

notes from Hosanna DECEMBER 2008
HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH **Volume 22 Nbr. 12**
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ADVENT PRAYER - Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

WORSHIP & OTHER EVENTS AT HOSANNA

Advent Mid-week worship: Wednesdays, 7:00 pm Dec. 3, 10, 17
Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday School Christmas program: 10:00 am Sunday, Dec. 7

Youth Christmas Party: Dec. 12, 7:00 pm **Hosanna Family Christmas Party:**

Sunday, Dec. 14, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Services: Dec. 24

4:00 pm (no candlelighting or communion; a shorter service)

5:30, 7:30, and 11:00 pm (all with Holy Communion and candlelighting)

Christmas Day: Dec. 25: 10:00 am Holy Communion
Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 4: 10:00 am Holy Communion

♪ WORSHIP and MUSIC NOTES ♪ ♪

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

As we enter into the beginning of a new liturgical year, let us be thankful for the past year the Lord has brought us through, and look forward with anticipation to the new. When we gather for our SUNDAY ADVENT WORSHIP, there will be less lighting in the sanctuary, there will be a simplified service order, and there will be an abundance of congregational music. The children's time will once again be focused around the lighting of the candles on the Advent Wreath.

Our mid-week ADVENT SERVICES will be following the order of worship in the Holden Evening Prayer, beginning at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening in Advent. Other special services are outlined on the front cover of this newsletter - we invite you to take part in as much as you are able.

We will have a SIGN-UP SHEET out on the black counter in the narthex for the many opportunities to serve one another during the Christmas Eve services, Christmas Day service and for the 1st Sunday of Christmas, December 28. We require communion assistants, Altar guild personnel, ushers, readers and offering counters. Thank you for your consideration in helping at these services.

I wish to thank all those who participated in our special Hymn Festival, with songs, lessons, and narrations to mark Christ the King Sunday - this past Sunday - from narrators and readers, to symbol bearers and musicians, especially the Chancel Choir (who stayed for two full services), ushers, altar guild, communion assistants and all the congregation who joined so willingly in yet another "unfamiliar" service. I feel truly blessed to be working in a church that fosters and encourages creativity and willingly participates in such events. As you look forward to Advent and Christmas, there will be more and more opportunities for various ways to serve one another...thank you, in advance for your service.

As you enter this busy season, come to worship with an attitude of waiting, listening, wonder and preparation. May God fill you with a sense of wonder, joy, and peace.

Evelyn Pfeifer, Director of Worship and Music

EPIPHANY SERVICE at TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tuesday, January 6, @ 7:30 p.m.

Congregations of the Northern Cluster, in which we are included,
are all invited to attend.

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

To request prayer for yourself or for others, contact:
Del Bennett, Dan Wold, or the pastors at 780-484-3932.
If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain,
please also contact any of the above.

**FAREWELL & BON VOYAGE event for Lisa Omerzu
Sunday, December 21, 10:30 am - between services**

Lisa has been our Indoor custodian for 3 years and is leaving our employ at the end of December. Plan to come on Dec. 21 as we give her our best wishes for all her future endeavours.

Since completing her university degree, Lisa has also been working at a full time job along with her part time position at Hosanna, preparing for this coming year. She writes:

"In February 2009, I will begin my year of travel by flying to Europe. I plan on spending around 5 months visiting Egypt, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, France and Great Britain. I will be documenting my journey on my blog "Lisa's Love of Travel". You are invited to follow along by logging on to: www.lisasloveoftravel.blogspot.com ."

HOSANNA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 14

A **POTLUCK DINNER** begins at 5:00 pm ...followed by a brief **PROGRAM**,
...and concludes by 8:00 pm with **CAROLING** around the Christmas tree.

For the Potluck meal, it is suggested that you bring a main course (casserole, etc.), plus either a salad or dessert or something extra like pickles or buns; if you are a single person, you might bring one or two of the above items. Bring enough to feed your family, plus 2 or 3 more. Beverages are provided. We engage a group of young adults from the Lutheran Student Movement at U of A to do the dishes, and gather a free-will offering for their work.

Again this year, an invitation has been extended to the guests that were at our last Community Meal. It's an opportunity for us to extend hospitality to those in our midst who have less than we have. That means it is especially important to bring those extra portions of food, as well as to share the space at our tables.

