

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

- **January Sunday School Collection** – for children in Allentown school district
- **Support Our Sisters** – continuing through February 1
- **Serving at Neighborhood House** – January 25 and March 1
- **Lehigh Conference of Churches** – Coat collection

* OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES *

Sunday School Collection

In November, our Family Worship participants collected \$317 for LCHS Stitch and Chat through our noisy offering. This amount was an increase over the amount collected last year for Stitch and Chat. Noisy offering is always a popular collection since the children love to add to our glass jars each week!

The current collection for students in the Allentown School District will continue through January 11th. We are hoping to fill at least 100 snack bags as part of our Sunday School service project on January 18th. The snack bags will be distributed to students in the Allentown School District who are experiencing food insecurity.

Items we are collecting include:

Applesauce pouches
Capri-Sun Juice pouches



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.

We have signed up to serve Sunday breakfast at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown on 2 additional dates: **January 25th and March 1st**. If one of our youth wishes to volunteer, they must be accompanied by a parent. There will be sign-up sheets on a table in the narthex for volunteers and food contributions. If any questions, please contact Deb Smith by email at dsfotog@outlook.com or text at 610-972-6176. First come, first served. Thank you.

Lehigh Conference of Churches

Coat drive for Lehigh Conference of Churches: We are **collecting new and gently used ADULT coats** for the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Please ensure any used coats are gently used and freshly washed. The Lehigh Conference of Churches (LCC) is a faith-based, nonprofit agency connecting basic human needs to the most vulnerable people in the Lehigh Valley. LCC runs the Conference Kitchen to receive a free nutritious meal 3 times a day, five days a week for working poor, homeless, individuals on fixed income, and those who have nowhere else to turn. LCC has a Drop-In Center in Allentown and Easton to provide lockers, showers, clothing, access to computers and trained caseworkers.

Collection box is outside the Fellowship Center.

For more information on this outreach opportunity, please contact Brenda Truhe bltruhe@hotmail.com.

Global Mission Team

LIFTING UP AFRICA – OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA

When the group of 12 travelers representing Holy Spirit went to Tanzania in 2025, Holy Spirit and friends provided much-needed funds to 14 organizations we would be visiting. Half of those organizations received their funds from us through Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA). Below we give you some basic information about OBA, adapted from material in OBA's latest Dignity newsletter.

In 2025, OBA celebrates 60 years of impact, based on the idea that “when you educate one person, you lift up families, communities, and even entire countries”. As our travelers saw earlier this year, “education does change lives in Africa. But what’s equally powerful and deeply human is how this work changes us, too...You can feel it in your heart, you can feel it in your conscience”.

We at Holy Spirit are so grateful that OBA serves “as a conduit bringing together donors with open hearts and communities in Africa with powerful dreams”.

OUR MISSIONARIES IN EAST AFRICA DAUDI AND KELLEN



Change has come in terms of the missionaries that Holy Spirit sponsors in Tanzania. Our previous missionaries (Dr. Steve Swanson and his wife) are still in Tanzania but have opted to build on their roles in NICU and pediatric health by opening a new hospital for children, leaving their roles as ELCA missionaries. Fortunately, we will now be sponsoring a couple already known to the group traveling from Holy Spirit to Tanzania in 2025, Daudi and Kellen Msseemmaa – a power couple for sure.

Daudi was born and raised in Illinois, with his father having been born and raised in Tanzania. After graduating from university, Daudi worked in St. Louis for a couple of years and then moved to Tanzania. After working for a non-profit organization for a while, he became the ELCA's representative to East Africa. (That means he supports partnerships between ELCA constituents and their East African companions, with a focus on youth, gender, and theological education.) Daudi's portfolio has 23 companion church bodies and 4 institutional relationships in an area with 21 million Lutherans, covering Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. He works out of the Arusha offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

Kellen was born and raised in Uganda. She says her life and education were a series of miracles, culminating in graduating from university in Uganda. She met Daudi and moved to Arusha. She taught economics at a Lutheran high school, where she noticed that a minority of students were female and that they struggled educationally. Those observations lead to her starting Empowered Girls in 2011, to address cultural and individual barriers for girls that kept them from finishing school and thriving. In 2020, Empowered Girls became incorporated and now includes a large network of people acting as mentors for thousands of girls and boys. For the ELCA, she works mostly in the areas of gender justice and climate change adaptation. By the way, she and her husband are raising five children.

SOS – SUPPORT OUR SISTERS



In the United States, we often think of the New Year as a time for hope, dreams, and new beginnings, with family and friends helping us fulfill our resolutions for the new year. However, in our nation and world, January may be a time when you are vulnerable and wondering where you might find a place of love and acceptance. We especially bring to your attention 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, encourage them to dream of a better future for themselves, and enable them to become leaders.

Four organizations come to mind which can help deliver our faithful response: the MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School, Empowered Girls, Eripoto, and the Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Center, all in the Arusha area of Tanzania. Each of these organizations were visited by our global mission travelers in the spring of 2025, and their impact on and promise to young women in Tanzania were very apparent.

The MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School is 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 is dedicated to education, protection of women and girls (including sheltering victims of domestic violence), and advocacy for economic opportunities for young women.

The Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Center was developed to help relieve the huge shortage of trained medical personnel in Tanzania. At the same time, it gives the nurses and community health technicians the opportunity to get a good job, help the community, and enable them to become leaders and promoters of a better culture for all.

Please donate in one of three ways through February 1st: 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.



venmo

Be a disciple of Christ with faith, hope, and action.



***“Christmas
is doing
something
extra for
someone
special”***

*** OUTREACH SUMMARIES ***

Christmas Ingathering Wrap-Up 2025

Once again, you, the faithful members of Holy Spirit have met the challenge of meeting the greater needs of our community with your generous donations to the Lehigh Mission District Ingathering.

This year we were charged with collections for the Refugee Resettlement Program and the Sixth Street Shelter. Items collected included personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, sweat-shirts, winter hats/gloves, books for children, rice, cleaning supplies, household items, baby items including cases of wipes and diapers, too many products to list here.

Your generous spirit is awesome. Our numbers for the two organizations totaled more than 1100 diapers, 80# of rice, with a total of 796 combined items of those listed above. In addition, we collected 65 gifts for children in the Topton Foster Care program and give thanks to Pat and Frank Mattes for their gift of 10 winter coats to the Topton program.

I would also like to thank Craig Kauffman and Mike Yablonski for making deliveries to the Sixth Street Shelter and the Refugee Resettlement Program of all that we collected. And, thanks to Nikki in the church office for her support in this process.

In these times when the needs of our community are so great, we have been blessed beyond measure with the ability to help make the lives of those in need a bit more sustainable. Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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.”**

Alice Mudge, Ingathering Coordinator



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

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