



HORIZON OF HOPE

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
10:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

Seeking a Way Forward by Valerie Robert

Watching the recent inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris has caused me to consider all that has happened over the past year (pandemic, political upheaval, etc.), and to seek a way to move into the future with hope. I, like others, have had a difficult time accepting the way some of the events of the past year have played out. I've questioned some of the decisions made by our leaders regarding how best to handle the pandemic. Could they have done a better job? I've also questioned individuals' personal responsibility in protecting themselves and others. I've been angry about the actions I've felt I had to take when others have acted irresponsibly and immorally. I have had difficulty accepting the ways those irresponsible behaviors have affected me and others. My anger has grown, and when it was recently suggested that I write on the topic of 'love my neighbor,' I balked. I've held onto that anger because I've simply been unable to accept the world as it is; consequently, I've been operating on the mistaken notion that by accepting all that's been happening, I somehow agree with it.

Acceptance—there's that word again! What does acceptance really mean? One definition of acceptance is "a person's assent to the **reality** of a situation, recognizing a process or condition without attempting to change it or protest it." This doesn't mean that we acquiesce and blindly accept what is happening around us. It simply means that we must acknowledge the fact of the situation. It doesn't absolve us of any responsibility to act if our conscience dictates action, and it is within our power to do so. It requires that we search for the truth of what is happening in our world to the best of our abilities. How do we find that truth? As Christians we seek truth from church leaders, from scripture, from our fellow congregants as we seek to understand its meaning and the tenets of our faith. In the secular world we use our God-given intellects to seek wisdom from trusted sources, based on established facts rather than emotions. Once we have done that, we follow our conscience to ascertain our creator's will for us and the courage to carry it out.

After watching the attack on our nation's capital on January 6th, I was at first appalled at the actions taken by those involved. Quickly following that emotion, however, was a humbling thought. While I had not acted in violence, nor had I had any verbal altercations with those I disagree with politically or morally, I've had thoughts about actions I would like to take, or consequences I felt others deserved. When we hold onto anger and resentment, they fester within us. They poison our minds with vengeful thoughts, and can lead to harmful actions. But even if we **never** act on our thoughts, are we really any different than those who do? In that 'aha' moment, I realized I'm not so different from those I've been so quick to judge. I have committed vengeful acts in my mind, and I felt justified in doing so. Yes, I do need to learn to love my neighbors, even though I don't have to like or approve of their actions. We all need to forgive, even if we may never forget. And forgiveness needs to begin with me.

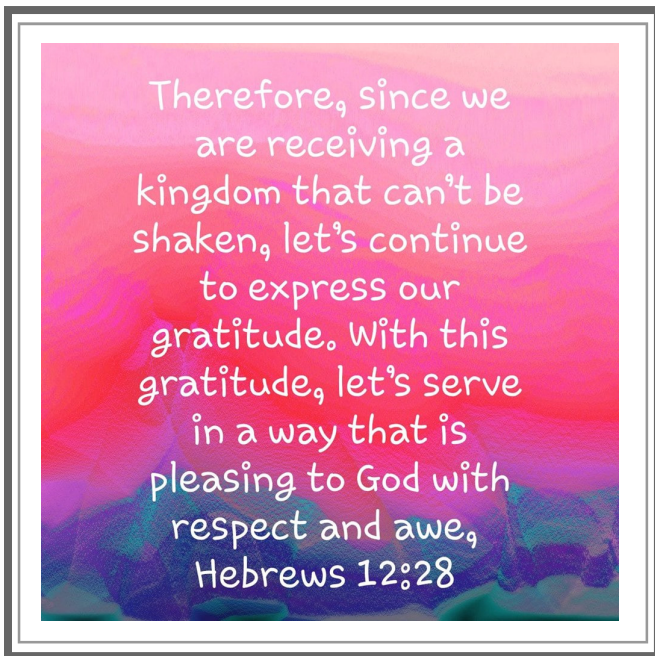
***Please check out this excerpt from Amanda Gorman's moving inaugural poem. You can read it in its entirety at www.baltimoresun.com:** "And so, we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true. That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped; that even as we tired, we tried; that we'll forever be tied together, victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division" (*The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate).

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

Every Tuesday from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Please join the church staff 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."