There is no organized supervision planned for children during our Family Christmas Party. Please keep them with you, or have an adult in attendance if they leave your table. This concern has come out of previous years when children were left unattended by an adult, both at the children's centre and throughout various rooms at the church. All our doors are unlocked that evening, so security concerns also come into play.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS are on the black counter for you to add your name to help with one or more areas. Just imagine how easy it would be if every one of us that is able signs up to volunteer in one place!

1. Set up is 12:30-1:30 (remove most seats, other furniture from the worship area, set up tables & chairs, tablecloths, big tables for food;
2. Kitchen help: 4:00-5:00 make coffee, juice, set out cups, glasses, and dishes, organize & put out food as it arrives, cut up pies, cakes, etc.;
3. Clean up 8:00-9:00 pm: vacuum worship area & narthex, put platform & altar back together, put away big tables, lock up;
- 4 Sanctuary set up, Tuesday evening 7:00-9:00 pm. Put all seats back in the worship area in preparation for Advent and Christmas services.
(Carpets will be cleaned on Monday.)

EDUCATION and FAMILY MINISTRIES

Sunday School presents:

An



Christmas

The Sunday School invites everyone to their Christmas program on Sunday, December 7th between services. From Angel to Zacharias, come and hear the how the ABC's weave the retelling of the Christmas story with song, verse and handbells!

Rehearsal for all Sunday School children is on
Friday, December 5 from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

On Sunday, December 14 at 10:00, parents and younger siblings are invited to join the Sunday School to celebrate the birth of Jesus with what else - a birthday party! This is the last day of Sunday School before Christmas break. Classes resume on January 11.

Sunday School offerings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany will go to support the Koh Kandal School Project in Cambodia which aims to provide library books and learning resources to the teachers at the school. Because many students have to travel great distances to go to school and feel pressure to spend time working in the fields, the project will also initiate a bicycle loan program to encourage the students to attend elementary school and continue on to high school.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

This study continues on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am (after Thursday Morning Prayer), led by Pastor Cliff. New people are invited to join this group that looks at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Come as often as you are able.

Adult Forum There are no forums scheduled during December but Adult forum will resume on January 11. The first forum of the new year will be on personal well-being, hosted by our Stewardship committee. 10:10-11 am in the Social room.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Friday, December 12 at 7:30 at Sonja's home for a continuation of the study "Cinderella Syndrome: When Life is Not a Ball" followed by some Christmas fellowship. Bring some goodies to share - all women are welcome even if you haven't been able to join us before.

Confirmation Class Photo Display

You may have already noticed the display of photos of confirmation classes in the hallway. If you have a photo of a confirmation class that is not displayed, we would love to have a copy of it for our "wall of fame". Please talk to Sonja to make arrangements.

F A I T H (Faith Activities In The Home)

The season of Advent is one of new beginning: a period of preparation and anticipation that climaxes in the great celebration we call Christmas, the joyous affirmation that God chose to live among us as man.

We seldom give a party without first making some preparations. We clean the house, decorate the table, make special foods. In short, we do all that we can to make our guests feel welcome and to ensure the success of the party. And with each preparation we do, our anticipation is heightened. Advent is the pre-party time - it is the season for preparing a joyous welcome for Christ's entry into the world, the time for looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Here is an idea that you might like to use to emphasize this feeling of anticipation. As you set out your nativity scene early in Advent, just put out the stable and animals. Add Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve when they would have arrived looking for a place to stay. Then on Christmas Day add the manger with Jesus and the shepherds who came to see the baby. The Wise Men could be placed at the opposite side of the room from the crèche on Christmas Day. Then each day they would be moved closer as they make their journey to see the Christ Child, finally arriving on the day of Epiphany.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2nd Annual Italian Bistro Night. The evening was a great success. A special thank you to Sherry Suvanto, Chris Vandermeer and the youth who gave a little extra to make the evening possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 2008— YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church at 7:00 for our annual Christmas party. Please bring a Christmas treat to share with the group and a wrapped gift (under \$5 value) for our crazy gift exchange. We'll also be making centerpieces for the tables at Family Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING AND

SLEEPOVER 9:30 pm Friday -10:00 am Saturday

After the Christmas party, all senior high and confirmed youth are invited to stay overnight at the church to decorate the Christmas tree, watch movies and hang out. Remember to bring your sleeping bag and a pillow!

