



Bethany Stewardship News

December 2014

Stewardship In Action

Did you know? Pastor Chad and the other clergy and religious leaders in the area gather monthly and spend time in prayer and fellowship. The partnership we have together is called West Branch Area Religious Council (WBARC). Our group works together to find ways to help meet local needs. One of those ways is by having a shared common fund to assist individuals and families who may reach out to us for assistance.

Pastor Chad is currently the Treasurer and before that was President of WBARC for approximately 2 years. The current President is Reverend Alexis Johnson of the West Branch UMC. Other congregations that are part of WBARC are: Springdale UMC, St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, West Branch Friends Church, and West Branch Friends Meeting. We frequently gather with the school counselors to get their input on what needs they may be seeing in the schools.

One of the things WBARC is currently planning is an upcoming meeting in which city leaders, school officials, and other community leaders will be invited to attend to discuss childhood poverty in our community.

Over the years some ways in which WBARC has assisted people with the gifts we have been entrusted with are: hotel rooms at Presidential Inn for stranded motorists, homeless people, or individuals in domestic violence situations; food vouchers to Jack and Jill; gas purchases for people traveling through the area; rental assistance; utilities assistance; medical bills; moving arrangements; and helping to fund the Weekend Backpack Program coordinated through the West Branch School District. The school currently sends 15 backpacks of food home every Friday with students who may not otherwise have enough to eat over the weekend.

We also do our annual Pulpit Exchange where the pastor or another representative of a congregation attend another faith community and preach or bring a greeting. This runs in conjunction with the Week of Christian Unity. If you have any other questions on WBARC please see Pastor Chad.

Our Ministries

Hope Chest
Food Pantry
Quilters
Domestic Violence Intervention program
Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)
Good Samaritan Fund
UI Lutheran Campus Ministry
UI Hospital Chaplaincy
Riverside Bible Camp
Shelter House
Angel Tree
Mbakweni, Tanzania
WBARC
Wartburg Seminary
Vacation Bible School
4th Sunday Free Meal
Eyeglasses Recycling
Printer Cartridge Recycling
Sunday School

Ongoing Needs

Hope Chest
Now accepting: **Fall and Winter Clothes**, especially children's; monetary donations to purchase clothes.

Food Pantry
Please pick up the latest list as you come in the door from the parking lot

*God's Work,
Our Hands!*

Thank You!

To everyone who supported Socktober. Special thanks to Amanda and Jeni for coming up with the idea and organizing the drive. Thanks also to the kids and parents who helped with the breakfast.

To everyone who helps prepare, serve, and clean up at the 4th Sunday Free Meal.

To the teachers, volunteers, and children who made the Christmas Program such an enjoyable event.

To everyone who contributed gifts and money for the Angel Tree. We were able to help 6 families due to your generosity.

To the choir director, pianist, and choir members for enriching our worship services.

Did You Know...

In the past three months:

-we've delivered 57 bags of food to the Food Pantry.

-the Hope Chest has helped 22 people.

-the Fourth Sunday Free Meal has served 91 people from our community.

-The EPIC Socktober drive raised over \$300 in donations for the Domestic Violence and Intervention Program, along with several boxes of donated items which will be delivered during Christmas break.

-WBARC has assisted 6 individuals and/or families with things such as: food vouchers to Jack and Jill, hotel, rental assistance, towing, gas, and non-food household items. \$500.00 was also donated to the Weekend Backpack program through the school. This is all possible thanks to the generous gifts from the people of the West Branch congregations.

Sunday morning fellowship after church is an important part of our ministries of Fellowship, Hospitality, and Stewardship. All you have to do is look around on Sunday to see how much people enjoy talking with each other, and meeting new people after worship. Relationships and connections are important to all of us. Providing drinks and snacks for Fellowship doesn't have to be anything elaborate. Something to drink and a cookie to eat is just fine. If one or two people provided the "snack" each week, at most you would only have to do it twice a year. Remember, what's provided to eat at Fellowship isn't as important as the fellowship itself.

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

Ministry Highlight

Lutheran Services Iowa

For 150 years, Lutheran Services in Iowa has stood beside Iowa's most vulnerable people, fulfilling a promise to respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We partner with children, youth and families, people with disabilities, the elderly and people of refugee status – helping people in times of need, strengthening families, and advocating dignity and social justice for our neighbors in the community.

LSI is one of Iowa's largest human service agencies with over 1,000 employees and is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

LSI serves people of all ages, genders, nationalities, religions, ethnicities and sexual orientations.

LSI is affiliated with [Lutheran Services in America](#) and the three Iowa synods of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

Our mission compels us to do this work in partnership. We hope you'll feel a passion and purpose to join us.

Stewardship Committee

Chair:

Kent Kaufman

Members:

Nancy Bruns

Jon Twing

Laura Twing

Neil Korsmo

Chris Korsmo

George McCrory

David Poppen