

Rooted and Grounded in Love

In Ephesians 3:17 the Apostle Paul writes, *"May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*



I have truly found Hosanna to be a special, welcoming place, where people are encouraged to seek and find God, and share their journeys with others. It is here that we hear the Gospel message of God's great love for us that encourages us and sends us forth into the world in His service. The love of God undergirds our life together, gives us identity, and guides all that we do. This beautiful verse from Ephesians is our theme for the upcoming ministry year. May we remind one another that what makes a home special (including a church home) is the foundation of love that is found within it. I pray that you will all find this at Hosanna.

Many events are happening at Hosanna this fall. Please keep watching your emails to keep up to date on the happenings. Here are a few of the upcoming events:

Sunday, September 13th

- We will celebrate the baptism of Henry Ryan Kunze, son of Ryan and Melanie and grandson of Roger and Cindy.
- A hospitality meeting will be held immediately following worship to discuss what is working and what could be improved. If you are currently serving on our hospitality team, or would like to in the future, please join us for this meeting in the Gathering Area following worship. Grab some treats and bring your concerns and ideas to discuss.
- In the afternoon, I will attend the installation of our new Bishop, Justin Grimm, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. You are also invited to attend. An RSVP is requested on the Saint Paul Synod website.

Sunday, September 20th

- Faith Formation begins for preschool – second graders. You will leave worship following the kid's message. This group meets on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Wednesday, September 23rd

- A new Bible Study group is forming for adults – topic to be determined by the group.
- Faith Formation for third – sixth grade meets with Ms. Sarah begins for preschool – second graders. This group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.
- Youth meet with Youth Guy Chris Rupar every Wednesday evening (year around).

Sunday, September 27th

- We will hold our annual Fall Fest. There will be bouncy houses, many activities for the kids, wonderful food, desserts, and entertaining music. This weekend also marks my first year with you; it has flown by!

Wednesday, October 7th

- We are trying something new and holding a Family Trivia Night. This is open to anyone of any age. You will be able to reserve a table for your family or come and join another group. This will be a fun, general trivia evening, but there will be prizes along the way. Pizza will be served starting at 6:00 pm and trivia will start at 6:30 pm. Sign up will be ready by the end of this week – watch the weekend edition for additional details.

Dates to be determined

- **Fall congregational meeting**

Sometime this fall, we will need to hold a congregational meeting to vote on our revised church constitution. The Constitution was last updated in 2013 and has required extensive editing.

Prior to the meeting and vote, we will give you time to review the changes. The updated constitution has been reviewed by the church council, the office staff, and the synod, as well as Nancy Alexis and Craig Anderson who agreed to go over the document to raise questions or clarify what was written. Gary Ledford committed many hours to reviewing and editing the constitution and getting it in working order.

To approve the updated constitution, it will require two congregational votes. One this fall and, if that passes, a second vote at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 7th. With the passing of both congregational votes, the new constitution will take effect.

Please note that there are several parts of the constitution that the ELCA does not allow us to change. One of those mandates is that to be a voting member of Hosanna, there must be a contribution of record to this congregation over the past year.

This means that if you give cash in the offering baskets/boxes on Sunday morning, we do not have a record of your giving, unless you are placing the money in an envelope with your name on it. Newly confirmed members of Hosanna must also have a record of a donation in the system to officially vote, separate from their parents' giving. If you would like to weigh in on any of the business of Hosanna (and we hope you do), please make sure you have a record of contribution over the past year at least two weeks prior to any congregational vote.

- **AT&T Cell Tower**

There is a second issue that may or may not be ready for a vote this fall and that concerns the possibility of putting up a cell tower on our property. Prior to my arrival, volunteers began to open up conversations with AT&T to see if Hosanna could be a viable site and what kind of revenue might be generated from this venture. It's been a long journey even to see if this is possible. Negotiations continue as I write this.

Once we have a final proposal from AT&T, assuming we get one, we will share the information and the process with you, and make sure that you are able to ask questions, voice concerns, and make an informed decision. Let me emphasize that ***we have made no commitment, and would not do so, without the congregation receiving information about this and being able to decide if this move seems like a positive one for the church to pursue. This would require a congregational vote to proceed.*** As soon as we have a final proposal, we will bring it before the congregation.

It's going to be a busy fall season, and I hope you will join us for all that is happening.

Rooted and Grounded in His Love,

Pastor Kris