

**WORSHIP TIMES**

- 8:30 A.M. Traditional Service**  
 9:30 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments  
**10:00 A.M. Contemporary Service  
 And Kid's Church**

# HORIZON OF HOPE

## ENDURING OVER THE LONG HAUL Best Strategy for Dealing with Covid-19 by Valerie Robert

"Having patience and discipline with your pacing is key. Remember that the pace will feel very easy at the start, and may still feel easy at halfway, but this does not mean that you should pick up the pace. As you get further into the race and start to fatigue, your perceived effort will increase, so you will have to work progressively harder to maintain the same pace. One of the biggest mistakes people make is to start picking up the pace too early in the race. This can often lead to slowing down in the latter stages of the race" (Excerpted from **Canadian Running Magazine--Marathon Pacing 101: How the Heck to Actually Run a Marathon**).

Struggling with the feeling of living in a bad dream there's no waking up from? Feeling like Covid-19 will never end? Join the club. While the first months of Sheltering in Place were challenging, they seemed doable because there was a perceived "end in sight." But with cases once again surging throughout much of the country and the back-sliding that has occurred with some states once again shutting down businesses and others threatening to do so, Americans have grown weary of the virus and its restrictions. There are no easy answers, but one thing is clear—this virus is not going away anytime soon without a clear-cut, decisive strategy and widespread participation.

A common strategy among marathon runners is to pace oneself throughout the race. The key to this strategy is to determine goal time, then pick a constant speed that will allow for successful completion of the race. Once an effective strategy is developed, it's crucial to stick with it throughout the race.

To extend this analogy to dealing with the current health crises—while strength is going to wax and wane, don't be blown by the winds of popular opinion. Get the facts from reliable resources—in this case trust science and the top medical experts in infectious disease control. There is a plethora of information out there, but not all of it is reliable. Vet websites, read articles with care, and consider the biases of politicians who don't always have the public's best interests at heart.

'Pace yourself' and extend endurance by asking questions based on whether they are simply 'wants' or actual 'needs.' *My employer is reopening my work place. Should I return to work?* If it's not possible to work from home, the answer to that question might be 'yes' because you need your job. *Should I resume attending church services at my place of worship?* How many people will be in attendance? Is there an online option available? What is the status of my health and those I live with? The answers to these questions can help in making a decision. *My favorite restaurant is reopening. Should I choose to dine in because I can, or should I opt for take-out instead?* *Should I make an appointment to get my hair cut? Should I schedule routine medical appointments?*

The answer to all of these questions, and more, is the same—it depends. The important thing is to consider the questions carefully based on how those decisions affect each of us, and those around us. That is something all Christians are called to do always, but especially during these difficult times. And finally, pray. Pray for guidance. Pray for leaders to be enlightened. Pray for scientists to produce an effective vaccine. Just pray! That is something we call do anywhere, anytime, and it works!

**Please join us for services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM.  
 Details for services can be found in Pastor's sermon beginning on page 3.**

Be joyful always,  
 Pray continually,  
 Give thanks in all  
 circumstances for  
 this is God's will for  
 you in Christ Jesus.  
*1 Thessalonians 5:10-18*

**How will you get connected??**

These small groups meet monthly and/or weekly for devotions, fellowship and service projects. We hope you'll find one or two to get involved with.

**Bible Study with Pastor Jim**

Monday at 6:30 PM. Postponed until further notice

Come and dig deeper into the Bible.  
 Everyone is welcome!

**PRAYER TIME FOR EVERYONE:**

**Every Tuesday from 10:00-10:30 a.m.**  
 Please join the church staff in the office as we pray for the Church, its ministries, and those who have asked us to include them in our prayers. Plan to join us! "Never doubt what one prayer can do."

