



WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 A.M. Traditional Service

10:00 A.M. Contemporary Service

HORIZON OF HOPE

Dignity is Non-Negotiable

Carlos Rodríguez, founder of The Happy Givers nonprofit based in Puerto Rico, shares how he was challenged to be salt and light for an elderly man:

Don Héctor was at the hospital. He had pneumonia and it was terrible.... While he was at the hospital, a combination of my fear and my pride led me to not going to visit Don Héctor for a week as he was nearing the end of his life.

Don Héctor was an invitation that I was ignoring, so after a week of this internal struggle—of not being salt, of not being light—I challenged myself with some stern internal pastoring, some loving correction. I felt the invitation of the Spirit, not as accusation, not as condemnation, but as a frustration that became an invitation.

I went to see Don Héctor at the hospital. He was so happy to see us, and he immediately began to share the reality of being an elderly person in a hospital in Puerto Rico where we're lacking doctors and nurses. The main thing he was frustrated with was the fact that he hadn't had access to a shower for that whole week, and he took great pride in his appearance. I had this moment where his frustration became my invitation. I thought, "Okay, well, it's time to give him a shower." I was not honest with Don Héctor that day. I lied to him, and I said, "Don't worry about it. I'm a pro at this. That's part of what we do at the nonprofit."

I took off his clothes, asked the nurse to show me what to do, and led him to a shower that was available. In what was quite possibly the most beautiful, the most awkward, and the holiest moment of my last year, I gave Don Héctor a shower. From the shame, it moved to a connection that was so meaningful to me. That in his most vulnerable moment, I was able to honor him....

There's nothing like being salt and light. As Father Richard has said many times, "The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the good." And giving Don Héctor a shower and spending time with him was the good....

We keep finding God in those showers. We keep finding God in these [things] that remind us of our childhood and our brokenness, but that also invite us into generational healing and transformation. There are so many good ethics and teachings and books, and there are so many good people speaking into microphones, but there's nothing like just being present with the ones who need presence.

And so, for Don Héctor, who passed away a couple of weeks after that shower, and for every elderly person that we serve, and for every person in your community who is marginalized, who has been abandoned, who has been rejected, the invitation is to be salt and light. Salt, which both gives flavor and preserves, and light, which always shines brightest in the darkness.

Women's Evening Bible Study
 March 5th 6:00 PM
 Marilyn Perry's home

Bible Study at Bailey Pointe
 March 5, 2026—1:00 PM

Prayer Time with Pastor
 Tuesdays 10:00-10:30 AM

Bible Study



Mondays at 4:00 PM

**Come join Pastor Jim as he digs deeper in the Bible.
 All are welcome!**

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: 10-4:00 pm Tues.-Fri
 10-2:00 pm Sat

COUNCIL NOTES

HOSANNA COUNCIL MEMBERS

| 2025-2026 | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sheri Lyons—President | 402-657-7599 |
| Marilyn Perry—Vice Pres. | 319-850-2655 |
| Leigh LaRosa leighlarosa3@gmail.com | 402-297-6795 |
| Bob Wills | 402-298-7442 |
| Betsy Richards—Sec. read7pjh@aol.com | 402-658-4836 |
| Brynn Jobman | 402-239-0972 |
| Roxanne White roxwhite@cox.net | 402-292-6632 |
| Jenni Dasovic - Financial Secretary | 402-297-1620 |
| Brenda Shafer Treasurer | |

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

Welcome Ministry
 Marilyn and Brynn

Worship Ministry
 Leigh and Bob

Witness Ministry
 Betsy and Roxanne

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

| | Feb 1 | Feb 8 | Feb 15 | Feb 22 |
|-------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| General | 2339 | 1623 | 8753 | n/a |
| Benevolence | 40 | 50 | 1070 | |

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!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Lord God, Jesus washed the disciples' feet in love as a sign of service and compassion. Show us how to live and love in service and with compassion, for the sake of all your children. Amen.

