the PALM

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LENT: Who needs it?

"Souls die from a lack of reflection."
~Sister Joan Chittister

Dear Friends in Christ,

First, let me answer the opening question: *I do!*

And then follow up with a second question:
What does Lent really mean to you?
Giving something up? No meat on Fridays?

People have been observing Lent for over 1,500 years – and so in a real sense Lent helps us stay in synch with our inherited faith. We enter the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and the season lasts for 40 days excluding Sundays, ending on Easter Sunday, April 5th! Sundays are excluded from Lent as they are days of resurrection! Lent is an opportunity for intentional reflection and spiritual evaluation – an annual check up! Some call it a "spring cleaning" for the soul as the word "Lent" comes from the old English "lectin", which means "spring" or the "lengthening of days".

Each year as I approach Lent I begin to wonder, do I really need it? And then I begin the often time painful process of realizing that I do need this season. I need this season and the time it represents to re-focus, to get my mind off the many things to which I look for meaning and center myself in Meaning itself.

Lent asks us to focus as we prepare for the EASTER season so that we are ready to embrace the fullness of the Resurrected Christ. Lent is similar to preparing for a big exam, or the run of practices and dress rehearsals before the Opening Night. The final event is big and grand, but can only be as big as the thoroughness of the preparations.

On Sundays and Wednesdays during Lent we will offer times for preparation for the BIG EVENT of EASTER – the pinnacle of the Church Year. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday where we will take a journey with Jesus from Palms to Passion, the story is brought alive during the Last Supper portrayal, and on Good Friday we pause and look directly to the cross. More information about Sundays, Wednesdays and Holy Week can be found in this issue of THE PALM. **Join us – and invite a friend – to prepare for EASTER!**

In preparation~

Pastor Linda Friesen

We are called, gathered and sent to be a people living, loving and serving as Jesus did, so that all may know Him.

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connect360: Wednesday evenings

Hosanna's Wednesday night programming continues through April. The evening begins by sharing a meal together, followed with Fellowship, Faith, FUN, Music, Worship and Faith Formation for **ALL** AGES.

NO connect360 on April 1 (Holy Week).
Last night of connect360 is April 29.

Weekly Schedule

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
A high quality, healthy meal with salad bar and dessert

6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Good News at 6 (mid-week worship service)

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Faith Formation, Music & Arts, Confirmation, Higher Ground and Adult Learning

Meal Prices
(starting February 18)
Grade 2 and under $4
Grade 3 to Adult $6 or Entire Family $20

Discounted pre-payment 6-week meal package *(starting February 18)*
Grade 2 and under $18
Grade 3 to Adult $30 or Entire Family $90

connect360: Adult Education

February 11: Annual Meeting – no class

February 18: Ash Wednesday related Bible study

February 25 – March 18:
4 week study: *Before Amen, The Power of Simple Prayer* by Max Lucado

This study takes readers on a journey to the heart of biblical prayer, offering hope for doubts and confidence even for 'prayer wimps.' Distilling prayers in the Bible down to one pocket-sized prayer, Max Lucado reminds participants that prayer is not a privilege for the pious nor the art of a chosen few. Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child, that's **YOU!**

The Season of Lent

Sundays during the Season of Lent we will draw our attention to THE CROSS.
What does the CROSS mean to you? Whatever we say about the cross, we also say about God. The cross stands as the central symbol of the Christian faith, but most of us would be hard pressed to clearly express what God is up to on the cross, and what the cross means for daily living. Each week we will consider the cross from a different perspective. We will explore the stories of Jesus in the gospels; learn about various theories of atonement (literally, making something broken "at one" again), as we try to understand what God was and is doing in Jesus. Doing so will bring us to a greater and more intimate understanding of our God.

Wednesday Lent Series:
Marks of Discipleship – PoWeR SuRGe
The mid-week Lent Worship series with Holden Evening Prayer begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and continues through March 25.

Noon Worship: followed by lunch and adult education

6 p.m. Worship: dinner from 5 – 6 p.m.; education time follows worship

Wednesdays we will focus our attention on The Marks of Discipleship and offer opportunities to practice these "marks" during the season of Lent. These marks are **Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Daily Bible Reading, Serving In and Beyond the Church, Nurturing Faithful Relationships** and **Giving.**

Green Earth Team (GET)

Next meeting on March 1 . . . . . 10:00 a.m.

