



Orphan Grain Train

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

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Orphan Grain Train Convention 2026

Orphan Grain Train

2026 National Convention

Friday, September 11 - Saturday, September 12, 2026

Registration for the 2026 OGT Convention is currently open.

**Please register now by visiting www.ogt.org to sign up online
or print off the registration form and mail to:**

Orphan Grain Train

PO Box 1466

Norfolk, NE 68702-1466

The Spark that Lit a Flame / Servant Road Trip



On Tuesday, June 23, 2026 the spark that began in the mind of Ted Stroming was shared with Chris Brown and together the two men lit the flame of a "servant road trip" to Nebraska. Both men are Directors of Christian Education (DCE) in their

home churches. Stroming, from Good Shepherd Lutheran in Glencoe, MN and Brown from St. Paul's Lutheran in Perham, MN met up at the 2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They visited the Orphan Grain Train information booth, and they watched as young people enthusiastically prepared Mercy Meals at the OGT Servant area. Stroming was inspired. He later contacted Brown and the two DCEs began planning a trip to OGT Norfolk headquarters to tour the Servant Center and spend the day volunteering.

The plan that began one year ago, came to fruition on Tuesday. Sixteen students and four adults traveled on a tour bus from Minnesota and arrived at Orphan Grain Train Norfolk on Tuesday morning. This amazing group of students sorted through blankets, school supplies and gtm's. They completed ten pallets of ready-to-ship products. At noon, the students took a break and enjoyed a wonderful Ukrainian lunch, prepared by one of the local Ukrainian women from Norfolk, Anhelina Popova. Popova had offered to prepare lunch for volunteers and staff that day. She agreed to make enough for the students as well.

The students completed their trip by traveling to Camp Luther in Schuyler, Nebraska. They not only enjoyed the beauty of the camp but also participated in several projects needing done at the camp.

Thank you, to Ted Stroming and Chris Brown for allowing the Holy Spirit to work

in you and through you as you prepared for this trip. Thank you, students for your great energy and enthusiasm. Thank you, Anhelina, Anna, Emilia and Maryna for the wonderful Ukrainian meal that you prepared.





OGT Wisconsin / Moldova

Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin's spring shipment to Moldova arrived safely, and many of the items have been shared with people in need. Bible Mission International was the recipient of this load. People at BMI receive requests for

items needed by many struggling families with young children, single parents and the elderly. Photos and stories have been shared with Orphan Grain Train about how much the items were appreciated by these people.



After falling and fracturing her leg, Grandmother
Valentina needed a walker to get around her small
apartment.



Bogdan and Gabriela are siblings; they start school in September. Their parents have seasonal jobs. The children and their parents were delighted to know they have new back packs and school supplies already.



Olimpiada is 76 years old and has great difficulty walking. Her small pension didn't allow her to buy even a cane, but the crutches she received are now a real help to her; she can now go out safely, even just to the store. This gave her mobility and independence.



Nelea is a missionary with Bible Mission. For several years now, with the help of MB and other organizations,

food, clothing, backpacks, toys, crutches, a commode chair, a wheelchair, diapers, and other items have been delivered to my village to be distributed to the needy, retirees, bedridden individuals, and families in need. She visits the school and kindergarten with toys and small items of clothing. When she visits people in the village, she talks to them about our Lord Jesus Christ, and they pray together.

Thank you, OGT Wisconsin volunteers for praying over this shipment and trusting that all of what it contained will bless those who receive it.

OGT Mid-Atlantic / Latvia





Once again, the Lord provided a beautiful day for loading a container – bright sun and cool breeze! On Wednesday, June 25, 2026, Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch volunteers, hand-packed 1,100 boxes of clothing, shoes, bedding, toys, school supplies, Bibles and hymnals, plus 100 pieces of medical equipment and bicycles. Pastor Eisaks of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pampali, Latvia, eagerly awaits the container for distribution to several regional

parishes. We pray for a speedy journey. Thank you, Mid-Atlantic volunteers!

Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken.

Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. Ecclesiastes 12:6 NIV

OGT Phoenix / Navajo Nation



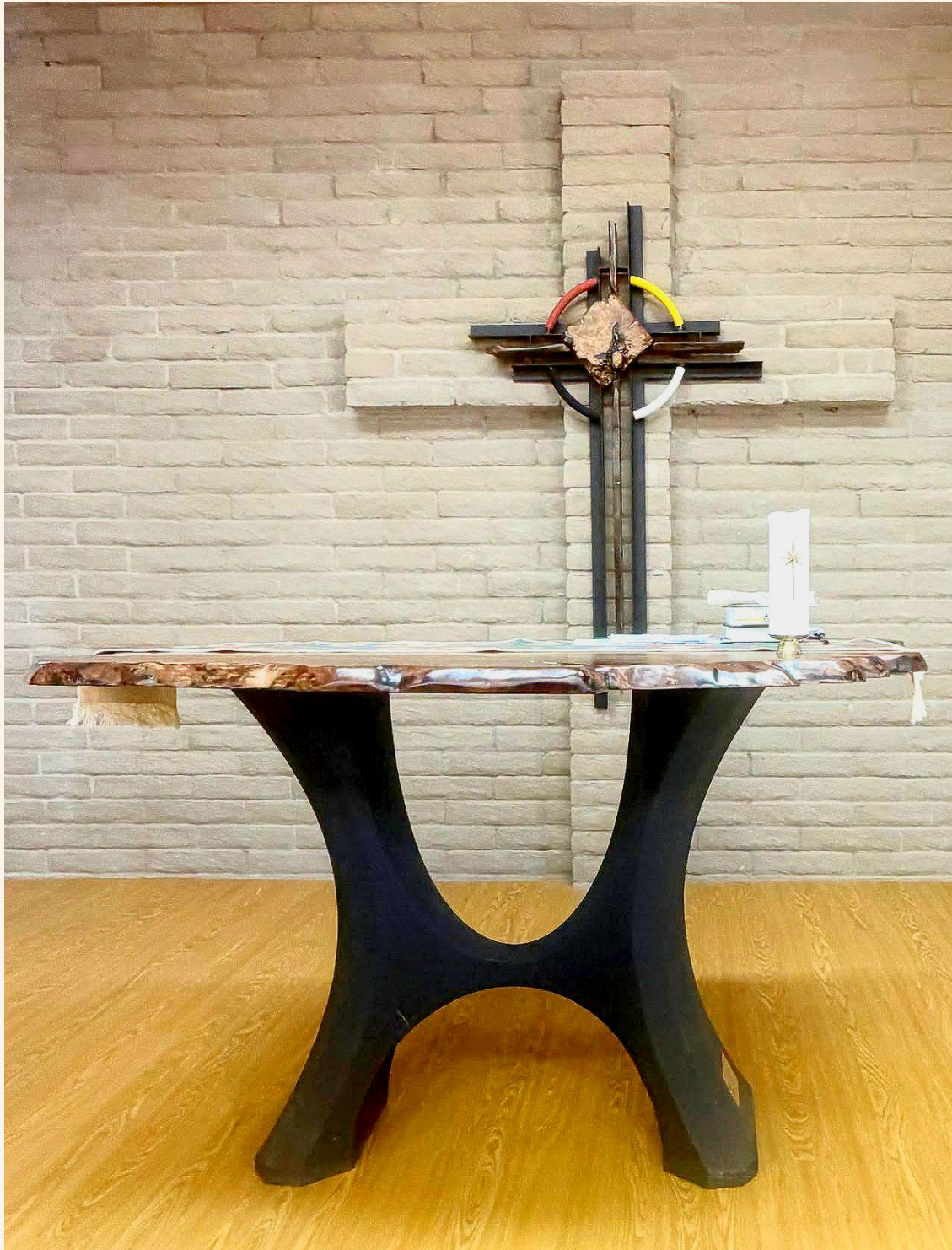
The fully loaded truck. 700 boxes, medical supplies and bikes.



Rock Point Residents unloading the truck with OGT volunteer Chris Brettfield.



Allen Hobratschk and Steve Brettfeld and Rock Point residents unloading.



This is photo of the Altar in their Sanctuary. One of the young men on the reservation made the metal base of the Altar and another the live-edge top. The open areas of the top of the Altar were filled with turquoise that

was imbedded in resin and polished. They also handcrafted the cross behind the Altar and use a handwoven fabric on the top of the Altar. It is a beautiful place for worship and reflection.



Scenery at Rock Point!

On June 11, 2026, the Phoenix Branch rented a 26' box truck to take donations to two Arizona Navajo Nation locations. This was a three-day trip because of the distance from the Phoenix warehouse.

Day 1: Load the truck and drive to eastern Arizona and stay overnight.

Day 2: Drive to both locations and unload and stay overnight this was a 12-hour day.

Day 3: Drive back to Phoenix warehouse and return the rented truck. It's a six-hour drive one way from the Phoenix warehouse to Rock Point, AZ!

This shipment was divided in half. The first half was delivered to The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rock Point, AZ. This was OGT Phoenix's first delivery to this location. The OGT-Phoenix volunteers were greeted with welcoming smiles, enthusiasm and lots of help. The second half of the truck was delivered to the Klagnetoh Chapter House in Klagnetoh, AZ. This was a long workday and worth every minute. People at each location shared how much these deliveries help the residents.