“Come, and you will see”

John's Gospel has been leading to chapter 13 and beyond. John 12:50 is the end of Jesus' public ministry. As the scenes turn, there are now three narrative aims: 1) Jesus' farewell and preparation of his followers for his death, 2) Jesus' betrayal, trial, and sentence to the cross, and 3) Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and appearance to his followers. Jesus has come to earth for one reason, to give up his life, to die to save people. The “hour” is fast approaching.

John 13:1-17 (NIV)

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

Love is the first main verb of the passage in Greek. It rises from a sea of subordinate clauses in John 13:1-3. Love governs all of that, all that has come before, and all that is to come. Because everything else is subordinate, love and what's going to happen next is an expression of that love – it emerges as Jesus' informed response to all of it: the festival and with it, the unfolding of Jesus' hour, the world beloved and dark (Satan and Judas), Jesus' own in the world then and now.

The word for *end* in the phrase “he loved them to the end” appears in its verbal form in John 19:30 where Jesus' last words on the cross are “It is finished.” That completion, fulfillment, perfection of love is anticipated in the love enacted next, which overturns societal expectations as the cross overturns expectations of what a savior should be. So, let's see what happens.....

4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet is unconventional. Verse one explains in two ways: Jesus knew his departure from the world was imminent and he loved his disciples. Jesus is not following a formula or an etiquette book. Jesus is acting in love, performing what we might today call, team building. Jesus is taking care of his disciples before he leaves them. Jesus takes off his outer garment, tucks a towel into his shorts, and grabs a basin of water. (The same word for “takes off” is the Greek for the “giving up” of his life— we see a foreshadowing.) One-by-one he washes each person's feet. The devil has already co-opted Judas Iscariot from the group, but this does not mean Jesus did not wash Judas' feet. The glitch in the normal progression is when Jesus gets to Peter.

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Peter flinches: "No, you shall never wash my feet." Interestingly, Peter is the only one reluctant to participate. The pattern Jesus is establishing is a complete breach of the honor codes of the day, and Peter's objection is understandable. Jesus' response is harsh: "Unless I wash you, you will have no part with me." If Peter does not participate in this group-binding experience, Peter cannot have any position among Jesus' followers. This is a decision point for Peter and a foreshadowing. Peter decides to go all in: Give me a full bath; wash every bit of me!! The foreshadowing is that we know there is a coming decision when Peter will hesitate again. Peter is only all in for the moment. Hmm... How about us????

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Jesus' next response to Peter is a bit cryptic, and perhaps makes use of a traditional proverb. (13:10). His statement seems to suggest that one's relationship to Jesus has cleansing power that lasts. It will soon become clear how utterly dependent Peter and the others are on this gift of grace. Jesus adds, "And you are clean, though not every one of you," and the narrator explains, "For he knew who was going to betray him; and that was why he said, 'Not every one was clean'" (13:11). This statement brings us to the greatest scandal of this story. It is astonishing enough that Jesus takes the role of a slave and washes the dirty feet of his disciples, but even more astounding is the fact that he does so knowing full well that they will all fail him miserably in his hour of greatest need. Did that change his love or actions – no!! We can't make God love us less.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus dresses and sits at the table and acknowledges that he has broken protocol. He has done so as an example for them to follow. He tells them that their blessing, their honor, will come from duplicating his example of service in equality. So much for status and protocol.

How hard it can be to accept that we are Jesus' own, that we are already clean, and then to accept that we are always with him and he with us and that God continues to cleanse even the parts of us that we consider most unworthy of his gaze, the less lovely parts we'd prefer to hide away under layers of our best selves. But God who sends light into the impenetrable darkness of the world is certainly not daunted by our brokenness, and love is the best answer to every hurting stinky thing in the world. It is God's answer and Jesus' answer, and it is to be ours.

