



**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

"A very rare treasure, indeed"

## Friendships deepen faith and life

By Robert C. Blezard

Her mother having passed away only days earlier, Carolyn Bolz was in deep grief while attending the Sunday service at Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside, Calif. While others cheerfully passed the peace, she hung her head and wept.

"Suddenly there was a hand on my shoulder," Bolz recalled. She looked up and saw a church member she didn't know very well. Jackie Letourneau Wagner handed her some tissues, joined her in the pew and listened empathetically. The encounter led to a [joyful friendship](#).

"Thanks to her unexpected act of kindness on that Sunday morning, I felt the love of Jesus and made a new friend," Bolz said.

Bolz was one of many who responded to *Living Lutheran's* call for readers to share stories of friendship and faith. Friends occupy a special place in our lives. Through them, as for Bolz, we often experience God's love, especially in times of deep need.

That was the case for Cynthia Lauletta, a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect, Ill., when she went through an especially difficult period of one misfortune after another. She lost her father to a heart attack and then two beloved pets died. She also faced declining health, car trouble and the betrayal of people she trusted.

"It was almost too much to bear," Lauletta said. In her pain she seemed to forget her faith. But church friends surrounded her with support and love, accompanying her back to wholeness. "The power of God still amazes me," she said. "If I should 'forget' his strength, I have strong, spiritual people in my life to guide me back."

Friends not only give us love and support in times of trouble, they can help us find a stronger faith when ours is wavering. While a student at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., during the 1970s, Larry Gajderowicz found himself plagued with doubts about his faith. That's when he met a new friend who shared common interests in school, sports and family, but especially in faith. It dominated their late-night talks.

"He bared his soul to me and I bared mine to him," Gajderowicz said, who grew in faith and wound up joining his friend's congregation, St. Mark Lutheran, Evansville, Ind., where he now serves as a certified lay worship leader. The friendship that led him back to faith has deepened over the decades. "The only thing that has grown more than my friendship with this wonderful friend is my everyday walk with Christ," he said.

"The power of God still amazes me. If I should 'forget' his strength, I have strong, spiritual people in my life to guide me back."

**When the Saints go Marching...**

**Out to Eat!**

**Please join this fun bunch on the last Friday of the month for food, fun, and conversation. Meet at the restaurant at 5:30 PM**

**February 28th—Back Alley Diner-Plattsmouth**

**March 27th-Sickies Garage-Bellevue**

**April 24th-Cracker Barrel-Council Bluffs  
(meet at church-5:30 PM)**

**May 29th –The Special-Bellevue**

**June 26th-Roma’s-Bellevue**

**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: **March 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

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

**Friday, March 27, 2020—Sickies, Bellevue**

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



**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**

**All are welcome!**

**It All Comes Down to Love** (Below is a portion of Francis Chan's book called "Crazy Love".)

Don't get the impression that following Jesus is all about joyless sacrifice. More than anything else, following Jesus boils down to two commands, which He said were the most important commandments in the Old Testament Law:

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (Matt. 22:37-40)*

It all comes down to love. Peter expressed it well for people like us, who didn't see Jesus on earth but follow Him nonetheless: *"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Pet. 1:8).*

Following Jesus is not about diligently keeping a set of rules or conjuring up the moral fortitude to lead good lives. It's about loving God and enjoying Him.

But lest we think that we can love God and live any way we want to, Jesus told us very clearly, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15)*. The love for God in the first commandment is made practical in the love for our neighbors in the second commandment. John actually told us that if we don't love the people that we can see around us, then we don't love God, whom we can't see (1 John 4:20).

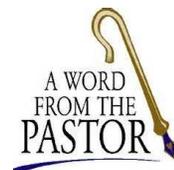
True love is all about sacrifice for the sake of the ones you love: *"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers" (1 John 3:16)*. When we understand love in this light, it's not difficult to understand that love for God and obedience to Jesus Christ cannot be separated. God's love changes us from the inside out and redefines every aspect of our lives.

Wow, what a challenge – **Love Comes First** - each week we have been talking about what means to be filled with God's light and love as the Children of God. There's lots to learn but at some point we have to live it. As you look at your life, how would you say that your love for God is shown in your actions? (If you're having trouble coming up with an answer, take some time to think through some changes you may need to make in your lifestyle.)

