



# MISSION *and* JUSTICE

A listing of Bethel ministries  
that work to fulfill the  
gospel message of helping  
those in need.

[bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)



**BETHEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**“Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who should I send? Who will go for us? I said: Here I am. Send me.”  
-Isaiah 6:8**

Bethel's mission is to Connect, Grow, and Serve God and one another. The Mission and Justice Committee has created this booklet to help you find ways to live out our mission, by connecting you to the different mission opportunities we offer locally, nationally, and globally. It is designed to give you a list of the opportunities with a brief description of each as well as when they take place. For more information, feel free to use the contact information provided or contact Pastor Ladd at the church (715-386-8821). Thank you for helping us live out our mission here at Bethel.

The Mission and Justice Committee also wants to let you know three things:

- If you see a mission ministry that we offer here at Bethel that is not listed please feel free to contact Pastor Ladd.
- Please check with your place of employment to see if they offer any paid volunteer leave opportunities so that you can take part in one of these ministries.
- If you are interested in leading or sponsoring a Mission or Justice event you can contact Pastor Ladd for help as well as Thrivent Financial for possible dollars to assist you in creating your event.

In His name we serve,

The Mission and Justice Committee



items, and setting up for the event. During the Food Fest, volunteer opportunities include: serving food, cleaning tables, assisting guests with seating and carrying trays, doing dishes, and cleaning up. This event is the Women of Bethel's only fundraiser, and its mission is to provide grants to ministries, both inside and outside the church. For further information, contact the church office at 715-386-8821.

#### **School Kit Lutheran World Relief**

The Ruth Gathering of the Women of Bethel collects and assembles school kits for Lutheran World Relief to help those in difficult situations. The women provide empty school backpacks with a list of specific supplies that are needed. Members of the congregation take the school bags, fill them as requested, and return them to the church. The school kits contain essential supplies to help children learning while facing serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for the students, their families, and their communities. Monetary donations to help with the cost of supplies are always appreciated. For further information, contact the church office at 715-386-8821.

#### **Special Relief Offerings**

Throughout the year Bethel will give individuals the opportunity to help support people who have experienced hardships because of War to natural disasters, such as the war in Ukraine and flooding on the Gulf Coast. This money is given to Lutheran World Relief which then can use the money given to help the most people.

#### **Sunday School Offering**

Our Sunday School strives to teach the importance of giving and doing mission work outside the church doors. Each year we do a monetary offering. This year we are collecting backpacks for the Hudson Backpack Program that assists kids with meals. We also will collect a monetary offering which will go to Pine Ridge Reservation School.

#### **Tanzania/Haiti Mission Trips**

The purpose of the Tanzania and Haiti mission trips is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to extend Christian hospitality, and to strengthen relationships with one another through the shared practices of prayer, presence, and projects. We are committed to pray for those we visit every day; and they, in turn, pray for us. We support each other by attending worship services together at each other's churches, sharing meals in each other's homes, and learning about each other's culture. We assist them with projects through consultation with their leaders on project details; by offering physical assistance (e.g. installing a sound system, helping with construction and maintenance, etc.); and by providing financial assistance through fundraisers. Donations to the Bethel Tanzania Scholarship fund help 40-50 students attend Iringa Diocese high schools each year, which not only aids the student, but also impacts the entire family. For further information, contact Mary Gerzmehle at mgerzmeh@hotmail.com or 715.781.0033.

#### **Tie Blankets**

Each year Bethel's 8th grade students spend one Wednesday evening tying fleece blankets for distribution to local charity organizations. This fall curriculum event provides youth with a hands-on opportunity to help those in need, and allows youth to grow in relationship with each other as well as to see their Christian faith in action. Fleece donations are needed for this program in 2.5 yard sections. We also welcome donations from Bethel members and families to make tie blankets at home. Please contact Cindy for instructions on how to make tie blankets the Bethel way. Drop off fleece donations and completed tie blankets at the Downtown Campus. For further information, contact Cindy Halunen at 715-386-8821.

### **Middle School Mission Trip**

Every summer the 5th-8th graders take a mission trip to a community in need. They work through YouthWorks to help rebuild homes, provide Vacation Bible School, or other activities with children. This is a time to help and get to know others, as well as grow in faith. For further information, contact Cindy Halunen at 715-386-8821.

### **Operation Help Giving Tree**

Operation Help is a local organization that supports families that are experiencing financial hardship. During November, Bethel receives a list of items requested by local families in need as Christmas presents for the children. Bethel members choose tags that have been placed on a tree in the narthex of the church. Each tag contains a brief description of the item, along with the age and gender of the child. Unwrapped gifts are brought to the church. Volunteer opportunities include purchasing an item for a Christmas present as well as creation of gift tags, coordination of gifts received and delivery of the gifts to Operation Help. For further information, contact Koreen Theisen at 612-867-4253.

### **Pine Ridge Reservation School Supply Drive**

Bethel collects new or unused school supplies to donate to Wolf Creek School (K-8) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Members are asked to purchase basic school supplies and place them in donation bins located at both Bethel locations. The collected supplies are transported to the reservation when Bethel volunteers travel to Pine Ridge in the fall. In addition to school supplies, monetary donations are also welcome. For further information, contact Tim and Cindy Nelson at tckrnelson@hotmail.com.