COUNCIL NOTES

HOSANNA COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phone numbers are listed here for your convenience

President/Welcome Ministry	Heidi Walz	740-0146
Vice President/ Worship Ministry	Linda Mason	319-8012
Secretary/ Witness Ministry	Melinda Zimmerer	880-4992
Welcome Ministry	Claudia Wylie	802-7115
Worship Ministry	Bob Wills	297-2357
Worship Ministry	Bill Haney	
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

Claudia and Heidi

Worship Ministry

Linda, Bill & Bob

Witness Ministry

Vicki and Melinda

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

	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31
General	935.00	1495.00	1475.00	1250.00	n/a
Benevolence	0	0	0	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!

People matter to God

Last week Jesus called the disciples to fish for people. Why??? We will see that people matter to God in our text today.

We pray all is well with you and yours. Going forward on Sunday's the 8:30 am service will be mask required for the entire service – this has been working great for school kids and several families would like us to adopt that for a service on Sunday – the 8:30 folks graciously agreed. Thank You!!! The 10 am service will be masks to and from but once seated may remove mask. You can also join us live at home using Facebook Live at the 10 am service or whenever is convenient for you online. We will not change our 6 ft seating separation. Please call the church at 402-296-2662 if you have any questions.

Here is our PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the Sabbath,

Your followers were told not to work on the Sabbath, and yet they boldly plucked grain to show that you are Lord of all. The world tells us not to rest on the Sabbath. Show us how to rest boldly, rejecting conventions that go against your will, and instead praying and resting as you did up on the mountain, for the glory of your word and work, Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sermon: It's people – because people matter to God

Jesus has continued to preach in the area synagogues and heal people – leprosy, a paralyzed man who was told his sins are forgiven. That gets the attention of the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Jesus boldly proclaims “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (5:32). Jesus continues taking things to a new level Let's dig into this.

Luke 6:1-11 (NIV)

6 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

According to the Pharisees and teachers of the Law – picking grain is considered work; therefore what the disciples were doing was “breaking” the Sabbath. Now the Pharisees were the largest and most influential religious-political party in Jewish society through most of the New Testament. They were made up of mostly middle class business men and leaders in the synagogues. Pharisee means “separated one”, they held to a very literal understanding of the oral traditions – very concerned with the sins of the people and they kept themselves apart because they felt most people were unclean. They would question people constantly and created policies that in their mind prevented sin but which became a great burden to the people. Jesus would challenge them often as we will see.

³ Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Wow, that's a bold statement and the first time Jesus would use the phrase "Son of Man" – I think that shocked them so much they had no reply. Even today scholars don't agree on exactly what Jesus meant. But, in this case being Lord of the Sabbath and Jesus would build on this.

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there. ⁹ Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

Here we get a peek into what God is up to – to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it.... people matter to God so the obvious answer is to do good – to save life; all that comes first – rules and traditions?? Hmmmm..... let's see some more.

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Do you see what they were thinking? Rules for them had become everything. Let's think about this some more – the Pharisees knew that the Jewish people had been punished for their sins against God. Now they are occupied by the Romans and they figured if everyone did exactly what God said all the time then God would relent. Perhaps a good motive but is it even possible?? It's amazing that Jesus would be the one without sin and yet they could not see it. There are two examples here of "breaking" the Sabbath that involve Jesus. The Sabbath itself is not dismissed or devalued; rather exceptions to this very important practice are weighed and evaluated. Who gets to deviate and why? The answers in the text have to do with 1) authority and 2) purpose. First, calling himself Son of Man and Lord, Jesus claims authority over the Sabbath. This not only asserts Jesus' authority, but reminds us of God's authority; humans are merely stewards of the practices and institutions given by God. And those human institutions that resist Jesus' ministry—including healing on the Sabbath—act contrary to God's purposes in the world.

The question of purpose is addressed differently in each episode. In the first part of the text, the exception is made for the sake of hunger. Jesus authority over the acquisition of food is established for the hungry need to be fed, even on the Sabbath. In the second story, which takes place at another time, Jesus restores a man's hand to health on the Sabbath in full view of his critics. Here, Jesus calls the man forward and asks him the key question of purpose. What kind of actions should be done on the Sabbath? The choice Jesus offers is not between doing something and doing nothing. The choice is between doing good or doing harm. The implication of Jesus' question is that acting is not the only way to dishonor the Sabbath. Choosing not to act, when that choice results in harm or danger for another, also dishonors the Sabbath. Let's think on this....

