

Covenant for Members of Hybrid Churches

Our Baptismal covenant forms the basis for our understanding of our Christian identity, calling and membership in the Church of Christ. Our Lutheran understanding of this call is further expounded in our affirmation of the Baptismal Covenant, which affirms that we will:

- live among God's faithful people
- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

We make these promises, not in the abstract, but in our own contexts as informed by St Paul: *God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 as translated/paraphrased by Eugene Peterson in The Message)*

Our world, society and circumstances have significantly changed since COVID. Technology has allowed people to access our congregation from homes near and far from the church. This presents both opportunity and challenge. As we move forward into this new future, we have developed this working document as a way to help us move forward. It reflects our commitment to address these new circumstances and our expectations of members, be they local or distant. It is a working document and will be regularly reviewed and revised as needed.

Hosanna Lutheran Church Commits to the following:

- 1) Offering worship in both in-person and online formats.
- 2) Presenting all congregational meetings in a Hybrid format, so remote participation is possible.
- 3) Making committee meetings accessible remotely, so all participation in committee work is not restricted to local members.
- 4) Whenever possible, make publications/documents available in both electronic and print formats.
- 5) Whenever possible, making programming (i.e. Sunday School, Adult forums, etc.) available in hybrid format when requested.
- 6) Provide pastoral services to all members of our congregation as circumstances and resources allow.
- 7) Invite everyone to attend all events in person whenever that is possible or desirable.

Hosanna Lutheran Church asks members, whether local or remote, to:

Participate in the life of the congregation as fully as possible:

- 1) Regularly attend services and events in-person or online as circumstances allow.
- 2) Be willing to participate in worship or events, through zoom or by submitting pre-recorded content (such as readings or special music).
- 3) Serve on committees or council if and when appropriate.
- 4) Supporting the work of the congregation by sharing your time, talents and resources.
- 5) Participate and be supportive of the Hosanna community and the wider church as circumstances allow.