



2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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Devotion

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2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Call to Order

- Called to order by Tony Belcher at 10:44am.
- 38 voting members in attendance

Prayer

Approval of Minutes from 2023 Congregational Meetings:

- Annual meeting of January 29, 2023
 - Special congregational meeting of April 16, 2023
- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from both the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, and the Special Congregational Meeting on April 16, 2023, by Steven Stubbs.
Second – Beth Schoening. Approved.

Reports:

- President
 - Tony Belcher reported he has seen a lot of growth in 2023 not only in new faces and families but also the opening of Brighton Academy North offering invaluable daycare services to our community.
- Pastor
 - Pastor Mike described Hosanna! as being more active, connected and engaged as a congregation.
 - 2023 Parish Statistics – new faces and families added this year along with three baptisms, six youth participated in their first communion, and a wedding in November. We grieve with the loss of two members by death and those who have left or moved away. New to membership status this year is active friends line item. We have 31 friends who worship and participate in activities. In person attendance has stayed about the same with some members continuing to worship online.
 - Pastor Mike encouraged the congregation to read the information included in the report from the Central States Synod and messages from Bishop Susan Candeia, CSS and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, presiding Bishop of ELCA.
- Sabbatical Committee Report
 - Tony Belcher stated that Pastor Mike is overdue for a sabbatical. A Sabbatical is a designated time for the pastor to step away from their usual duties and engaged in activities that promote personal and professional renewal, rest, and reflection. Tony reported that a Hosanna! Sabbatical Committee has been formed and is working on putting together an application to submit by March 2024 for financial reimbursement via the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program to help offset the costs and events and programs the pastor plans to attend during his sabbatical (to occur in 2025) as well as costs the congregation would encounter during this time.

- Office Administrator Report
- Faith Formation
 - For the 2023-2024 school year, we continue to use a blended model that incorporates intergenerational learning, service projects, small groups, and more traditional age-based classes.
 - Thrilled to have Dr. Marple and Mitchell leading music time twice a month for our kid's crews and to see several of our tweens and teens singing with the adult choir.
- Evangelism
 - Pastor Mike talked about this year the plan is to keep building on the more "traditional" evangelism avenues, and we encourage you to consider who and how you can invite those you already know to reconnect with God and the church.
- Property
 - Scott reported that we now have a new roof, and larger gutters, with some screens and siding being repaired.
 - Other projects on the horizon: replacing 10 columns with PCV, trash enclosure gates, and floor tile replacement.
 - Outside yard maintenance help is always needed.
 - A HUGE Thank You to Steve Friends, who helps with keeping the inside clean, to Cathy for ordering supplies and Pastor Mike who helps with small projects that need to be repaired. And thank you to everyone behind the scenes for your time and assistance in maintaining the church.
- Brighton Academy North
 - Brighton Academy North opened their doors on September 5 with an initial enrollment of 23 children. Current enrollment is up to 40 with more expected between March and April, leaving a limited seven spots available for the remainder of the school year. This has been a great partnership and with the growth this signifies their dedication to providing a nurturing educational environment for the youth.
- Social Ministries
 - Joyce Uber thanked the congregation for their generosity this past year and mentioned the upcoming Valentines for Veterans event on Feb 11.
- WELCA
 - Karen Orrill mentioned there are currently 10 members of the Shirley Circle that meet once a month at her home. All women are welcome to join the meetings and other events held by the Women of the ELCA.
 - Four members of the Shirley Circle attended the 35th Annual Central States Synod WELCA convention in June in Independence. The theme for the convention was "The Lord is My Light" and was woven throughout the weekend with Bible studies, guest speakers and Christmas services. A business meeting was held to handle business and elect officers. Louise Ahrens was elected to serve on the board of CSS WELCA. She served as an at-large delegate for the 2023 Triennial meeting and attended the national

WELCA gathering in September in Phoenix.

- 2023 projects consisted of: Project for Once We Were Refugees (OWWR), Gift Cards for School teachers, In As Much Ministry, Love, Inc., and MLM.
- God Squad
 - Sarah reported an account was opened at the Pony Express Bank for the Hosanna! God Squad on Dec 22, 2023, with an opening balance of \$2,265. This amount along with the Youth Fund (listed separately in the Treasurer's report) of \$8,896 (which will be transferred to the God Squad account) will total \$11,161 and is sufficient to cover the cost for 5 youth and 2 adults to attend this year summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
- Prayer Weavers
 - Tony reported that the group made and donated 1,171 crochet blankets (roughly 93 blankets a month) to Children's Mercy Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital Northland Clinic and other facilities that wish to remain anonymous. He thanked the group for their hard work and dedication to this worthwhile project.
- Worship and Music
 - Pastor thanked and acknowledged the congregation members that helped with music during the transition of Dr. Dan leaving and hiring Dr. Chris Marple as Choral Director and Michell Jerko as our Organist/Pianist.
 - Dr. Chris talked about the upcoming Lenten Wednesday evening services which will feature Holden Evening Prayer, and the choir will present an Easter Cantata on April 7.
- Stewardship
 - Robert Hall mentioned last fall that he, Pastor Mike, and Louise Ahrens attended an online Stewardship course hosted by the ELCA, in partnership with the Lake Institute – Cultivating Generous Congregations.
 - He also talked about the purpose of the new pair of bulletin boards in the entryway. These bulletin boards are to be used by the congregation to share stories of generosity both of how someone else's generosity has positively impacted your life or how you will intentionally spread generosity.
- Treasurer's Report – Account Balances
 - Ben talked about how the 2023 budget was originally projected to be a deficit of 44K but ended with only a deficit of 2K! A huge thank you to the generous giving of the congregation. He discussed the checking account balances and reviewed the historical income/expenses plus 2024 budget.
 - He thanked Don Summers for setting up the new Breeze software and mentioned that anyone still using Vanco to please switch over to Breeze.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- 2024 Annual Congregational meeting nominations
- A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees by Steven Stubbs, seconded by Mary Kunkel. All approved. Motion carried.

