



Bethany Stewardship News

September 2014

Fall Stewardship Campaign

These words generally bring thoughts of “Oh no, here they go asking for more money again.” However, our committee has tried to emphasize stewardship as a way of life, living as followers of Christ, and not just about how much money you can give. As Marcia Shetler, Executive Director/CEO of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center, puts it, “The measure of our stewardship includes how we live (our relationship to creation), how we serve (our care of those in need), how we sow (our willingness to respond to God’s call), and how we give (how we manage the blessings that God has given us).” In order to do this we need to pray first and discern God’s call for us, both as a congregation and as individuals.

Prayer and a little bit of courage led this congregation to invite camp counselors to lead VBS the last couple of summers which has allowed us to share the gospel story with our children and others. We have also been called to provide a monthly free meal, which allows us to reach out and care for those in need. Thanks to the support of the members of this congregation, Bethany is able to serve others through these and various other ministries that are highlighted in this quarterly newsletter. Throughout the month of October we will have temple talks that provide information about some of these ministries and testimonies on service and generosity.

We will have a Celebration Sunday on November 9, at which time Pledges of Time and Talent and offering commitments will be collected. Completed Time and Talent sheets provide a volunteer base that committee leaders can use to recruit help for the many ministries going on at Bethany. The financial pledges allow the council to develop a budget for the coming year to hopefully grow and expand upon the ministries we are called to support. Please give prayerful consideration to what God is calling you to do and celebrate with us on Sunday, November 9 at a potluck luncheon following the service.

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 the 30 VBS kids that delivered food to our Food Pantry as part of VBS.

To all who helped with VBS this summer.

To all who help prepare and serve the Fourth Sunday Free Meals.

To the EPIC Youth for setting up their Lemon "Aid" stand for Hometown Days to raise money for mission projects. They raised \$60.00.

To all who donate in any way to all the ministries we support.

*Check out the church website, www.wbbethany.org, for photos of our recent church activities!

Did You Know...

In the past three months:

- we've delivered 41 bags of food to the Food Pantry.
- the Hope Chest has helped 35 people.
- the Fourth Sunday Free Meal has served 134 people from our community.
- 45 people participated in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Sept. 7.
- 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. This is all possible thanks to the generous gifts from the people of the West Branch congregations.
- Families, Inc. used rooms in our Great Hall to be able to carry on their work with children and families while their building was being repaired after this summer's flooding.

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 to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Ministry Highlight

Domestic Violence Intervention Program

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program is founded on the belief that everyone has the right to live free of fear and harm. Women, men, and children are murdered each year, and the risk of child abuse is much greater in households where domestic violence occurs. Support for victims of domestic violence is available in Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, and Washington Counties through the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. The DVIP began in 1977, providing direct service support to more than 28,000 women, men, and children during the past three decades.

Please support EPIC's "Socktober" collections for this ministry!

Stewardship Committee

Chair:

Kent Kaufman

Members:

Nancy Bruns
Jon Twing
Laura Twing
Neil Korsmo
Chris Korsmo
George McCrory
David Poppen