**WOMEN'S GROUP-August 17, 2020**

**WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING OUT TO EAT**  
**TBD**

**COUNCIL NOTES**

**HOSANNA COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Phone numbers are listed here for your convenience

President	Bob Wills	298-7442
Vice President/ Worship Ministry	Linda Mason	319-8012
Secretary/ Witness Ministry	Melinda Zimmerer	880-4992
Welcome Ministry	Claudia Wylie	802-7115
Welcome Ministry	Heidi Walz	740-0146
Worship Ministry	Riley Weber	209-7395
Witness Ministry	Vicki Weber	209-5237
Treasurer	Dave Steinkruger	250-7737
Financial Secretary	Jenni Dasovic	297-1670
Property Maintenance	Bill Wylie	203-2949

***We welcome all people to worship God  
 by offering our lives in daily witness  
 to the love of Jesus Christ.***

**Welcome Ministry**                      **Worship Ministry**  
 Claudia and Heidi                      Riley

**Witness Ministry**  
 Vicki and Melinda

YOU are always welcome to attend the meeting of our Council. Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
General	2530.00	2835.00	1710.00	n/a
Benevolence	0	10.00	0	0

**\$8344.00 needed per month to make  
 2020 Budget**

**Your Financial Gifts...**

A special thank you to all who continue to send offering during this time where we are not meeting in person!

Please consider mailing your commitment to the church at  
 P.O. Box 301,  
 Plattsmouth, NE 68048. Thank You!

Our Church continues to be grateful for all who faithfully support the ongoing life and ministry operating costs of Hosanna.  
 You make a difference!

**“Holy Spirit and Fire” – now for something completely different.**

We continue in the Book of Job. I plan on using some of the wisdom we received from our journey through Corinthians to help understand something we all face – suffering (undeserved suffering). We will learn more about faith because this story takes place within the household of faith in God. And it is a faith that rebels and a God who loves the rebel that is the surprise in the story.

I will continue these written sermonettes each week but know on Sunday there is a more robust message (I’m sorry, I can only write so much). So far we have had plenty of space in church. We are still sitting 6ft apart in worship services at 8:30 and 10:00 am. We are still asking that people to come and go wearing masks. Still asking that if you are sick, please, stay home. Please leave a message at church (402-296-2662) if you have any questions.

**Here is our PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Sermon: Job’s Hope?**

Job continues in his anguish – searching for answers and refuting his friend’s accusations that he must have sinned. He exclaims “how can mere mortals prove their innocence before God?” (9:2). His problem is complex – He is convinced simultaneously that he is innocent and that God holds him guilty (9:29). So Job explores his need for a mediator – “If only there were someone to mediate between us; to bring us together?” (9:33) Wow what a great desire – we know about that, don’t we. Thank you Jesus!!!

Job is hurt that his friends are concerned with what he has done (on the assumption that he is suffering as a sinner), rather than what God has done. He does not need their theology he needs friends with empathetic hearts – who are better off not saying anything (13:5) ---- Something for us to think about. They are trying but I’m not sure they have ever turned to God to receive God’s comfort to pass on to Job. (2 Cor 1:3-4) As Job continues to talk he experiences moments of inexplicable hope, or moments at least of hopeful longing – that God will hear him – that God will answer him. Such longing is based on Job’s faith and his experiences in God’s care in his past (10:9-12) Let’s explore some of this....

**Job 14:7-17 (NIV)**

*<sup>7</sup>“At least there is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. <sup>8</sup>Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil, <sup>9</sup>yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant. <sup>10</sup>But a man dies and is laid low; he breathes his last and*

*is no more. <sup>11</sup> As the water of a lake dries up or a riverbed becomes parched and dry, <sup>12</sup> so he lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, people will not awake or be roused from their sleep. <sup>13</sup> "If only you would hide me in the grave and conceal me till your anger has passed! If only you would set me a time and then remember me! <sup>14</sup> If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. <sup>15</sup> You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made. <sup>16</sup> Surely then you will count my steps but not keep track of my sin. <sup>17</sup> My offenses will be sealed up in a bag; you will cover over my sin.*

Old Testament Jewish people had a hope of an existence after death – we hear that from Job in several places but he is wondering how this might work – He uses a picture of a tree being cut down that will send out shoots (regenerate) unlike a dried lake that will not come back. He wonders which will it be???? But in faith he boldly proclaims “I will wait for my renewal” and he knows God has to do something to make that happen. Hmmmm did you catch it??????? God will have to find some way to cover Job’s sins (14:16-17). Wow – we New Testament folks know all about that. We have been cleansed of our sins by Jesus’ blood. Thank you Lord.