The Green Earth Team is on the move! On Sat. Jan. 17, several members began our outreach ministry, volunteering in various duties at the ReStore in St. Croix Falls, WI. Habitat for Humanity sponsors the ReStores, which offer donated household and construction items for sale to the public, with the proceeds returning to Habitat. Volunteer opportunities for Hosanna members will be offered in the near future. Watch for new informational posters on display, which will help educate our membership on recycling at Hosanna and at home. And finally . . . the 5th annual spring plant sale will kick-off in April, with plants to be delivered in early May! Think Spring! Contact Kathy Okeson, tv69oke@aol.com, or any GET board member for more information or join us on the first Sunday of the month at 10 a.m.

FREE tax help!

The AARP Tax-aide Program will again offer tax assistance and preparation services this 2015 tax season at the Forest Lake City Center, 1408 North Lake Street in Forest Lake. This free service can answer most tax issues faced by low to middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older.

Tax assistance sessions will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling 651.675.7126. For more information, contact Gene Janicke at 651.464.2488. *These services are made available through a grant provided by the state of Minnesota.*

Stewardship: Giving and Generosity at Hosanna

Support Hosanna by shopping at AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Hosanna Lutheran Church. Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and a portion of your purchase price will support our ministry and outreach. It's easy to do, just follow these steps:

1. Go to **https://smile.amazon.com/**
2. Log-in to your existing Amazon account or create a new account.
3. Look for **pick your own charitable organization** and type in **Hosanna Lutheran Church, Forest Lake** in the search box.
4. **Hosanna Lutheran Church Of Forest Lake** will show up as an option. Click the **Select** box.
5. **That's it!** Moving forward 0.5% of any qualifying Amazon purchases will be donated to Hosanna.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

HOLY WEEK AT HOSANNA

First Communion Milestone: Welcome to the Lord's Table

March 22 . . . . . 11:45 – 1:30 p.m.

We begin with a shared meal in the Garden Chapel following worship. All children are invited to participate in the First Communion Milestone. The decision to participate is one that needs to be made by the family, each child develops differently both mentally and spiritually. Communion is always open for any believing heart to partake.

This Milestone will help to understand the sacrament better. During our workshop participants will learn about the history of communion and bake communion bread. Parents and/or godparents are asked to attend class with their child but the whole family is invited to join in. First Communion is celebrated during the Last Supper worship. If you have questions contact Tracie Peterson at tpeterson@hosannaforestlake.net or Pastor Linda at lfriesen@hosannaforestlake.net.

Sign up for this class by March 11, so that we can plan for you. Sign up on the Worship Yellow Page or on the Youth Board.

Palm Sunday

March 29 . . . . . 9 and 10:30 a.m.

From Palms to Passion – enter the story through they eyes of the gospel writer Mark. Everyone has a voice in this fast-paced story, along with music from the Hosanna Choir, Handbells and Youth Choir.

The Last Supper Re-enactment and Worship – *27th Year at Hosanna!*

March 31, April 1 and 2. . . . . 7:30 p.m.

On the night before his betrayal, Jesus joined with the 12 disciples in the Upper Room. There was lively conversation and confusion. There was betrayal. What does all this mean? Come and decide for yourself.

Good Friday

April 3 . . . . . 7 p.m.

When you think about it, it's an incredibly odd name: Good Friday. This is the day Jesus was crucified, nailed to a wooden cross until he died. It is the day we read the story and hear how all of his companions and friends either betrayed, denied, or abandoned him. How can this day be good? Come and see – experience Good Friday to ready yourself for the Easter surprise!

Easter Celebration

April 5 . . . . . 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Join us in a celebration of SURPRISES, JOY and GRATITUDE!

Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Update

The Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Dream Team at Hosanna Lutheran Church is a dedicated and faithful team of individuals who are here to serve and support the Hosanna community as we design and develop a CYF ministry model. **Learn more about us below!**

The purpose of the "Children, Youth and Family Dream Team" at Hosanna Lutheran Church is: to participate with a heart and mind open to where God is leading you; to represent the mission and vision of Hosanna Lutheran Church in designing a model of Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYF); to provide valuable perspective and feedback on the history and future of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Hosanna; to assist in design and development of a CYF Ministry model based on feedback from Hosanna Lutheran focus groups; to actively promote and communicate the process with members in partnering ministries; and to bathe the process and people in prayer.

Here is the timeline for the group:
February: Discernment/Education
March: Mission, Vision, Values
April: Candidate Search
May: Interviews

How can I support the process?

- Keep the process and the Dream Team in your prayers daily
- Participate in the congregational Survey
- Attend a focus group (times TBA)
- Talk with Tracie Peterson or any team member if you have questions, comments or concerns

The CYF Dream Team is a dedicated and faithful team of individuals who are

Andy Wachholz

AGES/NAMES OF CHILDREN
Kacey – 13
Aubrey – 9

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY OF CHURCH
I grew up here at Hosanna and really enjoyed our youth trips up to the Boundary Waters.

