

**WORSHIP TIMES**

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service

10:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

# HORIZON OF HOPE

**Focal verse—“Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground” (Exodus 3:5).**

**Reflection**

Summer mornings at the park are a staple of our family’s routine. Most days, the kids run ahead of me to the playground and, once they arrive, remove their shoes and socks (which I find littered across the ground). The kids’ laughter leads the way as they slide, swing and chase one another. The ground there isn’t soft by any means, but nothing seems to bother them; they’re more interested in the freedom they find in running and playing barefoot. Seated on the park bench, I watch the kids’ feet bouncing against the rocky ground and I squirm over their pain—but it doesn’t faze them. Their running barefoot actually seems to be both strengthening and softening them to the world. Their feet get accustomed to the roughness beneath them but also feel the depth and beauty of each rock and blade of grass. Their feet are intimate with the earth.

I can’t help but wonder whether their playing barefoot might help them learn about gratitude and connecting with the earth spiritually. I hope my children know the gift of this life, this creation and their place in the world. I want to model gratitude by offering my thanks for my children and the life we share.

I’m learning from my children that gratitude can be a posture we take with our whole bodies. When they take off their shoes, I believe, they’re able to feel that this earth is a myriad of animals, plants and minerals, all coming together to form God’s beautiful and diverse creation. God is with us wherever we go. God’s goodness, too, is never far from us. The ground we walk on is holy.

Remembering that God created each and every part of this world—people, plants, animals—gives us new eyes to see what’s in front of us as brimming with goodness and hope. This month, I’d like to take a lesson from my kids, step outside with bare feet and feel the power of God’s presence supporting me.

**Practices**

If the weather allows, go outside barefoot. Stand in the grass or on your driveway. Root yourself in the earth and say a word of thanks to God for creation and your place in the world.

After time outside, wash one another’s feet with a hose or wet washcloth. Take time to give thanks for your feet and for all the places they have taken you.

**Service opportunity**

Visit parks in your community and pick up trash. Find ways to bring beauty to areas where people gather.

**Prayers**

We pray for peace in our communities and across the world.  
 We pray for God’s grace to comfort those who feel alone or scared.  
 We pray for all those who walk for their livelihood and for their water.  
 We give thanks for parks, playgrounds and the playfulness of children.  
 We give thanks for the chance to walk, run and jump.  
 We give thanks for the sun, flowers and grass, God’s beautiful creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

**Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two and spouse of an ELCA pastor. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, Mo.**

**Confirmation starts soon!  
Parent/Student meeting  
August 21, 2022 at 9:30AM**

**Monday Evening Service  
6:30 PM  
All are welcome**

**Bible Study**

**Every Monday evening 4:00 PM  
Come join Pastor Jim as he digs  
deeper in the Bible.  
All are welcome!**

**Women's Group  
Monday August 15, 2022  
at 9:30 AM.**

**Women's Evening Bible Study  
To be announced!**

**Women's Daytime Bible Study!!  
Will resume in September.**

**God's Work, Our Hands Picnic  
Coming up Sunday,  
September 11, 2022!  
Food, games, face painting,  
and a tribute to fist  
responders  
We need your help to make  
this work!**

**COUNCIL NOTES**

**HOSANNA COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Phone numbers are listed here for your convenience

President/Witness Ministry	Heidi Walz	740-0146
Vice President/Witness Min.	Jan Young	317-4409
Secretary/Welcom Min.	Allison Dworak	740-0950
Welcome Ministry	Val Robert	296-4633
Worship Ministry	Bill Haney	235-2238
Worship Ministry	Steve Graf	505-3478
Treasurer/Council/Witness	Dave Steinkruger	250-7737
Financial Secretary	Jenni Dasovic	297-1620
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**  
Val and Allison

**Worship Ministry**  
Bill and Steve

**Witness Ministry**  
Heidi and Jan

*YOU are always welcome to attend the meeting of  
our Council. Check with the church office for meeting  
details!*

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
General	1205.00	1430.00	1760.00	490.00	n/a
Benevolence	0	0	0	25.00	n/a

**Your Financial Gifts...**  
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!**



**A few photos from  
Helen's Mission Trip!**

**Watch for the September  
newsletter where Helen  
will write about her  
adventures.**

**FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP MAAS      LET FREEDOM RING JULY , 2022**

In his great work, “The Freedom of a Christian,” Martin Luther famously wrote that “a Christian is a perfectly free lord of all subject to none” AND “a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all. This seemingly irreconcilable tension is the reality in which disciples are called to live.

Ultimately it is a tension that only seems irreconcilable. As Luther explains, through Christ’s life, death and resurrection, we are set free from everything—sin, death, the devil; our own pride, ego, fears—so that we are ultimately subject to no one and no thing in this world. God has claimed us, and we are free from any other claim on our allegiance, time, possessions or energy.

At the same time, because we follow Christ who “though he was in the form of God did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...” [Philippians 2:6-7a], we desire to follow him in becoming servants ourselves. We can choose to do this not because we must, or because it’s how we earn our salvation. Rather, because our salvation has already been assured by Christ, we’re free to choose to serve God by serving others, to live lives—freely!—of true meaning.

