire Bible in one year (about 30 minutes and 3 chapters per day). Two hints to help you reach your goal: Find a partner to encourage you and read the Bible as early in the day as possible.

Hosanna Lutheran Church General Fund March 31, 2010

2010 Spending Priorities

Critical Spending Priorities: \$347,633

Average Quarterly Amount: \$86,908

Critical & High Spending Priorities: \$375,863

Average Quarterly Amount: \$93,966
Total Spending Priorities: \$415,748
Average Quarterly Amount: \$103,937

General Fund Income By Quarter

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Year 2009	\$79,402	\$89,848	\$74,951	\$84,631	\$328,832
Year 2010	\$82,551				

General Fund Cash Balance By Quarter

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Year 2009				\$5,771
Year 2010	(\$1,532)			

The above report represents the status of Hosanna's General Fund as of March 31, 2010.

Spending Priorities represent the estimated costs of carrying out the ministry of Hosanna, by level of importance (critical, high, medium and low). This spending plan was approved by the congregation prior to the beginning of the year. Our focus should be on meeting critical and high priority needs; medium and low level items represent dreams for the future.

Income for the 1st quarter was insufficient to fund both critical and high priority items. To cover this shortfall, cash on hand was utilized plus a small borrowing was made from designated funds. Giving for the month of March 2010 was at its lowest level for this month since March 2006. An evaluation of the last four years shows significant variations in giving from month to month and in the same month from year to year.

Cash was also negatively impacted by an increase in electric utility costs as the result of colder weather during the first quarter of 2010 versus 2009. Costs increased \$2,356 or 30% over the same period last year. Also, salaries and benefits increased by \$2,365 or 4% over 2009. There is also a variation in the timing of some expenses versus the average as indicated in the spending priorities.

George Posey

Biblical Sites

Caesarea: Roman seat of power in Palestine

The ruins of the ancient city of Caesarea lie on the Mediterranean coast of Israel halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa. It was described in detail by the First century AD Jewish historian Josephus (Jewish Antiquities XV.331ff; Jewish War I.408ff). The capital of Palestine for almost 600 years and later a Crusader port, it was renowned for the splendor of its public buildings. It was later known as Caesarea Maritima ("Caesarea by the sea") to distinguish it from two other cities by the same name.



History

In the 5th century BC the Persians granted a section of Mediterranean coast to the Sidonians in gratitude for the aid given by the Sidonian fleet in the Persian invasion of Greece. Because of the lack of natural harbor between Sidon and Egypt, Abdashtart, king of Sidon, established an anchorage on the future site of Caesarea as a way station for merchant ships trading with Egypt. Slowly, a town developed there. After the conquest of the Palestine by Alexander the Great in 332 BC the town was occupied by Greeks and it became Stratonospyrgos or Straton's Tower (after Straton, the Greek version of Abdashtart).

Around 96 BC Straton's Tower was conquered by Hasmonean king Alexander Jannaeus (103 BC-76 BC) as part of his policy of developing a shipbuilding industry and enlarging his kingdom. When he gave residents the choice of converting to Judaism or leaving, most chose the later. Newcomers, mainly Jews from nearby Samaria, settled there and the town remained Jewish for a little over 30 years. It became non-Jewish when the Roman general Pompey conquered it in 63 BC. The Romans annexed all of Judea and Mark Antony gave it to his great love, Cleopatra. But, in 31 BC, Octavian defeated Antony in a naval battle near Actium in western Greece, and soon afterward he was named emperor (the first), with the title Augustus Caesar. In 30 BC, he awarded the Sharon coast, including Straton's Tower, to his puppet king, Herod "the Great" (ruled 40 to 4 BC).

In 22 BC, about 17 years before Jesus' birth, Herod began constructing a new walled city on the site of Straton's Tower. He spared nothing in his elaborate designs for his showcase city which he called Caesarea in honor of his benefactor, Caesar Augustus. When Caesarea was completed 12 years later, only Jerusalem outshone it in splendor.

The city featured magnificent palaces and public buildings, a large marble temple to Augustus, an amphitheater, hippodrome (seating 20,000 spectators), and a theater which was built facing the sea on the southern side of the city.

After Herod's death in 4 BC, the Roman senate granted Judea to his son, Archelaus. But he proved incompetent and, in 6 AD, he was deposed and exiled by the Romans. Henceforth the province came under direct Roman rule and Caesarea became the seat of a series of appointed governors, including the three mentioned in the Bible: Pontius Pilate, Festus and Felix.

Perhaps one of the most impressive parts of Caesarea was its huge artificial harbor, Sebastos (Greek for Augustus), with 200-foot-wide breakwaters. The southern breakwater extended out from the shore and continued northward in a graceful arc for 600 yards; the northern breakwater extended outward, perpendicular to the shore, for a distance of 250 yards to complete an enclosed harbor of 40 acres. The breakwaters were made of hydraulic concrete, a mixture of lime and volcanic ash (pozzolana) which caused it to harden underwater. Herod imported at least 44 shiploads (400 tons each) of ash for the project, the earliest known large-scale use of underwater Roman concrete technology.

As a result of this superb harbor facility -- the best, after Alexandria, in the entire eastern Mediterranean -- and its location on the main caravan route from Tyre to Egypt, Caesarea attracted numerous settlers -- both Jews and Gentiles. As a result, the city's culture was mixed. The city's Jews zealously clung to the worship of one God while abhorring the presence of numerous idols required by the religious practices of non-Jews.

Below, south breakwater of the modern harbor, a fraction the size of the original.



