

# HOSANNA HERALD

DECEMBER 2025

VOLUME 46 ISSUE 12

*"As a Christian family of faith, we are gathered to grow and sent to serve"*





Dear Beloved of Hosanna,

***Our Advent series theme this year is  
"What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent."***

We begin our series with the Gospel of Luke telling the story of the birth of Jesus. "In the time of Herod..."

While this detail may seem minor to us, it actually reveals information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear."

Today, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Our Advent series invites us to seriously consider the angels' message and trust that Christ's birth truly *is* "good news of great joy for all people." This series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression.

But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we turn our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? In this series we will be gently invited to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears.

Join us this Advent season for Sunday worship, Wednesday evening Advent suppers and worship, the Intergenerational Christmas Program, the Promises of Hope Service and Christmas Eve services. We will light candles, sing carols, pray for and proclaim Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season.

Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face.

***This season, let us insist  
on hope and trust that  
God... Immanuel is  
with us.***

Peace!  
Pastor Krista



# WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES at HOSANNA

## ***Wednesday, November 26***

6:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship followed by Pie Social

## ***Sunday, November 30***

9 AM First Sunday in Advent Worship

## ***Wednesday, December 3***

6 PM Advent Supper - Baked Potato Bar

6:30 PM Advent Worship

## ***Sunday, December 7***

9 AM Second Sunday in Advent Worship

## ***Wednesday, December 10***

6 PM Advent Supper - Chili

6:30 PM Advent Worship

## ***Sunday, December 14***

9 AM Third Sunday in Advent Worship -  
*Multi-Generational Christmas Program*

## ***Monday, December 15***

6:30 PM Promises of Hope Service

## ***Wednesday, December 17***

6 PM Advent Supper - Hot Dishes

6:30 PM Advent Worship

## ***Sunday, December 21***

9 AM Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship

## ***Wednesday, December 24***

4 and 6 PM Christmas Eve Worship

## ***Sunday, December 28***

9 AM Christmas Carol Sing

## ***Sunday, January 4***

9 AM Epiphany Worship



# COUNCIL REPORT - Fellowship

Celebration is closely intertwined with the concept of fellowship. One example is how Christians have been meeting on Sundays to worship alongside fellow believers, since the days of the Early Church, to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Each Sunday morning at Hosanna we gather with others to confess pray, hear God's Word, praise Him through music, make offerings, and celebrate communion. Oh, and enjoy coffee, goodies, and conversation with fellow sojourners afterwards. :-) Because of Jesus being raised from the dead, making a way for us to have abundant, eternal life with Him, we take time to celebrate - **together**.

I enjoy reading weekly emails from author/speaker/podcaster/artist Mary DeMuth. She recently emailed a post from her archives, "Confession: I Am No Good at Celebrating".

Here's an excerpt that speaks to the importance of celebration, and how fellowship with others is a lovely outflow from celebrating.

I am terrible at celebrating.

I flit from thing to thing, seldom stopping to cherish a moment or celebrate a milestone. Can you relate?

I'm reading a really helpful book right now called *Tiny Habits* by BJ Fogg. It's been the habit book that has truly produced life change in me.

By far, the hardest chapter of *Tiny Habits* to digest was the chapter Fogg wrote about celebration. I didn't realize this, but celebration imprints your habits! If you celebrate after you've done your fifth push-up, you'll be more likely to do 5 more tomorrow.

Why celebrate if no one else joins the party? My internal monologue sounds like, *keep your head down. Keep working. Don't stop. Celebrating doesn't matter; it takes up time.*

It's no fun to have a party alone.

And yet, I think of the life Jesus wants for me, for you. A life of abundant joy, of forward momentum, and hope. I am worthy, not because I do a bunch of things, but because I am a child of God. HE WANTS TO JOIN THIS PARTY! He, as a good Parent, wants to celebrate along with me! Celebrating fits right in with what the Spirit wants to do in our healed lives. It's an acknowledgment of gratitude for what God has done in and through us.

I've finally learned It's not prideful to honestly celebrate a win.

Why?

**Because celebrating does three cool things:**

- \*It slows you down enough to rest and enjoy an accomplishment, realizing your worth is not tied to that in the first place.
- \*It invites other people into the celebration, producing camaraderie and fellowship.
- \*It redirects your heart to Jesus, the One who gives you the ability in the first place.

In this season of Advent, Hosanna offers more opportunities than usual to have "camaraderie and fellowship" in celebration, through mid-week Advent suppers and services, a Christmas program, and Christmas Eve services. You are invited to these parties, where together we can redirect our hearts to Jesus, and rejoice that He came to earth!

