



# Bethany Stewardship News

June 2015

## Stewardship In Action

Previously, our Adult Discussion Group studied the 1993 ELCA Social Statement “Caring for Creation”. It explains the ELCA’s teachings on ecology and the environment, grounded in a biblical vision of God’s intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. This statement provides a Christian understanding of the human role to serve in creation, and a hope rooted in God’s faithfulness to the creation from which humans emerge and depend upon for sustaining life. It provides a framework for understanding the human role in creation, the problem of sin and the current environmental crisis.

“Caring for Creation” expresses a call to pursue justice for creation through active participation, solidarity, sufficiency and sustainability, and states the commitments of the ELCA for pursuing wholeness for creation — commitments expressed through individual and community action, worship, learning, moral deliberation, and advocacy.

In June The Vatican released the encyclical by Pope Francis. The Pope reminded us that creation is a gift from God, and we have a moral responsibility to be stewards of that gift. As written in the encyclical, creation is more than just air, land, water, plants, and animals. It includes all of humanity and our interconnected relationships with one another and our planet. Confronting climate change and reducing pollution are important on their own, but even more so when you consider how the poorest and most vulnerable are most adversely impacted.

We all need to learn to work together toward sustainable development, but link economic prosperity with social inclusion and protection of our world. The ELCA has issued a statement that says we join with Pope Francis in asking the world’s leaders “to embrace our common responsibility as work continues toward a global agreement on climate change ... and supports the ability of countries to cope with the effects of a changing climate and build a resiliency for a sustainable future.”

## 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  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Free Meal  
Eyeglasses Recycling  
Printer Cartridge Recycling  
Sunday School

## Ongoing Needs

**Hope Chest**  
Now accepting: **Spring and Summer 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 that has donated food and other items needed by the West Branch Food Pantry, especially in the last several months.

To everyone that volunteers in any way at Church. Our ministries wouldn't go on without you.

To everyone who has helped prepare, serve, and clean up at the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Free Meals.

To everyone that donated to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We raised \$1118.80 during our May Sunday event sponsored by the youth of our congregation.

To Dave and Roxanne Bahnsen for representing Bethany LC at this year's SE Iowa Synod Assembly.

## Did You Know...

In the past three months:

-we've delivered 56 bags of food to the Food Pantry.

-the Hope Chest has helped 11 people.

-the Fourth Sunday Free Meal has served 85 people from our community. In addition to a "regular" group of people that come every month, this ministry continues to bring new people into our midst to enjoy food and fellowship.

-WBARC helped two families with overnight housing at a local motel, and provided shoes for a Middle School Student.

## Stewardship Meditation

**Matthew 10:8**  
**"Give without payment"**

We have freely received, so we must also freely give. In this passage, Jesus commissions his disciples to go out with minimal possessions to proclaim the good news and perform miracles in his name. Good stewards are givers, because they were first receivers. They trust that God will provide for them, through the community where they have been sent.

## Ministry Highlight

### Vacation Bible School

Every summer our church sponsors a week of Vacation Bible School for all the youth of our community. This year the dates are July 27-31.

For the past few years, this has been a cooperative effort between members of our congregation, and staff from EWALU Lutheran Bible Camp at Strawberry Point, IA. It's like having Bible Camp coming to you!

Games, songs, projects, and other VBS activities are designed to teach and engage the youth as they learn about Jesus and our faith.

Members of our congregation volunteer to help with logistics, food for staff and youth, and helping the EWALU staff during the week. Donations by our members help with all aspects of the week's activities.

Thank you all for helping make this week so enjoyable for the youth of the community!

### *Stewardship Committee*

#### **Chair:**

Greg Lipes

#### **Members:**

Nancy Bruns

Jon Twing

Laura Twing

Neil Korsmo

Chris Korsmo

George McCrory

David Poppen