



WISCONSIN BRANCH

Quarterly Newsletter

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

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Praise to God



After the hurricane went through Houston, TX I explained to my congregation – Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Clinton – that I took a donated organ to New Orleans and gave it to a church that was destroyed by hurricane Katrina. One congregant, Elaine Schollmeyer, age 88, asked if I could find a church home for her organ. Because of arthritis she could no longer play the organ and hoped someone could use it to “give praise to God.” When I showed her the pictures of her organ being used by Pastor Kolliie's church in Cottontree, Liberia she shed tears of joy and gave thanks to God. Everyone in Clinton has seen these pictures. Elaine worked for the school district for many years and is a very dedicated Christian. The congregation thanks the Orphan Grain Train.

- Pastor Jim Hendrikson



I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. - John 14:18

KYRGYZSTAN

A considerable part of humanitarian aid from the OGT containers is distributed through the Lutheran Church “Concordia.” All of the pictures in this article were taken in the remote Issyk-Kul oblast of Kyrgyzstan located at a distance of more than 500 kilometers from Bishkek. The Lutheran Church “Concordia” has 10 house-churches in the area, in which two evangelists lead Bible classes and teach Martin Luther’s Small Catechism to about 70 people. The poverty level at the Issyk-Kul oblast is higher than in Bishkek, and people gladly accept everything they receive from the OGT containers through the Lutheran Church.



In the photos on this page, humanitarian aid is being distributed at a house-church in the village of Shakhty (Mines). During the Soviet period, coal mining was a profitable occupation for almost all men of this village as well as other villages in the area. After the collapse of the USSR the situation changed, most of the mines were closed and people found themselves jobless. Many left for Bishkek, Kazakhstan or Russia. Those who stayed in the village live miserable lives. Thanks to the OGT containers, the Lutheran Church “Concordia” is able to offer the inhabitants of this village not only spiritual food, but also alleviate their poverty.

Gifts of compassion reach Kyrgyzstan's most needy



This is what the village of Shakhty looks like today.

The Public Fund “Health & Education of the Youth in the 21st century” works in the Talas oblast of Kyrgyzstan. About 700 needy people receive aid from this Fund. From the OGT 1625 the Fund received 50 boxes of children’s, men’s and women’s clothing, 5 boxes of women’s shoes and 2 boxes of accessories.

The Public Organization of Invalids “Karek Plus” counts 233 disabled people, 30 of them are children. The organization is registered in the city of Kara-Kol of the Issyk-Kul oblast. We were happy to offer them 10 boxes of bedding, 50 boxes of clothing and 5 boxes of women’s shoes from the OGT 1625.

Blind & Deaf people societies regularly receive humanitarian aid from the OGT containers. The below pictures were sent by the Society of Blind & Deaf People of the Issyk-Kul oblast. This Society unites 1569 people from 11 villages of the Issyk-Kul oblast. Almost all of them live on welfare which is usually about 3000 soms (\$44). From the OGT 1625, they received 10 boxes of children’s clothing, 20 boxes of men’s clothing, 50 boxes of women’s clothing and 5 boxes of women’s shoes.



Here, the humanitarian aid from the OGT 1625 is being distributed in the church building in the village of Ak-Suu.

Cite Soleil

Dear Friends of the Orphan Grain Train,
We were in Cite Soleil distributing the OGT buckets and took these photos with you in mind. You can see the tin shacks, the extreme poverty, the flooding...

The one little girl is standing by the clogged canal that overflows every time it rains.

The little boy in the wheelchair is a student at our handicapped school. When it floods, he cannot be pushed to school through the mud and has to stay home.

Only God can help this area,
Sandra



HELP FOR HAITI



Pastor John and Sandra Koch from Help for Haiti with children from the handicapped school

LOADING CREW



*In loving memory of Bob Binder
April 21, 2018*

Camp Luwisomo

Upcoming Events

5/15/18 - Tee Up For LuWiSoMo

8/10-12/18 - Family Weekend

9/11/18 - Cracking Clays For LuWiSoMo



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

FROM OUR PASTORS

Pastor Meier

International Politics and the People of God

Ezra 3-6 [O.K., at least 3:11-13 and 6:13-15] tells us a little bit about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem after the 70 years of exile. God is in control, as always, and His people, His remnant, are being allowed to return to their homeland. After 70 years of being refugees and political prisoners, they are told (by their foreign ruler, Cyrus) to go home and rebuild the temple. Easier said than done. Ezra is a good book about paperwork.

Genealogies are popular nowadays and that is one kind of paperwork in Ezra. The other kind is permits and politics. Yup, there were letters written to stop the work and letters written to clear up the original permission and command. There was even a little civil disobedience to make a point. God's people proved their commitment to His command originally given through the mouth of Cyrus, who we could have identified as a hostile pagan captor. Faithfulness paid off as the work was finally completed and the people of God celebrated the Passover.

As we go about our work in God's temple, we need to remember 1 Corinthians 3:11, "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

There will be people opposing our work for the Lord but He is with us and has brought us into the genealogy of the Communion of Saints celebrating the Passover with the Blood of the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). We faithfully follow His commands and keep up the good works He has prepared for us to do (Eph. 2:10), including the paperwork for the permits and inventories, etc. In God's good time it will be completed to His glory and for the good of our neighbors all around the world. Christ is, and will be, praised.

