



# HORIZON OF HOPE

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

Once part of a thriving middle-class community located near an area of heavy industry and commerce, [Children's Memorial Lutheran Church](#) in Kansas City, Mo., began to see a gradual loss of membership in the 1970s.

"The downsizing really began with problems in the Kansas City school system," said lifelong member Deborah Taylor. "So many families moved out. We used to have hundreds of members, two services every Sunday, and were very involved in the community and synod. Ultimately, it got to where we just had maybe 20 or 25 at services. By about 2011 to 2013, the handwriting was on the wall."

After years of soul-searching and meetings, the [Central States Synod](#) closed Children's Memorial on Dec. 31, 2017. The synod "accepted the reality of what had been the case for several years," said Bishop Susan Candea. "It became the synod's responsibility, as the property owner, to manage the property and decide what to do going forward."

The death of Children's Memorial led to the birth of [Gathering Table](#), a synod-authorized worshipping community, which opened Jan. 1, 2018. The new ministry has continued the congregation's mission in the community, allowing for the preservation and extension of services to people in need and those experiencing homelessness.

With grants from the ELCA, the synod and others, Gathering Table opens the doors of the old church's red brick building three days a week to provide people with meals, showers, clothing and worship opportunities. The building also houses a nonprofit that teaches sewing and job training skills to refugees, a small tamale business operating out of the kitchen and worship space for a Congolese congregation.

"This is a very important ministry of the church," Candea said. "Jesus was very clear: Whatever you do for the least of these you do it for me. This transition lives out that reality."

Gathering Table is on a busy commercial thoroughfare in an area of Kansas City with significant poverty, crime and homelessness. "It breaks my heart because I know a lot of these people sleep outside at night," said Ann Rundquist, part-time pastor of Gathering Table. "This is a unique opportunity to help without a congregation that directly supports us."

Seventy-five percent of Gathering Table's annual budget is dedicated to program expenses. Rundquist, who entered the ministry after a career in social services, is Gathering Table's janitor, secretary, cook, house musician and fundraiser. She also works part-time at [Immanuel Lutheran Church](#) on the city's west side.

As people file in the back door of Gathering Table for the regular Saturday noon meal, Rundquist is a whirlwind of hugs and conversations with the many diners she has come to know.

One person who has become part of Gathering Table's community is Bruce Huffman, who also volunteers to mow the grass on the ministry's property. "I quit church after high school and now, in my middle age, I found a perfect church home," he said. "This gives me purpose to have responsibilities and help out. Plus, I have new friends and help out when things get a little crazy. I never thought of my pastor as a friend, but she is, and my faith continues to grow because I understand what she preaches."

In what some might consider a dangerous environment, Rundquist focuses on the positive. When a man she knew stole her cellphone, other men from the Gathering Table community asked her for several weeks if it had been recovered or if there had been an arrest. When she answered "no" to both, an impromptu discussion unfolded between a hymn sing and communion, with individuals sharing stories of bad things that had happened to them and how they'd chosen good responses.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Gathering Table couldn't turn to technology to continue its ministry because many of its patrons are experiencing homelessness and have no communication device. While it closed for one weekend, it quickly became "obvious our ministry was important for the well-being of the neighborhood: food, clothing, water and some kind of fellowship," Rundquist said. **Continued on Page 6**

**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

***Under His Wings and the community want to thank the generous folks at Hosanna for their gifts of diapers and food items. We are so very grateful!***

Pastor's assistance fund has been helping many people in the community affected by Covid, and we received this thank you card today,

**“These last few years have not been the easiest for my family and I. When we reached out and received your help it was an answer to our prayers. Thanks you for helping us with rental assistance.”**

If you can donate any amount to the Pastor's Community Assistance Fund, it would be very appreciated!

**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	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
Welcome Ministry	Heidi Walz	740-0146
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**                      **Worship Ministry**  
 Claudia and Heidi

**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.*

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
General	1165.00	1025.00	1775.00	n/a
Benevolence	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!

## God's provisions

God provides in the midst of God's promises. These provisions can be strange – so strange in fact it is hard to believe. Sometimes we think strange things are a coincidence. Hmm.... 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). We have begun the process of recording a service – I can still use some help with that. Look at our website or Facebook page – Hosanna Lutheran Plattsmouth for videos of the sermon. We are still sitting 6ft apart in worship services and have fewer people at 8:30 than at 10am. We are still asking that people to come and go wearing masks. Please leave a message at church (402-296-2662) if you have any questions.

### **Here is our PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of compassion,  
By the power of God, Elijah provided bread and oil for the widow and her household. By faith in God, the widow provided food and water for Elijah. Give us hearts to love one another, so that in providing and in receiving, we too, might experience the unimaginable power of God, through the one who has provided life itself, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### ***Sermon: God Provisions***

I love that prayer above – notice the connection between Elijah and the widow! It was God!! God working in a most unlikely way – lets dig into this.

#### **1 Kings 17:1-24(NIV)**

*17 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."* What an introduction and declaration. We meet Elijah a Prophet of the Lord – the living God!!! He is telling Ahab who is a wicked King over Israel pretty grim news – no rain. We know from later text that Ahab and his wife Jezebel wanted to kill Elijah and began to kill other of the Lord's prophets. Soooo...

*<sup>2</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: <sup>3</sup> "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. <sup>4</sup> You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there." <sup>5</sup> So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. <sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.* Remember we are talking about God's provisions, imagine this scene – ravens bringing food to Elijah..... God had declared ravens to be unclean in Leviticus and Deuteronomy and here they are the object of God's provision. Hmm.. Do you think God is sending a message? 1) Expect the unexpected – God is in control. 2) The birds act contrary to their natural instinct – God is in control and can change how everything normally works. Hmmmm... that's a lot to think about!!