Officers

Justin Noel (president, 2-year term)
Alissa Willett (vice-president, 2-year term)
Tony Belcher (treasurer, 2-year term)
Joyce Uber (secretary, continuing)

Council

Mike Jennings (council, 2-year term)
Charlynn Marshall-Carlson (council, 2-year term)
Margaret Rockhold (council, 2nd of 2-year term)
Chris Marple (council, 2nd of 2-year term)
Beth Schoening (council, 2nd of 2-year term)

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Ryan & Alissa Willett

Nominating Committee – 1 year term

John Kreidler Sue Tonks
Scott Schmidt Ryan Willett
Margaret Rockhold (outgoing council)
Beth Schoening (outgoing council)

Audit Committee Member

Richard Moore (2024; 2025; 2026)
Louise Ahrens (2023; 2024; 2025)
Robert Hall (2022; 2023; 2024)

A motion was made to accept the 2024 budget as presented by Mary Kunkel, seconded by Donna Mason. All approved. Motion carried.

Thank you to the outgoing council, officers and Ryan Schmidt for taking over vacant position on council.

No further business from the floor

Motion to close by Margaret Rockhold. Seconded by Ben Cerra.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53am.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Uber, January 28, 2024

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Authorizing Congregational Council to sell or encumber up to 3.25 acres
Sunday, September 15, 2024

Vice President Alyssa Willett called meeting to order at 10:40am

There were 47 members in attendance. Quorum was established.

Motion was made by Tony Belcher to move that, we authorize our Congregational Council to sell or encumber up to 3.25 acres of land bordering the west perimeter of the property and negotiate the terms of our current mortgage in relation to any sale or encumbrance, with this authorization expiring September 15, 2026.

Discussion followed.

Motion was voted on and passed thus declaring the decision of the congregation.

A motion was entertained to close the meeting and voted to close the meeting at 10:55am.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear HOSANNA! Family,

As we close the chapter on 2024, a year filled with growth, blessings, and achievements, I'm filled with joy reflecting on all we've accomplished together as a congregation. Your commitment to volunteering has been the foundation of our success, helping to make events like Rally Day, Faith Formation, and the Christmas Program such meaningful experiences for all. A highlight of the year was the continuation of our relationship with Brighton Academy North, providing much-needed daycare services to our community. Watching it grow and knowing that we're on the verge of reaching full capacity is a source of great pride. In 2024, we also welcomed new faces and families into our HOSANNA! community, further enriching our congregation. Though we said goodbye to Mitchell Jerko, we joyfully welcomed Andrew Stephens as Accompanist. As my term as council president comes to an end, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported and been part of Hosanna! Your guidance and support have been invaluable to me and my family. We are deeply grateful for the warmth and sense of unity within our HOSANNA! family and community. We look forward with anticipation to the journey that lies ahead.

With heartfelt gratitude, Justin Noel

PASTOR'S REPORT

I love Hosanna! And when I say that, I mean that I love you and the other people in our family of faith, not the institution or building. I begin with this because sometimes ministry together is challenging. Buildings age, finances are perpetually tight, decisions about which days or times to hold events don't work for everyone, loved ones move or pass away, personalities clash, and the world constantly draws our attention in a million different ways. Life together is not always easy.

Ministry as the church is considerably different than it was 50 years ago, much less 17 years ago when I became a pastor. Nonetheless, we continue to do ministry together because God has gathered us into relationship, called us to serve one another and the world, and empowered us with the gifts and resources we need. And God is doing wonderful things, big and small, through you. I love it. And I really hope that in spite all of the challenges, you love the amazing and wonderful things God is doing, too.

This year Hosanna! will celebrate it's 25th anniversary, and we've come a long way. From a small group meeting in someone's house to building a quaint place of worship in the middle of empty fields (and then building some more), Hosanna! has grown. From a few dedicated faithful to multiple worship services, through conflict and uncertainty, to new life and enthusiasm, Hosanna! has grown. Through a global pandemic, renewed commitment to one another, and finding a clearer understanding of who God is calling us to be and what we're called to do, Hosanna! has grown. With you today, and others we have yet to meet, Hosanna! will continue to grow.

Numbers show that we are growing, but more importantly, I feel a growing love between us, stronger commitments, depth of faith, budding curiosity, yearning to serve, and grace that surprises others who have not known Hosanna! (or God) before.

I'm excited to be part of what God is doing through Hosanna! As we continue doing many things we've done for 25 years, here are a few of the new things I see for 2025:

- Find opportunities to build on the personal gifts and passions you shared with me during our Congregation Conversation meals last summer and fall, and empowering you to own the ways God is calling you bless the world.
- Empower members to visit and take Communion to homebound members along with me, so that they might feel more connected.
- Utilize our Nurturing Care grant to expand ministry with neurodivergent kids through learning, communication, cultivating safe spaces, and retelling stories of faith heroes whose unique talents and personalities God used to bless the world.

- Have a party for 25 years of ministry, celebrate the friendships we've forged, and consider what God is planning for our next 25 years.

Thank you for the love you likewise share with me. I see God in you.

