

## 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\*

- **Serving at Neighborhood House** – December 7, January 25, and March 1
- **Sunday School Collection** – for children in the Allentown School District
- **Support Our Sisters** – November 30 – February 1
- **Angel Network** – December 9<sup>th</sup> basket assembly

## \* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES \*



### Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House (Sunday mornings) fills a current unhoused community need on Sunday mornings by providing breakfast and lunch and a safe place to get out of the cold or heat, in a location central to other outreach support for the unhoused community in Allentown, PA, November - April.

Volunteers known as “Hosts” are needed to: supply, prepare, and share gifts of a hot meal for breakfast and a bag lunch, and connect with Allentown, PA’s unhoused community. Our goal is to serve the unhoused and build community among Allentown, PA congregations, other community groups, and individuals.

**HELP NEEDED!** We have signed up to serve Sunday breakfast at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown on 3 dates: **December 7<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

At this time we are looking for 6 volunteers for the December 7<sup>th</sup> date.

**We are also in need of food donations - approx. 8 hot breakfast foods - egg dishes, french toast, etc. prepared in a 13 x 9 disposable pan, along with individually wrapped muffins, fruit, and tuna in foil packets.** Prepared dishes must be cooked/baked when they are delivered. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for all of the food items.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating food items\*, please contact Deb Smith by email [dsfotog@outlook.com](mailto:dsfotog@outlook.com) or text at [610-972-6176](tel:610-972-6176). Deb will be available at all services on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to sign you up. If one of our youth wishes to volunteer, they must be accompanied by a parent.

**\*Food items may be dropped off at the church office on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Sunday School Collection**

During the month of December, Family Worship will be collecting the following items:

- Slim Jims
- Applesauce pouches
- Crackers with cheese (non-perishable)
- Capri-Sun juice pouches
- Fruit snacks
- Nut free granola bars such as Cliff bar for Kids

The Sunday school students will use these items to make snack bags for children in the Allentown School District. We are hoping to collect enough items to make 100 bags. The bags could be used to send home with children prior to an inclement weather day, shared with after school tutoring participants, or given to students whose families are experiencing homelessness.

Thank you!

## **Support Our Sisters**

In the United States, we usually think of Advent and Christmas as a time of love and family, within a safe comfortable house. However, in our nation and world, December and January may be times when you are vulnerable, subject to abuse, and wondering where you might find a place of love and acceptance. We hope that in this season of Advent (waiting for a Savior to come), you consider the young women in Tanzania who are often marginalized by culture, tradition and systems that leave women voiceless. A faithful response is needed from us to help protect and educate women, give them life skills and enable them to become leaders.

Three organizations (which our global mission travelers visited in spring 2025) come to mind which can help deliver our faithful response:

- **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** – a residential place of education for girls of secondary school age. The school offers sponsored year-round refuge for girls' education and development of life skills.

- **Empowered Girls** - teaches life skills and health and uses fun activities to build confidence and equip them to take control of their lives and make good decisions.
- **Eripoto** - dedicated to education, protection of women and girls (including sheltering victims of domestic violence), and advocacy for economic opportunities for young women.



Help us to take young women from poverty, forced marriage, and life at best as a teenage mother and family cook to a future where they live their dreams.

From **November 30, 2025 through February 1, 2026**, the Global Mission Team will be collecting donations to help organizations like Empowered Girls, Eripoto, and the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School which provide safety, security, and education for young women in need of support.

Please donate in one of three ways: online via Holy Spirit's website, by Venmo or by check made out to the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit and mailed to the church office – please be sure to designate that the donation is for Support Our Sisters. Also, please take an ornament from one of the Global Missions trees (narthex and Fellowship Center lobby) to help you, or someone to whom you give the ornament, think about how your blessings can be used to address the needs of others. Wait for the savior with faith, hope, and action.



## \* OUTREACH SUMMARIES \*

### GWOH - Foster Care

The following thank you to our congregation was received from Maria Samaritano, Founder and Director of Plesion (previously Lehigh Valley Foster Care):

To see God working through people in our community is a beautiful thing to witness, and it is evident that God is at work through the members of your congregation. Because of your kindness, families who are at-risk of having their children placed in foster care because of circumstances related to poverty have received hygiene supplies and notes of encouragement. By providing basic necessities along with supportive notes, you have helped families to have the hygiene items that they need to feel less alone in the midst of challenging situations.

Also, thank you to the husband and wife who purchased ten brand new coats for children, and thank you to the group of ladies who have been hard at work sewing quilts for families. Because of all of you, individuals in our area will be able to stay warm when the weather turns cold.

To all the members of the congregation: Thank you to everything that you are doing for the community. Because of your generosity with your time, talent, and treasure, you are making a tremendous impact that is a blessing to so many people. Keep up the great work!

### Angel Network

It is with heartfelt thanks that I and the EHS Angel Network extend our thanks for another successful collection for the Christmas and Easter food baskets. Many families are struggling right now, and because of your generous hearts, things will be a little easier. I have included some notes we received from some of our families last year. I'd also like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to see the basket process to come on December 9<sup>th</sup> between 3:15 and 4:30 pm and see the assembly in process! Our EHS High School students are amazing.



Thank you notes:

- I am incredibly grateful for all of the help you have given me throughout the years. Thank you for helping me and every other parent who is struggling.
- Thank you for your continued help for needy families. I and my family truly appreciate. God bless.
- We appreciate everything!

- We have a great deal of medical expenses so any assistance is appreciated. Thank you for everything that you do.
- Thank you for everything you do.
- I truly appreciate these baskets. It is wonderful what your organization does for the students and families.
- Thank you for providing this help. Very much appreciated.

Holy Spirit helps to make all of this happen. Your continued support is a blessing. “Thank you” never feels like enough, but please know that the Angel Network and the families we serve are most grateful.

Deb Walsh

## **\*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](mailto:jeffgross1@aol.com) OR Pastor Tami at [prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org)

- Team Convener: Jeff Gross [jeffgross1@aol.com](mailto:jeffgross1@aol.com)
- Staff Liaison: Pastor Tami [prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:prreichley@holyspirit-emmaus.org)
- Council Liaison,  
Lutheran Disaster Response,  
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Benevolence: Bob Mueller [robtmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:robtmueller@yahoo.com)
- Angel Network: Deb Walsh [deblwalsh613@gmail.com](mailto:deblwalsh613@gmail.com)  
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