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October 2025





Ellis County Ministerial Alliance

ONE is the official publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA) which guides its mission, content, and theme. The ECMA encourage submissions from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies, and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to

one@ourecma.com.

The ECMA ONE Advisory Board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication. The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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Topic Articles

***Editor's Note:** ONE is published monthly by the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA). We asked our writers, "What role does music play in ministry?"*

Praising God Through Music

Written by:

Cheryl Glassman

From the time David (and others) composed the Psalms, and much earlier than even that, music has been an integral piece of church and worship, praising God, and church liturgy. The definition of the word music from Oxford Languages is, "vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony and expression of emotion." What a wonderful way to define music within the context of church celebrations and liturgy! God deserves nothing less, don't you think?

Liturgical music within the Catholic church revolves around the readings of the day from the Bible or, if we are celebrating a specific feast such as Christmas, we choose music to help celebrate God's presence within those contexts. Mass in the Catholic church is a constant; in other words, the form of the Mass does not change, but the music changes to fit the day. As director of music at St. Nicholas of Myra and Our Lady Help of Christians in Antonino, I read the upcoming readings, look at the Church calendar, and upcoming events. I then plan music accordingly.

We sometimes sing/ share music prior to the start of Mass in the form of a prelude. Music is a form of prayer (as I have heard said, "when I sing, I pray twice." By praying/singing/ listening to a specific song prior to the start of the Mass it helps us join more as a congregation and know what message God is sending to us - music enhances God's message.

We have an entrance song, which further unites us all as the celebrant and altar servers process in. Following the entrance song, we meditate/pray upon how we might have sinned, and either recite or sing what is known as the

Praising God Through Music (Continued)

Penitential Rite. We say/sing "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy." Then, in thanksgiving for God's mercy and being ever present we sing the Gloria "Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will!" It is a beautiful prayer, and we have many musical settings with not only voice but instruments!

Following the Gloria and prayers, we are seated and listen to a reading from the Old Testament. This is followed by a correlating psalm from the Book of Psalms. The Psalm is set to music, and the refrain is intoned by the cantor, the congregation repeats. The verses of the Psalm are then offered to the people by the cantor, and the refrain is repeated in between. I believe this helps the people to reflect on the psalm more deeply.

Then we have a reading from the New Testament. This is following by the Gospel Acclamation, wherein the cantor intones "ALELUIA!" or during Lent we intone "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of

endless Glory!" The Catholic church does not use the word "Alleluia" during Lent. The verse of the Gospel Acclamation is taken from the upcoming Gospel itself, which follows.

Our next piece of music is the song sung during the presentation of the bread and wine as it is taken to the altar for eucharistic preparation. This song has always been special to me. The song is chosen according to the readings, such as if we had heard the Gospel of Luke 16:1-13, which is Jesus' parable about a manager who is accused of wasting his master's property. The Presentation Song I chose is called "Your Words Are Spirit and Life." The words say, "your words are spirit and life O Lord, richer than gold, stronger than death...life everlasting.

The next music is for the Eucharistic Acclamations, which include the "Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, and Lamb of God. During Communion, I try to choose pieces the congregation is familiar with, since they will be

walking up to receive Communion during the song. We then have a second song for people to pray after they have received Communion.

Our final song, the Recessional, expresses our thankfulness and willingness to go into the world, praising God and serving him. One of the songs for a weekend is "Blest Be The Lord." It's first verse states, "Blest be the Lord! Blest be the Lord! The God of mercy, the God who saves. I shall not fear the dark of night, nor the arrow that flies by day!"

Music is such a gift to all who praise God and a wonderful way to enhance the liturgy and join our voices as God's servants, living and loving in His name! "Holy God, we praise they name! Lord of all, we bow before thee! All on earth thy scepter claim; all in heaven above adore thee!"



Cheryl Glassman is the Director of Music at St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church in Hays.

Music: A Divine Gift for Worship

Written by:

Anonymous

From the beginning of time, music has been intricately woven into the fabric of worship.

Whether in the joyful shout of a psalm or the quiet strum of a harp in a secret place of prayer, music has always been a divine language—a spiritual expression of love, surrender, and reverence to God.

It is not just sound; it is a soul speaking. When someone writes a song as an expression of love to God, they're offering a piece of their heart. And in that offering, true worship is born. It is more than lyrics and chords. It's what is hidden in the heart that turns into worship.