Lenten season is designed to help us begin our self-examination and pondering what needs healing in our lives. Spiritual renewal is possible only if you're willing to repent (change our thinking – actions) and change our life for God. Christian maturity begins when we acknowledge our dependence on God to help us change. We partner with God, the Holy Spirit leading us when we practice the Disciplines of Lent: prayer and reflection, scripture study, service projects, worship, and giving generously. James encourages us with... "Be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers." James 1:22

We are making progress – but remember when we are faithful in little we get more☺ God is certainly blessing us – God certainly loves us – and God is with us!!!

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Jim



March 2020

## HOSANNA'S NUMBERS

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### Combined Offering

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
General	2248.00	3419.00	13121.55	1576.00
Benevolence	0	0	0	0

### Combined Worship Attendance

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Attendance	88	76	74	88

#### 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!*

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### Lenten supper and service 6:30 PM

March 4, 2020

March 11, 2020

March 18, 2020

March 25, 2020

Wednesday, April 1, 2020



### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM

### Good Friday

Friday, April 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM

### Easter—Sunday, April 12, 2020

Sunrise Service -6:45 AM

Potluck Breakfast—7:25 AM

Traditional Service—8:30 AM

Contemporary Service—10:00 AM

**Burn the Ships by King and Country**

How did we get here?  
We're castaway on a lonely shore  
I can see in your eyes, dear  
It's hard to take for a moment more  
We've got to

Burn the ships, cut the ties  
Send a flare into the night  
Say a prayer, turn the tide  
Dry your tears and wave goodbye

Step into a new day  
We can rise up from the dust and walk away  
We can dance upon the heartache, yeah  
So light a match, leave the past, burn the ships  
And don't you look back

Don't let it arrest you  
This fear this fear of fallin' again  
And if you need a refuge  
I will be right here until the end  
Oh, it's time to

Burn the ships, cut the ties  
Send a flare into the night  
Say a prayer, turn the tide  
Dry your tears and wave goodbye

Step into a new day  
We can rise up from the dust and walk away  
We can dance upon the heartache, yeah  
So light a match, leave the past, burn the ships  
And don't you look back

So long to shame  
Walk through the sorrow  
Out of the fire  
Into tomorrow  
So flush the pills  
Face the fear  
Feel the weight disappear  
We're comin' clear  
We're born again  
Our hopeful lungs can breathe again  
Oh, we can breathe again

Step into a new day  
We can rise up from the dust and walk away  
We can dance upon the heartache, yeah  
So light a match, leave the past, burn the ships  
And step into a new day  
We can rise up from the dust and walk away  
We can dance upon the heartache, yeah  
So light a match, leave the past, burn the ships  
And don't you look back  
And don't you look back  
And don't you look back

**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:**

- Caren Apprich
- Bill Bade
- Bertha Black
- O.C. Coleman
- Jan Conley
- Glenn Crockett
- Barb Culbertson
- Mary & Ted Dalhberg
- Ebbin Gehrke
- Bill Grunewald
- Sandy Ham
- Harley Hein
- Jason Knott
- Virginia Manning
- Donna McClean
- Lillian Pies
- Norman Rishel
- Sheila Sach
- Russ Sederburg
- Ron Thorson
- Kathy Todd
- John Warsing
- Grace Zimmerer
- Alan, Chris
- Mary C., Kris C

**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
- 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



## Lent: Reflect, Repent, and Reconnect

Lent is a time of introspection, and even penance, as we look forward with humble awe and deep gratitude to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

The modern practices of Lent have ancient pedigrees. The term "Lent" comes from the Old English word *lencten*, which referred to the "lengthening" of the daylight hours during spring. Christians in northwestern Europe and the British Isles appropriated this term for the spring liturgical season.

Lent was traditionally a time for preparing both longtime believers and new converts for the welcoming of new Christians into the community through their baptisms, which were celebrated during the Eastertide, Lent continues to be a time of preparation of self and the community as we look forward to the expansion of God's reign and the defeat of sin and death.

Lenten practices traditionally fall into three broad categories: justice toward God, justice towards oneself, and justice toward others. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to meet these goals.

The following activities can help mark this important season.

### Justice toward God

- Rededicate yourself to living into your holy vocation to extend God's reign in your daily life.
- Meditate on God's faithful and sacrificial love for us to cultivate deep and abiding gratitude.