NEEDED:

1. VOLUNTEERS - We can always use an extra helping hand! If you are interested in working with the youth this year please contact Lindsay for more information.
2. MUFFIN MAKERS - Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to bring muffins on that day, or at any time during the year, or you can e-mail lindsay@hosannalutheran.ab.ca.
3. E-MAIL LIST - As we live in a technologically advanced society, I would like to compile a list of parent and youth e-mails so that I can make sure to get a hold of everyone when there are important youth announcements or upcoming events. Please write your e-mail legibly and put it in my mailbox. Thank you!
4. DRIVERS - We rely on the help of parents in this area. If you are able to drive at any time throughout the year, please sign up on the youth bulletin board and look forward to a phone call.

YOUTH FORUM:

Youth Forum has taken on a new laid back feel. We'll meet in the youth (conference) room from 10:15-10:45 "ish" for a time of fellowship...think coffee, juice and a snack every week, and we'll study something sweet! Come out and give it a try, you never know what top secret projects we may be working on!

I will be away from Dec. 26-31.

Lindsay Vandermeer

Happenings at Hosanna

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday Dec. 14, 10:30 am.

To select two lay delegates plus one alternate to attend the ELCIC National Convention in Vancouver B.C., June 25-28, 2009. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact a member of Council. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on Dec. 14.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 25, 2009, 1:00 pm (after the second service).

ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the church office **NO LATER** than Monday morning, January 12, to be included in the printed booklet. Reports are expected from all committees and ministry areas, summarizing the 2008 year, and need to include Financial statements if applicable. Reports may be written by the chairperson, council liaison or a committee as a whole. Talk to Johanna or Nordahl if there are any questions.

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED or only minimally staffed the week after Christmas. In an emergency, please contact any of the staff members at their home numbers. The main answering machine at the church office will also be checked regularly (but not the pastors personal voice mailboxes).

YEAR END OFFERINGS will be received up to Dec. 31. Drop them in the front door mail slot or phone first to see if someone is in the office.

PARKING PROBLEMS occur during the busy festive times. We are able to use the parking lots at JP School across the street, and at Jubilee Park on 92 Ave. Please be considerate and leave the area right in front of the church for those who have difficulty walking longer distances.

SEEKING OFFICE HELP during Johanna's vacation February 5 to 20. If you can offer a morning, an afternoon, for one day or a few days, please talk to Johanna to schedule your time. Answering the phone, answering the door and dealing with e-mails will be the main tasks (We are finally using the vacation gift received November 2007 - thank you to all!)

POSTAGE STAMPS are collected in a box under the mailbox and given to the Canadian Bible Society for their fund raising. Thanks to Lorraine Benner who has arranged delivery of the stamps over the past few years; she is no longer able to do that. If you live near or drive by the CBS offices on your way to work, this might be a simple task for you to do every few months. CBS is on 109St at 84 Ave. Let Johanna know.

COUNCIL NOTES

Those present at the Christ the King Hymn Festival services on Nov. 23 experienced something special. Thanks to Evelyn, Pastor Ron, the choir and everyone else who contributed to the event. We know there is more to come during Advent!

Just as there is a Church Year, the church has an administrative calendar. Budget preparation is an important part of the administrative timetable. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the budget process. A special thanks to the Finance Committee and particularly to Karen Moore for their efforts in putting together the proposed budget that was shared with the congregation at the pre-annual meeting on Nov. 23. If you were unable to attend that meeting, there still are copies available on the counter in the narthex. If you have any further thoughts, considerations or questions regarding the budget, please speak to members of Council (preferably before Dec. 10 when Council meets again).

We will have a special congregational meeting on Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m. to select two lay delegates plus one alternate to attend the ELCIC National Convention in

Vancouver June 25-28. Because delegates have to be selected five months before the convention, we have to make the choice before our annual meeting in January. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact a member of Council. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on Dec. 14. A quorum of 75 members is needed.

The Property Committee has worked hard looking into options for a new sound system for Hosanna. This would be a major purchase involving designated funds and one that deserves careful consideration given the costs involved. Council will be receiving more information from the Property Committee at the meeting on Dec. 10.

