

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

- **Community Garden** – See article below
- **Angel Network** – Spring give-a-way **April 7th-9th** - See article below
- **ELCA World Hunger Appeal** – See article below for more information
- **Foster Care Support** – See article below for more information
- **Sunday School Collections** – see below
- **Spring Mission Trip** – LDR trip to York **April 6th – 10th**
- **CTC - Palliative care vs. Hospice care** – **April 13th** - see description below

* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES *

Blood Drive

Prepare to donate! Join LCHS and Miller-Keystone Blood Center in donating your blood to save lives. Holy Spirit is looking to host a blood drive sometime hopefully in July. Before securing a firm date, Miller-Keystone requests that we, as a congregation, show that there is enough interest in an on-site blood drive. Miller-Keystone Blood Center requires an interest list of 25 people to get started. Please note that your “signing up” as interested in donating does not mean that you are firmly committed – it is simply a requirement of the blood center to show enough interest for them to provide the resources of an on-site blood mobile. This list requests your name, phone number, and email address. If there is sufficient interest, a date for the drive will be scheduled. If you are comfortable signing up, see the interest sheet on the signup table in the narthex.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

During this Lenten Season we will be supporting the ELCA World Hunger effort. Over 821 million people in the world, 11% of the world's population, are hungry. In the United States alone over 40 million people are unsure where their next meal is coming from.

The ELCA World Hunger program is making a difference around the world. Ending hunger is about more than just providing food; it is about providing a road to long-term sustainability and change. The ELCA is actively involved in connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water and provide education, health care and sources of income to bring about long-term sustainability.

In 2017, ELCA World Hunger support topped \$21.3 million in aid. The ELCA World Hunger program is active in 62 countries in the world including the United States. Projects supported by the ELCA World Hunger program include:

- Establishing health clinics
- Providing micro loans
- Building water wells
- Establishing animal husbandry programs
- Providing community meals
- Establishing advocacy programs to influence country and local governments

The ELCA World Hunger program provides valuable assistance around the globe. This program depends on financial support from ELCA congregations like Holy Spirit. We can help support these efforts during this Lenten season. Matthew 25:35 states this 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.
- Use our Venmo app noting World Hunger on the memo line.

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



ELCA World Hunger Lent Calendar 2025

If you would like to incorporate prayers for World Hunger into your Lenten spiritual discipline you are invited to use the ELCA World Hunger Lent Calendar which can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Each day of this Lenten devotional calendar is a reminder of the reason for the season with hymns, prayers, Bible verses and information about how ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world.

Foster Care Support

Thank you to all who attended the LCHS Coffee, Tea & Connect on **Foster Care Support** and have already provided support. Do you know what the primary reason is that children end up in foster care? It's not abuse. It's poverty. Poverty creates a situation where parents cannot adequately provide necessities for their children.

Maria Samaritano generously gives of her time to coordinate with the Lehigh and Northampton County case workers to help foster families as well as families at risk of losing their children to foster care. Maria works with the case workers and various individuals and organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley to collect items (new and gently used) to help families. She issues a detailed newsletter each week, typically on Thursdays, identifying the needs. You can sign-up to donate via a link to SignUpGenius in the newsletter. Maria coordinates with those donating to collect the items and deliver to the case workers. Depending upon the size of the items, Brenda Truhe is willing to collect the items at church and deliver to Maria.

If you would like to receive her weekly newsletter, simply notify Brenda Truhe at bltruhe@hotmail.com or 484-725-2488.

For more information on this outreach opportunity, please contact Brenda.

Angel Network

We are in great shape with our collection and we would expect to make all of our goals. The number of requests from families are down by about 30 families from Christmas. We are normally down in the spring, but only by approximately 20 families. We see this as a good thing, and hope it means some of our families are managing better. The Spring give-a-way is scheduled for **April 7th-9th**. Any of our youth are welcome to join the EHS students on **Tuesday April 8th at 3pm** after school to help with assembling the boxes. Also, in the Emmaus "AROUND TOWN" publication it notes the Emmaus Library is looking for teen volunteers for a summer reading program. Contact Nancy Ritter at epldesk@cliu.org.

Sunday School Collection

The Sunday School Classes will have a noisy offering during the season of Lent. We will be collecting donations for God's Global Barnyard, an ELCA World Hunger initiative. This collection will run from **March 9 – April 13**.

Beginning **April 27th**, the children will be collecting pens, pencils, and socks for youth in Tanzania. The items collected will be given to residents of girls' schools and children awaiting surgery at Kafika House by the group traveling to east Africa from Holy Spirit this spring. Learn more later in April in Sunday School

Community Garden

Garlic planted last fall is growing well. It is now time to prep the raised planting beds for early spring crops. We will soon be planting lettuce, spinach, kale, and onions. All produce harvested will be donated to the Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie. If you would like to help with this gardening effort, please contact Jeff Gross at jeffgross1@aol.com or 610-390-1074. No green thumb required!

Coffee, Tea, Connect (CTC) – Palliative vs. Hospice care

Join Dr. Hena Cebeci, a palliative and hospice care specialist from St. Luke's University Hospital Network, alongside Helen Post, MS, RN, CNL, Community Outreach Manager at St. Luke's Home Health and Hospice, to explore the differences between palliative care and hospice care at our **April 13th** 9:45 am Coffee, Tea, and Connect session in the Fellowship Center. Frequently, these terms are used interchangeably, but they are not the same. Come and learn the difference.

* OUTREACH SUMMARIES *

Neighborhood House

On Sunday March 16th, volunteers from LCHS provided a hot breakfast and bag lunch for about 60 of our unhoused neighbors. This is a great service opportunity which runs from November through mid-April. Hosts from other LV congregations have already signed up for remaining Sundays this season, but we plan to continue volunteering in the fall when this ministry starts again in November. Deb Smith and Dee Bauernschmidt volunteered to lead the next volunteer effort in the fall. More information will follow once the fall schedule is available.

Past Sunday School Collection

Thanks for your donations - 3,885 child friendly band aids and 537 jars of Play-Doh were delivered to LVHN-Reilly Children's Hospital. The child life department was grateful for the donations and were sure they would brighten the days of their patients.

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 Jeff Gross - Outreach Mission Team Convener at jeffgross1@aol.com OR Pastor Tami at prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org

- Team Convener: Jeff Gross jeffgross1@aol.com
- Staff Liaison: Pastor Tami prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org

- Council Liaison,
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 Missions: Ruth & Rick Doty rrehome01@gmail.com
<https://lchsemmaus.org/our-sponsored-arusha-ministry/>

- Christmas Ingathering: Alice Mudge aemudge50@gmail.com

- Contextual Outreach: Carole Wetherhold crwether@icloud.com

- Church Community Garden: Jeff Gross jeffgross1@aol.com

- SALT: Deb Smith dsfotog@outlook.com
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