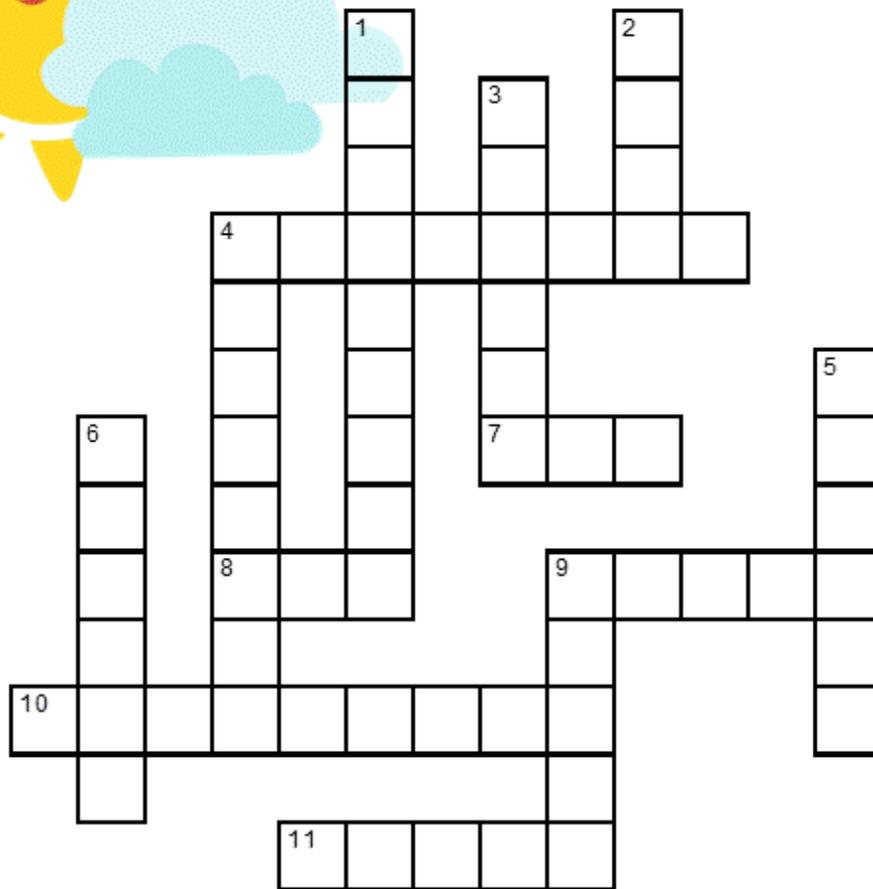
### Justice toward oneself

- Remember the humility that you are created of dust and to dust you will return.
- Take time to honestly, critically, and gently evaluate how you have loved God and neighbor-or not- and how the Spirit might be calling you to do better.
- Fast from rich and delicious food to help yourself consciously break patterns of selfishness and overconsumption.
- Repent of patterns and habits that harm yourself and others.

### Justice toward others

- Continue the traditional Lenten practice of increased giving to people experiencing poverty.
- Commit your time, energy, and resources to supporting social justice causes through such organizations and programs as the Lutheran World Federation ([lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)), and the ELCA Good Gifts project ([goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)).
- Invite acquaintances (or strangers!) to share a meal and share their stories.
- Take steps toward reconnecting with those from whom you've been estranged (if healthy for all)

# Easter Crossword



## ACROSS

4. You might do this to eggs for Easter
7. A hen makes this
8. Used to color eggs
9. The hen's baby
10. Colorful candy you might find in an Easter basket
11. Peter Cottontail is one

## DOWN

1. Eggs might be made from this
2. Look for eggs
3. Easter Day event
4. Yellow or white spring flower that grows from a bulb
5. What the Easter Bunny brings
6. A pretty hat worn on Easter
9. Don't eat too much of this or you might get a belly ache



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](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.*

**Coming Up!!**

**Lenten Service and Supper, beginning March 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM, and continuing for the next 5 Wednesday evenings. All are welcome!!**

**Pasta Suppers 5:00-7:00 PM!**

**Friday, March 6, 2020 – Spaghetti!**

**Friday, March 20, 2020-Fettucini!**

**Friday, April 3, 2020-Lasagna**



**Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2019 can be directed the organization of your choice by March 31, 2020. Hosanna is one of the eligible organizations. Hosanna deposits Thrivent Choice Dollars in to the Kid's Against Hunger fund. Thrivent Choice Dollars can be directed online, by calling Thrivent or with your Thrivent Financial Representative to as many organizations as you like with a minimum of \$5 to each organization.**

**Saturday, April 4, and Sunday, April 5, 2020: Join the family at the 3B Homestead for "Journey To the Cross", an interactive experience to prepare your heart for Easter. The Homestead is 7603 298th Street, Murdock, NE 68407 it is available from 4-7pm both days. For more information, call 816-830-5580**