This can be a real head-scratcher, to be sure. But the tension between the two truths of our existence—that we are wholly free people and freely whole servants—helps us understand and live fully into the many shades of gray that make up so much of our lives.

Ours is a culture that tends to oversimplify things and make them black-and-white. More often, it stresses that things be black OR white, and that there is nothing between the two. We know better. Life is filled with grays, and it’s there where most of life happens. Yes, it can be frustrating to have to deal with conundrums, to live in the tension. It’s so much easier to say “this always” or “that never,” but most of the time, those things can only be said if we ignore reality and deny the human condition.

Living in this tension is where grace comes into play—not the cheap grace that says, “anything goes, nothing matters,” but the costly grace that says, “though there be a cost to it, I can give up my certainty for the sake of God’s call and for the sake of my neighbor.” Is it hard to live in this tension? Yes. Is it difficult to practice this grace? Absolutely! But the cross means nothing if it isn’t seen as the means whereby God is reconciled to humanity and humanity is reconciled to itself. Because it is the symbol—and the means—of that reconciliation, we can live freely and abundantly in life and in grace. This is a part of the brilliance of Luther’s theology I wish we could communicate more freely and live more fully.

Were we able to convince others to live in this tension (and let’s be honest, most days it would be enough to convince ourselves), we would discover whole new worlds of potential. Division could give way to unity, conflict could yield to resolution, and much of what is now impossible could now become possible. Living in that tension would mean, as Luther taught, experiencing true freedom—the only real freedom there is to know. God grant that that freedom be a hallmark of our lives. And let that freedom ring.

**Jordan Feliz—Next To Me**

*I've been empty  
 When I'm low, you fill the cup, yeah  
 But my ego fights back telling me that  
 I'm ready to grab the wheel and take control  
 But I'll crash if I don't let myself let go  
 You put the "X" on my faded map  
 Draw me a line back to where You're at  
 Patient when I try to move too fast  
 I get this feeling  
 I get this feeling  
 I get this feeling in my spirit way down low  
 I hear it calling like a compass in my soul  
 Saying, child, come on back now  
 You've been gone too long  
 Let me lead you back where you belong  
 Right next to Me  
 Right next to Me  
 I've been captive by the plans I tried to make,  
 yeah  
 I've been selfish  
 'Cause callous heart they die hard like habits  
 That I know I gotta break  
 Ain't it good to know that help is on the way?  
 Yeah, You put the "X" on my faded map  
 Draw me a line back to where You're at  
 Patient when I try to move too fast  
 I get this feeling  
 I get this feeling  
 I get this feeling in my spirit way down low  
 I hear it calling like a compass in my soul  
 Saying, child, come on back now  
 You've been gone too long  
 Let me lead you back where you belong  
 Right next to Me (oh-o-oh)  
 You know I tried to do it on my own (oh-o-oh)  
 You say it's time for me to come back home  
 Won't you come back home?  
 I get this feeling in my spirit way down low  
 I hear it calling like a compass in my soul  
 Saying, child, come on back now  
 You've been gone too long  
 Let me lead you back where you belong  
 I get this feeling in my spirit way down low  
 I hear it calling like a compass in my soul  
 Saying, child, come on back now  
 You've been gone too long  
 Let me lead you back where you belong  
 Right next to Me  
 Right next to Me  
 You put the "X" on my faded map  
 Draw me a line back to where You're at*

**Please pray for:**

Bertha Black	Donna McClean
Mary Braatz	Rod McKulsky
Nadine Burson	Mike Miller
Donna Clark	Pam Morgan
O.C. Coleman	David Pedersen
Heidi Condrie	Kay Rishel
Nancy Conley	Juan Rodriguez
Glenn Crockett	Emily Ryan
Barb Culbertson	Sheila Sach
Ebbin Gehrke	Russ Sederburg
Jan Gehrig	Margaret Stamp
Dave Greer	Corky Stolp
Harley Hein	Gary Thornton
Barrett Hermann	Kathy Todd
Cheryl Johnson	Grace Zimmerer
Eric Johnson	Dayon
Jason Knott	David
Tony Larson	Kelly
Hayden Lavin	Jason
	Kevin

**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  
 Jason Black, Law Enforcement  
 Joshua Black, Law Enforcement  
 Meshack Casey, Army  
 Cory Clines, Air Force  
 Steve Durow, Law Enforcement  
 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  
 Marcus Hough, Air Force



**Attendance July 2022**

July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
71	64	62	49	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:** Heidi Walz

**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](http://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.*

**Information meeting for parents and students regarding Confirmation.  
Call the office if you have questions!**

**Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 9:30**

**Wednesday August 17th at 10:30 AM**  
**Men's Fellowship Brunch**

**To be announced!**  
**Women's Bible Study**

**Third Monday Morning at 9:30 AM—August 15**  
**Women's Group**

**All are welcome!**  
**Monday Evening Service 6:30 PM**

**Bible Study**  
**Every Monday afternoon at 4:00 PM**

