

Pastor's Corner – May 2009  
The Rev. Jeffrey G. Bohan, Interim Senior Pastor  
St. Luke Lutheran Church – Bloomsburg, PA

## *Giving Back!!*

*“God loves a cheerful giver!!” (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

One of the ways for us to be cheerful in our giving is to realize how much God has been doing through us as a congregation as we pool our resources together to help others in a variety of ways. We at St. Luke give in a lot of ways. We give of our time, our talents, and our resources to help in our local community, and to help across our global community as well.

This was evidenced during Lent this year for our World Hunger appeal. Of course, we made a little game of it to see if Tom Markowski and I would wear kilts (and of course we did for this good cause!) ☺, and that helped us be cheerful in our giving! Isn't it amazing how much fun it can be when we are cheerful in our giving? Because of that appeal and your response we collected over \$2300.00 to help feed hungry people across our world through the Lutheran World Hunger program.

But this isn't the only example of our giving cheerfully! In 2008 through our giving and DUO Funds we have collected we have been able to:

- Send more than \$2,000 for the Blanket Offering project!
- Send out our Alaskan Missionary for another trip to bring God's Word to the children of Alaska for a week, through LAMP ministries (Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots)!
- Helped the Gatehouse Transitional Living Center with over \$1000, to continue to help those in need of temporary housing while they get back on their feet!
- Sent the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard \$300 through our Souper Bowl Collection
- Sent Camp Victory – over \$500 through our Learning Hour Offerings
- Sawdust Ministry has used DUO funds to build wheelchair ramps for people in need, throughout our community!
- \$170 in Scholarships through our Scholarship Fund!
- 2008 World Hunger collection over \$300
- Yard Sale proceeds of over \$350 to help a family in New Orleans

In addition to the World Hunger appeal of \$2300.00 we also gave during the first Quarter of 2009 to:

- Sent the Bloomsburg Food Cupboard over \$600, from the Pancake Breakfast & Souper Bowl Collections.
- Helped a family in need through the use of DUO Funds whose home burned down, and the husband was on disability.
- Helped to fund programs through our Bloomsburg Ministerium to help transients with lodging, food, and transportation.

These are only our monetary giving. We also have many other projects where we have been giving items for distribution to those in need: Operation Christmas Child boxes; Cell Phones to help the Women's Center; Baby Items to give out to new mothers who are in need; Food

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Cupboard collection each month; Book Collection for the Ukraine; Adopt an Orphanage clothing items; etc.

We are a “giving” congregation, and I want to thank you for your willingness to give of yourselves in the variety of ways you do in order to bring God’s love to our community and around the world! This is ministry, and we are giving because we first received from God’s hand. May our Lord continue to help us be generous with our giving as he has been and always is toward us!!

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff