

"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 to bear upon critical problems. Our social ministry team has several on-going initiatives in place:

Community Meals. Developed to feed those in our community who don't normally have access to hot, balanced meals. The community dinners are provided each Tuesday.

Food Pantry. The St. Paul Food Pantry is open to those who need emergency food assistance every Saturday from 9:00-10:30am. This ministry has been a long-standing commitment of the St. Paul congregation and each Sunday donations of food and/or money are accepted in the Church. We participate in support of All Faiths Food Bank and they provide food to us for distribution to supplement our donations.

Items you may bring to support our Food Pantry clients

Soaps (body, dish, laundry, shampoo)

Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues

Canned goods (fruits, soups, vegetables)

Protein items (canned meat/tuna, peanut butter, mac & cheese)

Milk (canned, evaporated, non-fat dry)

Other items needed

Razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes), as well as paper & plastic bags and volunteers

Lutheran World Relief. This non-profit relief organization works with people world-wide to offer aid and support for disasters such as drought, floods, earthquake, storm damage, war and conflict. "When disaster strikes, LWR is there, providing life-saving relief and support to those most in need. And 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 www.lwr.org.

Back to School Project. 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.

Family Promise. Congregational members help by providing meals, overnight stays, and supervision to parents and children who would otherwise be homeless. Visit <http://www.familypromisesarasota.org/> to learn more about this great organization.

All Faiths Summer Hunger Program. The St. Paul church family generously donates food and money to support the All Faiths Food Bank annual *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 www.allfaithsfoodbank.org.

Baskets of Promise Lenten Project: For the 2016 Lenten season, the St. Paul members donated personal care items and money to assemble 30 Personal Care Kits for the Lutheran World Relief organization's "Baskets of Promise" campaign. LWR sends the Personal Care Kits to children throughout the world who need these basic necessities.

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 sweaters & blankets, prayer shawls for those going through life changes, sleeping mats for the homeless, 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.