Kristen Anderbeck, Fellowship Advocate





# AIMEE HAMPTON, New Grace Team Leader

Aimee is a choir and theatre director at Dover-Eyota Schools, in Eyota MN. She has been an accompanist for many churches over the years, and currently serves as a pianist at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Eyota. She also has several years of experience through Green Lake Bible Camp, where she served as Counselor, Day Camp Leader, and Assistant Program Director.

She loves working with the music at churches, and is excited to be part of the GRACE team at Hosanna!

## Promises of Hope Service -

Monday, December 15 at 6:30 PM

This service is designed to provide a space for prayer, reflection and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. It is a place to experience the hope of Christmas in a space of calm, quiet, healing and rest. It is a place for you to come as you are, to breathe and to experience the presence of Immanuel-God With Us-The light that shines in the darkness and hold us in the promise that the darkness does not overcome it.



*Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue.  
Allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.*

# COUNCIL MINUTES - November 13, 2025

Attendance – Terri Ashworth, Rachel Gray, Randy Helling, Kristen Anderbeck, Lukas Phillips, Paul Solum, Pastor Krista, Kari and Rob Larsen, Alice Kub and Paul Anderson.

Meeting called to Order by Rob at 6:32pm.

Opening Devotion

Approval of November Agenda, October Council Meeting Minutes and October Financial Statements.

## **Old Business**

*Angel Update* – John Kamrath will buy all the angels back. The current angel is “pre-purchased” so that when it comes down John will take possession. The tower has been touched up with fresh paint.

*Capital Campaign update* – over \$304,000 has been brought in of the \$633,000 pledged.

## **New Business**

*Nominating Committee* – there are openings for President Elect, Synod Assembly and Nominating Committee.

*Ideas* - \*\*The Rochester ELCA churches want to support Channel One. An idea was shared of pooling money to give to Channel One and make a public Christian statement about caring for the hungry. Remember - Hosanna distributes food for Channel One and there are other food shelves besides Channel One. What would be the most efficient use of ELCA churches resources? More discussion will take place.

\*\*There was discussion about expanding Blessing Bucks offering opportunities. Once a month - can funds be used to bless and replenish Hosanna's pantries? Agreement was given. There will be pictures taken and shared to show the impact on the pantries.

## **Advocate Reports**

*Outreach* – \*The Men's Breakfast group will restock Susan's Suppers. Which groups can help in December and January? Decisions will be made. \*Overland Elementary has a goal of one deodorant for each student to promote personal hygiene. A Thrivent Grant will be used to help make progress towards that goal. \*Pillowcase Ministry will make donations soon. \*The next American Red Heart blood drive will be December 15. \*Shopping will take place at Aldi to fill Hosanna's pantries.

*Worship* – \*The season of Advent begins November 30. \*Pastor is working part time at Peace Lutheran in Eyota. \*Aimee Hampton is now leading Grace. She's a recent Luther grad and will be leading worship the 3rd Sunday of the month.

*Fellowship* – \*The grief series was valuable time to learn how to support others. They studied biblical characters who went through grief and how they dealt with it. \*More people are supporting refreshments on Sundays. \*Lefse will be made Saturday, November 22. \*The pie social will be on Wednesday, November 26. \*There will be potluck style supper before Advent Wednesday services. \*There will be a Women's Retreat at Good Earth Village on April 17-19.





**Discipleship** – \*Eight students were confirmed! \*Bibles were given to three-year-olds and 3rd graders. \*The Faith Formation Committee will meet to discuss fundraising options. \*The high school and middle school are youth supporting this year's Christmas program. \*There will be cookie baking with the youth. \*The Christmas bazaar is coming up on Saturday, December 6. \*Bible study groups are going strong. \*The Palm Sunday menu has yet to be decided.

**Support** – \*The Memorial Garden wall has not been completed because Hosanna's project may be at the bottom of their list. Questions-Are they waiting for better weather to have better quality work? How long should we wait? Can some sort of "prediction" be given for a timeline? A deposit has been paid. \*There will be a new snow removal crew. \*The heating and cooling priorities are put off until spring. That way materials are only moved once and at a lower cost. Questions-Can solar panels be added? Have rebates passed and are incentives gone? Many decisions are coming in December's meeting. Cost saving may be possible by a new energy consumption rating.

**Altar Guild** – no report shared

### **Staff Reports**

**Faith Formation** – \*The Hilltoppers met with Ryan Youngstrom about Estate Planning. \*Confirmation students will participate in Adopt-A-Family shopping. \*Presentations about food insecurity in Rochester allowed opportunities for networking. \*Fliers will be distributed around town about Hosanna pantries. \*The Christmas program could have more than 20 participants.