Gene Janicke

AGES/NAMES OF CHILDREN
Margene – 37, married to Rick
Grandchildren Dax – 7 and Flora – 4
Will – 35

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY OF CHURCH
First Communion and being confirmed were both special times for me and my classmates. We had all worked so hard to learn about our faith so when those days came our whole church community celebrated with us and made us feel so important.

Dave Sauer

AGES/NAMES OF CHILDREN
Abby – 24
Phil – 20

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY OF CHURCH
My favorite church memory from childhood was going to a national youth gathering with all of my friends in Denver, Colorado.

Julie Ohman

Jonathan – 26
Joel – 24
Jackie – 21

Concordia Lutheran Church in Superior, WI: We really enjoyed starting each session of Sunday School as a large group. We sang Christian camp-type "fun" songs (with actions!) as well as favorite hymns. It was fun to be with friends of different ages for this.

Laura Anderson

Caleb – 14
Hannah – 12
Eli – 9

I was part of a large high school choir at church called Hope Anew that traveled around the country for two weeks every summer. My youth group was such a huge part of my life in both Junior and Senior High!

Merilee Fuglie

David – 37
Jared – 35
Bailey – 20

Always knowing I would be seeing my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; and the feeling of church connecting us not only to each other as family, but to God as well through love, songs, Sunday School and worship.

here to serve and support the Hosanna community – learn more about them!

Kelly Wenzel

Caden – 8
Ella – 5 1/2

My favorite childhood memory of church was a mission trip to Kentucky for Habitat for Humanity. We built a house, grew in our faith and developed life long friendships. It was such a wonderful experience!

Tracie Peterson

Hanna – 13
Faith – 12
Hope – 2

AGES/NAMES OF CHILDREN

I had an extremely close confirmation class. We formed a lasting friendship that still exists today. They taught me the importance of that personal connection at church.

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY OF CHURCH

Celebrate Easter with Hosanna

Easter – who needs it?

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."
~Martin Luther

We do!

Easter is more than one day!
The season of Easter runs for 50! days –
from Easter Sunday to Pentecost.
50 days to celebrate the meaning of Easter in our lives.

Easter is about resurrection, resurrection is about new and unexpected possibilities, and unexpected possibilities are an occasion for gratitude. Gratitude is a response to Easter because the resurrection of our Lord comes as such an unexpected, surprising, even shocking event. This is the center of the Christian faith: that the God who created the world from nothing also re-creates life and love so that death no longer has the last word. Death is no longer the ultimate factor limiting our lives. Life, new life, becomes the reality that colors how we look at everything.

To more fully live into this season, to emphasize, prolong and experience more deeply the **Joy of Easter,** *this year Hosanna will observe 50 Days of Gratitude! Check out our* **Facebook** *and* **Instagram** *feeds every day to see a new perspective on* **Gratitude.**

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Snowtubing

Sunday, February 8 . . . . . noon – 5 p.m.

Calling all youth in grades 7 – 12! Join us at noon as we make our own lunch before hitting the slopes at Eko Backen Tubing in Scandia. Cost is $5. Scholarships available for those who cannot afford to go. Drivers needed. Let Tracie Peterson know if you are able to help transport youth. Sign up by February 3rd.

Valentine's Day at FMSC

Saturday, February 14 . . . . . 9 – 11 a.m.

Do you want to help turn Hunger into Hope? Then join us at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Coon Rapids. This event is for anyone age 5 and up! We only have 30 spots total. Sign up on the Bulletin Board near the welcome desk. Please contact Tracie Peterson at tpeterson@hosannaforestlake.net if you need a ride.

Couples' Retreat: Creating a Strong Marriage

March 20, 6:30 p.m. – March 21, 3 p.m.

The secret ingredient is **Communication!** Join us for a retreat focusing on our talents and how to use them to create a strong marriage. This retreat will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn in Shoreview. Cost is $175 per couple. Space is limited, please sign-up by March 8. Pastor Linda is the facilitator. *Note: If you have not taken StrengthsFinder, you will also need to take the inventory, which is $15 per person. Please contact Pastor Linda with questions.*

Bowling Fun

Sunday, March 22

All youth in grades 7 – 12 are invited to join us for some bowling fun at Blainbrook Entertainment Center in Blaine. Cost is $5, but bring additional money if you want to play in the arcade. Sign up by Wednesday, March 18th.