Below, view from the theater built by Herod at the south end of the city, the first of its kind in Israel, with a seating capacity of 3,500-4,000. Originally, there was a large stage

building that blocked the view of the sea. Visitors probably brought cushions with them to soften the stone seats. According to Flavius Josephus this was where Herod Agrippa I was struck by a fatal illness, as recounted in [Acts 12:20-25](#).



Near the theater Herod built an elegant palace at a unique location -- on a rock promontory jutting out into the sea. Josephus called it a "most magnificent palace." Excavations have revealed a large complex, measuring 360 x 196 feet. It featured a nearly Olympic-size fresh-water pool that jugged out into the Mediterranean from the shoreline. A statue once stood in the center and it was surrounded by roofed porticoes. The palace was the official residence of the Roman provincial governors throughout the Roman period, as attested to by two columns with Greek and Latin inscriptions naming governors of the province of Judea. Paul may have been imprisoned on the grounds of this palace ([Acts 23:35](#)), which has been partially restored for visitors (below).



Below, replica of an inscription with the name "Pontius

Pilatus," discovered in 1961. The block had been reused in a stairway of the theater. The Roman prefect (governor) had his official residence in Caesarea and is best known for his part in the trial of Jesus. The inscription records Pilate's dedication of a temple to emperor Tiberias around 26-36 AD. Part is missing, but a suggested restoration reads: "Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judaea, made and dedicated the Tiberieum to the Divine Augustus."



To celebrate the opening of the city Herod built a hippodrome (chariot racing track), below, along the coast north of the theater and near his palace. In the second century AD the south side of the hippodrome was reconstructed as an amphitheater for gladiatorial contests.



Despite its many advantages, Caesarea lacked access to springs and rivers. Collection of rainwater was insufficient for the personal needs of the population of a city the size of Caesarea, but would have failed to ensure the survival of

the extensive fields of grain and date groves for which the city also became famous. Therefore, two aqueducts were built to bring water from springs located on the southern slopes of Mount Carmel. Below, remains of the "high aqueduct" running parallel to the Mediterranean shoreline.



Caesarea plays only an indirect role in the gospels. It was the provincial capital and the headquarters for the Roman legions stationed in Judea at the time of Jesus. The Roman governor established his official residence at Caesarea and it was from there that Pontius Pilate set out for Jerusalem for the Passover festival in 33 AD at which he sentenced Jesus to be crucified. However, the city is prominently mentioned in the book of Acts.

- Philip the evangelist preached and lived in Caesarea ([Acts 8:40](#)).
- Peter was sent to Caesarea to baptize Cornelius, a centurion of the Roman garrison in the city ([Acts 10](#)).
- Peter came to Caesarea after being delivered from prison ([Acts 12:1-19](#)).
- King Herod Agrippa I of Judea died at Caesarea, being "eaten of worms" ([Acts 12:19-23](#)).
- The apostle Paul passed through Caesarea on several of his journeys ([Acts 9:30](#); [18:22](#); [21:8-16](#)),
- Paul was also imprisoned here by the governors Festus and Felix before going to Rome to appeal his case before Nero ([Acts 23:22-26:3](#)).

After Biblical Times

The desecration of a synagogue at Caesarea and the massacre of 20,000 Jews was the primary cause of the First Jewish Revolt (66-70 AD) which ended with the destruction of both Jerusalem and the Second Temple. The Roman general Vespasian, who was sent to crush the Revolt, made Caesarea his headquarters until his legions declared him emperor in 69 AD. His son, Titus, who led the final assault on Jerusalem, condemned 2,500 Jews to fight with wild beasts in the amphitheater in Caesarea in celebration of his brother Domitian's birthday.

Caesarea also witnessed the execution of many of the Jewish captives of the Second Jewish Revolt (132-135 AD)

In the third century AD, a major center of Christian scholarship was founded in Caesarea by Origen. Later in the century, Pamphilus created a library at Caesarea which was second in size only to the famed library of Alexandria. The city expended to its greatest extent in the Byzantine period. Though the harbor fell into disrepair and began to silt up, the fertility of the surrounding areas maintained Caesarea as one of the most prosperous cities of the region.

The coming of the Crusaders restored a Christian presence to Caesarea, but the harbor was not restored. Control of the city was alternately in Crusader and Muslim hands throughout the 12th and 13th centuries. In 1251, Louis IX of France constructed high walls (parts of which are still standing) and a deep moat. Following the withdrawal of the Crusaders by sea to Acco, the city was completely destroyed by the Mameluke sultan Baybars in 1265.

Caesarea lay in ruins until the nineteenth century when the village of Qisarya (Arabic for Caesarea) was established by Muslim immigrants from Bosnia who built a small fishing village on the ruins of the Crusader fortress. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli War part of the population fled for fear of attacks, before it was conquered by Jewish forces, after which the remaining inhabitants were expelled and the village houses were demolished.

During the past 20 years, major excavations conducted by numerous expeditions from Israel and abroad have exposed impressive reminders of the forgotten grandeur of Caesarea during the Roman, Byzantine and Crusader eras.

Upcoming Events

- July 2 - Church Office Closed for the July 4th Holiday
- Sunday, July 4 - Friday, July 9 - CREW Mission Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Tuesday, July 6 - Care Team Meeting @ 7 PM
- Saturday, July 10 - Book Discussion @ 6 PM
- Sunday, July 11 - Coffee Sunday
- Monday, July 12 - Staff Meeting @ 10 AM
- Sunday, July 18 - Building Finance Committee Meets Following Worship
- Wednesday, July 21 - Ella Crossing Homeowners Association @ 6:30 PM
- July 26 - August 7 - Pastor John Continuing Education

Hosanna Lutheran Church

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[Directions and map](#)

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