The Pledge Campaign, led by the Stewardship Committee, is now officially over but it is still not too late to submit a pledge form. It is always possible to change a pledge commitment once it is given. However, the completed pledges do help Council and the Finance Committee in gauging expected financial support in the coming year.

Council along with the Fellowship Committee looks forward to serving as "hosts" at this year's Family Christmas on Dec. 14. See you there!

For the last several years, Council has devoted a part of its meetings to what we call "Caring for Hosanna's Family". At that time, our pastors, staff and Council consider members of Hosanna who might benefit from a call in person or by phone from one of our pastors or a member of Council. Perhaps you may be aware of someone in the Hosanna family who might appreciate a call or you may be aware of faces that have been absent from Hosanna events or services. If that's the case, please let the pastors or Council know.

Nordahl Flakstad
Chair Hosanna Church

**COUNCIL MINUTES are available for anyone interested,
kept in a binder above the black counter.**

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee, chaired by Colleen Vogel, has been meeting regularly as the search continues for a new Team Leader. They have been in frequent contact with Pastor Phil Hink at our Synod office who is responsible for the call process. Two candidates have expressed interest; a mobility form was received from one and a letter from the other. The committee will consider these candidates further at their next meeting.

As Bishop Ron Mayan reminded us at our meeting with him this summer, given the size and the complexity of Hosanna, the process of finding the right person could take a while. The call process entails an important decision in Hosanna's congregational life. We continue to ask for your support, prayers and patience as the process moves forward. Please direct any questions or concerns to any member of the committee.

Serving on the Call Committee: Nordahl Flakstad, Gladys Goebel, Susan Querengesser, Heidi Robinson, Greg Springate, Chris Vandermeer, and Colleen Vogel, Chair.

Dear Hosanna,

October 27, 2008

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you as a congregation. As a family we feel that Nuka was supported and welcomed into your church family this past year. We also feel that throughout the years when we visit the Olsen family and attend service at Hosanna that we as a family are made to feel welcome too. Nuka we feel grew as a person during her year in Edmonton and we appreciate that Hosanna was part of her growth as a young woman. Teens need support and encouragement and opportunities to learn about Faith. There is so much coming at teens these days. I am sure it is hard to make sense of the world. Teens need to know that even when situations are tough they are not alone and there is hope. Confirmation is one of these opportunities to practice faith. We are grateful to Hosanna and for the work that went into confirmation for our daughter. Although we could not be there on October 26, 2008, we are blessed to know that Nuka was surrounded with family and special friends to celebrate this special occasion. Your commitment to Faith and God's work does not go unnoticed.

With appreciation, Naikak (George) Hakongak, Donna Olsen-Hakongak

SOCIAL MINISTRY & ADVOCACY NEWS

ADVOCATING FOR THE HOMELESS

Our Social Ministry & Advocacy committee is continuing to explore ways we can be a part of the solution to homelessness in Edmonton. We've had a workshop with Jim Gurnett to find out more about what is being done in Edmonton and how we can be a voice for the homeless. In the research we've done so far we've found out that there are a number of groups and initiatives working for solutions to homelessness in Edmonton. Here is some background.

Our national church is very concerned about homelessness in Canada and in February of 2008 made a joint request with the Anglican Church of Canada for our government to seriously address homelessness. In a letter to Minister Solberg they asked the government to:

1. Join with the provinces to develop a comprehensive housing strategy as part of an overall national poverty reduction strategy.
2. Renew housing spending over a 10 year period.
3. Direct funding to marginalized groups.

In our province our Synod has joined the Greater Edmonton Alliance, a group devoted to promoting social justice through leadership development and public action. It is made up of 26 different groups including 14 church groups, anti-poverty groups and unions. They address a variety of issues including seniors & long term care, just work, food security and affordable housing. They recently provided input into the city's long term plan wanting to preserve the farmland in NE Edmonton. They have met with local developers to explore strategies for developing affordable housing so far have gained a commitment to develop 400 units of new affordable housing. Through the Vibrant Communities Edmonton conference in October they led a workshop creating a living wage policy for Edmonton.

