

BETHLEHEM SERVES 2024

Group Leaders' Final Thoughts on their Projects

1. CRC RESALE SHOP- SKYE SVENNINGSSEN - 6 PARTICIPANTS

At the CRC Thrift Store we sorted and bagged clothes, tagged clothes for sale, swept and dusted, and learned about all the great work they do for our community. (We also convinced Pastor Laura to purchase the popcorn maker on display for sale!)

2. PLANTS FOR THE NEIGHBORS- LINDA INSKEEP, MARK KING - 12 PARTICIPANTS

Our group of 12, plus 9-month-old baby Emma, worked together seamlessly to create 25 beautiful containers of fresh plants which we gave to neighbors living close to the church. Holly, her husband and boys decorated the envelopes in which we inserted a message of welcome from our pastors. It was a fun way to brighten another person's day and share our Bethlehem message of love and invitation with our neighbors.

3. CRC- FOOD PANTRY- DICK DUBOIS - 9 PARTICIPANTS

The Bethlehem day of serving at the pantry went AMAZING!

We had 9 hard workers! From windows to shelves, counters to freezers... they found TONS of mold on the bread and even some expired baby food.

The group scrubbed the white freezer harder than I've EVER SEEN and made it look clean again! It was a miracle. Had no idea that a freezer could be so white (as opposed to the rusty orange).

They mopped the floors, cleaned the shopping carts, and I destroyed the flies. 😊

4. CAR WASH - PR SAM/OLSON'S - 11 PARTICIPANTS

We washed 13 cars and raised \$330 that will be donated to support Wildfire Relief through the Lutheran Disaster Response.

I'm pretty sure we had 11 people participate with an extra one or two that dropped in from other projects towards the end.

5. PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY -MOLLY HALL - 8 PARTICIPANTS

Everyone who signed up to participate arrived plus 2 additional people! Arleen Von Schleider also joined us after she had completed her task with another group. We enjoyed sharing stories about our past individual needlework projects as we worked on our current ones.

Of course, we did not complete our shawls but will continue to work on them at home!

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7. CHIMING FOR THE SENIORS - MONA GOETSCH- 10 RINGERS

Our group entertained the Ranch View Senior Home and Belmont Village singing and playing Old Time Favorite Songs. We used handchimes to accompany our singing and gave residents a chance to try to play the chimes themselves! It was heartwarming to see many residents smiling and joining us in song.

8. BEACH CLEAN-UP - TRICIA STORY - 20 PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 20 of us went to Moonlight Beach to pick up trash. Our group found everything from bottles to orange peels to cigarette butts to leftover toys. We were there for about an hour and a half. It was a great location because we were able to clean up around the park, the campfire pits, and along the coastline.

9. OCEAN KNOLL CHILDREN'S GARDEN - KAREN SAAKE - 10 PARTICIPANTS

We had an amazing workday at Ocean Knoll. We had 10 people, and they did the work of 100! We cleared and turned over the soil in all the major growing areas in the garden. These beds were filled with pernicious weeds with the roots going deep into the soil. The students will return to the garden next week with a garden completely ready for fall planting, the timing couldn't have been better. Jon Ortega even

brought his auger to drill holes into one bed that was choked with weeds. Everyone found the right job for their talents and abilities and was highly effective. I feel incredibly blessed to be part of the BLC community and to be able to share that blessing with my place of work.

Next year can I pretty please have the same crew. They were perfect. Since the group was small we did not split up between the garden and the farm.

10. HYGIENE KITS - LOUISE JULIG - 10 PARTICIPANTS

The Hygiene kits project assembled kits of travel-sized hygiene products for **Interfaith Community Services** as well as ordered some bulk hygiene products to be distributed at the **Showers of Blessings ministry** at St. Andrews Episcopal across the street. We made up **200 kits** in gallon ziploc bags that contained bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, shave cream, a razor, emery board, lip balm, sunscreen, toothpaste, toothbrush, shower cap, hand wipe, comb, and cotton swabs. The bulk items that we bought for Showers of Blessings will be distributed as needed through the clothing closet at St. Andrews and consisted of the top five most requested items of razors, floss picks, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant, as well as cotton swabs.

11. SCHOOL BAGS- JANA HEGG- 18 PARTICIPANTS

During our Bethlehem Serves day, we had 16 people working hard to assemble backpacks full of school supplies. The supplies included notebooks, rulers, crayons, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners and scissors. We assembled a total of 149 canvas backpacks for Lutheran

World Relief (Amazon shorted us one backpack!) and 50 backpacks for kids within our community. All of the kits for LWR are packed up in boxes and ready to be delivered in October. A small group of us from the School Kits team will be delivering the backpacks to the community in the coming weeks. We had such a tremendous response to our school supply drive that the extra supplies will be given to our on-site tutoring program, as well as our community schools.

12. LAUNDRY KITS- BRITTANY CRANE - 8 PARTICIPANTS

We put together laundry kits for an organization called One Safe Place, which provides free support services for anyone who has experienced abuse or domestic violence. We put together kits that included detergent pods, tide wipes, dryer sheets and sponges. We had 8 people participate to help put these kits together.

This project was really fun to put together. We may have just had a very efficient group, but it took us only about 30 min or less to put everything together. We were able to help put up the chairs and tables for lunch.