March 2012

Found on our Website under “Media”

Dear Partners in the Mission,

As we venture into March we continue to explore, experience, and contemplate the season of Lent. Lent is the old anglo word for “Springtime” and that brings an important idea to mind in regard to our Christian faith. Springtime is a time to think about renewal and growth. It’s a time when much of the world moves from winter dormancy to sprouting new growth of flowers, grass, leaves on trees and crops in fields. I ask you to take a moment to contemplate this: is there a renewal and new season of growth going on within you as well? That’s God’s desire for us all.

During the season of Lent, many people give something up or commit to doing something more for their family, for their spouse, for God’s church, or for their own spiritual growth. I ask you to contemplate your own spiritual condition and honestly evaluate if a little tending of the field might be in order. We all get into routines and habits that sometimes draw us away from God and the relationship He longs for us to know. He invites us into a life of prayer and into His holy word and into an ever deepening relationship with Him and an ever growing commitment to His mission. Is there continued new growth going on within you? It’s a personal question that only you can answer. I simply encourage you to contemplate it.

New growth can happen in many different forms. It makes itself manifest in the form of deeper trust of God, increased inner peace surpassing all understanding, increased devotion to the mission of His church, increased commitment to seeing that mission successfully carried out, greater devotion to imparting the faith to our own children and to the people God has surrounded us with, greater commitment to utilizing our talents for God’s good and glory, and so on. It’s simply a more full expression of the Christian life. And I don’t say that to imply that anyone is not “living up” to anything. I simply put the question out there for every one of us to contemplate throughout especially this season of Lent. You see, God’s plan for us is “more” – more faith, more peace, more joy, more blessing, more outreach, more witness, more people gathering in among us, more faith committing to more dedication for God so that more and more each day may come to know Him here among us and through us. God wants more for you. Sometimes that requires more from you. In fact, Jesus taught multiple parables about servants
who were entrusted with riches, talents, responsibilities from the king and in each case they were expected to put those things to use for the sake of the kingdom. We can find ourselves in those parables. Take a look through Matthew 13 which includes the parable of the Sower, the parable of the Weeds, the parable of the Mustard Seed, the parable of the Hidden Treasure, and the parable of the Net. In one way or another, each parable expresses God’s expectations of us – the ones to whom so much has already been given. Each one is about growth in faith and spirit for the producing of the crop – the fruits of faith.

My friends and my partners in this Mission Field we call Hosanna, and the community around us, we’ve been given so much – the very kingdom of God to begin with, and then there are all the many blessings with which God fills up our lives. When we give the kingdom of God and His rich blessing also to those around us, God multiplies His blessings so that many more can enjoy His great gifts – new life in Christ, and the spiritual growth within them that God brings about in the Springtime of their faith as well. Let’s give them the kingdom by whatever means we can as we continue to grow in our own faith and spirits as well in this Springtime season of Lent.

God’s Peace be with you always,
Pastor Paul

Congregational President

Looking back at my last few Harvester submissions, it seems I have been very focused on Stewardship, an important topic especially in light of the upcoming Campus Development Project which includes the parking lot expansion. This month, I tried to figure out something more Presidential and less stewardship oriented. It seems as though every topic I could come up with is somehow stewardship related, and maybe that speaks to the fact that our service to God is all about stewardship. We talk about God’s mission for us and we certainly cannot perform that mission without various acts of stewardship. If we endeavor to “… go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19), our time, our talents and our treasures must all be employed. We need to give back to God the first fruits of our time by seeking ways to serve him through volunteerism. We need to give back to God the first fruits of our talents by using all that God has given us to set an example of a good Christian life for our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. We need to give back to God the first fruits of our treasures by challenging ourselves to forgo a few luxuries and vanities and diverting those treasures to causes that support the mission. In the coming months, I anticipate we will be hearing messages about sacrificial giving in support of God’s mission at Hosanna. It seems to me that the timing could not be any better as we have just begun our Lenten preparation through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial for the commemoration of Holy Week, marking the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. What greater example of self-sacrifice could there be than the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior in payment for our transgressions. Let us be more Christ-like in our worship and stewardship.