Blessed Eastertide,

Rev. Mark R. Meier, Sr.

For no one can
lay a foundation
other than that
which is laid,
which is Jesus
Christ.

[1 Cor. 3:11]

Pastor Weber's Ministry

Dear Friends of the Orphan Grain Train,

We installed a hot water heater this summer for a family in one of our servant projects. We run across this need often. I included some pictures. We built a small porch and ramp for them because the pallets they were using were deteriorated. The ground was very muddy because the hot water tank had been leaking for a long time. I plan on bringing them some beans and corn from the Mercedes shipment this week.

I'm sitting with Ruth the mother, Daniel the oldest son, and Paloma the daughter. Ruth is a single mother whose husband left her. My daughter Joy is on the finished ramp with Ruth's other son, Mateo. God led us to meet them in their need and they all have a strong faith in the Lord!

God's blessings,

Pastor Weber, Border Missions



Meets the Needs of the People



150th REEDSBURG PACKING STATION ANNIVERSARY

This year, St. Peters Lutheran Church in Reedsburg is celebrating its 150th anniversary as a congregation. Each month there has been special recognition and the establishment of a goal for the month.

In August, the Orphan Grain Train Ministry was recognized and a goal of sorting and packing 150 boxes of donations was set. Our great group of volunteers met and more than met the goal as we sent 162 boxes to Westfield. We received help with some boxes from LaCrosse and some from Sun Prairie.

The packing was done in the school gym on Friday morning, August 11 and Saturday morning, August 12. 2 hours were spent enjoying our work and fellowship each day. On Sunday, August 13, a special presentation was made in the school gym to share what the Orphan Grain Train Ministry is all about. The Reedsburg packing station is under the leadership of Dennis and Betty Andreasen.

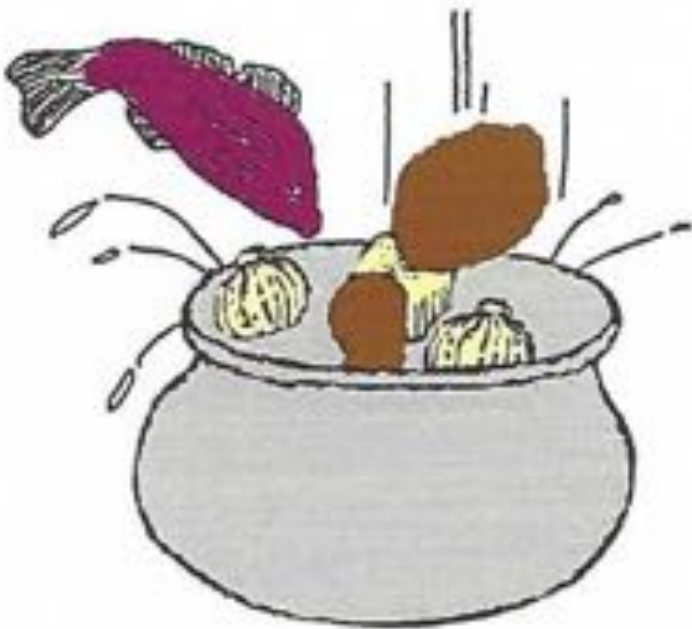


MISSIONS QUILTS

Leana Gerke passed away on August 24 at the age of 97 after a long illness and a courageous struggle to breathe. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. She was a dedicated and faithful servant of our Lord and believed firmly in helping those in need. To help in this effort, she made Mission Quilts here at St. Paul for at least 30 years. Those quilts were picked up by Orphan Grain Train. I joined that group about 15 years ago and have been making quilts ever since. Several years ago, at the age of 94, Leana turned the Quilt Mission over to me because she felt she could no longer participate. I was honored to do this. At one time we had many people who helped us but now we only have a few volunteers one afternoon a month. I do most of the sewing at home but I promised Leana I would keep the Mission alive. We completed 42 quilts last October, and we will have some ready this year as well.

-Marlene Hurst

Wausau Fish Boil



Orphan Grain Train Fish Boil Friday, May 11th, 2018

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
600 Stevens Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
715-848-5511

Adults: \$12 Children, 6-12: \$5
Under 6: Free

Includes:

Poorman-style Haddock Fish,
Red Potatoes, Baby Onions, Baked Beans,
Coleslaw, Rye Bread, Dessert & Beverage

*Tickets are available in advanced at
St. Mark's or at the door.*

I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. -John 14:18

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN MISSION STATEMENT

In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

If someone you know would like to receive this newsletter, and is not on our address list, please let Linda Isberner know. You can receive by mail or e-mail. If you prefer e-mail, just give us call, or send a message. If you wish to have your name removed from the address list, please let us know. Thanks!

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If you have an article or picture you would like to include in the next newsletter, please contact Allie Sherron by phone or e-mail. If you prefer to send by mail, please contact Linda Isberner.

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WISCONSIN - ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Is an option for your
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!
Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be designated by March 31st on a yearly basis.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Orphan Grain Train

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