Our text names the needs of others—to do good and to preserve life—as the criteria for choosing to act differently than before. In our current time, communities are facing a myriad of choices about suspending, restarting, continuing, or changing practices that our communities have had for generations. Asking which approaches preserve the lives of our neighbors can help guide us forward. If there is to be action on the Sabbath, it is not for harm or destruction, but for the feeding and healing of the world.

Let us Pray: Gracious Father – We praise you and we thank you that we can call you Father – that you called us your children and you draw us to yourself. Thank you for the gift of your Son and the Holy Spirit to teach and to guide. Help us learn what you want us to learn as we journey through the bible. Help us hear and trust in your promises. Help our unbelief. Give us eyes to see and 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 share the Good News. Help us to love you and love others. Help us to pray for 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

¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16)

Song for this Sunday is "My own little world" by Matthew West
Father, break my heart for what breaks Yours
Give me open hands and open doors
Put Your light in my eyes and let me see
That my own little world is not about me

Time in the Word

Passage:

Date:

Context: Who wrote this? To whom is it written? What was notable about this time? What is discussed just before this passage? What is discussed in the passages following this one?

Observations: Read through the passage all at once. What observations can you make?

Key Words: What words are unfamiliar to you? What words seem really critical in this passage?

Cross references: Choose at least one verse to cross reference. Look up two cross references for that verse. Write what you learn.

Themes: What are the themes in this passage? Is anything repeated?

Where is Jesus? How does this passage point to Christ, reveal our need for him, or shed light on His character?

Application: In light of all this, what steps of obedience do I need to take? How can I pursue Godliness based on this passage?

Benev-o-what?

I know the word benevolence - - I see it on our tithing envelopes and here and there in church articles but I'm not sure I could have defined the word or told you much of anything about it. I decided to do something about that and now I am sharing what I read with you! Please note the sources listed, most of the information below is not original content from me.

From dictionary.com

Benevolence (noun)

1) Desire to do good to others; goodwill; charitableness: "to be filled with benevolence toward one's fellow creature."

2) An act of kindness, a charitable gift: "she bequeathed many benevolences from her vast fortune."

3) English History. A forced contribution to the sovereign.

From GotQuestions.org

Question: What is a benevolence fund?

Answer: Benevolence is the desire to help someone or a feeling of goodwill toward others. *Benevolence* can also refer to an act of kindness or charity. Today, many churches maintain a "benevolence fund," that is, a monetary reserve kept in order to help those in need. Often, a benevolence fund is used to aid families with unexpected or high medical expenses, victims of natural disasters, the unemployed, the underemployed, and others in similar circumstances.

The call to provide for the needy is found throughout the Bible. In [Matthew 25:34-40](#), Jesus emphasizes the need for benevolence in God's name. John asks, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" ([1 John 3:17-18](#)). "God loves a cheerful giver" ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)), and maintaining a benevolence fund is one way to help those who come to the church for aid during difficult times.

Back to Heidi content :). In the ELCA system the terms "benevolence" and "mission support" are used interchangeably. As a congregation, Hosanna sends a \$4,000 commitment to the ELCA Benevolence Fund each calendar year. If you reviewed the budget presented at annual meeting, you may have noticed it!

So what happens when you check the "benevolence" box on your tithing envelope? The money goes to the Synod's benevolence fund and is sent in "above and beyond" the congregation's \$4,000 commitment.

What does the Synod use benevolence money for?

That is a good question...but I have run out of room so you will have to wait to hear more next month (or maybe April :).

Please pray for:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Bertha Black | Donna McClean |
| Dori Brich | Dewayne & Mary Prince |
| O.C. Coleman | Norman Rishel |
| Nancy Conley | Sheila Sach |
| Glenn Crockett | Cynthia Sayers |
| Barb Culbertson | Russ Sederburg |
| Ebbin Gehrke | Gary Thornton |
| Dave Greer | Kathy Todd |
| Bill Grunewald | Grace Zimmerer |
| Sandy Ham | Chris |
| Harley Hein | Mary C. |
| Maggie Jones | Jamie M. |
| Bob Kennedy, Jr. | Angie and Family |
| Jason Knott | Bill & Myrna |
| Mike McCarlson | |

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
- 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 January 2020

Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31
41	39	33	24	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 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

FEBRUARY

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

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.

Wednesday February 7, 2021
is
Ash Wednesday.
Watch for details on Worship services and times.