Colossians 3:16 (NIV) encourages this: "Let the

message of Christ dwell among you richly...

through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

There's a reason music feels healing. When words fail, a melody can still rise. When the soul feels heavy, a song can lift it. Worship through music invites God to move within us—to clean, to restore, and to refresh.

1 Samuel 16: (NIV) tells us: "*Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.*"

This shows us how powerful music can minister to the soul. David didn't just play music; he ushered in the presence of God. And in that presence, torment was

silenced. Today, worship still carries that same power.

Music is more than a form of art; it's a sacred form of communication with God. Whether through an ancient psalm or a brand-new song written in the secret place, music opens the door for heartfelt worship. When someone writes a worship song, they're doing more than creating—they're offering a gift to God, echoing the songs of heaven.

And as we sing or listen with open hearts, our souls are lifted, our spirits are renewed, and our connection with God deepens. That is the power of worship through music. It's more than sound—it's surrender.

This writer wishes to remain anonymous.

"It is not sufficient to offer the empty vessel of our joy unto God, or our singing voice in musical tune only; but also it is required that we fill our joyful voice with holy matter and good purpose, whereby God only may be reasonably praised." - David Dickson



Prayer for Healing

God of comfort,

In this time of deep sorrow, confusion, and pain, we come to You with heavy hearts.

Our community and county are hurting — shaken by tragedy, burdened by loss, and overwhelmed by questions we cannot answer.

We lift to You every family, every friend, and every life touched by this pain.

Wrap them in Your peace.

Let Your presence be known in the silence, the tears, the anger, and the grief.

Where there is brokenness, begin Your healing.

Where there is despair, speak hope.

Where there is anger, bring Your calm.

Where there is confusion, shine Your light.

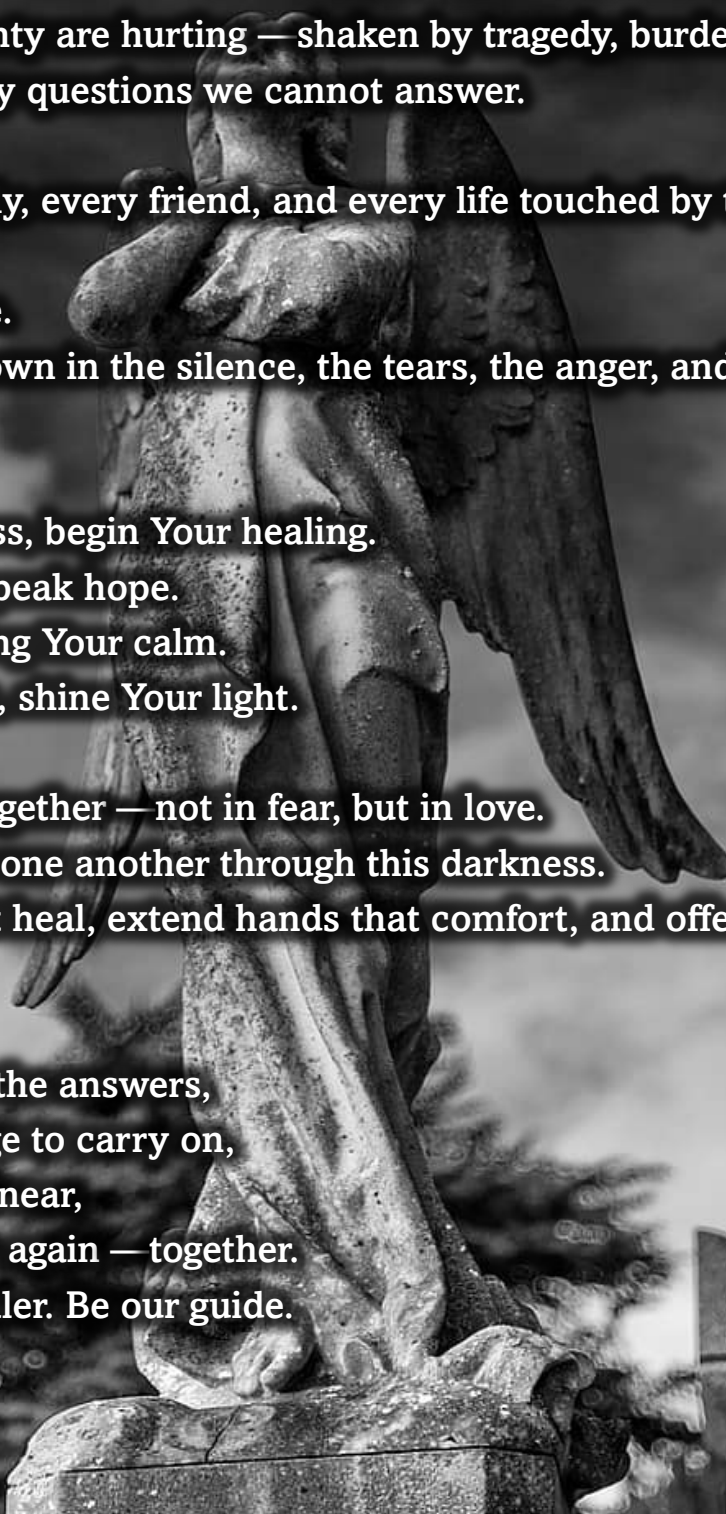
Strengthen us to stand together — not in fear, but in love.