Pastor Mike Kern

PARISH STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Miller - June 30
 Clay Miller - June 30
 McKenna Miller - June 30
 Macy Miller - June 30
 Chuck Tonks - June 30
 Richard Woody - June 30
 Ann Woody - June 30
 Lindsay Trout - Nov. 17
 Justin Trout - Nov. 17
 Emmy Trout - Nov. 17
 Evy Trout - Nov. 17
 Eilish Trout - Nov. 17
 Deb Warnex - Nov. 17

MEMBERS LEFT/REMOVED

None

BAPTISMS

Macy Miller - June 30
 Eilish Trout - Nov. 17

FIRST COMMUNION - June 16

Nora Belcher
 Eva Bledsoe
 Teagan Oprinovich
 McKenna Miller

CONFIRMATION - May 19

Max Anderson
 Noah Kern

WEDDINGS

None

MEMBER DEATHS

Jerry Mucke - April 10
 Al Nace - May 25
 Janice Carter - November 20
 Betty Hucke - December 31

FUNERALS

Jerry Mucke - April 29
 Al Nace - June 3
 Greg Kunkel - October 26
 Janice Carter - December 9

MEMBERSHIP

Baptized: 217 [2023: 206]
 (188 Active, 29 Inactive)
 Confirmed: 166 [2023: 157]
 Active Friends: 58

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2024: 92 (79 in person, 13 online)
 2023: 87 (76 in person, 12 online)
 2022: 89 (75 in person, 14 online)
 2021: 74 (60 in person, 14 online)
 2020: 79

FROM THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD



In the gospels, particularly in the sermon on the mount, Jesus doesn't call us to resolve to be peacemakers, to hunger and thirst for justice, to be meek, to be children of God. He simply says we are. Jesus doesn't tell us we ought to be salt for the earth, and light for the world in order to be saved. He says, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world," in order to participate in God's salvation and redemption of the world.

In the ancient world, salt was a sacred commodity. It was used to preserve food and to heal. It didn't just add flavor. It literally brought life. In a world where darkness was frightening and dangerous, unable to see the threats that lay in wait, light brought peace and hope. As people of God, that's who we are – instruments of life and healing; people who embody peace and hope; salt and light.

As we enter into the new year, I believe it is more imperative than ever that we claim and live our identities as salt and light. In a culture that equates greatness with power, we define it by humility and service, and we emphasize

sharing over greed and the accumulation of wealth. We

proclaim truth rather than rhetoric, that diversity is to be celebrated and respected rather than met with suspicion and disdain; that integrity is more important than image. We stand with and for the good of our neighbor rather than individual privilege. We are beautiful, brave, and kind in a world that is often ugly, scary, and mean.

Going forward, how will we be the salt and light the world needs? While we continue to have different views on the complex issues we grapple with as a nation, we cannot abdicate our identity as truth-tellers and love-bearers. We are the salt of the earth. We are the light of the world. This is about following the way of Jesus, joining God's reign of justice in the world, and loving our neighbors.

And finally trust that you are, that we are, salt and light. We will be no less in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Candea".

Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop

We are more than the people who gather as Hosanna! We work in partnership with faithful people throughout our region, the nation, and the world. Learn more about our purpose and what we accomplish together as the Central States Synod of Missouri and Kansas at <https://www.css-elca.org/walking-together>.

FROM THE ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

“We have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” - 1 John 4:16



Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful and continuing partnership as we work together to help people discover the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Because God's grace and love have made a difference in our daily lives, we want others to experience that same love and acceptance. There are many in our communities who feel alone and are searching for love and connection. Sometimes we feel at a loss to know how to make a difference — what do we say, what can we do, how do we share God's love?

You share this love every day. When you invite others to join in your faith community, to worship, to participate in service activities, to pray together, to share their story — these are all ways

our neighbors experience the love of God in community.

There are examples of God's love throughout our church as we work for healing, peace and justice to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

The Spirit is calling us to move together as one church to share the grace and love we experience every day.

May God bless your time together.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Forges Friendships

2024 was a great year for our faith formation programs. We continued a monthly pattern of different styles of learning to provide opportunities that appeal to everyone. Each month typically included:

- Age-based groups on the 1st and 3rd Sundays: Kids Crews for PreK-5th graders, Confirmation for 6th-9th, and God Squad periodically for high schoolers. Adults met with Pastor Mike or Pastor Kreidler for Bible study/learning.
- Service projects on the 2nd Sunday: All members were invited to join in a project that helps meet a need, including Valentines for Vets, MLM, In As Much food pantry, caring for the church building and grounds, and creating collaborative art pieces.
- Connect week on the 4th Sunday: Individuals with a particular talent or expertise shared their knowledge with interested adults, parents and caregivers met to discuss the joys and challenges of raising children, and youth led the kids in activities that related to their Bible story/theme of the month.

Our kids also had fun:

- Singing with Dr. Marple on Kids Crews weeks and sharing music in worship.
- Performing a Christmas program, "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant."
- Playing together at Hosanna Day, Rally Day, and other family events.
- Building new friendships with people of all ages in our Hosanna! family.

Worship activities such as art supplies, labyrinths and fidgets continued to be a popular part of the Sunday morning experience for many members. We also saw a lot of interest and use in our new Sensory Room, which provides a quiet and comfortable space for kids to decompress when the joyful noise gets to be a bit too much.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make these programs possible for our congregation!