The city established the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness in January 2008 with the goal of ending homelessness in 10 years. Linda Hughes, the Chancellor of the U of A, is chairing it. Already it has consulted with 800 people, including the homeless themselves and many stakeholders, which involved 62 interviews with homeless people, 20 meetings with elected and senior officials, and

30 meetings with concerned groups. They just had a consultation session with all the stakeholders. The themes that have emerged are:

- a. The Housing First concept is a good idea and must be part of the solution.
- b. The wrap-around service to newly housed clients is the key to success.
- c. Prevention strategies are critical.
- d.. Public awareness and education are essential.

Another group that is working on this issue is the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. It was established in 1986. It helped form the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund in 1999 which helps fund affordable housing projects. It also organizes the annual Homefest folk concert that took place a couple weeks ago. Jim Gurnett is a key leader with this group.

So there are a number of initiatives that Hosanna can join to help be a part of the solution.

Eugene Ulmer, Social Ministry and Advocacy Committee

"HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT US?"

This is a question that we often ask of guests at our Community Meals. It is asked both as a conversation starter, and to assist us in tracking our publicity efforts and to see where we might want to improve. People never mind answering the question, and it often leads us into other areas of discussion which can be helpful for both our guests and the Committee.

A response that we are hearing more and more frequently is "Oh, a friend told me 'you have got to go to Hosanna for one of their community meals' and so here I am". This is gratifying to learn. It is a sign that the "word of mouth" is out there working for us to help those in need know about what we are doing. And every new guest that comes to us in this fashion goes away ready to tell people that they meet as well. Slowly but surely, news of what we are doing is spreading among the community of West Edmonton.

Another response that we often hear is "how can I help?" At our November 22nd meal one of our new guests, a lady named Sonja who lives nearby, offered to help after the meal to do "whatever I can. You have been so kind to me." We gladly took her up on her offer, and an hour later she was still busy in the kitchen helping out with the

dishes. As it had been a very well attended meal, we were really pleased to have her help! And then, to our great pleasure, who did we see at church the next morning? Our friend Sonja. She said "God has brought me here to be with you people." She said that during the winter months she finds it too hard to travel downtown by bus to attend the church she belongs to, and after her experience at our meal on Saturday, she went home feeling that Hosanna would be a welcoming place for her to come to worship services. God is indeed at work in our community.

We are in our 4th year of providing Community Meals. It seems like yesterday we were just getting started. This program has grown so much over the past four years. Thank you to all of you who have made this possible - by volunteering in so many ways at the meals, by those who provide donations of whatever we ask for, for those of you who support us with your prayers, and the congregation by supporting us with budget funding. This is such a worthwhile ministry for people in need in West Edmonton. We feel honoured to have the opportunity to be of service to our neighbours.

The next scheduled meal is Saturday, January 24th.

The Community Meal Committee

Dear People of Hosanna:

What a delight - to see all of your wonderful wishes and blessings in the card you sent Krister and I for our wedding. It was a wonderful day and we are so glad for all of your support!

Blessings,
from Heidi and Krister

There are some pictures posted on the round kiosk of the October 24 wedding of Heidi Wachowiak and Krister Ulmanis.

Help Wanted

A sign you see in almost every storefront in Edmonton these days. While many areas of North America are experiencing tough economic times and forced layoffs, Albertans are fortunate to still be undergoing a boom. A shortage of qualified labour appears commonplace.

Hosanna is also looking for help.....yes, we are searching for a new pastor but that is not the help we mean. We are looking for YOU. Hosanna is a congregation of many talents, both visible and hidden. Hosanna needs you to remain the vibrant, caring and welcoming church we have always been. We repeat.....Hosanna needs you!

As 2008 draws to a close, we on the Stewardship committee look back on a successful year. Our annual Time and Talents campaign attracted many new "volunteers"; we spearheaded the introduction of a new initiative (Stewardship of Creation); we introduced and continue to reinforce the concept of stewardship to our Sunday School children; and we worked with the Finance Committee to ensure Hosanna has the funds necessary to carry on our programs at Hosanna via our annual Pledge campaign. In addition, we led several children's lessons (yummm.....popcorn). Along the way we lost a couple of committee members -Thank you to Nils and Greg for your contributions to the Committee during the year, and we appreciate the help we have received from Margaret since her return from Cambodia. Also, we'd like to send a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Randy for all of his guidance and spiritual wisdom.