Teach us how to care for one another through this darkness.

Help us speak words that heal, extend hands that comfort, and offer hearts that understand.

Lord, we do not have all the answers,
but we ask for the courage to carry on,
the faith to trust You are near,
and the strength to begin again — together.
Be our refuge. Be our healer. Be our guide.

Amen.



Ecumenical Events



Pastor Appreciation

October 1: Underneath Oasis, a program to help recovering addicts and their families, 7:00pm at Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel (1410 Toulon Ave, Hays). See below for additional information.

October 2: Annual Liver & Onions Free Drive-Thru Meal, Hays First Baptist Church, 11th and Fort Streets. 5-7 p.m. or until the last piece of liver is gone. No limit on the number of meals each vehicle may receive. No income requirements.

October 2: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

October 6: Blood Drive, 12-6pm at St Nicholas of Myra Parish Hall. Please contact the church office at 785-628-1446 to make an appointment.

October 8: Monthly ECMA meeting, 12-1pm at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort St). If any organization wishes to speak at this meeting, please contact Cheryl Glassman, ECMA president, at (785) 650-1589.

October 8: Underneath Oasis, a program to help recovering addicts and their families, 7:00pm at Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel (1410 Toulon Ave, Hays). See below for additional information.

October. 9: Deadline to enter the "Katharinenstadt Essenfest" German Style Cook-Off to be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. October. 12 at the former Kennedy Middle School (1309 Fort St). No entry fee. Call/text Sarah Shubert (785) 656-2399 to enter. Cash prizes available.

October 9: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

October 11: MomCo. Meeting, an interdenominational organization for mothers, 9:30am - 11:30am at North Oak Community Church (3000 Oak St.) Free childcare will be provided. See below for additional information.

October. 12: "Katharinenstadt Essenfest" German Style Gook-Off, 11am-12:30pm at the former Kennedy Middle School (1309 Fort St). \$5 entry fee to taste all entries and vote on your favorite. Event will also feature a bake sale, polka music, 50/50 raffle. Sponsored by St. Catherine's Christian Mothers.

October 14: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

October 15: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

Ecumenical Events (Continued)

October 15: Underneath Oasis, a program to help recovering addicts and their families, 7:00pm at Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel (1410 Toulon Ave, Hays). See below for additional information.

October 16: Laundry Love by First Call for Help, 4 -6pm at 27th and Hall St. as Laundromat. Up to 5 free loads of laundry per household per month

October 16: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

October 21: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

October 21: Phoebe's Women's Group Meeting, 7 pm at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd).

October 22: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

October 22: Men's Study on "C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert", 6:30 pm at Hays Christian Church (1318 E. 22nd).

October 22: Underneath Oasis, a program to help recovering addicts and their families, 7:00pm at Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel (1410 Toulon Ave, Hays). See below for additional information.

October 23: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

October 24: Saint Francis Ministries will host the first annual "In Faith Conference" in Hays for foster and adoptive families. If you register before this date you will get a conference T-shirt. Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/infathregistration>. See below for additional information.

October. 25: Motorcyclists are invited to the "9th Annual Hays Kansas Area Toy Run," line up at 2:30 p.m., Fuzzy's Taco Shop (4310 Vine St). At 4 p.m. parade down Vine Street, then to 13th and Main. Bring an unwrapped toy for a child aged infant-18 years. Toys go to Teaming Up for Tots. Sponsored by Free Tomorrow MC & Good Times Motorcycle.

October 28: Text Study, 10:30am at Trinity Lutheran Church (2703 Fort).