Alison Kern, Faith Formation Committee Chair

EVANGELISM

We share God's love through our everyday words and actions with whoever is around us. We also invite them into relationship with the people of the church so that they might be blessed and changed. Here are a few thoughts about our current work:

- We sent out 275 hand-drawn postcards to local households that moved to the area in the latter part of 2024, inviting them to join us for Christmas.
- The council has discussed ways we can reduce the discomfort of visiting a new church. We plan to make a welcome video that focuses on people for our website.
- We've also discussed how to stay connected with visitors--including additional personal follow-ups and maybe even bread!
- Social media is not our strength, so we'd love to find a member who is passionate about Hosanna! that can help us connect with people online by sharing upcoming events, celebrating past experiences, and inspiring others.
- Most importantly, we encourage you to invite people you know. A few people visit because they are looking for a Lutheran Church or they found us online. However, most visitors come (and stay) because someone personally invited them. Consider who you might invite to join you--they don't have to be new to the community, it could be anyone who had a bad experience with church, got out of the habit during COVID, or never had a church family.

Submitted by Pastor Mike Kern

FELLOWSHIP

This year we restarted our Fellowship Committee. We planned activities throughout the year that would include members of all ages that included white elephant gift exchange with snacks, chili cookoff & game night, lasagna dinner with youth serving & proceeds going to Youth Group, firepit with smores & yard games, pie & ice cream social with bingo, breakfast for you prior to Christmas Program dress rehearsal, quarterly potlucks.

We would like to invite others to join us and/or share ideas for activities in the coming year. Let us know what you are interested in.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Schoening

PROPERTY

After last year's roof and gutter replacement in 2023, the church continues to stand as a place of worship and a place we join as a family to catch up with one another. While the before year had a lot of transformation from the roof to adding a daycare, last year was pretty mellow. The main project was trying to get the windows repaired after a break in back in February. As the windows were over twenty years old, the manufacture phased out any repairing to windows over a certain year. Luckily Richard Woody and Stephen Stubbs were able assist and get the windows repaired. We will continue look at ways to maintain the current windows as we probably need to look at replacing them. I just need to win the lottery.

Last year we had a lawnmower that was donated and Mike Jennings has been helping keep the outside trimmed up. While we have a lot of property, Mike could use some assistance when it comes to trimming up around the outside. More will come as the weather turns warmer again.

As last year was pretty quiet, we had some minor door repairs, trimming up trees and bushes, and repair the windows. A few things that didn't get done last year will hopefully be targeted for this year. A few items on the list is installing a kitchen faucet (one that was donated), replacing a toilet, adding shelving to the storage (by the kitchen), repairing the columns, and dumpster enclosure, and need to strip and wax the floor. More information will be provided on a regular basis to use our talents within the congregation to help keep this place up and running. We will also be discussing with the daycare to see how the last few years have been going and changes/ideas they would like to see. One item I can see is more shelving and organization downstairs.

Thank you to Steve Friend who continues to come weekly to help clean. And to all those that help, that either get your hands dirty and extra time in your life to maintain this place of worship.

Submitted by Scott Schmidt, Property Chair

SOCIAL MINISTRY

2024 Social Ministry Activities

Hosanna! continues to be a generous congregation with the following activities this year:

Monthly food and non-perishable items were collected and delivered to In as Much Ministry in Liberty

In February, we collected, assembled and delivered 125 hygiene care packages for Valentine's for Veterans project. The Sunday school children made valentines which were included in the care packages. These packages were delivered to the VA in Excelsior Springs.

On Palm Sunday in March, Hosanna members made and sent handmade greeting cards to members and friends who have moved away in the past years.

In May, Hosanna! families assembled water filters for Wine to Water, a non-profit organization working in 53 countries around the world to improve access to clean water.

In July Hosanna members assembled and handed out sack lunches for the Gathering Table Sack lunch Project.

Also, in July and again in November – the MLM Christmas Tree was put up in the Fellowship Hall and members donated items which were delivered to the MLM Christmas Store.

September/October - A group from Hosanna! participated in Rebuilding Together Day

October – Four members of Hosanna participated in the Alzheimer's Walk

Our Children's Offerings collected this year went to support:

- Purchasing of fruit trees for communities around the world facing food shortages
- Warrior's Best Friend, a nonprofit organization located behind Hosanna that trains shelter dogs to become facility dogs for military organizations and K-12 schools
- Lutheran Disaster Response to help people impacted by this year's hurricanes

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Uber

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

About us....

Our Mission: Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Shirley Circle (named after Shirley Slocum, a founding member a Hosanna!) is part of the Women of ELCA. We met the second Monday of each month. At the end of the year we had 12 members. The monthly meetings consist of a devotion, business meeting, Bible Study from the Women of the ELCA Gather Magazine and fellowship time. During 2024, several

ladies from Hosanna! attended two regional events in the area. In December a Christmas luncheon was held at the home of Karen Orrill.

Each month members of Shirley Circle called, visited or sent cards to Hosanna! members to brighten their day.

Several of the 2024 projects included the following:

- Central States Synod WELCA - 10% of Offerings
- Ingathering for feminine hygiene products for LOVE, INC.
- Donation to Central States Synod WELCA Educational Scholarship Fund
- Gift Cards to School Teachers
- Donation to In As Much Ministry.
- Metro Lutheran Ministry
- Liberty Meals on Wheels

All women are welcome to join our meetings, and other events held by Women of the ELCA. Watch the Happenings for news regarding upcoming events. For 2025, we look forward to another year of gathering together and serve where the Lord calls us.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Ahrens, President Shirley Circle

PRAYER WEAVERS

One day I was at the cutting counter with a cart full of bolts of fleece at Joann's. The young lady behind the counter asked me how many yards I would like, which I replied three. After the second bolt, she asked me "What are you making?" I explained the Prayer Weaver mission and she looked at me with awe and said, "When I was much younger, I received a blanket at Children's Mercy, does your blankets have the crocheted edging?" I replied yes and she got tears in her eyes and thanked me for the blanket. She still has it! A small act of love like a blanket can affect so many and you don't even know it. The love that we pour into the blankets is much appreciated by so many children and teens in our city.