### **Project Newborn**

This mission project provides small layettes for infants at Hudson Hospital born to families in need. Volunteer opportunities include donating items for the newborn kits, such as: receiving blankets, sweaters, sleepers, onesies, diapers, soap, tag blankets, hats, and handmade items. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated. For further information, contact the church office at 715-386-8821.

### **Quilting**

The quilters gather to assemble and complete quilts that are then donated to a variety of organizations such as Lutheran World Relief, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and the local Operation Help group. Volunteer opportunities include donating cotton fabric, helping to layer, tie, and sew quilts, cutting fabric squares, or sewing quilt tops at home. The quilters meet from 9 am - 12 pm on the second Friday and the fourth and fifth Tuesday of every month in the Bethel Downtown Fellowship Hall. No experience is necessary. For further information, contact Marie Hewitt at mariehewitt@hotmail.com or Gail Nolan at nolan.p@comcast.net

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Bethel provides space to host a blood drive 3-4 times per year. In addition to donating blood, adult volunteer opportunities include greeting and registering donors and providing refreshments for donors and workers. For further information, contact Tammy Huberty at tammyh@bethelhudson.org.

### **Scandinavian Food Fest**

The very popular Scandinavian Food Fest, which takes place on the third Friday and Saturday of October each year, offers samplings of a variety of Scandinavian foods, such as krumkake, Swedish meatballs, lefse, rice pudding, and much more. Volunteer opportunities before the event include baking items for the bake shop, making various

### **Christmas Caroling**

All ages are welcome to bring Christmas joy to friends of Bethel who are homebound or reside in assisted care! For further information, contact Marcie Andrews at mandrews@bethelhudson.org.

### **Dorothy Day Center**

Bethel volunteers provide an evening meal at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul on the first Sunday of every month for families in need. Adult volunteer opportunities include preparing and serving an evening meal at the center and/or making monetary donations to cover the cost of the meals. Meal preparation and serving are completed by a group of approximately ten adults. This is an adult only opportunity. Bethel provides transportation, leaving the downtown campus at 1:30 p.m. and returning at approximately 6:30 p.m. For further information, contact Kathy Jeska at kjeska@bethelhudson.org, or Chuck Lewis at 715-386-8821.

### **Equal Exchange Fairly Traded Products**

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned cooperative of small farmers, with a vision of a better world that connects us more closely to the food we eat and the farmers who grow it. When you purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate and other products, you join a network that enables farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia to stay on their land, support their families, plan for the future, and care for the environment. For more information, see their website at [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop).

On the first Sunday of the month at Bethel Downtown after the 8:00 AM service and at Bethel Highlands after the 9:30 AM service, we sell organically grown coffee, tea, cocoa mixes and chocolate bars at cost -- an equal exchange for a Fairly Traded product. For further information, contact Janet Benson at dnjbenson@gmail.com.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

Groups, families, and individuals can volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. Volunteers work at various food packing stations or deliver the necessary supplies to the packing stations. Meals are then delivered to areas of need around the world. For further information, contact David Datt at 715-410-2717.

### **Feed My Starving Children - Youth**

Once a year the middle school and high school youth go to the Feed My Starving Children facility in Eagan to pack meals on a Wednesday night. During this time, they learn about food scarcity in both the United States and around the world. They spend the evening packing scientifically formulated meals for undernourished children, all while hanging out with their peers. For further information, contact Cindy Halunen at 715-386-8821.

### **Food Shelf**

During the month of December volunteers from Bethel work at the Hudson Food Shelf, performing the various tasks necessary to provide food for those who require assistance with fulfilling this basic need for their families. Tasks include: receiving food donations, sorting food items, and packing bags for food shelf clients. For further information, contact Slater Lampman at 651-388-5123 or slats5123@gmail.com.

### **Foreign Student Housing**

This ministry serves Japanese university students who come to study for three weeks at Bethel University. During the day, the students take classes and participate in field experiences. Each student's home base is with a host family, who simply develops a

relationship with the student and shares Christ's love. Hosts can be young or old, single or married, kids or no kids - whatever! It's a great way to plant a seed, create a friendship, and learn about and experience an amazing culture. Training is provided before the students arrive, along with a great deal of program support, and a stipend. For further information contact Lisa Bekemeyer at lbekemeyer@me.com or 651-253-9498.

#### **Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders**

Volunteers participate in rebuilding/clean-up efforts in areas where there has been a weather-related disaster, such as Louisiana or Houston, Texas. These trips develop as money is available through Federal Disaster Recovery dollars. Volunteers are often housed in local churches. For further information, contact David Datt at 715-410-2717.

#### **Global Health Ministries/Hospice Kits**

Global Health Ministries is an independent Lutheran ministry enhancing the health care programs of Lutheran churches in other countries. The hospice kits help the health care providers by providing them with the needed supplies for those suffering from HIV/AIDS, cancer, or other devastating illnesses. These kits are distributed by palliative care providers through Lutheran hospice programs throughout the world. Volunteers can support this ministry by making monetary donations and/or participating in the Naomi June group gathering. For more information, visit their website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org) or contact Karen Jilek at [karenjilek4@gmail.com](mailto:karenjilek4@gmail.com).

