

God's work. Our hands.

Hello. My name is Frank Moore, Director of Community Ministries at First Lutheran.

I am excited to share some ideas with you about some ministry and mission the people of First Lutheran offer. I appreciate hearing new ideas, so please contact me to discuss possible ways to serve.

Your partner in mission, Frank

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Our priorities are hunger and homelessness, so here are the major ministries we do for those areas. I've grouped them by category and timing. We also have some ongoing efforts and some miscellaneous ministries are listed. I've listed websites for some.

HUNGER/POVERTY

JANUARY/ONE Campaign: We have a worship service that emphasizes the ONE Campaign, which fights hunger and poverty around the world and focuses on the Millennium Development Goals. The ELCA is part of the ONE campaign. www.one.org, <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy/Congregational-Resources/ONE-Lutheran-Campaign.aspx>

FEBRUARY/SOUPER Bowl: Children and youth stand at the doors of the church to collect money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and canned food for Greensboro Urban Ministry on the day of the Super Bowl. www.souperbowl.org

LENT/God's Global Barnyard: For many years, we collected money to buy a cow and other animals or items through The Heifer Project (www.heifer.org) as a way to teach children about stewardship. This year, we switched to the Barnyard and raised money to buy pigs because we wanted to use an ELCA-related program. We also used the "God's Math" calendar as a family stewardship tool. www.elca.org/hunger/barnyard

MAY/JUNE/Soles4Souls: Although this effort does not specifically apply to hunger, it does fill a very basic need - shoes! We have partnered with about 10 other churches in Greensboro to collect shoes; a quarter of them will go to Greensboro Urban Ministry; 75 percent will be used as S4S deems appropriate nationally and/or internationally. Also, June 7 is Barefoot Sunday. The idea is that people will take off their shoes at the altar and walk out barefoot. www.giveshoes.org.

JULY/Pastor Charlie's food drive: As part of our acknowledgement of Pastor Charlie Zimmerman's 30th anniversary at First Lutheran, we will have a month-long food drive for Greensboro Urban Ministry, which he has served for many years. Also, summer is a tough time for these types of ministries because demand for food rises in the summer because school is out. We plan to kick off this drive on July 5, when we have a unified worship service, and may use a theme similar to "Freedom From Hunger."

AUGUST/School supplies: Again, not specifically related to food, but helps needy. We collect supplies and tell FLC members who are teachers that they can take items they need as a way to support their vocation. We take supplies to 1-2 schools that need help.

Blessing of the Backpacks: As a way to support teachers, students, parents, those involved in education, we ask people to come to altar with their backpacks or something that symbolizes their involvement (computers, briefcases) and the congregation joins in a special litany, which FLC Pastor Jay Hilbinger wrote.

OCTOBER/CROP Walk: Greensboro Urban Ministry and Church World Service team up with communities across the nation and walk for those who are hungry. Basically, walkers ask sponsors to donate x amount of money to walk. www.churchworldservice.org, www.greensborourbanministry.org

THANKSGIVING/We need a good idea from you for Thanksgiving! Several churches do provide turkeys and meals, which is great. It's also a good time to collect food and toiletries for various agencies.

CHRISTMAS/Angel Tree: We provide hundreds of gifts to children and adults through the Salvation Army and Mary's House, which helps women in recovery who live with their children.

Honor Cards: Check to see if local agencies have honor cards. We use cards from Greensboro Urban Ministry and Habitat for Humanity, which are very popular. A local artist's drawings have raised more than \$1 million over the course of about 20 years.

Meals at the Manger: This was a new effort this past Christmas. Basically, we put out a wooden manger and some big boxes from Greensboro Urban Ministry and asked people to bring food to the Christmas Eve services. It was so simple, yet we had not done it before. We gained about 1,500 pounds of food, which would not have been collected otherwise.

ONGOING

- * We have bins for clothes and food for anytime donations.
- * We work through Leadership Greensboro Seniors and Greensboro Urban Ministry for two city-wide grocery store food drives.
- * We provide breakfast on Friday mornings at Urban Ministry and help another Lutheran church on Thursday mornings.
- * We provide suppers to Night Shelter residents at Urban Ministry all year. The youth do it most months, our Community Ministries group does it during the summer and Christmas and children's groups oversee a couple each year.
- * A local woman created a group called Food Assistance (www.foodassistancenc.com) to provide food to older adults. Basically, volunteers take groceries to homes.
- * Angel Food: This is a great program, (www.angelfoodministries.org.) They provide food at about half price. We explored being a distribution site, but other churches were already doing it. We plan to focus on providing food to the Habitat homeowners we have worked with and some formerly homeless people we continue to help.
- * Gleaning: An Episcopal group called the Society of St. Andrew (endhunger.org) oversees this effort. An organizer alerts participants weekly about fields that can be gleaned (surplus food gathered) for local food banks. It's a great environmental and family project, too. The Greensboro person can be reached at gleantriad@endhunger.org.

HOMELESSNESS

Partners Ending Homelessness: Our major efforts have been part of an umbrella movement in Guilford County called the 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (www.partnersendinghomelessness.org). Briefly, call your local HUD office and they can tell you about programs such as Housing First, which helps formerly homeless people find housing. The basic thrust is that it is less expensive (and more humane) to pay for housing and related services (like mental health and substance abuse agencies) than to pay for chronically homeless people to stay in shelters and jails.

Our major involvements have been two HOPE teams, which are about 5 people each, who befriend a formerly homeless person, and a CARE Team, which helped to stabilize a homeless family. These are similar to what Lutheran Family Services does with refugee resettlement teams. We are fortunate in that Greensboro Urban Ministry provides a staff person to find housing; our main task is to provide relationship and support and to collect furniture and other items for a family. The federal government has begun to get more active in this "rapid re-housing" effort. The idea is to move families from shelters to more permanent housing. Our first family cost about \$1,500 to pay some back bills and some other expenses. We will start working with a new family soon.

Habitat for Humanity: Of course, Habitat is a wonderful ministry. Greensboro-area Lutheran churches have been fortunate to receive grants from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the past two years to build homes. Contact your local Thrivent representative for more information and be sure you are tied in to Thrivent, which provides much-needed funding for congregational and community projects. Habitat also has a rehabbing program, in which we hope to become more involved.

Homeless Day Center: This is a new project in Greensboro. It is part of the 10-Year Plan, so check the Partners Ending Homelessness site.

Winter Shelters: Although Greensboro Urban Ministry and a few churches have provided shelters in winter (FLC does not), this past winter saw a greater partnership with more churches involved. I encourage you to check out that possibility. Also, you may want to consider housing families temporarily at the church you serve. Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network does this. www.gihn.org

Some other mission projects include:

* Gifts of Grace: Basically, this is an alternative gifts fair. We try to emphasize giving gifts that help people rather than buying "stuff" for Christmas. Lutheran World Relief has good resources on this. www.lwr.org/handcraft/fairtradefair.asp

* Fair-trade coffee: A relatively easy way to help farmers and to provide coffee to Lutherans who need it! www.lwr.org/coffee/index.asp

* Agents of Grace: Basically, a day of caring for community needs through a partnership of churches. FLC is involved but a separate group in the community coordinates this. www.agentsofgrace.org.

* La Vela: This is a ministry for Latinos and provides mental health and spiritual care. Pastor Kristina Johnson is the mission developer. It has received support from the ELCA, NC Synod and Wheat Ridge Ministries. www.lavelanc.blogspot.com