October 29: Old Testament Bible Study, 12:50 pm at Epworth Towers Community Room (2800 Augusta Lane).

October 29: Underneath Oasis, a program to help recovering addicts and their families, 7:00pm at Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel (1410 Toulon Ave, Hays). See below for additional information.

October 30: Feeding Hays, 6:30-7:00pm-to go spaghetti dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church (2900 Canal Blvd). To volunteer to help, contact Ben at 785-259-2851.

Ecumenical Events: Additional Details



In Faith Conference

Saint Francis Ministries will host the first annual “In Faith Conference” in Hays for foster and adoptive families. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1605 E. 29th.

Cost is \$30 per person. Those who register by Friday, Oct. 24, will receive a conference T-shirt. Lunch is included in the registration fee. The event will include teaching sessions and time to connect with others, she said. A “resource fair” will have booths from area organizations that provide services to children and families.

Registration is available at <https://bit.ly/infaithregistration>.

MomCo

MomCo. is an interdenominational organization for moms of all ages with children of any age, from infants to adults. The group meets on the second Saturday of the month from September through May, 9:30am -11:30am, at North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St.

The MomCo. is a faith-based community who meet together to encourage and support one another. They walk through motherhood and their relationship with Jesus together.

Free childcare will be provided. Alicia Kumer, one of the group’s leaders, said it will be helpful if moms could call the church at (785) 628-8887 to let organizers know how many children will be accompanying them.



**FIND YOUR PEOPLE,
ELEVATE YOUR
MOTHERHOOD.**

Motherhood is complicated.
Mom friends help.



Underground Oasis

The Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel is sponsoring a program new to this area. It is called “Underground Oasis!” It is a program to help recovering addicts and their families as they struggle to stay sober.

It is a 12 Step program based on Biblical Principles and uses Scripture and Bible Stories to enhance and support an individual’s recovery efforts! “Underground Oasis” meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at the Hays Chapel: 1410 Toulon Ave., Hays, KS.

For more information, please contact Jen Hagelgantz at 785-259-2633 or Toby Jones at 785-656-6151. Everyone is always welcome! Your struggle is our struggle!

Opportunities to Serve

First Call for Help Fundraiser – Volunteers & Sponsors Needed!

We're gearing up for an exciting fundraiser at First Call for Help, and we need your help to make it a success! We're currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to assist with the event on Tuesday, November 11th from 4:00-8:00 PM. Whether you can give a full shift or just a couple of hours, your time and support will make a big difference!

We're also looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of inflatables, games, concessions, and more. This is a great opportunity for local businesses and individuals to give back to the community—and we'll proudly display your name or logo at the event in appreciation of your support!

If you're interested in volunteering or becoming a sponsor, please reach out to Macey at 785-623-2800. Let's come together to support a great cause and make this event unforgettable!

HOMES 4 THE HOLIDAYS

CARNIVAL NIGHT

Please wear socks!
Available for purchase if you forget!

Join us for a night of fun with inflatables, games, concessions & raffle prizes!

ONLY Cash & Venmo will be accepted at the event!
785-623-2800 info@firstcallforhelp.org

TUESDAY, NOV 11TH
Hays Recreation Commission
1105 Canterbury

\$10/Armband
\$25 for 3+ kids

4:00-8:00 PM

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

FIRST CALL FOR HELP

Volunteers needed for The Hearth

ECMA is planning to run a cold weather shelter called The Hearth in Hays this winter. It will open up on nights that are 20 or colder, and we are looking for volunteers to help watch those seeking shelter overnight.

They have different shift options and you only come in if the temperature reaches low enough for it to be open on a night you signed up; also, if no one shows that night to use it, you and the other volunteer head home after the arrival cutoff time

If you might have any interest or might know individuals who might have interest in volunteering, please contact Ben Houchen at 785-259-2851.



On September 8 at St. John Lutheran Church-PFSM they had a Grandparents Day with scripture, songs, and a rock race!! Thank you to the grandparents who attended Sunday School!



On August 30, there was a successful food drive for First Call for Help and Feeding Hays. What a giving

Thank you to all our volunteers who manned the carts and Dillons for letting us use their space.



On September 16, community came together in unity and prayer for peace across the world at a Prayer Service entitled Peace by Piece. It took place at Hays United Methodist Church. Rev. Troy Miller, Rev. Brenda Rodgers and Rev. Ben Houchen led the service.