

"The purpose of life is to find your gift. The meaning of life is to share your gift with others."

Our Social Ministry endeavors to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to persons in need of aid in body or soul. We strive to encourage the members of St. Paul into Christian service. This ministry has the duty to study social conditions primarily in the local community, in order to bring the cleansing and healing light of Christian truth and love to bear upon critical problems. *Our social ministry team has several on-going initiatives in place:*

Weekly Community Meals. Developed to feed those in our community who don't normally have access to hot, nutritious, and balanced meals. The community dinners are provided free of charge each Tuesday at 5:30p.

Weekly Food Pantry. The St. Paul Food Pantry is open to those who need emergency food assistance every Saturday from 9-10:30a. This ministry has been a long-standing commitment of the St. Paul congregation and each Sunday donations of items listed below, food, and/or money are accepted in the Church. We participate in support of All Faiths Food Bank, who provides food for distribution to supplement our donations.

Items you may bring to support our Food Pantry clients

Dishwashing Soap & Laundry Detergent • Razors & Shaving Cream
Toothpaste & Deodorant • Shampoo & Bar Soap • Combs & Hairbrushes

Hope Seeds. *Plant a seed. Feed a soul.* This Christian, charitable ministry seeks to bring the love of Christ and improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed, agricultural education and the Message of Hope through Christian missionaries and organizations. Volunteers meet the 3rd Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall and pack small seed bags for distribution. <http://www.hopeseeds.org>

Lutheran World Relief. This non-profit relief organization works with people worldwide to offer aid and support for disasters such as drought, floods, earthquakes, storm damage, war, and conflict. "When disaster strikes, LWR is there, providing life-saving relief and support to those most in need. LWR's response continues long after the headlines have faded, working with communities to rebuild their lives, recover their livelihoods, build resilience, and pave the path to a brighter future." The St. Paul members contribute to this organization's efforts through monetary contributions. To learn more, log on to <http://www.lwr.org>.

ELCA World Hunger. St. Paul participates each Advent season in the Angel Tree fundraising program where the congregation decorates a tree with ornaments representing donations to fight global hunger. Each ornament symbolizes gifts like chickens, goat, or clean water, supporting sustainable solutions for hunger and poverty.

Back to School Supplies Drive. This annual collection of school supplies for Alta Vista Elementary School, located right here in our church neighborhood, allows us to support students and their teachers with much needed items to begin the school year.

All Faiths Summer Hunger Program. The St. Paul church family generously donates food and money to support the All Faiths Food Bank Campaign Against Summer Hunger. This program supplies food and meals to school children who do not receive enough nutrition through the summer when school is out of session. To learn more about this program, go to <http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org>.

Handcrafters Guild of St. Paul. A group of knitters, crocheters, and crafters get together on a regular basis to use their talents to make needed items for others; including baby blankets and prayer shawls for those going through life changes, and more.

Contact St. Paul to help with any of these ministries at 941-955-6479 or StPaul-Admin@verizon.net.

You do not need to be a member to participate in ministry with us.