On the first Saturday of each month you will see a group gathering at the home of Louise Ahrens for fellowship and preparation of blankets for the children of our county and city that face many challenges. During 2024, we donated 1,138 blankets to the following organizations:

Children's Mercy Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital Northland Clinic, Synergy and other facilities that wish to remain anonymous.

On August 11, 2024, members held a presentation during fellowship hour of the preparing and crocheting of the blankets to those who might be interested. The group enjoyed sharing their stories and experiences of making blankets. If you are interested in helping to prepare, crochet or both, please contact Louise Ahrens at piflouise@aol.com or 816-405-8165.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Ahrens

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This past year was another wonderful year of worship at Hosanna! with abundant musical offerings from many of our talented congregation members and the leadership of Dr. Marple. We also said goodbye to Mitchell Jerko and welcomed Andrew Stephens as our new organist/pianist.

We are thankful for:

- The all-congregation art project of a Pentecost canvas for the sanctuary.
- Kristen Belcher's ability to purchase flowers at wholesale cost.
- The inspiring decorations for Advent and Christmas in and around the church.
- Shamrock Hills Vineyard and Winery in Excelsior Springs MO for providing wine for Holy Communion.
- Installation of new windows in the sanctuary.
- The volunteers who prepare and clean up Holy Communion each week, run the audio-visual equipment for online service and who serve in other ways during worship.
- The weekly printing of the worship bulletin and the work to write and proof this work.
- The ability to purchase new worship planning materials.
- Those that helped fill in on piano during our transition time.

For your information:

- We continue to work to purchase supplies for Holy Communion and other sanctuary needs at low costs.
- Storage of banners, candles, props and decorations is very limited. The sacristy and storage closet are overflowing. Large plastic bins are in the garage, and items are beginning to overtake the choir room. An inventory, labelling system and creation of a church season-worship space procedure manual is planned for 2025. Please contact the church office if you would like to help with this process throughout the year and get updates.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Grote

STEWARDSHIP

God has entrusted us with resources. We're seeking to be good stewards of them:

- No one has to give to the church, and life is expensive, but you and us together continue to be generous. Thank you for your part in our work.
- We've pursued additional streams of revenue--the daycare, grants, rebates, and a potential land sale--so that more giving goes directly to ministry that serves people.
- One headwind we face is members moving and passing away. Although we routinely receive new people into the family of faith, different generations give in different ways. We are not alone--charitable giving is down for many organizations.
- Our building and finances make ministry possible, but our greatest resource is you and the other people of Hosanna! If you don't yet have a place to share your time and passion with the church, we'd love to find a fit for you. Talk with Pastor Mike, other members, or take a leap and start doing something you see others doing.
- Our kids contribute to meaningful causes through their offerings. In 2024, they gave \$1,113 to a dog rescue, hurricane relief, and buying fruit trees for subsistence farmers.
- As we care for the resources we have and respond to new needs and opportunities, some costs go beyond our financial ability at this time. If you'd like to help with a special project, such as an accessible entryway, parking lot repair, HVAC replacement, investing in newer technology, music opportunities, or another need you know of, please speak with a council member or Pastor Mike about how you can contribute.

Submitted by Pastor Mike Kern

THE GOD SQUAD

At the end of 2023 Pastor Mike and Sarah Read (Treasurer) were able to open a specific checking account for the God Squad with the generous fundraising proceeds from the Treat Trays for a beginning balance in the checking account in 2024 of \$2,265. Through the previous and ongoing generosity of our Hosanna! Congregation we were able to transfer over \$9,554 making our total \$12,450.74 at the end of the First Quarter 2024. This total was able to financially support 5 Youth, 1 adult participant, and Pastor Mike for the entirety of the trip to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans LA which included transportation, hotel accommodations, and activities for a total of \$8,368.59 spent leaving \$4,082.15 in the checking account.

The God Squad participated in a number of fundraising events in 2024 beginning with a joint effort with St. Stephan's Lutheran for the Shakespeare's Superbowl Pizza event, the Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner, Palm Sunday Pie Auction, Thanksgiving Pies, and the famous Treat Trays to

round out 2024 with the ending balance in our account of \$6,509.15. The focus for the God Squad shifted slightly to Volunteer and Community outreach partnership for the end of 2024 and the year of 2025. The God Squad is regularly participating in Bible School for the younger youth and will continue to partner with local Law Enforcement for joint community projects such as Trunk or Treat and Rally Day.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported and keeps supporting our Youth, this experience will be a lifelong memory for these young adults and I can't thank the congregation enough!

Submitted by Sarah Read

AUDIT TEAM REPORT

The 2023 books have been reviewed and found to be in good order.

Respectfully submitted: Louise Ahrens, Robert Hall, Richard Moore

TREASURER REPORT

Account Balances:

Pony Express - Operations Account (2704)	8,109.92
Memorial Fund	4,280.52
Building Reserve	10,000.00
Pastor Continuing Ed	695.00
Discretionary Fund	269.00
Sabbatical Fund	1,993.74

Memorial Fund In: \$1,766
Memorial Fund Out: \$4,000 (J&J Land Survey)

