

IDEAS FOR WHAT HOSANNA CAN DO BETTER

*Suggestions from the congregation based on
our Five Practices discussions*

SIMPLE, EASY IDEAS (can be implemented quickly without much discussion)

Radical Hospitality

Mail postcard invitations for Christmas and Easter that include general info about Hosanna. (3)

Form a Hospitality Committee to implement suggestions & carry on Nita's legacy. (2)

Send first-time visitors a signed welcome letter. (2)

Review all communications (e.g. This Week, brochures, website) to make sure they are visitor-oriented. (2)

Conduct more frequent new member welcome & orientation sessions. (2)

Ask Hosanna members to request a free listing for Hosanna in their subdivision directories.

Do visitor training for greeters, ushers, youth, and others.

Teach members how to invite people to Hosanna.

Do an overall review of systems for welcoming guests.

Check to make sure it is noted on web site that the church is handicapped accessible.

Passionate Worship

Include more "temple talks" where members share testimony. (5)

Involve more children and young adults within the service. (3)

Integrate more Spanish hymns during worship.

Encourage people with children to sit up front so the youngsters can see what is going on during worship.

Express prayer concerns at the beginning of the worship service.

Assist our handicapped worshippers (Adjust seat spacing, possibly removing some seats; place hymnals on remaining seats; train ushers to be more in tune with needs of handicapped worshippers).

Bring flower cross back to use for children to place flowers during Easter. ([volunteers have started this task](#))

Provide large-print bulletins for people with vision problems.

Bring back the personal devotional booklets for Advent/Lent.

Revive the use of the 3 crosses out front during Easter. ([volunteers looking into this task](#))

Put Sr. Anna Maria's comments about the hymns in the bulletin or weekly newsletter.

Use children's art work for special bulletins.

Intentional Faith Development

- Start an evening Bible study. (4)
- Reaffirm and expand mentoring/shadowing program. (3)
- Publicize VBS & Lutherhill retreats. (3)
- Offer in-home Bible study in geographic clusters. (2)
- Raise awareness of Godly Play as an important Hosanna resource.
- Offer an "End of Life" class.
- Provide more regular first communion instruction for youth.
- Recognize youth Bible verse memorization.
- Summarize the weekly Bible study and post it on the website.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

- Invite other community groups to use our facilities. (3)
- Have a Mission Fair. (3)
- Coordinate with Eickenroht about more needs that we can support. (2)
- Make a summary of all current Hosanna Missions. (2)
- Distribute newsletter to the community about our mission and services.
- Provide Leadership training for Hosanna members.
- Invite speakers within and outside of congregation to talk about different volunteer opportunities.

Extravagant Generosity

- Distribute more financial information about the church internally, including the purpose of designated funds. (3)
- Encourage and support generosity in youth by giving children a special bag or box for saving/sharing). (2)
- Maintain free funding for VBS attendees. (2)
- Maintain subsidized funding/scholarships for Lutherhill retreats and camps. (2)
- Establish kids/adults "penny project."
- Give to NAM pantry every week.
- Develop and distribute a generosity and giving opportunities statement.

General

- Revisit Time & Talent sheets to incorporate the new "tasks" developed for all five practices, and include one-time events. (4)
- Publicize who are the leaders for various tasks and teams (2)
- Communicate "comings" and "goings" to the congregation (about newcomers/transfers/moves).
- Locate sign-up sheets away from the entrance/exit of the sanctuary to eliminate traffic jams.
- Have monthly potlucks (held on the same Sunday each month).

MORE-CHALLENGING IDEAS (require more time or discussion to implement)

Radical Hospitality

Offer a short-term study on a popular topic and invite the community. (3)

Visit other churches to gather new ideas on hospitality practices. (3)

Plan social events geared to inviting visitors. (3)

Ask Hosanna members to provide feedback about welcoming practices they see when they visit other churches.

Mark special parking spaces for parents with young children.

Provide parking lot assistants with umbrellas on rainy days.

Use banners out front for special events.

Passionate Worship

Incorporate more contemporary music in the worship service. (2)

Make start times later for Sunday worship and education. (2)

Add another worship service (perhaps alternative) at another day/time. (2)

Restart Hosanna praise band. (2)

Start a young women's choir.

Address possible service revisions (announcements; passing of the peace (2); quiet time at start of service).

Restart children's choir.

Add chairs with arms to the worship area for those who have a hard time getting up.

Expand the Prayer Chain to include Prayer Partners, and take advantage of new technology.

Offer a Prayer class.

Include the Confession as part of the service each week.

Intentional Faith Development

Develop ministry programs that meet the needs of young adults. (4)

Invite outside Christian speakers. (2)

Explore/expand small group opportunities. (2)

Launch a new adult class (at least once/year). (2)

Plan an "edgy" program like a Fishing Weekend open to guests that includes a worship component.

Offer Youth Bible study.

Have overnight retreats.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Partner with the new Senior Living Facility to offer Bible study or other special events. (4)

Do a serious demographic study to identify real needs. (2)

Host support groups for the community (Alzheimer's, grief, etc.). (2)
Prepare a stock of frozen meals to be kept at the church for those in need. (2)
Provide space for programs such as Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts to meet. (2)
Provide support for Veterans.
Work with at-risk students at a school.

Extravagant Generosity

Partner with another church, or independently host, financial planning classes. (3)
Visit with other churches that excel in the area of generosity. (3)
Provide micro-funding to support project champions. (2)
Establish "seed money" fund for special projects.

General

Bring in external evaluator to assess Hosanna's health & implement recommendations.

BIG, BOLD IDEAS (will require significant investment of time and/or funding)

Start a van ministry to help handicapped and other members/visitors get to church. (5)
Prioritize remodeling of the oldest parts of Hosanna (kitchen/bathroom/nursery area) to be more welcoming, and to be able to provide additional services to our community. (5)
Add electric signage to help invite the community. (2)
Add covered walkway and ramps at the main north and south entrances. (2)
Sponsor a refugee family. (2)
Fund construction of house for Habitat for Humanity. (2)
Restart and expand pre-school/mothers' day out program. (2)
Develop and implement a Youth Development Program. (2)
Develop an after-school or Saturday program for area students. (2)
Explore children's ministry to the elderly. (2)
Expand interfaith dialogue and outreach. (2)
Expand VBS (perhaps to weekly activities). (2)
Revise the Hosanna Bylaws around the Five Practices and/or the Guiding Principles.
Offer Hosanna facilities for homeschool services.
Provide venue for a 'Private' School.
Donate Land to Habitat: two and a half acres going east beyond the church.
Reach 10% of benevolence in increments over the next 4 years.
Create new, more formal sanctuary .
Build recreation facilities.
Support leadership development: take advantage of existing resources with the goal of developing mission project champions.