

## 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\*

- **Family Worship Collection** – for GWOH Sunday – see below
- **God's Work Our Hands (GWOH)** – Aug. Collection for Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>
- **Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank** – donate to feed the needy

## Family Worship Collection

During the month of August, Family Worship will be supporting the collection for God's Work Our Hands in preparation for the assembly of care bags on September 27<sup>th</sup>. All items need to be new and individually sealed for sanitary reasons.

- ❖ Toothpaste
- ❖ Toothbrushes
- ❖ Chapstick
- ❖ Men's bodywash
- ❖ Men's deodorant
- ❖ Women's shampoo
- ❖ Women's conditioner

# Gods Work. Our Hands.

## God's Work Our Hands **September 27, 2026 – save the date!**

This year we will be holding our God's Work Our Hands event on **Sunday September 27** at 9:25am. Alternate worship times will be held to ensure all can participate. We hope you join us and enjoy the collaboration with people across our different services.

We will be supporting the Allentown Rescue Mission, Lehigh Conference of Churches, Perfect Fit of the YWCA, and Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

We are **collecting and need the following** for each care bag:

- 400 toothpaste
- 400 toothbrushes
- 400 Chapstick
- 200 Generic or Men's Body Wash
- 200 Generic or Men's Deodorant
- 200 Women's shampoo
- 200 Women's conditioner

All items need to be new and individually sealed for sanitary reasons. Please, no multipacks, unless each item is sealed inside the larger package.

Collection boxes will be outside the Fellowship Center starting July 27th. Please see the recipient list located above the collection boxes.

If you prefer to donate monetarily and let the GWOH project team shop for you, that is an option. For more information on this outreach opportunity, please contact Brenda Truhe [bltruhe@hotmail.com](mailto:bltruhe@hotmail.com) or at 484-725-2488.

Thank you for all your help in supporting our larger community.

Hope to see you for the event in September.

## Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank

The following is a list of the most needed foods at the pantry. Donations can be placed in the benches outside the Fellowship Center marked for donations. Please remember to check the best by dates before dropping off any contributions. Thank you!

### Most Needed Foods:

- Canned fruits, packed in natural juices preferred
- Individual fruit cups
- Shelf-stable individual microwavable meals such as Dinty Moore Stew or Mac 'n Cheese cups, Hormel Completes, Shelf stable meals such as Chef Boyardee ravioli
- Packages of precooked rice, grains, or pasta
- Ready-to-drink breakfast protein drinks
- Jelly
- Flour
- Sugar
- Vegetable oil
- Low-sugar cereal such as cheerios, bran flakes, etc. or Oatmeal
- Condiments such as salad dressing, ketchup, mustard
- Cans of Hearty soups
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Diapers Size 5, 6, 7
- Feminine care products

### Foods NOT Accepted:

- Home cooked, processed, or baked foods
- Foods in open containers
- Foods with best buy date greater than 6 months

The last Food Bank donation was 105 pounds and the total since we started in April is 608 pounds. Thank you to all who have donated to this important ministry.

# \* OUTREACH SUMMARIES \*

## Community Garden

The Community Garden on our church property raises produce for the Food Pantries at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie and Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Emmaus. In July we donated 14 gallon bags of kale, 1 bag of salad greens, 4 bags of red beets, 11 yellow squash, 9 eggplants, 41 sweet peppers, and 3 bags of radishes. We also harvested red and yellow onions which are currently curing for later donation to the food pantries.

If you have any produce from your home garden that you would like to donate, please leave in the church kitchen on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning by 9am on the second and forth Wednesdays of the month only. Thank you!

If you would like to help with this gardening effort, please contact Jeff Gross at [jeffgross1@aol.com](mailto:jeffgross1@aol.com) or 610-390-1074. No green thumb required!



## Stitch and Chat

The Stitch and Chat group at Holy Spirit started meeting in 2003. Our initial goal was to create quilts to donate to the Lutheran World Relief's "Project Comfort" which sent quilts overseas. We also made quilts to go with the Project Help team in Starks, Maine, and to the flood victims in Easton.

After a few years, we decided that there was a definite need to give the quilts to local organizations in the Lehigh Valley as well as places involved in the church's mission trips. We have given quilts to shelters, foster care agencies, nursing homes, Allentown Ecumenical Food bank, and other agencies in our area. We have also given quilts to members of our congregation who are in need of personal support and to staff members for all the help they had given while serving at Holy Spirit.

We have created at least a thousand quilts over the years. Hopefully, they have brought warmth, love, and comfort to all the people who have received them. The last blessing, which included 70 quilts, were given to Family Promise, Cay Galgon Life House, Bloom, New Bethany Ministries, and the York Mission trip. All of the organizations are very happy to receive them and we often will get thank you notes from individuals telling us how much the quilt means to them.

We would like to also thank the many people who have donated their efforts to create the quilts, and to the people who have donated fabric, batting, and money to help support our mission.



## VBS and Church Community Collection

A big thank you to our Vacation Bible School participants and our church community. Our collection for the Allentown School District's summer learning program was a huge success. We collected 1,124 beverages and 3,380 individual serving snacks for a grand total of 3,380 items. These items will be distributed through several of the summer experiences the district provides for children and their families. The need for these items is often greater in the summer months when children are not in a traditional school setting. Thank you to Deb and Bob Stevens, Karin Kahler and Pastor Tami for helping to deliver these items to the School District.



## World Refugee Sunday

On Sunday, June 21, it was our privilege at Holy Spirit to welcome Mr. Kibrom Tesfu to share the message at worship. Mr. Tesfu is a U.S. citizen who came to this country in 2011 after spending 7 years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. His country of origin is Eritrea where most of his family still resides. Mr. Kibrom currently holds two full time jobs, including working with refugees through Bethany Christian Services. During worship, Ruth Doty interviewed Mr. Kibrom about his refugee story.

## Summer Breakfast

Thank you to our Outreach Team for providing and serving breakfast for the congregation on Sunday, July 19, 2026.



## **\*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)**

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