

**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

Mr. Rogers and the Practice of Silence

When Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys), the Esquire magazine reporter who serves as protagonist and audience surrogate in the new drama *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, meets Joanne Rogers (Maryann Plunkett), wife of the children's show host and Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers, he asks the question we'd all be thinking: "What's it like being married to a saint?"

After a short pause, Joanne corrects Lloyd's assumption. "If you call him a saint, then what he does is somehow unattainable," she explains. "He works hard at it. It's a practice."

Throughout the film, director Marielle Heller showcases many of Rogers' practices, from swimming laps to praying for people by name. Heller's visual style also captures aspects of these practices, most strikingly in a framing narrative that re-creates an episode of the iconic *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, right down to the grainy video footage.

But the most important practice is Rogers' devotion to silence. Dampening the easy charisma that has made him "America's Dad," Tom Hanks slows down to play the beloved *Mister Rogers*, speaking softly and leaving gaps between his words. To Heller's credit, she resists the urge to fill these gaps, even when it's unsettling to watch Fred sit and listen.

It's unsettling because we so rarely see people act like *Mister Rogers*. Silence is hard. Internal and external messages bombard us, telling us we're not good enough or we've been too damaged. Naturally, we want to shout back, to combat noise with noise and busyness with busyness. In silence, *Mister Rogers* heard the voice of God telling him to love people just the way they are. Psalm 46:10 implores us to "be still" and know that God is God, and the Gospels contain numerous instances of Jesus escaping to solitary places, but we feel the temptation to fill even our worship services with noise. The ELCA Worship Formation and Liturgical Resources guide on silence in worship reminds us that silence is "a gift that can enrich the life of a worshipping community" and teaches us that "prayer is not only a conversation involving words, but is also a stance of openness and listening for the voice of God."

In silence, *Mister Rogers* heard the voice of God telling him to love people just the way they are, something the movie vividly illustrates in a scene set at a bustling diner (and adapted from this public moment). After listening to Lloyd call himself a "broken person," Fred waits and responds, "I don't think you're broken." To help Lloyd see his worth, Fred invites him into the practice by asking, "Would you take a minute of silence, to think of the people who loved you into being?"

Lloyd quickly becomes as quiet as Fred, but we can still hear others eating and talking. Heller cuts to these other diners, but as the camera pans back to Lloyd and Fred, each person, one by one, falls silent. For a full minute, there's no music, no talking, no sound except for the fluttering of birds outside the window. As Lloyd and Fred sit and remember all the people special to them, the screen fills with images of others doing the same. And just as the minute is ending, we see Fred Rogers, looking directly at the camera, looking out at us all, silently telling us that we're special.

Most of us have trouble enough finding words to tell others how much they matter, but *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* demonstrates that it can even be done speechlessly. With a little practice, we too can find the power and beauty of silence. And in that quiet, we just might hear God—speaking once again through *Mister Rogers*—say, "I knew you could do it."

~Joe George

**Please welcome our new
Thanksgiving Dinner Committee!**

*Val Robert
Betsy Richards
Nancy Peters
Gloria Lawman
Cathy Olson
Bob Wills
Riley Weber*

**We are grateful for your willingness to
step up and help with our 2020 dinner!**

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. Come and dig deeper into the Bible.

Everyone is welcome!

PRAYER TIME FOR EVERYONE:

Every Thursday 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

Next Meeting: January 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING OUT TO EAT

Friday, January 31, 2020

If you have any questions, please call
Linda Feder @402-298-8969 or Jan and Dave Conley
@402-296-3833

Your Relationship Deserves Marriage Encounter!

February 14 - 16, 2020

Holiday Inn Express & Suites • Lincoln, Nebraska

Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org!

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

Claudia and Heidi

Worship Ministry

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.

Bible Study!

Join Pastor Jim as he goes deeper into the Bible.

**They meet here every Monday,
except for the third Monday when Women's
Group meets.**

Monday nights at 6:30 PM

Happy New Year Hosanna!

Knowing God is critical for us – see an interesting explanation below.

Excerpts from the book ‘Knowing God’ by J. I. Packer

“Knowing God is crucially important for the living of our lives. As it would be cruel to an Amazonian tribesman to fly him to New York, put him down without explanation of Times Square and leave him, as one who knew nothing of English or America, to fend for himself, **so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about God whose world it is and who runs it.** The world becomes a strange, mad painful place and life in it a disappointment and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you,. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” Pg 19

He indicates that Christians know the Gospel – what Christ has done for us and the love that God has for us but he says “the gaiety, goodness, and unfetteredness of spirit which are the marks of those who have known God **are rare among us.**” Jesus talked about living life to the fullest in John chapter 10 and I think a lot of us are missing out on that.