Celebration and Appreciation for Volunteers

Sunday, April 26 . . . . . 5 – 7 p.m.

Save the date! **Calling ALL Volunteers!!** Volunteers are at the very HEART of Hosanna. You serve – now come and be served. More details to follow!

One Million Meal MobilePack

"Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor." Proverbs 22:9

In September 2014, Hosanna embarked on a Kingdom Assignment experiment. Some members of Hosanna were given $100 to invest in the Kingdom of God. We have all been amazed at how this turned out! There have been many creative and fruitful outcomes, but it hasn't stopped there. It has only allowed us to grow our thinking about how we can further the Kingdom of God at Hosanna, in Forest Lake, and beyond.

Pastor Amie took a trip to Haiti with the organization Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in October 2014. FMSC is a Christian non-profit organization founded in 1987 that provides nutritionally complete meals for starving, malnourished and hungry people in nearly 70 countries. When she returned, FMSC asked Hosanna to consider joining a consortium of churches to participate in a **One Million Meal MobilePack** – another way for us to further the Kingdom of God and Hosanna has accepted the challenge! From **April 27 to May 1, 2015** – Hosanna will join Incarnation Lutheran Church, Roseville Lutheran Church and several smaller metro area churches to pack **One Million Meals** for FMSC. Taking part in this effort requires a commitment of both volunteer hours and financial support from Hosanna. By participating, Hosanna will help turn hunger into HOPE!

Volunteering

On February 18, on-line registration will open. Family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers – anyone from age 5 to 100 – can sign-up for a 2 hour shift to volunteer and pack food. Go to Hosanna's website or contact the church office to sign-up. Hosanna's goal is to bring 500 volunteers to this mobile pack.

Donations

Donations to FMSC can be made during Wednesday night worship offerings, Sunday worship offerings or special donations can be brought to the church office. Make checks payable to Hosanna and specify FMSC on the memo line. If you know of businesses or organizations that might be interested in contributing, please contact Pastor Amie at aodahl@hosannaforestlake.net. Hosanna's goal is to pay for 100,000 meals = $22,000. We have already received an $11,000 anonymous donation to help fund this project. Hosanna's challenge is to match it!

One Million Meal MobilePack Dates

Monday, April 27
5 – 7 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28
9:15 – 11:15 a.m.
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
5 – 7 p.m.
7 – 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29
5 – 7 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m.

Thursday, April 30
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
5 – 7 p.m.
7 – 9 p.m.

Friday, May 1
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
5 – 7 p.m.

Fast Facts

- One FMSC meal costs 22 cents.
- Food scientists from General Mills and Cargill developed the specially formulated, highly nutritious meal that contains all of the daily nutrients a starving child needs to survive.
- All FMSC food is paid for and packaged by volunteers. More than half of the volunteers are under the age of 18.
- 92% of the total donations go directly to feeding starving children.
- FMSC receives no government funding.
- Every day, nearly 6,200 children die from hunger or hunger related causes. This is NOT okay! These are God's children, and we who are blessed with resources are called to respond.

UPCOMING DATES

February 8 – noon to 5 p.m.
Snowtubing

February 13 – 15
CPA's *Peter Pan* performances
Forest Lake Area High School

February 14 – 9 to 11 a.m.
Valentine's Day at FMSC, Coon Rapids

February 18 – noon and 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship

March 20 – 21
Couples' Retreat: Creating a STRONG Relationship using StrengthsFinders

March 22 – 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
First Communion Milestone:
Welcome to the Lord's Table

March 22
Youth Bowling

March 29 – 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Worship

March 31, April 1 and 2 – 7:30 p.m.
The Last Supper Re-enactment and Worship

April 3 – 7 p.m.
Good Friday Worship

April 5 – 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Easter Celebration

April 26 – 5 to 7 p.m.
Volunteer Celebration Event

April 25 – May 1
One Million Meal MobilePack
Incarnation Lutheran Church, Shoreview

April 29
Last night of connect360

April – May
5th Annual GET Spring Plant Sale

Hosanna
Lutheran Church

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CHRIST IS RISEN!

Easter Sunday Worship
April 5th
9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sundays in Lent: Focus on the Cross

Ash Wednesday Worship
February 18 – Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Lent Series: Marks of Discipleship
February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, 25
Noon and 6:00 p.m.

First Communion Milestone
March 22 – 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Celebrate Holy Week with Hosanna

Palm Sunday Worship
March 29
9 and 10:30 a.m.

The Last Supper Re-enactment and Worship
March 31, April 1 and 2
7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship
April 3 – 7 p.m.

EASTER CELEBRATION
April 5
9 and 10:30 a.m.