This is made explicit in the explanation of the foot washing (John 13:13-17) and again in the threefold love commandment (13:34-35) and its reiteration in 15:12. **We are to love one another as Jesus has loved us.** Our love emerges from his, as branches grow from a vine. By doing this others will know that we are his followers! The word *clean* (13:10) has the same root as the verb *prune* (15:2). What Peter and we may perceive as something shameful, God sees as an opportunity to refine a branch already growing out of the beautiful Word-vine so that it can bear more fruit in love.

Jesus' example suggests that loving as he has loved means taking the role of a servant, caring for the needs of others without expecting anything in return. His example suggests that it is to do this not only for those who treat us well, but even for those who disappoint and hurt and betray us. Can Jesus really expect us to do this, to love and serve even those who fail us or stab us in the back? Are we not allowed even a few exceptions to the love commandment? Hmm...

Jesus' commandment to love one another is not a commandment to feel affection, but a commandment to act in a sacrificial loving way, even when we would rather do otherwise. Of course, we always fall short of God's perfect love, but that cannot be an excuse to nurse grudges and wallow in unloving behavior. As we are washed by Jesus in God's deep and generous love, our hearts are stretched/changed to love more completely, fully, unwaveringly. Help us Lord, thank you.

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 with your compassion and ears to hear your will 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. We can do all this through you Lord, who gives us strength. 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

"³¹ But these [signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 1:39a)

Video for this Sunday is "The Proof of Your Love" by King and Country

Pasta Suppers!

**Friday, March 13th
4:30-6:30 PM**

**Fettuccini is on the menu!
(red or white sauce)
\$12 per person, 5 and under free
Dine in or carry out**

**Friday, March 27th
4:30-6:30 PM**

**Lasagna is on the menu!
\$12 per person, 5 and under free
Dine in or carry out**

**Whole lasagnas for sale
while supply lasts
beginning March 27th
Small pan \$8
Medium pan \$15
Large pan \$25**

**Meal to include: Pasta
(Meat or meatless),
Garlic toast, salad,
dessert, drinks**



Please pray for:

Janelle Almond
Bertha Black
Nadine Burson
Donna Clark
Nancy Conley
Boone Davenport
Mason Durow
Russ Frye
Dave Greer
Michelle Hart
Linda Haynes
Barrett Hermann
Gavin Kniewel
Jason Knott
Mark Langemeier

Rachel Mathew
Matt McDonnell
Randy Ness
Rich Peters
Kay Rishel
Juan Rodriguez
Robin Roeder
Karen Savage
Terry Schneider
Moxin Smith
Teddy Swanson
David Swoboda
Dan & Kathy Todd
Jason, Rowan,
Tate and Chris,
Dawson, Keith
Tucker

Please let the office 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
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



Attendance for February

| Feb 1 | Feb 8 | Feb 15 | Ash Wed. | Feb 22 |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| 76 | 89 | 79 | 32 | 80 |

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@hosannaplattsmouth.com

Council President: Sheri Lyons

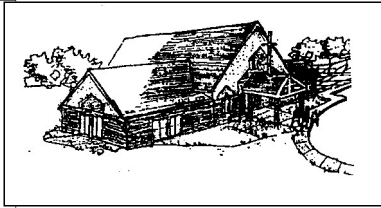
**Director of Under His Wings
Baby Pantry and Thrift Shop:**
Claudia Wylie 802-7115

Church Office:
Diana Lindensmith 296-2662

E-Mail:
office-admin@hosannaplattsmouth.com

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.*

Pasta Suppers on March 13th and 27th

March 27th 5:30 PM—New time!

The Saints Go marching out to eat at Hosanna for Pasta Supper

Wednesday, March 18th at 10:30 AM

Men's Fellowship Brunch

Thursday, March 5th at 6:00 at Marilyn's home

Women's Evening Bible Study

Thursday March 5th at 1:00 PM at Bailey Pointe Assisted Living

Women's Daytime Bible Study

Tuesday mornings from 10:00-10:30

Prayer Time

Mondays at 4:00 PM

Bible Study

