Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Feeding the Hungry Ministry

Resource Guide

May 2015

The Vision of the Feeding the Hungry Ministry is to build relationships through food!

During the month of May, join us at Resurrection as we reach out to the community around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ by doing our part to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. With the lens of God’s mission and justice, we look and listen to our neighbors in both our local and global communities. Who are those most in need? How might we use the abundance that God entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbor both near and far?

“For I was hungry and you gave me food...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.” Matthew 25: 35, 40
**Canned Food Drive.** Bring in bags of canned food to supplement Resurrection’s Food Pantry and the Placer Food Bank during the month of May.

Most needed food items include:

- Macaroni, spaghetti, egg noodles, cereal, peanut butter (plastic containers only please)
- Canned Food Items: tuna, fruit, vegetables. Please donate cans with easy to open lids.
- Dry Goods: rice and dried beans.

Resurrection’s food pantry is located in the Fellowship Hall. Resurrection gives away hundreds of cans of food each year to those in need.

The remaining cans will go the Placer Food Bank. Placer County Hunger Statistics released by the 2014 study of Feeding America:

- The food insecurity rate in Placer’s Food Bank service area as a whole is 13%. For children, it is 20%.
- More than 81,000 individuals in Placer County are food insecure.
- The weekly food budget shortfall per food insecure person living in Placer County is nearly $18 per week.
- Thirty-seven percent of food insecure individuals live in a household with one or more working adults.
**St. John’s Program for Real Change.** Sign up to be part of a team of eight women and youth to prepare and serve the women and children on **May 23 at 4:00 pm in Sacramento.**

![Image of St. John's team members]

**Saint John’s Mission:** We operated the largest shelter in Sacramento County, and the only one focused exclusively on homeless mothers and their children - the most rapidly rising segment of the homeless population nationally. Our shelter is the proverbial first step of the journey, and serves as the gateway through which mothers and their children enter Saint John’s. Our 18-month continuum of care addresses the root issues associated with chronic poverty for this population. We are proud to say that 96% of the mothers who complete our experiential program find sustainable, long-term employment after they graduate from Saint John’s.

Sign up to be part of the St. John’s team after worship service on April 12, 19, 26.

Contact Annelise Graf for more information: anelisegr@aol.com
Placer Community Garden. Sign up to be part of a team of 8-10 volunteers to serve at the Dancing Dog Farm located at 6316 Wells Ave, Loomis May 23 or May 30 from 9-11 am. A garden facilitator will be on site to coordinate activities. This is a great opportunity for family involvement.

Placer Community Gardens Program aims to build grass-roots, community oriented solutions to feeding and nourishing those in need. The Dancing Dog Farm donates their food to the Placer Food Bank. Last year, they donated over 2500 pounds to the PFB.

The Dancing Dog Farm is part of the Interfaith Food Alliance. IFA’s mission is to advance the production of and access to healthy fresh food produced in a sustainable, socially just manner by empowering faith communities with models and resources to impact local food systems.

Sign up to be part of the Placer Community Garden team after worship service on April 12, 19, 26.

Contact Ellen Deutsch for more information: edeutsch@pacbell.net
Sign up to be part of the team serving at Lutheran Social Services Transitional Housing Program for Families on May 17 at 1:00 pm. We will serve lunch to the families, play games do crafts with the children, and donate toiletries to the families. This is a great opportunity for family involvement.

The Transitional Housing Program for Families (THPF) is a rapid transitioning two year program that allows families the opportunity to heal from their experiences of being homeless, and assists them in taking steps to move toward permanent housing.

THPF provides a drug and alcohol-free environment that creates a safe place for families to address the issues that led to being homeless. The program has three distinctive tracks that assist families in varying stages of overcoming homeless. Referrals are made to supportive and low-income housing as needed, and ultimately 78% of families exiting THPF move to permanent housing.

Sign up to be part of the LSS team after worship service on April 12, 19, 26.

Contact Michelle Larsh for more information: michelle@larshfamily.com
The Gathering Inn. Sign up to be part of the team to serve the guests from the Gathering Inn at the Resurrection Faith Center on May 19 at 5:30 pm.

The Gathering Inn in a non-profit organization devoted to helping the homeless with hot meals, clothing, access to showers and a safe place to sleep. Over sixty churches and 2000 volunteers help provide services to Roseville's homeless citizens that include running a bus service to the shelter at night, a health clinic and 12 Step Support Group meetings.

Emergency Overnight Homeless Shelter. Nomadic shelter providing overnight stays up to 180 days. All persons must have Current TB, pass Megan's Law and be clean and sober. First come first serve each night. Each guest must provide evidence of TB test within past year, be clean and sober and be able to pass Megan's Law.

A team will take a tour of the Gathering Inn Roseville site at 201 Berkeley St, Roseville to learn more about their program on May 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Please take a few minutes to watch the video from the Gathering Inn.

http://vimeo.com/26879775

Sign up to be part of the Gathering Inn team after worship service on April 12, 19, 26.

