

Outreach Outlook

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

Issue #30 March 2023

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

- **Angel Network:** Food /laundry detergent collection - March 1st-March 24th. Details below
- **World Hunger Appeal:** During Lent, February 22nd – April 6th. Details below

* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES *

ANGEL NETWORK



We will be collecting our regular items from March 1st through March 24th - canned green beans or peas, canned corn and laundry detergent.

Because we did so well for the Christmas collection, we only need 50 cans of green beans/peas, and 70 cans of corn. Our greatest need is 110 bottles of laundry detergent. Items can be dropped off by the Fellowship Center. Thanks so much, we appreciate your very generous hearts!

If anyone is interested in helping us inventory our food basket items on Monday March 27th beginning at 9am, please contact Deb Walsh at 610-217-2666 or Deblwalsh613@gmail.com. Thanks! Angel Network is so proud to partner with Holy Spirit!

ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

As was mentioned in the February Newsletter, during this Lenten Season a focus of our support will be on the ELCA World Hunger appeal. This program is making a difference around the world and depends on financial support from ELCA congregations like Holy Spirit. Matthew 25:35 states it best; "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Here are the various ways you can donate:

- Go to the Holy Spirit on-line donation form [here](#) and enter your donation amount on the World Hunger line.
- Use your weekly offering envelope by entering “World Hunger” and your donation amount on the Special Gifts line or use the special Lenten Offering envelope, contributions to which will go to World Hunger this year.
- Send your check to the church office payable to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, noting World Hunger on the check memo line.

Your donations will be life supporting, sustaining, and appreciated. Thank you!

FOOD BANK GARDEN



Our beloved Marilyn Egner has passed away to be with our Heavenly Father. We will miss her dearly. Marilyn had a high priority for outreach and serving our neighbors and along with her husband Frank started the Food Bank Garden. The food banks' appreciation for fresh produce grown and harvested by Marilyn, Frank, and others who have helped has been amazing! Frank has decided to continue with the garden for as long as his health permits but he needs help. The planting season is upon us! If you'd like to be part of this wonderful outreach opportunity, please contact John Mosovsky at 484-264-6151 or vistafarm@ptd.net

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words" (Psalm 17:6).

Two powerful earthquakes have hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes have devastated these countries, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Many people have been killed and thousands more have been injured.

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of any monetary gift you give will go to supporting earthquake survivors.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting partners in responding to these earthquakes. Even as the sun was rising on the first earthquake, our partners began distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items.

If you wish to donate, you can click this link:

<https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?erid=3c8b45bd-0f86-4d5e-b37e-c0fa464ae3c0&trid=3c8b45bd-0f86-4d5e-b37e-c0fa464ae3c0>

You can also send checks or money orders to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

You can give by phone at **800-638-3522**

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

Love for the Least, a Great Update – The generosity of Holy Spirit members continued through Global Missions Sunday (January 22) and into the following weeks. We are very pleased to note that the following amounts are being sent out to care for God's children in the Arusha area: NICU - \$4,320; Plaster House - \$1,000; and Widow's Might - \$1,443. Thank you for your compassionate giving.

In addition, Charlotte Gross, a member of our Global Missions Team wrote an article on our Love for the Least appeal which was published in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod News March 2023 issue. You can read Charlotte's article [here](#).

Sixth Street Shelter Adopt-an-Apartment – We have shown our commitment and generosity to our community through the collection for this outreach opportunity. The commitments on the sign-up genius for the initial collection were filled and completed in two weeks and included bedding, bath linens, dishes, glasses, flatware, pots and pans, trash cans, toaster, hand mixer, crockpot, microwave, can opener, paring knives, spatula, coffee maker, serving and mixing bowls, dish rack and cleaning supplies. Thanks to you, we will be ready for our first family to move-in sometime in March.

We expect to do a Spring and Fall collection to gather more specific new items so we can prepare the apartment for each new family that moves-in over the course of 12 months.

Nursery School Outreach - Holy Spirit Christian Nursery School continued their tradition of focusing on kindness during the month of February. The preschool classes created Valentine cards that were mailed to our homebound and prayer concern members. They also collected 72 pairs of new pajamas for The Kindness Project, a foster care resource located in Emmaus.



Souper Bowl of Caring – Our youth with their pots and pans were ready and willing to accept your donations on Super Bowl Sunday to help tackle hunger in our community. A grand total of \$1,916.02 was collected and will be donated to the Allentown 6th Street Shelter and Meals on Wheels. Many, Many Thanks!

SPOTLIGHT

A Tour of the Sixth Street Shelter Adopt-an-Apartment

Opportunities to share your faith are all around you. Sometimes when we get wrapped up in our daily lives, we can't see the angels walking among us. Carole Wetherhold and I had a chance to meet those angels when we walked into the Sixth Street Shelter.

We were there to meet Michele Weismann, the Director of Development. She had agreed to give us a tour of the transitional homeless shelter on 6th street in downtown Allentown. There are 24 transitional apartments for homeless families. Before we began the tour, Michele told us that the shelter has a major budget issue. They are operating at a deficit and without a large infusion of monies, they will have to close some of their apartments. They receive little government funding. The staff cares for the apartments that are not "adopted" by outside agencies. The majority are not adopted.

Michele's office is right outside the lobby entrance. The lobby was filled with families waiting to be interviewed. The referrals come from various sources, the families themselves, the police, child welfare, department of health, just to name a few. There is a waiting list for an apartment. Most of the time, the families arrive with nothing more than the clothing they own.

During the tour, it was hard to ignore the fact that the building is a well over 75 years old. The families can stay up until 90 days so the wear and tear on the apartments is constant. We were shown an apartment that has been used for special events and distribution of donated items. The apartment needed painting and the furniture was very soiled. The floors were a very dated laminated tile in need of replacement. There was a small kitchen with worn cupboards and appliances.

Michele explained to us that they are very grateful when businesses or groups are willing to "adopt" an apartment. The shelter strives to make the apartments welcoming and supportive. These families need to know that they are valued and their temporary living arrangements should reflect that we care.

While the family is at the shelter they need to set goals and work on employment and permanent housing. The parents have access to counseling, job searches, resume writing and various training programs. The children have access to the internet and computers. There are no televisions.

Carole and I were overwhelmed by how much work there was to be done by such a small staff, a small group of angels. Life for these families is an everyday challenge. There is a small food pantry in the basement with no fresh food. Everything is canned or frozen. Coats and clothes are donated.

Children are playing on a small outside swing sets and drawing pictures to hang on bare walls. God's light shines on the faces of those children.

Opportunities for The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit abound. Jesus walked a path like this his entire time on Earth. It reminded me of Matthew 25:40, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Holy Spirit will be "adopting" one of the apartments in a few weeks. Because of your generosity, we have already completed one collection and will jump into action when a new family is ready to move in. The congregation will be notified of our next collection coming up in the spring. We have committed to caring for the apartment for a full year. It will need our special talents. Our goal is to make it a warm, loving and welcoming place for families to find strength, renewed hope and faith. Faith that people still care. Faith that goodness is all around them. Faith that life will get better.

Denise Rohrbach, Outreach Mission Team Member

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 prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org

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