Thank you to the Allen and Celeste Hobratschk and Steve and Chris Brettfeld for donating your time for this delivery. Allen is the Phoenix Warehouse Manager. Thank you, OGT Phoenix volunteers for your dedication to serving others.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Psalm 34:8 NIV**

2026 Nebraska Fire Disaster





The Orphan Grain Train fencing crew returned to Hyannis on Monday, June 29, 2026. The crew, led by DeWayne Erickson, returning crew member Walt Rosenbaum and new members, Doug Shipley and Dave Meyer, will continue with the refencing that began on June 8th. We are grateful for the rain that Hyannis received since the Morrill and Minor fires destroyed fencing and pasture in March. The green of new grass is appearing. Earlier in the week, OGT driver, Bob Schleppenbach delivered rolls of barbed wire for ranchers in need in the area. Once again, as soon as Schleppenbach arrived in the Hyannis distribution area, the wire was immediately offloaded to individuals who were waiting to receive it.

There will be at least two more groups going out to Hyannis in July to work on more fence lines. Thank you, DeWayne, Walt, Doug and Dave for traveling out to Hyannis to help where you are needed. Thank you, Bill Baker for your excellent organization of distributing resources to ranchers

in need.

**Serve Him faithfully with all your heart;
consider what great things He has done
for you.**

1 Samuel 12:24 NIV

OGT Norfolk / Black Hawk



Orphan Grain Train Norfolk delivered 34 pallets of donated food from Associated Wholesale Grocers to Black Hawk, SD. In the early morning hours, OGT Logistics director, Brent

Kummer, picked up the load from the Norfolk AWG location and delivered it to the Native American Heritage Association in Black Hawk. Thank you, AWG for continuing to share this food with OGT so that it can be given to people in need.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 3:16

LWML Austin, Texas / OGT Houston





Steve Harris, Assistant Branch Manager of Orphan Grain Train Houston was given the opportunity to be one of the 'Mites in Action Speakers' at the LWML Texas District Convention in Austin, TX June 11-13, 2026. Steve shared a little history of the Houston Branch but focused on how the

mites given from LWML were used for supplies for packing boxes and 58 domestic deliveries over the past year. He and his wife, Holly, who serves as the Servant Center Manager/Volunteer Coordinator, visited with members at the exhibition and made some new connections for donations and projects. Thank you, Steve and Holly for representing OGT Houston at the Austin LWML Convention and for all you do at the OGT Houston Warehouse.

<https://www.ogt.org/branches/houston/>

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So, He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her

poverty put in all the livelihood that she
had.

Luke 21:1-4 NKJV

LWML Indiana / OGT Indiana





The Indiana Lutheran Women in Mission League convention took place June 26-28, 2026 in Evansville, Indiana. Orphan Grain Train Indiana was able to host a display showing the work and reach of OGT, locally, nationally, and internationally. Gene Ernst, OGT Indiana manager, was the luncheon speaker on Saturday. After his presentation, many people asked question about the OGT ministry. Members of the LWML Mission asked in January if OGT could help coordinate a project with Love the Hungry in Louisville. The local LWML raised funds for the supplies and recruited the

volunteers at their servant events prior to the convention. It was truly a God-blessed event as the funds came and the people showed up to work. Love the Hungry was set up and at the end of the day 24,580 meals were made, packed and boxed. The 3 1/2 pallets were then transported to Louisville and then delivered to OGT Indiana. In the next few months, the branch will take the pallets of meals to Manna from Heaven in Myra, KY.

The LWML Mission board also informed the Indiana branch that extra funds had come in to help support OGT Indiana with shipping expenses. Thank you, LWML Mission board for this surprise gift!

**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.**

Psalm 34:8 NIV

Epiphany Lutheran Church / OGT Castle Rock



Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock held Vacation Bible School from June 22-26, 2026. They had a great turn out of 110 children and 45 students/adult volunteers. The church was full of activity during the week. They collected \$175 in cash offering. They also received many bundles of used clothes for Orphan Grain Train Castle Rock.

Thank you to the VBS participants who supported OGT Castle Rock and our mission for people in need around the world.

Humphrey, NE FFA / OGT Norfolk



Humphrey FFA Chapter students spent the morning at Orphan Grain Train Norfolk touring the Servant Center and unloading more than 1,000 boxes from a 40-foot container. The students, led by their advisor, Robyn Graham, restacked all the boxes and palletized them so they are now ready for shipping. Thank you, Humphrey FFA students for spending your morning volunteering at OGT Norfolk. You did great things while you were here!