So, how does all this tie in with "Help Wanted", you might ask? Well, let us leave you with these thoughts:

"My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith,

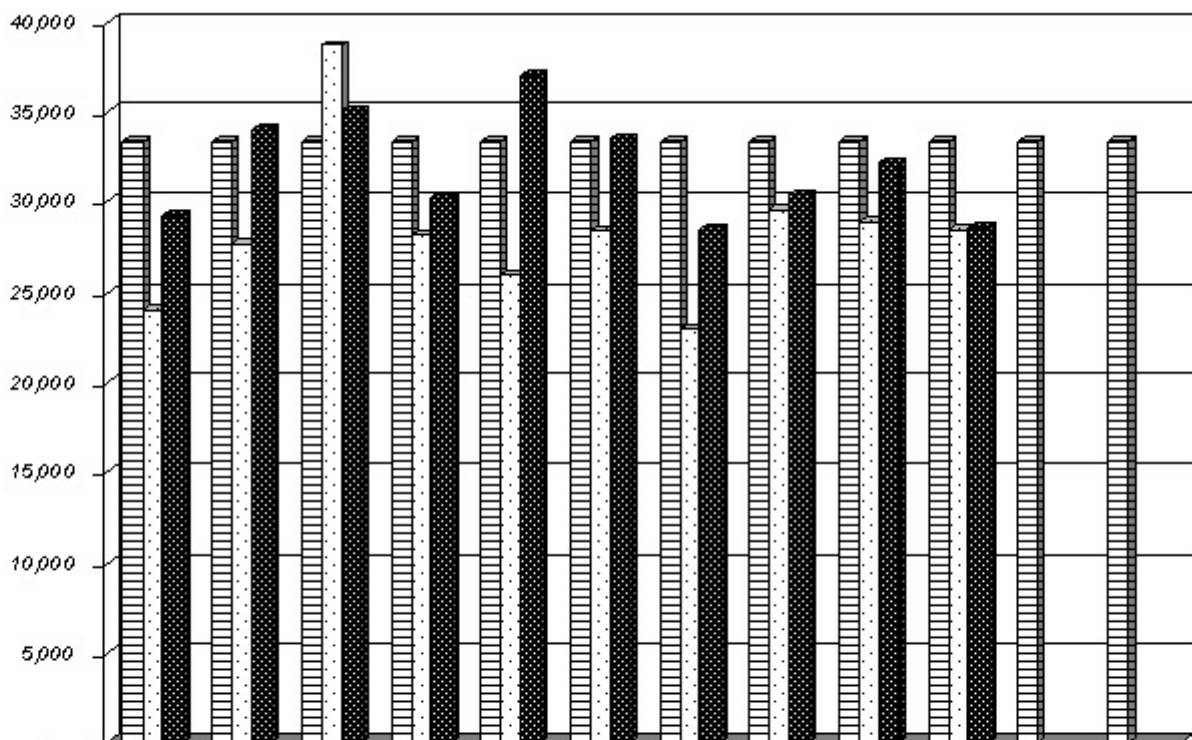
and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all
the things that I want my church to be."

God Bless You!

Your Stewardship Committee

HOSANNA 2008 RECEIPTS & EXPENSES vs BUDGET



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008 Budget YTD	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352	33,352
2008 Receipts	24,059	27,737	38,698	28,226	25,938	28,388	22,946	29,509	28,874	28,515		
2008 Expenses	29,284	33,975	35,107	30,223	37,040	33,489	28,494	30,438	32,122	28,582		

PROPERTY ITEMS:

Security system upgrade: You may have noticed the upgrade to our security system keypads. We have added smoke detectors directly connected to VOXCOM, the monitoring company. Security access codes remain the same, although there is a slight difference in the sound from the keypad. The upgrade has changed the way that the system is armed by anyone that does not have a code, what is called "quick arm." There is information posted by the keypads to explain the new procedure. If there are any questions about any aspect of our security system, please contact Johanna in the church office.

Do you have mechanical or just ordinary fix-it skills?

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to fix leaky taps and toilets, replace plug-ins, weather stripping, light bulbs, change oil in the mower, "fix the doors and mend the hinges" etc. etc. Let the office know of your willingness to help on an on-call basis and you will be added to our list so we are not calling the same people each time. Thank you.

