

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, continues until January 21st:** Fundraising for the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania. See details below.
- **Collection for our Homeless - Coming in February**



You have been amazingly generous the past year supporting our many outreach collections and appeals!

* 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 premies. 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 21st).

Take the time, too, to visit a Global Missions tree (in the narthex and FC lobby) to look at the colorful hats used by premies 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.

LOVE FOR THE LEAST (AT ARUSHA'S PARTNER HOSPITAL) SELIAN HOSPITAL, NEAR ARUSHA (ARUSHA/SELIAN PEDIATRICS)

Dr. Theresia is the resident pediatrician at Selian Hospital near Arusha, Tanzania. She spends her days caring for premature babies and malnourished children.* Dr. Theresia shares her story as follows: “I like taking care of premature babies; this is because I also had a premature delivery. My very own son was born at just under 2 pounds. He was very tiny, and had a lot of challenges and complications. I stayed in the hospital for almost 3 months. Seeing the NICU developing and seeing children who are born prematurely getting better without complications really makes me feel so good. I’m really in love with Selian Hospital, because I’m seeing a lot of people who are poor coming here, and we take the patient first – that’s number one and then we figure out the money later. We have the funds needed to treat the poor (because of contributions from people like you). So, just helping the poor people really makes me happy.”

Every day at Selian, families feel the wonders of God’s love through the compassionate care they receive at the hands of Dr. Theresia. And feeling God’s love through campaigns like Love for the Least.

*Adapted from Global Health Ministries December 2023 Letter titled “Because of You”



A TRIBUTE TO DENISE ROHRBACH OUR SISTER IN CHRIST



Denise passed away into the loving arms of our Lord on Monday December 18, 2023. She battled cancer for many years but maybe you didn't know that - her focus was always on helping and serving others. In her professional career Denise worked at local hospitals as a social worker helping with rehabilitation and the traumatized. Outside of work, she and her husband Bob focused their outreach activities through over 30 years of active membership in our church.

In the 1990s Denise was Chairperson of our Social Ministry Committee directing our benevolence funding and encouraging public advocacy and ministry in daily life. Back then she started many of the benevolence partnerships we still support today such as the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Turning Point, Sixth Street Shelter, Allentown Rescue Mission, Christmas Ingathering, and the Lutheran Home at Topton to name a few.



Support of Bosnian refugees through the ELCA World Hunger program, supporting the inner city poor through appeals and collections for St. Martin de Porres Lutheran Church of Allentown, and missionary support in Liberia and Senegal were also part of her efforts to help our neighbors.

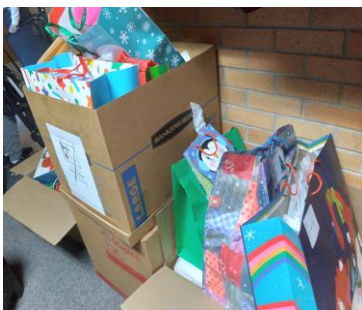
Denise's influence on our outreach activities are just too numerous to list. She was a dedicated member of the Outreach Mission Team and worked tirelessly on many of the Outreach Action Groups supporting God's Work Our Hands, The Kindness Project, foster care, and food and shelter assistance. But she wasn't just involved in our church's outreach activities. Whenever/wherever there was a church need, she was ready to help!

Denise had an impact on so many lives. She was driven to live as her faith directed and inspired us to do the same with compassion, kindness and grace. Occasionally we meet someone who makes such an impact on us that we want to model our own lives to be more like theirs. Denise was such a person. A good and faithful servant whose life was a blessing to all those whose path she crossed. We miss her deeply.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

Christmas Ingathering

Thank you for your generosity once again to the Ingathering Program of the Lehigh Mission District. The generosity of the District's 23 congregations is an amazing testament to the faith of our Lutheran congregations. Thank you so much for your kindness to those in need in our community.



Holy Spirit members donated:

- 65 gifts for children in the Topton Home Foster Care Program.
- 10 winter coats to children in the Topton Home Foster Care Program.
- 275 items to the Daybreak Program which included 41 sets of bed sheets, 46 toothbrushes, 38 tubes of toothpaste, 52 bottles of shampoo, body wash, hair conditioner plus a variety of other items.
- 209 items to the Topton Home program which included 27 bottles of bubbles, 27 boxes of crayons, 10 boxed games, 18 packs of stickers, 13 sand art kits, 72 packs of tissues plus many more items.



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

- Team Convener: John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net
- Staff Liaison: Pastor Tami prreichley@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: 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
Carole Wetherhold crwether@icloud.com
John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net
- Food Bank Garden: Carole Wetherhold crwether@icloud.com
John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net
- SALT John Mosovsky vistafarm@ptd.net