

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

- **God's Work Our Hands:** September 24th. This annual service project is an ELCA church wide opportunity – a day to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.
- **Food Bank Garden:** Continuing efforts to supply fresh produce to local food banks.

* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES *

We are taking a short break from our otherwise persistent requests for collections and appeals. There will be no outreach collections or appeals until the latter part of July/early August. This break in no way diminishes or ignores the needs of our neighbors. It merely allows us a short period to reflect on our blessings and to look toward the future for new ways to be servants and to support God's Mission. Thank you all for your efforts to graciously share with others the gifts God has given you!

God's Work Our Hands

One focus of this year's God's Work Our Hands service project will be supporting young adults who may be current or former members of the foster care system or who are homeless or unaccompanied. Our intention is to partner with Penn State University's Fostering Lions Program, Kutztown University's PROFS program (Providing Resources and Opportunities for Future Stand Outs) and Angel Network's efforts to provide resources to students in need of immediate assistance.

Our support and service will materialize in the form of a collection of needed items and their assembly into "resource baskets" according to the direction we receive from the partnering programs. Please watch for announcements later in July regarding specific collection items if you would like to provide a donation and/or participate in assembling the resource baskets on September 24th at the church. As one student in the Fostering Lions Program put it, "My favorite part of the program is just having an extra support person and knowing that if I need something, someone is always in my corner to help me out. This is a great opportunity for kids like me in this situation — it's great to have someone that wants us to do well and will help us get what we need."



Another focus of GWOH's Sunday will include the creative talents of our Spirit Rejoicers for making greeting cards for shut-ins and Meals on Wheels.

Our service projects will also involve our Lutheran Disaster Response team members' participation in an open house event at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bethlehem on September 10th coordinated by Lutheran Congregational Services. The event will include demonstrations and discussions about LDR's mission work experiences involving basic aspects of on-site rebuilding as well as a collection for hygiene kits and flood buckets.

Community Food Bank Garden in Need of a Volunteer Leader

It was Divine Purpose that created Marilyn Egner's compassion for the needy leading her to start a Community Food Bank Garden. She and her husband Frank often told us about the great appreciation they received from the recipients of the garden's harvest. That in itself they said, was payment enough for their time and talent in keeping the garden growing. Upon Marilyn's passing away on February 12th, Frank agreed to continue growing the garden this year in honor of Marilyn. Thank you Frank! His steadfast attention and leadership will end when this year's growing season ends. His dedication to the garden will undoubtedly leave it in an outstanding condition ready for the 2024 growing season. Which brings us to the topic of the need for a new garden leader volunteer.

The Community Food Bank Garden has some small differences when compared to an ordinary run-of-the-mill backyard garden. Yes, there's planning and planting, cultivating and weeding (albeit very little), watering, and harvesting. Planning can be a bit more involved in order to keep the harvest of various veggies coming throughout the entire growing season. And harvesting requires timely deliveries in sync with food bank distributions. But there are also some big differences compared to a backyard garden. Goat manure is available (and can be delivered) from John Mosovsky's farm and compost can be obtained from Emmaus Borough. Money is available for seed and/or starter plants. AND the garden leader will have the full support of the Outreach Mission Team, the backing of the church congregation, and the blessings that come with supporting God's Mission. The Community Garden leader will not work alone.

If the idea of continuing Marilyn and Frank's legacy in a leadership role appeals to you, please contact John Mosovsky at 484-264-6151 or vistafarm@ptd.net. If you step up during this growing season, Frank will be glad to show you the ropes.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

Vacation Bible School Mission Project Collection – The VBS attendees along with the congregation's support resulted in 122 boxes of pasta and 106 cans of fruit for the Grace Lutheran Church food cupboard AND 83 stuffed animals for the pediatric patients at Reilly Children's Hospital and pediatric same day surgery unit at Lehigh Valley Health Network. We had a great week and a wonderful response to our mission project. Thank you so much!

Food Bank Garden



Frank Egner and Carole Wetherhold had another very successful harvest during the month of June. Deliveries to the Grace Lutheran Church food cupboard included broccoli, cabbage, garlic, lettuce, kale, radishes, and onions. As always, the recipients of the harvest were “over the top” appreciative.

If you'd like to help Frank and Carole with the garden, please contact them directly or John Mosovsky at 484-264-6151, vistafarm@ptd.net

SPOTLIGHT

WHEN IS A QUILT MORE THAN A BLANKET TO SNUGGLE UNDER?

When it protects little bodies from a cold, damp floor. A recent video from Lutheran World Relief shared that 1 in 3 children in Tanzania suffers from stunting. As a result, not only are their bodies smaller, but they get sick more often, take longer to recover, are developmentally delayed and have trouble learning. One of the major causes is malnutrition.

In a 2020 study by the Arica Health Institute, it was found that in the cold, mountainous region of Njombe region, where many of the children experience stunting, one of the drivers for stunting was that the children had to use so much energy to keep their little bodies warm, this used up a lot of the nutrition that would otherwise go to helping them grow. By placing quilts under the children, the children's bodies can use more of the nutrition they do take in for normal growth and development.

Volunteers in the Njombe region partnered with Lutheran World Relief to provide quilts for the children. Now, with the final shipment of quilts due shortly, it is anticipated that 9,000 little ones will soon have a warmer place to sit and eat.

The message back to us is, Asante. Asante Sana. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Especially to our Stitch N Chat group.



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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