Contact Karen Murbach for more information: murbach5@outlook.com
Donate canned fruit or monetary donation to the St. Vincent de Paul cooking team. The team will prepare the meal April 26 and May 24.

St. Vincent de Paul’s Dining Room Program serves up a warm meal prepared meal to hungry guests. For some guests, this may their only meal of the day. In the warm weather, it’s a nice break from the heat and in the winter it is a welcome escape from the cold and damp weather.

Our volunteers create and serve balanced meals to hundreds of clients each week. The connection between our volunteers and clients create a sense of community that’s so vitally needed by those who come to us. All are welcome. There is no required application or fee for this program to our clients.

Through the serving of others, we work to fulfill our mission and collaborate with other organizations to provide basic nutritional needs to the homeless and low income individuals in our community.

Contact Glen Morse for more information: 916-955-2099
Write a note of encouragement/love to Resurrection’s college students. Pray for our college and military students. We will mail the letters and a Starbucks gift card to the students April 14.


Drop off notes and letters after worship service on April 12

Contact Linda Fitzgerald for more information: lzf@surewest.net
Thank you for your generosity to the ELCA World Hunger during the Midweek Lenten Offering. The offering of $3,763 will have a tremendous impact on those in need.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. As a partner of churches, social ministry organizations and development and advocacy organizations, ELCA World Hunger helps reach communities most in need throughout the world.

In 2012, your support of ELCA World Hunger totaled $18.6 million

Your generous giving makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and throughout the world. We support projects and programs 43 U.S. states and 56 countries.

Last year, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger supported at least 636 projects around the world, including:

- 388 food pantries, homeless shelters and other projects in the United States;
- 239 sustainable development, health and other projects around the world; and
- 15 education and networking programs in the ELCA.
Join the children at VBS this June with an offering to the ELCA.
You are encouraged to “feed relationships” by sharing love to others on a daily basis. Examples include:

- Bring a lunch to a co-worker
- Have a neighbor BBQ
- Invite a person from church over to your house after church on Sunday
- Reconcile with a friend/family member over dinner
- Use a prayer cube as a fun education way to teach prayers to your children and grandchildren

Gracious God, we thank you for our family, friends, and neighbors. Continue to open our minds and hearts to new ways to share our love to them.
Prayers

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Poverty doesn't only consist of being hungry for bread, but rather it is a tremendous hunger for human dignity." - Mother Teresa

Words to live by (Mother Teresa)

Dear Jesus,

Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.

Flood our souls with your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.

Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul.

Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus.

Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others.

The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be ours. It will be you shining on others through us.

Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us.

Amen.

“If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. “ Isaiah 58: 10-11
The ELCA follows a strategy for relief and development called accompaniment. Accompaniment is both a way of seeing the world and a way of doing service. It means walking together with each other, building relationships with people who are different from and believing that every person is created in the image of God with gifts and talents to offer to the community. (Romans 12:3-8).

The ELCA has **five values** that capture what accompaniment means for our work as a church:

**Mutuality** - Everyone has gifts to offer. Service means working together - not “working for” but “working with” our neighbors.

**Inclusivity** - Everyone should be included. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are set free to be in relationships that are open, honest and loving with each other and with our neighbors.

**Vulnerability** - Sometimes, listening to each other and being open to one another means we have to change our opinions, our assumptions, or even how we do things as a church. It can also mean letting other people take the lead.

**Empowerment** - God could have done everything for the Israelites. But instead, God sometimes let them make their own decisions. God gave them the power to be partners in the covenant and to help the community they were becoming.

**Sustainability** - Relationships are complex, and they take time to develop. Working to build relationship, though, can help service meet real needs and draw on the gifts in a community. It can also ensure that the work goes on long after the original leaders are gone.
Reflections—How is God calling you?

Reflect during the experience. This provides opportunities for participants (individually and collectively) to debrief and process the experience. Some questions that may be asked during the action stage include:

- How is God present in this service experience?
- How did you express God through your words and actions today?
- How did you fail to express God today?
- How are your actions affecting others?
- How is this service-relationship reciprocal? (Becoming the giver & receiver, teacher & learner, host & guest)?
- What gifts are you able to use?
- What feelings/emotions did you experience while serving? What impact did it have on you?
- What did you appreciate (about another person, the site, your experience, etc)
- What is new in your relationship with God?
- How might your efforts contribute to social change?

What is God calling you to do next?

- How might God be calling you to use your gifts in light of this experience?
- How does this experience challenge you to live as a Christian in the world?
- What might you/team become involved with in advocacy issues related to this service experience?
- What changes might you make in your life?
- In what ways can you share your experience and learning with others?

Stories and Celebration: Share your stories, experiences, pictures, and videos.