

## Outreach Outlook

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

### Outreach Mission Statement

*Guided by the Holy Spirit we seek **to recognize** the spiritual and other human needs of individuals and communities near and far and **to respond** in a manner that is biblically sound, culturally relevant, and builds relationships as we work together **to support** God's Mission.*

### \*OUTREACH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR\*

- Books to the Rescue Collection: **April 1 – April 30**
- Arusha Lutheran Medical Center Nursing School Scholarships Appeal: **April 4 – May 23**
- Contextual Outreach: Garden Raised Beds – **March - November**

### \* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES \*

#### Books to the Rescue

For the month of April, Holy Spirit will help gather children's books to support the efforts of the Allentown Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter for adult males. Books to the Rescue is a program operated by the men of the Allentown Rescue Mission to acquire, through donations, early learning books and distribute them to our local elementary schools for the teachers to pass along to their youngest and most needy students. The men in the Transformation Program collect, catalogue, classify, and organize donated books for distribution. Books to the Rescue provides a way for homeless men to give back to the community that has so generously blessed them.

**Please leave pre-school and elementary school level books that are in good and new condition in the collection bin located outside at church under the center alcove from April 1-April 30. Our previous Allentown Rescue Mission and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Shelter collections are currently suspended but will start up again in the summer. Thank you for supporting our homeless neighbors!**

#### Help Change a Person and a Country

Nurses are in very short supply in Tanzania, with the country needing at least twice the number now available. While both men and women are trained at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing, the majority are women.

In Tanzania, job choices are very limited for women. By sponsoring a nursing student at the [Arusha Lutheran Medical Center](#), you not only provide each of these students with training, but you are also giving them the opportunity to have an assured career. Your gift gives them job security, the potential for advancement, and the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. Research shows that when women are able to provide for their families, that alone has a tremendous positive impact on the entire community.

But perhaps even more important, by providing support to these students, you are also helping provide medical care to the thousands in their communities that are in great need. Thank you for helping these students be the change they want to see in their country. Thanks for helping provide the nursing that is so important to the community and the individual patients.

This appeal for donations to nursing scholarships is being sponsored by the Health Care and Global Missions Teams at Holy Spirit. They recognize that nurses can not only provide competent medical care, but also a kind touch, a listening ear, and a caring heart to those needing support. As to a monetary goal, the sky is the limit, but it would be great if Holy Spirit members could together provide two or more \$1,000 scholarships for the coming academic year.

Donations can be made by check sent to the church office (writing "Nursing Scholarships" on the memo line) or by using one of the other giving options listed on [the church website](#). Prayers for the success of the school can be offered at any time. The appeal will run throughout the Easter season (4/4 – 5/23). Please help us bring Easter joy to ALMC students.

(Written material adapted from the [Operation Bootstrap Africa](#) website. OBA is the organization through which our donations will be sent to the ALMC School of Nursing. OBA also administers donations to the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School, which provides high-school education to girls in northern Tanzania. Two brief videos about the nursing school can be found in the Outreach ministries section of the church website or by clicking [HERE](#))

#### Growing Food for Our Local Food Bank

Now that spring has officially sprung the time has come to get hands dirty growing food for Groceries PLUS - Emmaus Food Bank hosted by Bethel Bible Fellowship Church and operated under the direction of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley. Through the generosity of the Emmaus Rotary Club, Holy Spirit has acquired 4 raised beds and located them on the church property near the office end of our facility. Our plan is to start the season early and end late planting, nurturing, harvesting, and rotating various crops for the food bank. Planting has already started with seeds of lettuce and radishes so if you'd like to help out, contact Marilyn Egner at [BU44@aol.com](mailto:BU44@aol.com) or 610-442-8112.

### \* OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SUMMARY \*

**ELCA World Hunger Appeal** - Thank you for your very generous giving to our Lenten appeal. As of March 23<sup>rd</sup> we have donated \$3,748! The success of the World Hunger Appeal programs depends upon financial support from ELCA congregations like ours in order to provide valuable assistance around the globe. We stay true to our outreach mission statement by responding in a biblical manner (Matthew 24:35) to the needs of individuals and communities near and far.

**Local Mission Fund** – In case you missed the congregation wide email that was distributed on March 21<sup>st</sup>, our Congregation Council agreed to disperse \$6000 of our Local Mission Fund. These funds were accumulated through member donations during previous rounds of stimulus checks. The following agencies will each receive \$1500 from our congregation: Angel Network, Zionsville Food Pantry, Second Harvest and ELCA World Hunger. Each of these agencies has appealed for help during these challenging times. It should be noted that we have also helped numerous church families during the pandemic using the Local Mission Fund. After these disbursements the fund will still contain over \$4000! Thank you again for your very generous giving.

**Allentown Rescue Mission and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Shelter** – Collections for these agencies have been on-going from January through March and the totals are amazing! Thank you!

