

6th annual South of the River CROP Hunger Walk steps off Oct. 7 in Lakeville

Teams are now forming for the sixth annual South of the River CROP Hunger Walk. The walk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 7, with registration beginning at 1 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church at 20165 Heath Ave. in Lakeville. Following a brief sendoff program at 1:45 p.m., the walkers will step off at 2 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walks are community education and fundraising events for Church World Service



(CWS). The pledges and donations made by the walkers and sponsors benefit CWS's grassroots programs working to end hunger globally.

CWS recognizes that hunger is a local issue, too, and has always encouraged community CROP walks to designate 25 percent of the funds raised should go to local agencies. In its first five years the South of the River CROP Walk has provided more than \$20,000 to these local agencies: 360 Communities, the Open Door in Dakota County, and the CAP agency in Scott County.

Representatives of these agencies will be present on the day of the walk to provide information about the work their organizations do in our communities.

Participants are asked to bring nonperishable food items for one of the local food shelves. Protein items are most needed.

The walk route will be approximately four miles, with a rest stop at Cross of Christ Baptist Church, 8748 210th St. W., Lakeville. A shorter walk of approximately one mile will also be available. It's not too late to form a team, decide to participate as an individual or sponsor a walker.

In addition to St. John's and Cross of Christ, other churches currently involved in planning the walk include Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church in Apple Valley; Open Circle Church, Presbyterian Church of the Apostles and St. James Lutheran Church, all in Burnsville; New Spirit United Church of Christ in Savage; and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington.

Other churches that have participated have included River Hills Methodist Church and Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Burnsville; All Saints Lutheran in Eagan; Highview Christiania Lutheran in Farmington; Spirit of Joy (Disciples of Christ) in Lakeville; and Glendale United Methodist in Savage.

Community groups and work-place groups are also encouraged to participate. Frontier Communications and Knob Hill Neighborhood have previously recruited teams.

Additional details about the walk are available from one of the coordinators, Denise Lewis, at dlewis9476@comcast.net, or Paula Nordhem, at pnordhem@yahoo.com. Information about the CROP Hunger Walk is available through its website: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/SouthOfTheRiverMN>, and on Facebook at Twin Cities South of the River CROP Walk. Donations may be made online through the CROP Walk website.