His friend on hearing what Job has just said, reply: <sup>2</sup> “*Would a wise person answer with empty notions or fill their belly with the hot east wind? <sup>3</sup> Would they argue with useless words, with speeches that have no value?*” (15:2-2) He obviously has a different picture of who God is. Again, it’s a god with narrow boundaries and who is incomprehensible by humans. Job is convinced that God will provide a way.....”<sup>19</sup> *Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high*”. (16:19)

### **Job 19:23-27 (NRSV)**

<sup>23</sup> *“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll,*

<sup>24</sup> *that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!*

<sup>25</sup> *I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.*

<sup>26</sup> *And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;*

<sup>27</sup> *I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

Let’s look at the main points: 1) Job is so certain of his innocence that he will commit to writing a record of his life; 2) He will see God (something more wonderful than hearing his voice); 3) He will see God in the flesh as a real human being; 4) his redeemer is God himself; 5) God the redeemer will act on Job’s behalf; 6) Job’s heart is yearning for this. Hear the Hope!!!

WOW, Job’s questioning has led him to a profound statement – I know my redeemer lives!!!

Who else can put up security for our lives? If we cannot control our circumstances, the principalities and powers around us, or other human beings with similar powers to ourselves, it will take a heavenly guarantor to secure our future. Already he has mentioned a heavenly friend, intercessor and witness – now he asks God to defend him against God – To give God what God requires!!! Which again we know – what God in Christ did, the One in whom all the promises of God find their yes (2 Cor1:20)

Thinking time: The idea of a redeemer comes from the Hebrew understanding of the solidarity of the family. The redeemer or kinsman was a close relative who was closely involved in all matters of your life. Job is claiming that God himself should become Job's closest relative and vindicate him forever on which whichever side of the grave Job might be. Sound familiar – Christ in us.

It is very interesting that Job comes to this conclusion even when he accuses God of causing his suffering. He knows his friends don't have the answer and in fact Job accuse them of not knowing God at all as they speak on God's behalf. Don't we try that – God must have a reason.... God needs another angel.... I'm sure you have heard more. Don't do it, seems to be one of Job's messages😊

Big picture: Job is being tested. It is essential that he does not know why. He must ask why. He must test and reject all the answers attempted by men. In the end he will find satisfaction with what God himself tells him. The God of all comfort who comforts us.....

**Let us Pray:** Lord God – gracious Father – thank you for the gift of your Son and the Holy Spirit to teach and to guide. As we study the Book of Job help us to learn what you want us to learn – to understand suffering better – to trust in you – you are the God of all comfort – you comfort us in all of our troubles so that we can comfort others in all their troubles. Help us to be aware of the suffering of others, help us walk with them. Help us to love you for who you are and not for what you have given us. Give us ears to hear and a heart willing to follow your will in our lives. Help us be the children you want us to be. Help us to love you and love others. We lift up the healthcare workers – keep them safe. We lift those who have the virus – heal them. We lift up the researchers – may you give them wisdom to find a cure and vaccine quickly. We lift up our leaders – grant them wisdom to deal with this for the good of all they serve. Help us be conscious of care for ourselves so that we can care safely for others around us. Help those who are at a higher risk to be safe but to reach out to our larger family so that we can serve them. We thank you Lord for all that you have done and are doing. Praise and blessing to you – in Jesus name we pray and all God's children said.... Amen.

**BLESSING: Sending message from St. Teresa of Avila**

**"Christ has no body now, but ours. No hands, no feet on earth, but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Ours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world." † AMEN.**

**Verse of the Month**

**<sup>25</sup> I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.**

***Job 19:25***

**Helping Our Community**

- ▶ **Under His Wings Baby Pantry:**  
 Located at Under His Wings  
 Always needs diapers, Size 3, 4, 5, & 6  
 Baby shampoo, lotion and wash.
- ▶ **Under His Wings Thrift Shop:**  
 511 Main St.  
 Hours: 10-5:00 pm Tues.-Fri  
 10-3:00 pm Sat

Life gets tough, and times get hard  
 It's hard to find the truth in all the lies