God’s Peace,
Bruce Arneson
As the first quarter of 2012 is fast approaching, I find myself questioning how to best serve Hosanna’s disciples in my role as treasurer, pray diligently for the ongoing growth of our ministry, and financially support phase one of our campus development. So I attended a three-day conference called Best Practices for Ministry registering for every topic on strategic planning, discipleship, fund raising, leadership, and prayer. What I learned is that the most important aspect of ministry is **PRAYER!** Placing God in charge of my life in all that I say and do. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit I was connected to Cyberbrethren, a Lutheran Blog. Recently this blog posted a Lenten Greetings and Blessings from LCMS President, Pastor Matthew Harrison. His message focused on a treatise written by Martin Luther called *A Simple Way To Pray (…for Master Peter the Barber)*. In the spring of 1535 Peter Beskendorf, Luther’s barber, asked him “How do I pray?” This question and Luther’s response deeply influenced my desire to draw closer to our Lord in prayer. I searched the web, found the tract, and became mesmerized by Luther’s awesome advice. Luther wrote, “If I have had time and opportunity to go through the Lord’s Prayer, I do the same with the Ten Commandments... I divide each commandment into four parts, thereby fashioning a garland of four strands. That is, I think of each commandment as, first, **instruction**, which is really what it is intended to be, and consider what the Lord God demands of me so earnestly. Second, I turn it into a **thanksgiving**; third, a **confession**; and fourth, a **prayer**.” If you are searching for ways to deepen your prayer life, I recommend that you read Luther’s writing *A Simple Way To Pray* to learn how to apply **I.T.C.P.** using the Small Catechism. And I invite you to join me in daily praying for Hosanna’s ministry, trusting in our Lord’s gracious promises, and rejoicing as we witness His blessings.

Linda Steinbart, Treasurer.
March 15th at 1:00 pm in the UR-LC will be our last meeting this spring. 

All ladies are invited to hear the speaker from the “Women’s Hope Center” in Apache Junction. The center opened in 1985 as a pregnancy center and later began helping abused women. Our in-gathering will be women’s hygiene products, household cleaning supplies, baby items and gift cards. Election will be held for the new President and Treasurer positions.

The date for the Spring Rally has been changed to March 24th due to a conflict at ASU. It will be held at “Rising Son” (formerly Alleluia) at 1034 S Mill Avenue in Tempe.

Registration begins at 9:00 am and there is a $10 registration fee. This will include lunch and help cover rally expenses. The theme will be learning more about the International Friendship House. The in-gathering will be baking and pantry items and gift cards. We will car pool from Hosanna. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Welcome Center the following Sunday services on March 11th and March 18th.

We continue to save all postage stamps, fronts of old greeting cards, eye glasses, hearing aids and old cell phones and religious materials. All items are collected in the boxes next to the water fountain in the narthex.

WE SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Scrip Program

What is Scrip you ask. Scrip is gift cards and Hosanna participates in the Scrip program through the Great Lakes Scrip Center. The object of the program is to use Scrip, or better known as gift cards to raise funds. The Board of Education is encouraging congregation members and their families to purchase gift cards and use them just like they would checks or cash. You know your favorite restaurants and shops and know you will be going there, why not order gift cards for those merchants each week and use the cards to do your shopping and eating outings. The Scrip program is a win win situation and is so easy to use, with a little bit of planning you can raise money with no extra out of pocket dollars. The merchants who participate in the Scrip program offer rebates from 2% up to 12%! So why not join in this easy fund raiser using your normal purchasing habits. If you have access to a computer you can easily go to Great Lakes Scrip at glscrip.com and check out all the merchants that participate in the program. We do have a supply at the information desk that has a list of the merchants although since that list was printed there are additional merchants. Please, won’t you think about how you shop and consider using gift cards to make your purchases and attend your favorite restaurants. Any questions just ask at the Scrip table on Sundays. Don’t forget to use your Fry’s and Basha’s cards when you buy your groceries.
April 21, 2012 - 1:00pm at Red Mountain High School

Please Join Our Team or Donate –it’s simple, just click on the link on Hosanna’s web or Facebook page. The impact we can make together is much greater than what any of us could do alone!

- Hosanna and Little Palms are again making a difference by teaming up to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life - A great community outreach event

- Members of each team take turns walking around the track for the duration of the event to raise money and awareness to help the American Cancer Society create a world with less cancer and more birthdays

- Food, games and activities provide entertainment and fundraising opportunities

- Family-friendly environment for the entire community

Because it’s a Relay, you’re not required to be there the entire time...but it’s so fun, you’ll probably find it hard to leave!

Saving lives from cancer starts one team, one participant, and one dollar at a time. Our team is doing our part to make sure that cancer never steals another year of anyone’s life.

We are tentatively planning a freewill offering “Hosanna Fun Run” on Saturday March 31st, a scenic 90 minute ride / drive to the southeast for lunch. All funds raised will go toward Hosanna’s team total.