**Pastor** – \*Confirmation was a fun weekend. The mentors attended a night of blessing the Confirmation students. \*Stewardship letters have been sent out, and commitment will be Christ the King Sunday. \*The Advent theme is "What do you fear?". It will emphasize there is light in darkness and will include activities to participate in. \*The theme for Lent is "Tell Me Something Good".

Adjournment at 7:58pm by Paul.

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Joe Desannoy

### ***Treasurer and Financial Secretary Report***

**OCTOBER 2025**

**Income/Expense Comparison**

**General**

<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
Budget	\$ 34,329	\$343,290
Income	\$ 38,523	\$308,265
Expense	\$ 28,193	\$293,145
Net Income	\$ 10,330	\$ 15,120



# Hosanna's Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 6 9AM-2PM

Hosanna will be hosting our  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Bazaar on  
Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

*We are accepting baked good items and gently used  
Christmas decorations for the bazaar.*

*You can drop off donated items at Hosanna any time.*

*Baked goods can go in Hosanna kitchen.*

Contact Barb Schepp at [barbaraschepp64@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraschepp64@gmail.com)  
with any questions.

**PROCEEDS WILL GO TO  
HOSANNA'S FOOD MINISTRIES.**  
***Volunteers are still needed to assist  
with set up and day of sale.***

*If you are able to assist with the bazaar or  
donate baked goods,  
please click on the link below  
to sign up!*

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4  
9A8A723AAFA7-58954014-hosanna](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B49A8A723AAFA7-58954014-hosanna)





***Monday, December 15      11 AM - 5 PM***

### ***HILLTOPPERS***

**Tuesday, December 9 at Noon**

**Call Julianne Jahn by Friday, December 5  
to make your reservation: 507-202-9752**

### **MULTIGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**



The multigenerational Christmas Program will be held during worship on **December 14.**

The children, youth, and Hosanna Choir have been working hard these past few months to learn the music.

We all hope you will join us to hear the good news of Jesus' birth through song and spoken word.



# Hosanna Sunday School

Please join us **each Sunday from 10:15 to 11:00 AM**  
for Hosanna's Sunday School!

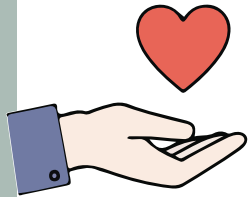
Below, you will find the lesson topic for each week.

**December 7th - Christmas Program Rehearsal**

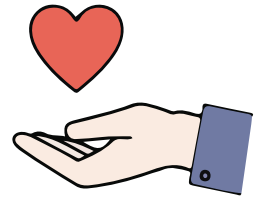
**December 14th - Christmas Program at 9 AM**

**December 21st - God's Plan For Peace**

**December 28th -No Sunday School**



*For December, the Sunday School is  
giving all its Sunday School offerings to  
ELCA Good Gifts to battle hunger and  
serve the global community.*



## In Need of Frosted Sugar Cookies?



On **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, the Hosanna 6th - 12th  
grade youth will be holding a bake sale after  
worship, selling sugar cookies they baked and  
decorated. All the proceeds from this  
fundraiser will be used to cover expenses for  
the ELCA Youth Gathering which will be  
held in Minneapolis in 2027!



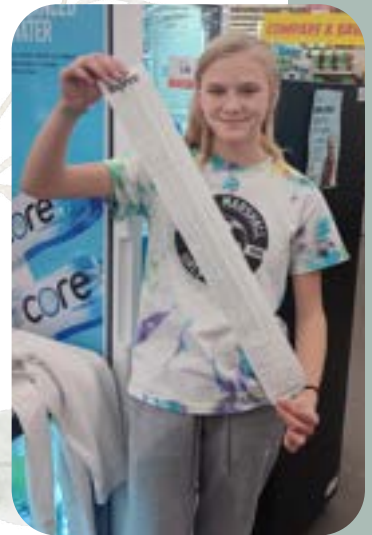
***Wishing you all great peace and hope as we  
prepare to welcome our Counselor!***

# Confirmation

**Photos from our Hosanna Confirmation Service Project Night  
on November 19th:**

We decided to shop for families experiencing food insecurity in Olmsted County!

We had a blast!



## Confirmation Mentors Note:

Hosanna Lutheran's next Confirmation Mentor Night will be  
***December 3rd beginning at 5:30 P.M.***  
This will also be our first Advent Worship Service!





# **\*\*Hosanna's Pantry\*\***

## December 19 and 20

Come and serve at Hosanna's Pantry  
before the Christmas holiday!

Children are always invited to help with their parents.  
If you'd like to learn more or to volunteer in December,  
please contact Barb Anderson, at [barblea46@gmail.com](mailto:barblea46@gmail.com) or  
Bob Nordman, [nordmanr@gmail.com](mailto:nordmanr@gmail.com).