*7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." This reminds us that God is always – I mean it- always working ahead. For just such a time as this – whatever that might be in our lives, God is working on it. Notice that Elijah had the boldness to ask (maybe demand) that she bring him some bread – remember that's what God had told him would happen. Can we trust and be bold with the promises of God??*

*12 "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." 13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land." Wow, a miracle!! Elijah repeats one of the most repeated phrases in the bible – did you catch it?? "Don't be afraid". She had reason to – all her food is about gone and being a widow with a young child there is no hope for relief.*

Again – God working in the most unlikely way – jars and jugs that never empty!!!

*15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. 17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, "What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?" 19 "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the LORD, "LORD my God, let this boy's life return to him!" 22 The LORD heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!"*

This is an unexpected event – life happens – things happen. This is not a result of the drought that God had declared that began this journey but Elijah “man of God” as the widow exclaims is here and she accuses him of reminding her of her sin and killing her son. I bet we can relate to that – when bad things happen we think it is punishment for our sins – we wonder and we doubt if God can forgive or why God would cause us this pain. How hard it is for us to imagine that we sin prone people can have a relationship with a Holy God. Hmmmm.... Elijah begins his conversation with God essentially asking “Why” also. But he quickly prays to God to bring back to life the child and God listens!!! This happens time after time – God listens. Trust this, believe it. Remember what Jesus had done for us.

Do you see this connection at work – totally contrary to what culture would allow. Elijah a prophet of God, Jewish, and the widow women, a gentile, in the land that Jezebel came from – how strange. But God who cares/loves is the connection – we have a link to all God’s people. And we are learning – God often does the unexpected – God works contrary to cultural norms. God makes us uncomfortable – God pushes us beyond the same old same o.

*24 Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”* Glory given to God for doing what God said God would do.

You are men and women of God; just like Elijah, you can make a difference to in people’s lives. The hope of the world is the local church – you and me connected with God, who works through us. Help us Lord to have ears to hear and a heart willing to follow your lead.

**Let us Pray:** Gracious Father – 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**

*<sup>21</sup> Jesus began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”  
(Luke 4:21)*

Song for this Sunday is “Just Say Jesus” by 7eventh Time Down

## Time in the Word

Passage: Luke 4:21

Date: November 1, 2020

**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?

Cont'd from page 1

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Gathering Table started worshipping outside, and the feeding ministry shifted to serving five nutritious meals outdoors weekly.

Partner congregations and agencies provided hundreds of sack lunches and other food. Rundquist said Candea agreed to let Gathering Table start worshipping outside, and the ministry shifted to serve five nutritious meals outdoors weekly, often sending sack lunches and protein drinks to go.

In recent months, most of the Saturday lunches at Gathering Table, which draw about 70 people, have been donated and served by volunteers. Many are provided by other ELCA congregations in the Kansas City area.

Candea and Rundquist agree that the biggest challenge is increasing awareness of Gathering Table to help improve fundraising and volunteer support.

For Dan Glamann, whose family joined Children's Memorial in 1957, the resurrection of the building is a long-hoped-for success. "Over the years, I've seen overwhelming change in the northeast area and the church," said Glamann, who now belongs to Gathering Table's leadership team. "But a constant has been the mission to the neighborhood. I continue to see the corner of Independence Avenue and Brighton as a beacon of hope."

Ann Rundquist, pastor of the Gathering Table in Kansas City, Mo., stands with community members as they share a meal. Gathering Table is a synod-authorized worshipping community that provides meals, showers, worship opportunities and more to the community. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, meals and worship have moved outdoors.

*This article was written by Diane Stafford, a member of First Lutheran Church in Mission Hills, Kansas with contributions from ELCA pastor Ann Rundquist.*

**Turkey Noodle Dinner  
Presented by Hosanna Women's  
Group**

**November 21, 2020**

**Drive Through only**

**Beginning at 1:00 PM, until sold  
out.**

**Free will donation**

**All donations will be added to  
Pastor's Assist Fund to help  
those in our community.**

**Please pray for:**

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Bertha Black    | Esther Nash      |
| Dori Brich      | Dewayne & Mary   |
| O.C. Coleman    | Prince           |
| Jan Conley      | Norman Rishel    |
| Nancy Conley    | Sheila Sach      |
| Glenn Crockett  | Russ Sederburg   |
| Barb Culbertson | Gary Thornton    |
| Ebbin Gehrke    | Erica Thurston   |
| Dave Greer      | Kathy Todd       |
| Bill Grunewald  | Grace Zimmerer   |
| Sandy Ham       | Chris            |
| Harley Hein     | Mary C.          |
| Maggie Jones    | Jamie M.         |
| Jason Knott     | Angie and Family |
| Donna McClean   |                  |

**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 September 2020**

Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
34	50	41	37

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**



*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.

All proceeds go to the  
Pastor's Community  
Assistance fund.

Free Will Donation!

**November 21, 2020  
At 1:00 PM  
Drive-thru only**

**Women's Group is  
cooking Turkey  
Noodle Casseroles!**

Therefore, since we  
are receiving a  
kingdom that can't be  
shaken, let's continue  
to express our  
gratitude. With this  
gratitude, let's serve  
in a way that is  
pleasing to God with  
respect and awe,  
Hebrews 12:28

**Operation  
Christmas Child  
Shoeboxes are  
due to the  
church by  
November 8th!**