

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

- **Love for the Least: November 27th - January 22nd.** Read more details about this appeal below.
- **Allentown 6th Street Shelter, Adopt-An-Apartment** – Collection starting in February; official adoption in March. See below for more information. Details on how you can participate and specific collection items will be in the February outreach newsletter.

* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES *

LOVE FOR THE LEAST

From “STILLBORN” TO “NEWBORN”

For many years in Tanzania, a baby that was born at 28 weeks or less was called a “stillborn”. That meant that if the baby was born with complications (likely more often than not), no real attempt was made to save the child. Arusha Lutheran Medical Center staff were not satisfied with that approach. So, they developed a NICU to fight for the survival of preemies. They have been very successful, so that there are many “stillborn” babies walking about in the Arusha area.*

What do Dr. Swanson and his staff need from us? Prayers for their continued success, for sure. Contributions to Holy Spirit's Love for the Least fundraiser would also help a great deal. YOU can help the Arusha NICU provide low-cost, low-tech but effective care to pre-term and critically ill babies. Whether you give to Holy Spirit by check, on-line, at the kiosk, or however you contribute, please note that the contribution is for the Love for the Least campaign (now through January 22nd).

Take the time, too, to visit a Global Missions tree (in the narthex and FC lobby) to look at the colorful hats used by preemies in the NICU as they struggle to survive and thrive. While there, pick up a paper ornament to honor or remember someone special in your life, perhaps someone who helped you survive and thrive.



*Adapted from Tiny Feet, Big Steps by Operation Bootstrap Africa Dignity, Winter 2022.

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING IS HAPPENING AT HOLY SPIRIT

On March 1, 2023, the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is **adopting an apartment** at the Sixth Street Shelter. The Sixth Street Shelter was started by Community Action in downtown Allentown in 1984. The Sixth Street Shelter offers 25 apartments to homeless families. It is the only shelter in the Lehigh Valley to offer families the privacy and security of a furnished apartment with a complete kitchen.

The **Adopt-An-Apartment** program was created to meet the upkeep, household supplies, and decorative needs of a homeless shelter apartment. Each apartment houses on average six families—with children—every year. The Adopt-An-Apartment program will pair us with an apartment for 12 months

Throughout the year, we will help with the apartment's upkeep such as painting and "spring cleaning". We will also provide apartment supplies such as bedding, housewares and cleaning supplies. Most families stay six weeks to 3 months. The family can keep the apartment's household supplies to start a new life in a new residence when they leave the homeless shelter.

We will be looking for people to help clean, paint, donate new and used living supplies and decorate the apartment. The apartment can turn over in a few days. We are looking for individuals, families and youth to help on short notice to carry supplies and spruce up the apartment.

This Outreach project is a commitment to our community and your participation is critical to its success. If you would like to be involved in this project contact the church office. More information will be in February's outreach newsletter.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

Christmas Ingathering – The NEPA Synod Lehigh Mission District **Christmas Ingathering** program for 2022 was a smashing success due to your generous and abundant giving! For the Sharing Life program sponsored by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Allentown, we collected **323 items** which included toothbrushes, Chapstick, mittens, socks, deodorant, winter beanies, and packs of gum and mints. For the Bright Hope Pregnancy center, we collected **150 items**, including **700+ diapers**.

For the children in the foster care program at the Lutheran Home at Topton, we collected **65 gifts**.

Thank you for your giving spirit during this special time of year!



Outreach Mission Team Action Groups and Leaders

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 OR Pastor Tami at prrichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org

- Team Convener: John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net
- Staff Liaison: Pastor Tami prrichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org
- Council Liaison: Dean Black dblack3105@gmail.com
- Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger, and Benevolence:
Bob Mueller robtmueller@yahoo.com
- Angel Network: Deb Walsh deblwalsh613@gmail.com
<http://ehsangelnetwork.org/>
- Food/Shelter Assistance: Denise Rohrbach bcrohrbach@aol.com
Carole Wetherhold crwether@icloud.com
Alice Mudge aemudge50@gmail.com
Brenda Truhe bltruhe@hotmail.com
- Global Mission: Ruth & Rick Doty rrehome01@gmail.com
<https://lchsemmaus.org/our-sponsored-arusha-ministry/>
- Christmas Ingathering: Alice Mudge aemudge50@gmail.com
- Contextual Outreach: Mike Yablonski my6118@gmail.com
Marilyn Egner bu44@aol.com
Carole Wetherhold crwether@icloud.com
- Food Bank Garden: Marilyn Egner bu44@aol.com
- SALT
(Serving And Learning Together) John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net