



Missions:

We are a “mission oriented” congregation. Leading people to Christ must be done through word and deed. As Christians, we feel it our calling to serve our community, nation and world, following our Lord’s example of caring for those in need.

In past years, the congregation has sponsored Asian refugees fleeing Laos and Vietnam, contributed to the “garden project” of the Mowa Choctaw Indians, “bought wells” for people in South America, and helped other groups of people in need, including storm victims in the United States, in addition to contributing to the missions of the Southern District and the Missouri Synod worldwide. AA has been a mission of the congregation for over 30 years.

Some recent missions included:

Red Cross Disaster Shelter and Disaster Relief:

Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Monday, August 29th, and by Wednesday, August 31st, the congregation opened the doors of the facility to victims of the storm as a Red Cross Disaster Shelter. Rated for 65 people, there were times when the facility housed up to 125 because the congregation and the pastor refused to turn anyone away. People from the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast were housed, fed and treated with loving care. The church also became a distribution center for the Bay Area Food Bank. Help came from the Mobile community, including Lutheran churches and other denominations, and through the churches of Missouri Synod from all across the United States. Hygiene kits, bedding and other needed supplies were distributed to those in need. After the shelter closed at the end of October, the Red Cross, the Food Bank and the congregation figured that the facility had touched the lives of over 5,000 disaster victims from the Gulf Coast.

In 2006 & 2007, the congregation decided to volunteer once more as a Red Cross emergency shelter. We were delighted we didn’t have to serve because there were no needs! It was a quiet year for the Gulf Coast and time to rebuild. We have continued to take food and supplies to Bayou LaBatre, Alabama, and Gulf Coast Mississippi, and contribute to agencies involved in the relief efforts, such as the Bay Area Food Bank.

The church continues to volunteer its facilities as a Red Cross shelter on an ongoing basis to make sure that there is shelter for those in need.

Heifer International

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach him how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."
Chinese Proverb

“Teach a man to fish” has been the practical, but powerful philosophy behind Heifer International since 1944. Since that time Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing, and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. (Heifer has assisted 7 million families, the equivalent of 38 million women, men, girls, and boys.) Heifer International works exclusively in the area of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that relieve hunger and poverty. Heifer programs reinvigorate communities through gifts of livestock, training in the care and use of that livestock, and commitment of the recipients to “pass on the gift.”

(continued)

You can participate in the programs of Heifer International by donating gifts to provide livestock or agricultural seedlings where they are needed. For example:

- \$500 provides a heifer
- \$250 provides a water buffalo
- \$150 provides a llama
- \$120 provides a pig, a goat, or a sheep
- \$60 provides a trio of rabbits or tree seedlings
- \$20 provides a flock of chickens

The adult Sunday School Crossways© class and the congregation provide gifts of “Bacon & Eggs” through Heifer International. This gift consisted of pigs and flocks of chickens. The adult Sunday School class and the congregation intend to continue this mission and raise funds from the community through various functions.

To learn more about Heifer International visit their website at <http://www.heifer.org>.

15 Place Mission to the Homeless:

For over eight years, the members of the congregation gather materials for and package hygiene kits for one of the Homeless Coalition Agencies, 15 Place, every month, and serve meals to the homeless served by the agency once a month.

Throughout the year, the congregation “bucks up” for 15 Place and other community missions by designating certain Sundays for members to donate a dollar or more.

Family Promise of Coastal Alabama:

The congregation serves as a “support” church, helping other larger churches take care of, house and feed homeless families who are in the Family Promise program. Family Promise of Coastal Alabama is an agency that offers shelter and support to families in need. Where as other agencies may send men and boys to one shelter and women and girls to another, Family Promise utilizes churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith-based facilities to shelter entire families so that they are not split up at a time when they need the unity of family the most.

Our Savior works with a partner church to supply volunteer support to feed, listen to and serve as “shelter” workers.

LWML (New Beginnings):

The ladies of the congregation gather “mites” and contribute them to the missions of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League each year, in addition to local missions that they support. In the past, the ladies made quilts for a facility for “seniors” as well as contributing to the upgrade of the church facilities so that the congregation could continue to volunteer as a disaster shelter.

In the summer, these ladies have a church yard sale and raise money for local, national and international missions.

Food Pantry:

Like most churches, the congregation stocks a food pantry for people in need. There are no “regular” hours, but those who stop for help are given food to help them on their journey. We also contribute to the Bay Area Food Bank which is an affiliate of the national “America’s Second Harvest.” America’s Second Harvest is a network of over 200 food banks. Bay Area Food Bank was active in feeding people throughout Gulf Coast Mississippi and Alabama after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

If you have a mission you would like to discuss with the congregation, please send an email to rsavior@bellsouth.net