We can know a great deal about God - without much knowledge of God.
One can know a great deal about godliness - without much knowledge of God.

The book of Daniel gives us concrete evidence of the effects of the knowledge of God can have on people (us).

Those who know God have great energy for God. – “the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” (11:32) We can read about the ‘exploits’ of the 4 young men in Daniel. People who know their God, are before anything else, people who pray, and the first point where their zeal and energy for God’s glory come to expression is in their prayers. (pg 28)

Those who know God have great thoughts of God. The book of Daniel speaks in great detail about the wisdom, might and truth of the great God who rules history and shows his sovereignty in acts of judgment and mercy toward individuals and nations according to his good pleasure. (pg29) How often in a day do we think/talk about God?

Those who know God show great boldness for God. Daniel and his friends were men who stuck their necks out. They knew what they were doing, counted the cost and measured the risks. They were very aware that only if God intervened would they survive. God did☺ As the apostles in Acts said “we must obey God rather than men”. (Acts 5:29)

Those who know God have great contentment in God. There is no peace like the peace of those whose minds are possessed with full assurance that they have known God and God has known them. They know this relationship guarantees God’s favor to them in life, through death and on forever. (pg 31) read Daniel 3:15-18. Paul spoke much of this in Romans chapter 5.

Wouldn’t you like to have the faith and trust of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! Wow!

Join us on Sundays 8:30 or 10am as we increase our knowledge of God. Look at the 6 Marks of Disciple ship tools mentioned in our wellsprings. Come to bible study on Monday nights. Invite others too!!

Emmanuel – God with us – so enjoy a new year with God’s presence in your life☺

Pastor Jim

PS. Linda and I want to thank you for all your gracious generosity in cards, gifts, and other thoughtful acts this year and Christmas season. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel ☺

January 2020

HOSANNA'S NUMBERS

Combined Offering

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
General	2162.00	1867.00	1199.00	n/a	n/a
Benevolence	0	0	0	0	0

Combined Worship Attendance

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Attendance	96	94	75	n/a	n/a

Your Financial Gifts...

*Please be mindful that Hosanna's monthly financial obligations continue throughout the year.
If you are unable to attend Sunday Worship Services, 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! Thank you Members and Friends Of Hosanna!

**My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that
desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right
road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
~Thomas Merton**

Did you know? An individual age 70½ or older can make direct charitable gifts from an individual retirement account (IRA), including required minimum distributions, of up to \$100,000 to our Church and not have to report the IRA distributions as taxable income on their federal income tax return. We have an account with TD Ameritrade available for this purpose. Just talk with Dave Steinkruger (treasurer) or Pastor Jim.

Jesus reminded us that when we are faithful in little, we get more. So please think and pray about how you can give more: time, talent, and resources. Kingdom building is a lot of work but we have God with Us and that makes all the difference. We have indeed been Blessed to be a Blessing – thank you



God's Work,
Our Hands
Picnic

September
2019

Community
Thanksgiving
Dinner

November
2018



Bible Study

"Women of the
Bible"

2019

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

Please pray for:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Bill Bade | Norman Rishel |
| Bertha Black | Bob Rollins |
| O.C. Coleman | Tate Ross |
| Jan Conley | Sheila Sach |
| Glenn Crockett | Russ Sederburg |
| Barb Culbertson | Ron Thorson |
| Mary & Ted Dalhberg | Kathy Todd |
| Ebbin Gehrke | John Warsing |
| Bill Grunewald | Grace Zimmerer |
| Sandy Ham | Alan, Chris, Julie |
| Harley Hein | Jerry A., Mary C. |
| Beverly Kwasnieski | Sherry H. |
| Cindy Loften | |
| Virginia Manning | |
| Donna McClean | |
| The Family of Tom Phillips | |

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
- Zach Gehrig, Air Force
- Mason Jensen, Navy
- Calvin Johnson, Air Force
- Rachel Mildenhall, Marines
- Caleb Morehead, Army Reserves
- 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



Hosanna Lutheran Church
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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.*



Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2020, Hosanna will host the Women's "IF" Gathering. Watch for details!

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2020. Please join us for 10:00am Worship Service and our meeting immediately following.

Saturday, January 18, 2020: New Members Class! If you've been thinking about becoming a member, this class is for you! Join Pastor Jim for this class and find out what we're about!

Coming Up!!