#### **Grace Place**

Bethel volunteers prepare and deliver an evening meal on the second Thursday of every month for residents of Grace Place, a homeless shelter located in New Richmond, WI. Partial/full meal preparation can be completed at home and reheated at Grace Place. The size of the meal is determined by the number of residents. Volunteers can be one or more adults or a family (children are welcome). Set up and clean up are not required. Monetary donations to cover the cost of the meals are also welcome. For further information, contact Kathy Jeska at [kjeska@bethelhudson.org](mailto:kjeska@bethelhudson.org).

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity is an organization whose mission is to provide families with affordable housing in St. Croix and Pierce counties. Tasks include all things involved with constructing or rehabbing a house, such as laying footings, pouring foundations, constructing walls and roofs, and completing the interior finish work. Volunteers do not do plumbing, heating, electrical, or excavating. Often volunteers work alongside the future homeowners. No experience is required; there are tasks for everyone at any level of experience. Volunteer activities are available year round. Volunteers can be one-time volunteers, weekly volunteers, and can work either four or eight hour days. There is a Crew from Bethel that works every Tuesday from 8am - 4:30pm. Contact Roger Pavlis at [rdpavlis@gmail.com](mailto:rdpavlis@gmail.com) or 715.549.6633 for further information.

In addition to building and remodeling houses, Habitat also needs volunteers to help run the ReStore in Hudson. The ReStore recycles building materials, furniture, tools, and other items. For further information, visit <https://scvhabitat.org/contact-us/> or contact Kailey at the local Habitat office (715.350.8575 option 2).

#### **Helping Hands**

Helping Hands is a ministry of volunteers available to meet miscellaneous requests such as giving rides to appointments, shoveling snow, or minor household repairs. We cannot guarantee a volunteer to meet every need, but it never hurts to ask. Requests

are coordinated by Kim Evers at [kjevers04@yahoo.com](mailto:kjevers04@yahoo.com).

#### **High School Mission Trip**

Every summer the 9th-12th graders take a mission trip outside of Wisconsin to a community in need. They work through organizations such as YouthWorks, Appalachia Service Project (ASP), and Praying Pelicans to help rebuild homes, provide Vacation Bible School, or other activities with children. This is a time to help and get to know others, as well as grow in faith. For further information, contact Jake Summerville at 715-386-8821 or [jacobs@bethelhudson.org](mailto:jacobs@bethelhudson.org).

#### **HOME Meal**

The Hudson Outreach Meal for Everyone (HOME) ministry is a collection of eight churches from the Hudson/Burkhardt area serving meals on a rotating schedule. These Thursday community meals serve free, nutritious food to anyone in the Hudson area who chooses to attend. The meals are intended to feed our bodies with good food and our souls with hospitality and community. Volunteer opportunities include preparing the food, serving the meal, and cleaning up. Bethel serves every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. For further information, contact Brian Ullom at 651-261-6708 or [blullom@mmm.com](mailto:blullom@mmm.com).

#### **Hudson Area Backpack & Food Program**

The Hudson Area Backpack & Food Program helps get food to the people who need it the most - kids, families, seniors, and any individual who is facing food insecurity. They have numerous food programs to serve community members in need. Backpacks are available weekly to all 4K through High School students in our district during the school year. This program primarily serves elementary students that are often eager to carry a backpack home to share food with their family. The program also provides snacks to all schools through their counselors and Raider Network, including fruit, yogurt, cheese and grab-and-go meals. Hudson Area Backpack & Food Program also provides a wide variety of food every Wednesday at St. Patrick Church through a grocery distribution and pop-up Fresh Harvest pantry. For more information on their programs, and to see how you can help or receive services, visit their website [hudsonbackpack.com](http://hudsonbackpack.com).

#### **Lenten Supper Fundraiser for ELCA World Hunger**

ELCA World Hunger works to provide relief from hunger around the world, and their efforts also connect these communities with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care, and sources of income for long-term and sustainable change. The Women of Bethel invite anyone to participate in the Lutheran Hotdish Night, which takes place on the last Wednesday evening of Lent. Volunteer opportunities include making hotdishes, serving, and clean-up. Monetary donations are also welcome. For further information, visit [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) or contact Gail Nolan at [nolan.p@comcast.net](mailto:nolan.p@comcast.net).

#### **Lutheran World Relief Giving**

The Women of Bethel Gatherings of Dorcas, Mary, and Ruth collect and assemble Personal Care Kits, Fabric Kits, and School Kits, respectively, for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) throughout the year. These kits, along with the LWR quilts, are dedicated at Bethel services in November, and an offering is taken for LWR to aid in shipping these items where they are needed around the world. Volunteer opportunities include participating in the Women of Bethel gathering groups and making monetary donations. For further information, contact the church office at 715-386-8821 or Gail Nolan at [nolan.p@comcast.net](mailto:nolan.p@comcast.net)