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Over budget by
INCOME			
Charitable Receipts	6,184.93	2,499.96	3,684.97
Daycare Rent & Utilities	42,394.19	42,450.00	-55.81
Designated to Operating Expense	5,887.58	799.92	5,087.66
Grants- PPP, ERC, Synod, Rebate	3,836.44	1,770.00	2,066.44
Offerings	247,427.43	239,916.00	7,511.43
TOTAL FOR INCOME	\$305,730.57	\$287,435.88	\$18,294.69
EXPENSES			
BENEVOLENCE	6,515.10	6,500.00	15.10
MINISTRIES	\$49,373.68	\$44,030.00	\$5,343.68
Lawn Care	3,790.00		
Lawyer Fees	2,714.00		
Maintenance	1,146.42		
Other	240.08		
Security	210.00		
Snow Removal	1,820.00		
Total for Build & Property	\$9,920.50	\$6,480.00	\$3,440.50
Advertising / online	312.02		
New Members	180.00		
Other	533.72		
Total for Evangelism	\$1,025.74	\$1,000.00	\$25.74
Activities/Events	293.60		
Bibles	608.26		
Curricula	249.39		
Faith at Home	227.05		
Milestones	10.00		
Other	245.44		
Total for Faith Formation	\$1,633.74	\$1,800.00	-\$166.26
Fellowship Events	188.48		
Funeral	235.07		
Other	900.93		
Permit	239.00		
Total for Fellowship	\$1,563.48	\$1,000.00	\$563.48
Property / Liability	10,494.00		
Workers Comp	845.63		
Total for Insurance	\$11,339.63	\$12,000.00	-\$660.37
Communications	159.90		
Copier	4,346.76		
Other	297.96		
Software / Database	816.99		
Supplies / Paper	1,611.66		
Technology	333.94		
Total for Office	\$7,567.21	\$4,000.00	\$3,567.21

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Over budget by
Banking	391.96		
Other	504.89		
Total for Stewardship	\$896.85	\$250.00	\$646.85
Total for Synod Assembly	1,054.88	900.00	154.88
Electricity	6,251.63		
Gas	2,516.90		
Phone	261.59		
Trash	1,375.00		
Water / Sewer	1,270.49		
Total for Utilities	\$11,675.61	\$14,000.00	-\$2,324.39
Altar Guild	402.36		
Flowers	185.68		
Licenses	719.00		
Music	1,225.57		
Other	163.43		
Total for Worship & Music	\$2,696.04	\$2,500.00	\$196.04
Total for Social Ministry	0.00	100.00	-100.00
MORTGAGE	\$69,306.08	\$68,040.00	\$1,266.08
Payments	67,388.00		
Principal Additional	1,918.08		
PERSONNEL	\$184,806.37	\$169,138.68	\$15,667.69
Salary	25,477.23	26,093.04	-615.81
Social Security/Medicare	2,488.44	1,995.96	492.48
Total for Administrative Assistant	\$27,965.67	\$28,089.00	-\$123.33
Accompanist	14,632.27	15,900.00	-1,267.73
Accompanist Social Security/Medicare	247.76		247.76
Choir Director	6,250.00	6,000.00	250.00
Substitutes	1,500.00	150.00	1,350.00
Total for Music Ministry	\$22,630.03	\$22,050.00	\$580.03
Benefits / Withholding	54,378.32	40,500.00	13,878.32
Continuing Education	455.93	799.80	-343.87
Mileage	354.65	499.80	-145.15
Salary & Housing	77,808.37	76,000.08	1,808.29
Supply Pastors	703.40	1,200.00	-496.60
Total for Pastoral Ministry	\$133,700.67	\$118,999.68	\$14,700.99
Total for Payroll Expenses	510.00	0.00	510.00
TOTAL FOR EXPENSES	\$310,001.23	\$287,708.68	\$22,292.55
NET TOTAL	-\$4,270.66	-\$272.80	-\$3,997.86

Note

Offering Income Breakdown:

- Faith Commitments/Envelops 2024 = \$137,086

- Free Will & Loose 2024 = \$110,341

Faith Commitments/Envelops 2024 Pledged = \$148,260. We received 92% of what was pledged.

POTENTIAL LAND SALE UPDATE

On September 15, 2024, the congregation voted to authorize the Congregation Council to sell or encumber up to 3.25 acres of land bordering the west perimeter of our property.

Here are some developments since that time:

- Verbally communicated intentions to Chalky Mountain Gymnastics
- Began legal process to de-annex land from Kansas City and annex it into Liberty, putting all our land in Liberty (including some land not being considered for sale).
- Met with Gale-Hart Communities, who will be developing the area around the church. Discussed road studies already completed and verbally agreed to include an entrance to our west property when 104th Street is redeveloped.
- Received verbal confirmation that both cities are open to the jurisdiction transfer.
- KCMO notified us that our 2015 land purchase was never recorded with Kansas City (it was recorded with Clay County), and this must be resolved before de-annexation. Advised that we need to perform a minor subdivision and inter-jurisdictional plat.
- Reviewed title insurance, which was found not to cover this oversight.
- Sought legal counsel on replat. Received additional counsel on how to structure a sale to protect Hosanna in case of a buyer default.
- Approached Chalky Mountain about a lump-sum sale offer. Council reviewed offer and decided original owner-financed sale would be the preferred path forward.
- Contacted previous land owner for assistance with the replat. Received little.
- J & J Survey conducted the plat survey and is currently finalizing the paperwork.
- Chalky Mountain Gymnastics is graciously waiting patiently.

Expected actions for 2025:

- J & J survey will file the replat application in early February. Once approved, they will complete the paperwork and file the de-annexation/annexation applications.
- Once the jurisdictional issues are nearing resolution, we will consult again with legal counsel and finalize terms of sale with Chalky Mountain Gymnastics.
- Hosanna! and Chalky Mountain will sign a letter of intent, allowing Chalky Mountain to begin feasibility studies, secure financing, and begin engineering plans.

SABBATICAL UPDATE

A pastoral sabbatical might be a new concept for many people. However, sabbaticals are not new to the church or the world. They have been common practice a long time for academics and executives (neither of which I pretend to be). For the church of the past, similar goals were met with different approaches and different names.