518 rolls of paper products	292 items of men's clothing	77 bedding items	24 items of women's clothing
11 children's hats	26 food items	36 containers of sanitizers, wipes, and detergent	
1 toothbrush			

This specific collection has been temporarily suspended but will resume in the summer. Details will be provided in future newsletters.

**Angel Network** – Due to the pandemic, Angel Network mailed grocery gift cards to East Penn families in need in place of spring food baskets. During the month of March your donated gift cards totaled \$525! Thank you for your generosity and amazing support!

### **\* BENEVOLENCE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT \***

The mission of **Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley** is to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse through empowerment, education, and engagement. Since 1978 when Turning Point was granted its nonprofit status, they have helped more than 85,000 victims of domestic abuse. They rely on donations and fund raisers to assist families and survivors of domestic abuse, both women and men who live in Northampton and Lehigh counties. All services are provided at no cost. They offer programs and services, including an Emergency Shelter, 24/7 Helpline, Empowerment Counseling, Court Advocacy, Empowerment Support Groups and Outreach Education. They utilize nine private rooms and 50 to 75 hotel rooms at any one time. Their 24 hour helpline is 610-437-3369 and a toll free line 877-438-4957. A quick archival search confirmed that Turning Point has been a benevolence partner with The Lutheran Church of The Holy Spirit from at least as far back as 1990.

Here is a testimonial found on their website [www.turningpointlv.org](http://www.turningpointlv.org)

“In the trenches of confusion and hurt, I made a call. Since then, I got help and understanding I could not have found anywhere else. Turning Point helped me heal in ways I never thought possible and, in turn, kept my remaining family intact and functional. Words cannot express how Turning Point saved me and my family from further destruction.” ~ Sam

Thank you for your generosity in supporting this helpful and compassionate organization.

### **\* LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD \***

Back in 1990, the Social Ministry Committee of LCHS (the equivalent of today's Outreach Mission Team) had the following goals:

- Foster a climate within the congregation to discuss controversial issues
- Develop within the congregation a deep understanding of public advocacy
- Maintain an on-going congregational partnership with the local Hispanic St. Martin de Porres Lutheran Church
- Increase awareness of social issues to increase benevolence giving and make benevolence a larger percent of the budget
- Educate the congregation on how their benevolence giving is directed and utilized
- Help the congregation to be more intentional and motivational in their daily ministries

On Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> during the Center for Faith and Life hour, we heard Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop Christopher deForest echo many similar sentiments in his plans for action over the next six years. His focus towards goals is supported by the three “paths” of growing young, gaining strength, and going beyond. Some specifics include being best neighbors, developing warm relationships, partnerships and community connections, crossing boundaries and being inviting and engaging to the stranger. Growing young and vital is how Bishop deForest describes our mission outlook in today's context. Some of his words and how the Good News is shared differ from 1990. But what remains the same and what Bishop deForest reminds us of is to stay grounded by being God-Reliant, Christ -Centered, and Spirit-Led. To be drawn out into the world and to deliver the message that never changes - Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and Savior of all.

***It is an exciting and transforming time for the Church. What do you think about outreach outlook?***

## Outreach Mission Team Action Groups and Leaders

- Team Convener: John Mosovsky [vistafarm@ptd.net](mailto:vistafarm@ptd.net)
- Staff Liaison: Pastor Tami [prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org)
- Council Liaison: Nina McNally [Ninamcnally@me.com](mailto:Ninamcnally@me.com)
  
- Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger, and Benevolence:  
Bob Mueller [robtmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:robtmueller@yahoo.com)
  
- Angel Network: Deb Walsh [deblwalsh613@gmail.com](mailto:deblwalsh613@gmail.com)  
<http://ehsangelnetwork.org/>
  
- Food/Shelter Assistance: Denise Rohrbach [bcrohrbach@aol.com](mailto:bcrohrbach@aol.com)  
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- Global Mission: Ruth & Rick Doty [rrehome01@gmail.com](mailto:rrehome01@gmail.com)  
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- Christmas Ingathering: Alice Mudge [aemudge50@gmail.com](mailto:aemudge50@gmail.com)
  
- Project Help: Chris Carter [cecarter@aol.com](mailto:cecarter@aol.com)  
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- Contextual Outreach : Mike Yablonski [my6118@gmail.com](mailto:my6118@gmail.com)  
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- SALT (Serving And Learning Together) John Mosovsky [vistafarm@ptd.net](mailto:vistafarm@ptd.net)

**If you would like to join an Action Group, please contact an Action Group Leader. If you have any outreach questions, ideas, or would like to include an outreach service opportunity in the newsletter please contact John Mosovsky - Outreach Mission Team Convener at [vistafarm@ptd.net](mailto:vistafarm@ptd.net) 484-264-6151 OR Pastor Tami at [prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org) 267-718-0851**