



## March, 2010 Newsletter

Dear Partners and Friends of Hosanna!

There's something wonderful about the change of seasons – leaving the old behind (winter!) and embracing the new. That's exactly what we are doing at Hosanna! A new season of growth, mission, and desire is upon us. I want to update you on a number of issues and opportunities.

Let me begin with some *Frequently Asked Questions* regarding our relationship with the ELCA.

### **What are the main reasons for leaving the ELCA?**

There are a number of reasons for leaving. For several years Hosanna! and the ELCA have been traveling on diverging paths. Our commissioning process for pastors, worship style, emphasis on prayer, openness to the gifts of the Spirit, kingdom-mindedness, view of scripture, and simply how we do church continue to move us in different directions.

### **Will Hosanna! still be a Lutheran church?**

Absolutely. Our doctrine, teaching, and ministry practices will remain the same as they have been for 30 years. Our core theology is Lutheran, as is our heritage. A congregation need not be in the ELCA to be Lutheran.

### **Will Hosanna! become an independent congregation?**

No. Our desire is to do ministry in relationship with other like-minded congregations. There are a number of organizations and affiliations with whom we could do ministry. At our Elders Meeting on February 16, Pastor Bill Sullivan from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) joined us. You can view their website at [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net). We will also visit with representatives from the Coalition For Renewal (CORE) and the Association for Renewal Congregations (ARC). Our intention is to bring a recommendation to the Special Congregational Meeting on May 16 (time to be determined). A vote of the Hosanna! members is required to join another group.

### **Will Hosanna! lose its property?**

In some denominations when a congregation leaves the denomination, the property remains with the denomination. That is not the case for us. If we affiliate with another Lutheran church body, our property remains in our hands.

### **Will the pastors lose their pensions?**

No. The pastors' pensions may be rolled into another qualified plan.

### **What becomes of the financial support that had been directed to the ELCA?**

It does not go back into our Hosanna! programs and ministries. Part of it will go toward our new affiliation (see above) and the balance will go to other Lutheran ministries and missions that are in alignment with our teaching statement.

## **Will Hosanna! continue to work with other congregations, large or small, in or out of the ELCA?**

We are firmly committed to do this. There is a call on Hosanna! to pass on the blessings, knowledge, experience, and anointing which have been given to us. We can encourage and bless others in the areas of worship, prayer, leadership, innovation, and vision. We will be hosting a Lighthouse Conference June 6 - 8 under the heading **FAITH LIFT**. Our hope is that 800 - 1000 pastors and leaders will come for inspiration and encouragement.

## **What is being done to communicate with the congregation?**

We have tried to be very intentional and thorough in our communication on this subject. Information will continue to be provided on our website ([www.hosannalc.org](http://www.hosannalc.org)), through my newsletters, through email, in the weekly bulletin, in the pre-service loop, weekend announcements, and at Guest Services desks.

I have tried to respond to some of the questions and concerns that you have expressed. The next opportunity for conversation will be **Sunday, March 21 at 10:10 a.m. in the Worship Center**. Bishop Peter Rogness will be our guest speaker. Bishop Rogness has met with the Vision Board, but a number of members have expressed the desire to hear from him. Vision Board members will also be available. We have placed this meeting between the services to maximize the number who can attend. We realize the time constraints of such a meeting, but Bishop Rogness has agreed to stay after the 11:00 a.m. service if needed.

I want to encourage you to attend our annual Leadership Conference here at Hosanna. The dates are March 12 - 13. Our theme is **KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR**. We start with a buffet supper at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, move into rousing worship, and then I speak on our vision and new challenges. Pastors Ryan Alexander and David Housholder speak on Saturday on what it means for us to be mission minded. Food, worship, teaching, laughter, small group time, and ministry time all make for a dynamic experience. There is no cost but you must register to attend. Simply go to our website ([www.hosannalc.org](http://www.hosannalc.org)), or stop by Guest Services, or call the main number (952-435-3332) and let us know you're coming.

Finally, this Easter is going to be spectacular. The invitation is to **EXPERIENCE EASTER**. We have added one new service: 3:00 p.m. on Easter Saturday. After that 3:00 p.m. service and after the regular 5:00 p.m. service on Saturday, there will be a marvelous egg hunt for the kids. This is a perfect event to which you should invite your neighbors, coworkers, and friends. OR there will be a complimentary hot breakfast from 6:45 - 7:45 a.m. on Easter morning. The Easter garden will be back and the empty tomb will be front and center. Our worship experience will be memorable and powerful. There is no day in the entire year like Easter.

Thanks for reading this letter. Thanks for your partnership, support, and prayers.

Blessings to you!



Bill Bohline  
Lead Pastor