

## Stewardship Article for June 2018 Newsletter

Thanks be to God for blessing our efforts to eat with friendliness while connecting with the community and serving in an amazing ministry (funding the next Rise Against Hunger meal packing) as we celebrated an Italian night with Carrabba's cooking at LCOC on May 15th. Over 100 members of the congregation and their families and friends thoroughly enjoyed chicken marsala, pasta, salad, rolls, and delicious desserts (thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant) and the generosity of all of you. How could you possibly top delicious food and great fellowship? With the melodious tunes of a group from the Bull Run Troubadours of course! Thanks to all the generosity, we are on our way towards packing nutritious meals for the hungry again with over \$1300 in place that will cover about 4,000 meals of our 30,000+ goal. More such fun events to help us really "rise against hunger" to come, so stay tuned.

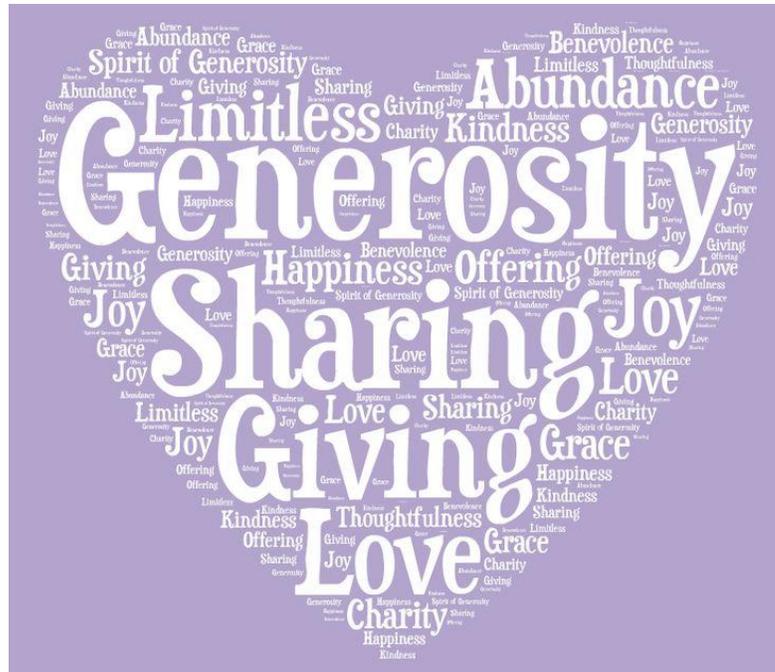
Thanks also to all who brought food and helped with the Memorial Luncheon for John Kvenberg. You all were truly a blessing to his family and helped honor a life well lived.

Another example of how the Holy Spirit can move and bless when we think big as far as serving the community and making a difference is taking place right now as we wind up another Food Drive for ACTS. With help and generosity of LCOC members, Shoppers Food Warehouse, and friends from the community out doing their shopping on May 19<sup>th</sup>., we were able to gather and bring over 5300 pounds and counting of healthy, most needed items to ACTS pantry. So many lives will be impacted and not the least of those impacted will be our own as we see what trusting God and thinking outside the box can lead to.

Lots more opportunities to bless and be blessed ahead with Family Faith and Fun Nights (four Thursday evenings starting July 12<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the usual week of Vacation Bible School); the Backpack Drive over the summer to be sure students at Neabsco Elementary are well prepared for the 2018-2019 school year; possible summer and fall festivals to connect with the community; the I Walk for ACTS which takes place on October 6<sup>th</sup> and for which the LCOC team has already been set up online; Operation Turkey; and Untrim-A-Tree to be sure the 2018 holiday season will be bright for children in the community. All of these are marvelous opportunities to share with others and grow in our talents, faith, and fellowship. And don't forget the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LCOC in 2019-plans are beginning for lots of ways to celebrate and serve. Please plan to be part of these.

As you are out shopping, **please consider continuing to purchase a few extra items to help us provide even more support to ACTS and to help cover students at Neabsco Elementary with food for the summer.** Lists of needed items and bags are always available in the narthex.

Please continue to share your gifts and talents as the Spirit leads in the variety of ministries provided through LCOC. Thank you also for your generosity in your financial commitment and consider using the Vanco option which can be accessed online at: <https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco> if you haven't already done so. Please consider becoming a Thrivent member as well and if you already are a member and use Thrivent products, make use of the Action Team funds that are available to help fund LCOC's ministry projects. This seed money really makes a difference and helps us increase the scope of our service projects.



Words of inspiration:

Let us continue to grow our generous compassion as we are blessed and are a blessing.

Love and blessings,

Patti Beattie