If you're tired of wondering why  
 Your heart isn't healing  
 And nothing feels like home  
 Cause your lost and alone just screaming at  
 the sky

When you don't know what to say  
 Just Say Jesus  
 There is power in the name  
 The Name of Jesus  
 If the words wont come  
 Cause you're to afraid to pray  
 Just Say Jesus

Whisper it now, or shout it out  
 However it comes out, He hears your cry  
 Out of nowhere He will come-you got to  
 believe it  
 He will rescue you  
 Just call out to the Way, The Truth, The  
 Life

When you don't know what to say  
 Just Say Jesus  
 There is power in the name  
 The Name of Jesus  
 If the words won't come  
 Cause you're to afraid to pray  
 There is just One name  
 Strong enough to save  
 There is just One name  
 There is just One name...Jesus

When you don't know what to say  
 Just Say Jesus  
 There's still power in the name  
 The Name of Jesus  
 If the words wont come  
 Cause you're to afraid to pray  
 If the words wont come  
 And you don't know what to say

Just Say Jesus

By Seventh Time Down

**Please pray for:**

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Caren Apprich       | Sandy Ham      |
| Dori Brich          | Harley Hein    |
| Bertha Black        | Jason Knott    |
| Michelle Black      | Donna McClean  |
| O.C. Coleman        | Esther Nash    |
| Jan Conley          | Norman Rishel  |
| Nancy Conley        | Sheila Sach    |
| Mandy Connealy      | Russ Sederburg |
| Glenn Crockett      | Kathy Todd     |
| Barb Culbertson     | Grace Zimmerer |
| Mary & Ted Dalhberg | Chris          |
| Ebbin Gehrke        | Mary C.        |
| Dave Greer          | Joanie         |
| Bill Grunewald      |                |

Please let the office  
 (296-2662) know of changes to the prayer lists so  
 that we can keep everything current. Thanks!

**Prayer for those serving in the military and law  
 enforcement:**

- Justin Bartlett, Marines
- Meshack Casey, Army
- Cory Clines, Air Force
- Alex Houchin, Navy
- Sean Gardner, Law Enforcement
- Kyle Hefner, Air Force
- Regan Hefner, Air Force
- Mason Jensen, Navy
- Calvin Johnson, Air Force
- Rachel Mildenhall, Marines
- Scott Nelson, Army
- Tyler Nielson, Navy
- Nick Richards, Law Enforcement
- Steven Richards, Army
- Travis Roeder, Air Force
- Brent Wiese, Army
- Craig Wylie, Law Enforcement
- Sandra Wylie, Law Enforcement
- Jennifer Zeitler and Marcus Hough, Air Force



**Attendance July 2020**

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
	21	30	30	n/a

Hosanna Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 301  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
(402) 296-2662

**Ministers:**  
All Members

**Pastor:**  
Jim Spanjers 616-7909  
E-mail: hl\_pastor@windstream.net

**Council President:** Bob Wills

**Director Of Care Ministry:**  
Grace Weisz 297-0975

**Director of Under His Wings  
Baby Pantry and Thrift Shop:**  
Claudia Wylie 802-7115

**Church Office:**  
Diana Lindensmith 296-2662

**E-Mail:**  
hosannalutheran@windstream.net

Find us on Facebook!  
Hosanna Lutheran Church Elca

On the Web:  
www.HosannaPlattsmouth.com



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*We welcome all people to worship God  
by offering our lives in daily witness  
to the love of Jesus Christ.*

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/686987367762311184>

In light of the cancellation of the 2020 Nebraska Synod Assembly, Bishop Maas would like to take this opportunity to share more about what it means to be the Nebraska Synod. Bishop Maas will be presenting, in three brief videos, how the synod is Growing Disciples, Walking Together, and Serving God's World. These videos will be available at the links below beginning the final week of July.

As follow up to the videos, the Bishop and Synod Staff would also like to invite congregations to join them on **Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30pm CST or Sunday, August 23 at 7:30pm CST** live online to discuss What's Next. We encourage congregations to watch and share the videos, then attend one of the discussion sessions. It is in this time of physical distancing that it is more important than ever for us to connect and find ways to continue to be the church together.