Sabbatical time is intended to benefit me *and* the congregation. As I mentioned in my report, ministry is challenging and changing, so **sometimes we both need to turn off autopilot, take a step back from the daily grind, and reorient.** Sabbatical is a time to remember what is important, replace draining habits with life-giving ones, listen to God, grow, and be renewed for ministry together.

Sabbatical is more than time off or vacation for me. It will have a plan. It will involve giving more attention to my own relationship with God, taking sabbath rest, reading the Bible for myself, improving relationships with the family and friends who sustain me, learning new things, being creative, and contributing to the wider church through passion projects. These activities will help me step back into ministry with a stronger heart, empowered spirit, fresh eyes, healthier habits, and renewed enthusiasm.

Your sabbatical will have a plan, too. Rather than just hanging on until I return, you'll have meaningful activities and pastoral support. I want to emphasize that last point--**we will have a loving, caring pastor who will walk with you through any ups or downs while I'm away** (along with all your other Hosanna! friends who know you, love you, and will be with you). You will continue to have meaningful worship (after all, it's really about God, not my sermons), and hear different perspectives on God. **Our Sabbatical Committee and Council will have also made plans for special events and guest speakers** (we're working on bringing the KC Wolf to Hosanna!). You'll spend intentional time thinking about our ministry, too, and be able to talk about challenges and ideas that are hard to bring up or even think of when the pastor is the room.

I am privileged to be a *part* of Hosanna, but YOU are Hosanna! **Although I will step back from ministry with you for 8 weeks this summer, I am confident God will continue to work and move through you the whole time.**

Thank you for daring to embark on this journey of renewal with me. When we get back together afterwards, we're going to have a lot of new energy, insight, and love to share with one another and empower the next chapter of our ministry.

- Pastor Mike

PROPOSAL FOR YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Background: These resolutions are being presented by the Nominations Committee. Hosanna! encourages everyone to be full and active participants in the life of our community, regardless of age. Additionally, around 25% of worship attendees are under the age of 19. Some individuals may be ready to assume responsibilities at a younger age. Because responsibilities and opportunities in a youth's life are not the same as those traditionally considered in selecting people to serve in church leadership roles, we might overlook them and thereby deprive the community of their gifts. Typically, we have invited "adults" (post-high school) to serve on our Congregation Council. Confirmed members who have not yet graduated from high school could be selected, but often have not been considered because regularly shifting social and educational opportunities that are normal for them, making it difficult or impossible to make the two-year commitment required for council membership. In this recommendation, we suggest the creation of "Youth Council Member" position (s) with a 1-year commitment so that we might consider these members for the sake of our community of faith and for them to have another opportunity to be more fully involved in the life of the church.

Moved: Hosanna! amend our Congregation Constitution with these Continuing Resolutions:

[C12.01.A25] Up to two additional "youth" may be elected to the Congregation Council in addition to the maximum of 5 non-officer members dictated in C12.01. However, this provision does not preclude a youth from serving as a voting member of the Congregation Council in one of the 5 regularly designated positions with a 2-year term. A Youth Council Member must be a voting member of the congregation who is 19 years of age or younger at the beginning of their term. This position may or may not be filled annually depending on the availability of nominees. All conditions, procedures and responsibilities pertaining to a council member shall apply to Youth Council Members, unless otherwise provided for in this constitution or by applicable state statute or law.

[C12.02.A25] Those elected to serve as a Youth Council Member shall be elected by written ballot, presented on ballots as "Youth Council Member," to serve for one (1) year or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than four (4) full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

[C12.03.A25] Should a Youth Council Member's place be declared vacant, the Congregation Council may elect, by majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting, or they may leave the position vacant until the next annual meeting.

[C12.04.A25] To further the goal of involvement of all members of HOSANNA! in the accomplishments of the mission of the Congregation, and to set an example of good leadership the Youth Council Member(s) shall be available to be a liaison to committees of this congregation as invited, and available without the responsibility of regular participation or leadership. The youth council members shall serve as liaison to the high school youth group of this congregation.

[C12.12.A25] The Youth Council Member positions will not be included in the calculation of quorum for the transaction of business by the Congregation Council.

2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

Officers (2-year term)

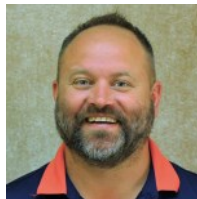
Secretary: Joyce Uber

Continuing:

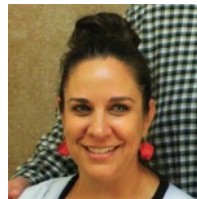
President: Justin Noel

Vice President: Alissa Willett

Treasurer: Tony Belcher



Justin Noel



Alissa Willett

Council (2-year term)

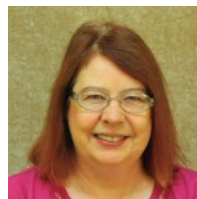
Bonny Grauerholz (1st term)

Karen Orrill (1st term)

Margaret Rockhold (2nd term)



Tony Belcher



Joyce Uber

Continuing:

Mike Jennings

Charlynn Carlson



Bonny Grauerholz



Karen Orrill

Going off:

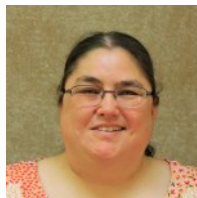
Chris Marple

Beth Schoening

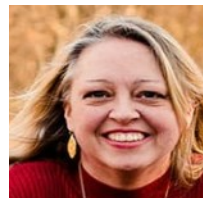
Synod Assembly Voting Members

Richard Moore

Joyce Uber



Margaret Rockhold



Charlynn Carlson

Nominating Committee (1-year term)