Plumbing repairs: Thank you to Erven Rendflesh for an entire day spent fixing one of the toilets! Age causes the deterioration of seals and washers etc. leading to water leaks and difficult repairs. Thanks, Erven, for your perseverance.

Other projects: Thank you also to Harold Rau for his attention to a number of fix-it projects around the church this month, including repair of table legs and the purchase of fancy mouse traps.

About the mice: At this time in the fall, mice often find their way into the church. They especially like the open sugar bowls on our counters, open stacks of napkins in our cupboards, and such things. We can help minimize their damage by putting food items away in the fridge or cupboards, putting things into closed containers and keeping cupboard doors tightly shut. We'll keep the traps out (have caught 2) but there has been no recent "evidence" of more mice.

New shelves: Thanks to Patrick Bella for arranging the purchase, delivery and set up of more shelves for our basement storage area. Jack Smale provided the transport and Dan Wold helped with set up; thanks also to both of you.

But now WE NEED A CREW to deal with all the "stuff" that's in the basement, make some decisions of what to keep and what to toss, put items on the new shelves in an organized fashion. Can you help with that? Please come to the work bee scheduled for Wednesday Dec. 10, 1:00 pm.

To the ECO station or to the dump? There are old computer parts, a TV, a broken-down sofa, old cans of paint and even a ping-pong table taking up valuable space at the church and we need to get rid of these. If you can offer a van or a truck, some muscles and some time, it would be much appreciated. Best time is after the Dec. 10 basement clean up, when we will have even more junk to dispose of. Please call Johanna to offer your vehicle and/or time for a work crew, and the date to do this will be decided.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NOTICES

See our Bulletin Board for more information. Items appearing on the Community page are not necessarily endorsed by Church Council.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

U of A Mixed Chorus & Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers, Robert de Frece, Director; Marnie Giesbrecht & Joachim Segger, Organists. All Seats: \$10 (plus service chg.) at the Winspear Box Office (428-1414)

Winspear Centre - Wednesday, December 3rd - 7:30 p.m.

Sponsors: U of A Christian Chaplains, Mixed Chorus, & Dept. of Music. A Benefit for the U of A Campus Food Bank

CEREMONY OF CAROLS Sunday, December 7 3pm, Winspear Centre, presented by the Cantilon Chamber Choir.

SONGS FROM THE MANGER - A family Christmas concert

Friday, 12 December, 7:30pm presented by Cantilon Chamber Choir at McDougall United Church. For more information www.cantilonchoirs.ca

CHRISTMAS MUSIC of France and Great Britain Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia with Ritchie Trombone Choir Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 pm Robert Tegler Student Centre Concordia Univ. College

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE December 14, 3:00 pm at Concordia Lutheran Seminary Chapel. The preacher will be the Seminary's President, Dr. Manfred Zeuch. Speakers of German are especially invited to attend, but everyone is encouraged to come and experience the German heritage of Lutheran faith. The service will include traditional carols, Scripture readings, and the Gospel proclaimed, all in German. A free-will offering will be gathered for the Concordia Seminary.

NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY

West End Christian Reformed Church, 10015 - 149 Street Is hosting a display of over 500 Nativity Scenes (Crèches) for you to come and enjoy.

Thursday, December 18, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, December 19, 6-9 pm

Saturday, December 20, 3-9 p.m.

No admission charged, donations not expected. We are right at the North end of Candy Cane Lane - see the lights and then come for hot chocolate! Entire show and washrooms wheelchair accessible.

DECEMBER CHARITY CRAFT SALES

First three Fridays-3 -7 PM

First three Saturdays- 10 -5 PM

All net proceeds are shared equally between: Inner-City Pastoral Ministry at Bissell Centre; Clareview Headstart (via ECCCC); Strathcona County Food Bank.

FEATURED ITEMS ARE: Glycerinated/dyed grasses & flowers in various types of designs and arrangements, wall swags and vases; **WOODEN ITEMS** such as pull toys, puzzles, shelves and novelties of many kinds; a variety of unique **SEMI-PRECIOUS JEWELLERY**. (All made in Alberta)

170 East Whitecroft, Sherwood Park

Directional signs will be posted on major streets and in sub-division