## Christmas Cookies for Hosanna's Pantry



To share a little Christmas joy with families in need, we're  
asking members to donate Christmas cookies for the  
families who come to Hosanna's Pantry on  
December 20, 2025, the Saturday before Christmas.

If you'd like to participate, please donate **4 dozen cookies**  
and bring them to church **by Friday, December 19**.

We'll put them on Christmas plates to hand out when our  
families come to Hosanna's Pantry on December 20.

A sign up to donate will be in upcoming weekly HLC's or  
on the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex.

You may contact Barb Anderson at [barblea46@gmail.com](mailto:barblea46@gmail.com)  
with questions. Thank you for your generosity!





## Hosanna Food Pantries Giving Tree



We invite you to participate in supporting

### ***Hosanna's Food Pantry Giving Tree!***

Take an ornament from the tree - each ornament has a specific Hosanna Food Pantry need listed.

We ask you to bring the needed item back to place beneath the giving tree.

We will be collecting items for our indoor and Helping Hands pantries all throughout the month of December.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to your neighbor in need!





***SAVE THE DATES!***

**HOSANNA's  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Sunday, January 25  
after worship**

**Pre-Annual Meeting: January 18**



**Hosanna's  
4th Annual  
Chili Feed & Competition  
benefitting  
Minnesota Food Share  
Sunday March 22, 2026**





SEEKING  
to  
BLESS

Recent  
BLESSING  
BUCKS  
have gone to:



**\*\*Non-Profit Wrench**

**\*\*Mayo High School's Resource Room**

**\*\*Decorah, IA's Christmas Cheer program**

**\*\*a middle school member's Science teacher at John Adams**

***Since February 2023,  
\$24,224.02 in BLESSING BUCKS  
has been shared with the community !!***

STEPHEN MINISTRY  
HERE FOR YOU...

There are many situations that bring challenges in our lives that can feel overwhelming and we just need someone to walk beside us.

***You are not alone...*** a Stephen Minister is available during those times. You will be matched with a caregiver so there is a consistent person to share time with to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support.

It is non-judgmental and confidential.

Please contact Pastor Krista, Dave Wilcox or Les Leamons if you would like to learn more.



# COUNCIL MEMBERS

## COUNCIL ADVOCATES

*Discipleship: Kari Larsen*

*discipleship@hosannalutheran.org*

The ministry of growing disciples through the education of children, youth and adults in the congregation shall be the focus of this advocate.

*Fellowship: Kristen Anderbeck*

*fellowship@hosannalutheran.org*

The ministry of caring for the members of our congregation through spiritual, emotional, physical and social support of both members and visitors is the focus of this advocate.

*Outreach: Terri Ashworth*

*outreach@hosannalutheran.org*

The ministry of sending our members out to serve and care for our world and promoting Hosanna's presence through local community and global ministries shall be the focus of this advocate.

*Support: Randy Helling*

*support@hosannalutheran.org*

This advocate will help develop and support committees/teams that will carry out the work required for our church to function in the areas of property, business and finance, memorials and trusts and personnel.

*Worship: Karla Weis/Rachel Gray*

*worship@hosannalutheran.org*

The spiritual life and growth of our congregation through liturgy, music and stewardship shall be the focus of this advocate.

## ADVISORY MEMBERS

*Treasurer: Alice Kub*

*treasurer@hosannalutheran.org*

*Financial Secretary: Paul Anderson*

*financialsecretary@hosannalutheran.org*

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

*Pastor Krista Strum, Senior Pastor,*

*krista.strum@hosannalutheran.org*

*Lukas Phillips, Children, Youth, Family/*

*Mission Engagement Director*

*lukas.phillips@hosannalutheran.org*

*Adrian Johanson, Music Director*

*adrian.johanson@hosannalutheran.org.*

*Allison DeRaad, Administrative Assistant,*

*admin.assistant@hosannalutheran.org*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Senior Pastor: Krista Strum*

*krista.strum@hosannalutheran.org*

*President: Rob Larsen*

*president@hosannalutheran.org*

*President Elect: Paul Solum*

*president-elect@hosannalutheran.org*

*Secretary: Joe Desannoy*

*councilsecretary@hosannalutheran.org*

**Thank you** for keeping Hosanna in your prayers and for remembering your church with your financial support in these times. Your kindness and steadfast love has not gone unnoticed. **Contributions** may be mailed to: **Hosanna Lutheran Church**  
**2815 57th St NW**  
**Rochester MN 55901**  
**507-285-0092**

*On-line Giving may be found at:*

*<https://hosannalutheran.org/give/>*