Need more information? Or would like to make a donation in person? Just see John or Mike Howland and Sonjah Frank at church or Little Palms School. You can reach John @ 480/354-2040 or jcbmhowland@cox.net.
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01 Dolores Holtz
   Ken Steele
02 Wally Abraham
03 Barb Foss
   Bill Willard
04 Tanner Frank
05 Joe Maresh
07 Teresa Oetting
   Laura Diersen
10 Jess Petersen
   Lynne Cook
12 Nancy Huebner
13 Marlene Bykonen
14 Chase Diersen
15 Paul Neubauer
16 Colleen
05 Joe Maresh
15 Paul & Linda Steinbart
29 Al & Hilke Unverfehrt
10 Jess Petersen
17 Don Stueve
20 Deb Bluemer
21 Bob Klein
24 Cyndi Smith
26 Phyllis Hein
28 Richard Hahn
29 Velma Meissbach
28 Dylan Trent
27 Chuck Reisetter
30 Barbara Recker
31 Don Smidt

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

11 Ralph & Carol Yellick
   Bill & Barb Willard
15 Paul & Linda Steinbart
29 Al & Hilke Unverfehrt
30 Chuck & Karen Carlson

A reminder of
Hosanna's Faith and Family Night
with the Phoenix Suns
for those who have signed up
Friday, March 16th
Game time starts at 7:00 p.m.
(vs. Detroit Pistons)
We will carpool from Hosanna at 5:30.
Followed by a Christian Concert
The Band will be “Rush of Fools”
Upcoming Events & Service Times

Mar 9-10  SONseeker Lock-in
          UR-LC ... 2nd – 5th grades

Wed, Mar 7, 14, 21 & 28  Continued Mid-week Lenten
                          Services @10:30am & 6:00pm
                          (Meals follow 6:00 pm service)

April 1  Palm Sunday
          8:00 am & 11:00 am
          Traditional Services w/HC
          9:30 am
          Contemporary Worship
          & Kids’ Church w/HC

April 5  Maundy Thursday
          10:30 am – Worship w/HC
          7:00 pm – Worship w/HC

April 6  Good Friday
          12:00 pm – Good Friday
          Devotional Service
          7:00 pm – Good Friday
          Worship Service

April 7  Easter Egg-stravaganza
          @Skyline Park

April 8  Easter Sunday
          8:00 am & 11:00 am
          Traditional Services
          9:30 am
          Contemporary Service
We Pray for our Homebound Members:  If you know of a member who is unable to attend church and would like to be visited regularly by the Elders, please contact Tim Krueger.

Patricia Klein  ---  Evelyn Langan  ---  Maxine Harvey  ---  Fred Dase

THE LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCASTS

We are fortunate to be able to listen to the Lutheran Hour in the Valley of the Sun. The broadcasts are on these radio stations now. Please make note of these stations and times listed below. Program descriptions are also available at www.lhm.org.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on KFNX 1100 AM Delivering the messages is Rev. Ken Klaus unless otherwise noted.

March 2012

March 4  
"Faith Sees Through Suffering"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
Jesus suffered on the cross for us. In His strength, we are willing to suffer and bear the cross for others.  
(Mark 8:27-35)

March 11  
"Called By God To Boast In Him"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
Learn how to boast, not about ourselves, but of our God Who loves us and the world in which we live.  
(1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

March 18  
"Good News for Religious People Too?"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz  
The Bible speaks about grace for sinners, but even the so-called "good people" need God's grace and mercy, too.  
(John 3:1-16)

March 25  
"He Knew"  
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus  
Would you want to know how and when you will die? Jesus willingly faced the cross for us so that we can live--and die--with confidence and faith.  
(Mark 10:32-34)
HOW TO REACH US:

PASTOR PAUL CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

OFFICE 480-984-1414
HOME 480-718-9223
CELL 480-330-1685

Church office phone: 480-984-1414
Little Palms Preschool: 480-986-9436
Fax: 480-984-7839

Web Site: www.hosanna-lcms.com
Pastor: Paul Frank – Ext. 102
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Director of Children’s Ministry:
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Office Manager: D’One Riswold – Ext. 100
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Music Director: John Snyder
js88keys@aol.com
Trustee: Bill Bruns
bp gwannab@cs.com
Elder: Tim Krueger
tkrue99@yahoo.com

*Connections deadline Wednesday at noon* Send articles to:
driswold@hosanna-lcms.com *Articles will run for 2 weeks and will be edited for length and content.

*Harvester deadline third Friday of each month* (*Articles will run for one (1) month only)
Send articles to: driswold@hosanna-lcms.com