

Dear Members of Hosanna,

For those of you who don't know me, I would like start by telling you a little about myself. I am an RN currently working as a Study Coordinator at Mayo Clinic in the Nicotine Research Center. . In my free time I enjoy reading, knitting and crocheting, exercising, spending time with family and friends and playing games of various types. My husband Terry and I and our two sons, Josh and Jeremy, have been members of Hosanna since 1992. Over the years I have been involved in various activities including the Board of Education, Stephen Ministry as care giver and leader, as well as various Bible studies and ministry teams, Kids Against Hunger being one of them. As a leap of faith a year ago I said yes to serve as President elect. This year I move on to Council President. It is with humility that I come to this position and ask for God's guidance in my service to Hosanna. My passion is in outreach. I have felt called to be part of Kids Against Hunger, the Red Cross shelter as well as traveling to New Orleans to help with clean up after Hurricane Katrina and to Minnesota City to help after the flood last year.

As we look ahead to 2009 we have many wonderful opportunities before us. Our mission statement "Gathered to grow, sent to serve" is such a wonderful reminder of what God is asking of us. I am excited to see how the year unfolds with all of the ways that you as members can be involved. On Jan. 25 there was a ministry team fair. I hope that many of you attended so that you can see how to be involved in the mission and ministry of Hosanna. As I said at the annual meeting, Hosanna is your church. We have many wonderful ministry teams and together we can accomplish much. Have you filled out the Time and Talent sheet yet?

If we all have some even short-term ministry team effort that we can be involved in, that helps the congregation as a whole. I urge you to prayerfully consider how you can be involved at Hosanna in the coming year. Maybe you will sign up to bring soup or bars for a Lenten soup supper. Maybe you have been thinking of joining one of the Bible studies. There is a new Sunday school program called Bible Song that will be coming. What an exciting opportunity that is. There are so many things that you can do. Maybe, you see a need that is not currently being met or you have a passion and want to start a new ministry team. If that is the case, you can take ideas to the council advocates, the pastors, or Lou Hermanson our President Elect or me. In the coming weeks our wall board in the narthex will have information about the structure of the ministry teams and the contact person for the current ministry teams.

As many of you know, we have approved the 2009 budget with a deficit. In order to carry out the mission and ministry of Hosanna, the dollars we need and the money that has been pledged has left us with a gap of close to \$23,000. With your help we can erase that and concentrate on moving forward. Alone that figure seems daunting. Broken down into family giving units, it amounts to a little over three dollars per week (less than 1 latte or cappuccino) or \$165 dollars for the year, over what you have already pledged. If you have ideas for fundraising for Hosanna, I would love to hear them. Maybe now is a time to consider a signature event for us. Any ideas?

We are so blessed to be fully staffed here at Hosanna. There is so much that can be done not only within Hosanna but beyond as well. Despite the challenges that we face in 2009, with God's guidance we will move forward. "For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end". Psalm 48:14.

Donna Rasmussen