Katharine Fairchild

Sarah Read

Leslie Long

Kristin Belcher

Mike Jennings (outgoing council)

Charlynn Carlson (outgoing council)



Mike Jennings

Audit Committee Member (3-year term)

Scott Schmidt (2025; 2026; 2026)

Continuing:

Richard Moore (2024; 2025; 2026) ; Louise Ahrens (2023; 2024; 2025)

2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL

INCOME	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Charitable Receipts	\$2,500	\$6,184	\$2,500
Daycare Rent + Utilities	\$42,450	\$42,395	\$42,450
Designated to Operating Expenses	\$800	\$5,887	\$6,000
Faith Commitments/Envelopes	\$136,868	\$137,086	\$148,260
Free Will & Loose	\$103,050	\$110,341	\$110,000
Grants (PPP, ERC, Synod, Util. Rebate)	\$1,770	\$3,756	
Sabbatical Giving	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$287,438	\$305,649	\$319,210
EXPENSES	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
BENEVOLENCE	\$6,500	\$6,515	\$6,500
PERSONNEL	\$175,422	\$184,805	\$191,747
Pastoral Ministry	\$125,283	\$133,700	\$135,620
- Salary, Housing	\$76,000	\$77,808	\$77,520
- Social Security / Medicare Allowance	\$6,296	\$7,003	\$6,575
- Benefits (health, retire, disability, etc.)	\$40,487	\$54,378	\$55,200
- Continuing Education	\$800	\$456	\$1,200
- Mileage	\$500	\$0	\$500
- Supply Pastors	\$1,200	\$1,058	\$1,200
Administrative Assistant + FICA	\$28,089	\$27,965	\$28,599
- Salary	\$26,093	\$25,477	\$26,567
- Social Security / Medicare	\$1,996	\$2,488	\$2,032
Music Ministry	\$22,050	\$22,630	\$26,508
- Organist/Pianist	\$15,900	\$14,632	\$17,100
- Social Security / Medicare	\$0	\$248	\$1,308
- Choir Director	\$6,000	\$6,250	\$7,800
- Substitutes	\$150	\$1,500	\$300
Payroll Services	\$0	\$510	\$1,020
MINISTRIES	\$44,050	\$49,165	\$56,100
Building & Property	\$6,500	\$9,921	\$6,500
Evangelism	\$1,000	\$1,026	\$1,000
Faith Formation	\$1,800	\$1,634	\$1,800
Fellowship	\$1,000	\$1,563	\$1,000
Insurance	\$12,000	\$11,340	\$12,000
Office	\$4,000	\$7,567	\$5,000
Sabbatical	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Social Ministry	\$100	\$0	\$100
Stewardship	\$250	\$687	\$500
Synod Assembly	\$900	\$1,055	\$1,200
Utilities	\$14,000	\$11,676	\$14,000
Worship & Music	\$2,500	\$2,696	\$3,000
MORTGAGE	\$68,000	\$69,306	\$74,292
TAXES	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
LEGAL	\$0	\$2,700	\$2,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$293,972	\$309,791	\$332,139
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
INCOME	\$287,438	\$305,649	\$319,210
EXPENSE	\$293,972	\$309,791	\$332,139
DIFFERENCE	-\$6,534	-\$4,142	-\$12,929

Comments
2024: Thrivent Choice (\$3,039), RaiseRight (\$3,145)
2025: \$38,400 rent + \$4,050 utilities
Flowers, Bibles, and other gifts designated to operating items
2025 Budget: Pledges pending, based on 2024 pledges 2024 Actual: 33 pledges (92% met)
2025 Budget: Based on 2024 Actual 2024 Actual: total - pledges
Comments
To Synod/ELCA
2025: 2% increase
2025: 7.65% of salary
2025: \$4,600 per month 2024: 12 of 12 payments made in calendar year 2024 @ \$4,353.39
2025: Synod Guidelines
2025: Synod Guidelines @ 67 cents per mile
2025: 6 Sundays at \$170 + mileage (4 vacation, 2 sick)
2025: \$19.65/hr @ 26 hrs/wk. (2% increase)
2025: No change. \$1,425/month
2025: \$650/month
2025: \$150/substitute 2024: Interim Musicians
2025: Ensures direct deposit and accurate tax reporting 2024: Started mid year.
2025: 2024 included New Lawn Mower \$3,000
Cakes, hospitality expenses, permit, etc. 2025: Planning more events
2025: Anticipate increased cost.
2025: Increased from 2024 budget 2024: large expenses incl: \$3,625.76 in January of 2024
2025: Received \$2,000 to date
Costs are often donated.
2025: Increased due to 2024 Actuals
2025: Increased due to 2024 Actuals
2025: Remained at 2024 budget even though 2024 Actuals is under budget
2025: Addl. music opportunities
2025: Rate adjust / reamortization in August
Unrelated Business Income Tax due to rental income
This is related to the land sale to Chalky Mountain

Let us pray...

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability, creativity, and faithfulness to adapt to the cultural, economic, and social changes occurring in the people we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures and its successes, and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders among us who lead us to live consistent with God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Gracious God,

you are the giver of every good gift.

Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

2800 North Church Road | Liberty, Missouri 64068 | 816.781.7991
www.hosannatogether.org | facebook.com/hosanna.liberty.mo

Dr. Chris Marple, Choral Director | chrismmarple@gmail.com

Andrew Stephens | andrew@hosannalutheranchurch.org

Rev. Mike Kern, Pastor | 402.741.2957 | pastormike@hosannalutheranchurch.org

Cathy Baker, Office Administrator | cathy@hosannalutheranchurch.org