Norfolk Iron & Metal / OGT Norfolk



On Friday June 26th, 2026, nine Norfolk Iron & Metal interns visited Orphan Grain Train Norfolk. The group, led by Lacey, NIM Training and Development Manager, toured the Servant Center and OGT main office after working in the OGT warehouse unloading a truck. The truck was packed with pallets of mixed boxes that had items in them that were mismatched. The group took a "not-so-organized" load of items and turned it into something worthwhile. First, they unloaded boxes of mixed items, sorted through them and reorganized them in boxes on pallets. The palletized boxes

are now usable for shipments. Fantastic job, NIM interns! We thank you for what you did. Thank you, Lacey for choosing to bring this year's interns to OGT again.

Seward NE Kiwanis / OGT Norfolk





Grant Schmidt, Orphan Grain Train Vice-President of Operations spoke to the Seward Kiwanis Club on Monday, June 29, 2026. Schmidt shared about OGT and some of the latest humanitarian aid work that the organization is presently involved in. The Power point presentation showed photos of recent fire damage in western NE, and the restoration resources OGT has been bringing into the area. There is currently a fencing crew in the Hyannis area. He also

shared a little about the water purification system that was provided to Jamaica and that is currently still being used in Parottee, Jamaica. Connie Meyer provided a theme-based snack of rice Krispie treats shaped in the form of an OGT truck! Thank you, Seward Kiwanis members for inviting Schmidt to share a little about what OGT is doing nationally and internationally. Thank you, Connie for the fun snack!

Mercy Meals - Siouxland / OGT







Shipping Mercy Meals & Receiving New Materials & Supplies June 2026

Mercy Meals of Siouxland shipped 71,280 meals to Orphan Grain Train on Saturday, June 27, 2026. That's 330 boxes filled with 216 meals in each box! Those meals will be sent by the OGT to feed hungry children worldwide, who will hear the Good News of Jesus! Thank you to each volunteer who

helped with shipping and receiving to move out meals to be loaded and move in material and supplies!

Thank you to all the volunteers who packaged the meals! God again blessed us with good weather for shipping & receiving.

Kansas Volunteers / OGT Lincoln







Thirteen ladies and two youngsters from Kansas visited Orphan Grain Train Lincoln last week! The ladies were from Fairview, Hiawatha and Powhattan, Kansas. They brought 62 quilts with them, packed 12 hygiene kits and many boxes of donated clothing and are anxious to return to pack Mercy Meals! Everyone had a wonderful afternoon. Thank you, ladies for your enthusiasm and the time you spent at OGT Lincoln.

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church / OGT

Lincoln



Don't let these diaper boxes fool you! They are full of 500 school kits, delivered to Orphan Grain Train Lincoln by Maggie and Terry, members of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lincoln! At a recent Faith in Action Mission Workday, 45 volunteers at Good Shepherd packed 500 school kits for OGT, 250 Homeless Outreach Kits for the Salvation

Army Night Watch and 21,000 diapers for the Nebraska Diaper Bank. What a wonderful way to share Christ's love! Thank you, Good Shepard Presbyterian Church, for your servant hearts.

And more news from OGT Lincoln...

The Nebraska North District of the LWML held their Convention June 26 & 27 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Gretna. The Orphan Grain Train exhibit was seen by approximately 200 women, highlighting the international and domestic outreach of OGT. The exhibit was staffed by Kay Marshall from the OGT Lincoln Branch.

OGT Lincoln



Bev Sprouse from Modern Woodmen Insurance Agency in Lincoln, Nebraska presented a \$1,000 check to Jim Carter, Branch Manager at Orphan Grain Train Lincoln for the May

28, 2026 Fundraiser Dinner. Thank you, Bev for representing Modern Woodmen Insurance and sharing this generous gift with OGT Lincoln.

OGT Adopt-an-Orphanage / Ukraine





We recently received photos and a letter from Alla of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine. She and her team have been intentional in spending time with children in orphanages and mentoring them.

Alla said,

Mentoring is about a long-lasting and sincere friendship. For us it's not just a one-time visit, but an opportunity to become someone a teenager can trust, someone with whom they can share their dreams, and someone who will definitely be there for them when they need it.

That's why the Bible Orphan Ministry team runs a mentoring program for teenagers from orphanages.

A heartfelt thank you to our dear American sponsors for your love,

prayers, and generous support! Because of your kindness, we were able to purchase groceries for orphaned young men with disabilities. Your generosity provided not only nourishing food but also a powerful reminder that they are loved, valued, and not forgotten.

May God richly bless each of you for your compassionate hearts and faithful partnership! Thank you for bringing hope and sharing Christ's love with those who need it most!

With grateful heart,

Alla

With the help of generous donors, OGT continues to support Alla and Bible Orphan Ministry in many ways.

OGT Adopt-an-Orphanage

Adopt-an-Orphanage Ukraine:

Orphan Grain Train recently added orphanages to the Adopt-an-Orphanage program which is now supporting nine institutions in Ukraine, all of which are suffering great hardships because of the ongoing war.

Nadiya Orphanage

We've newly added the Nadiya Orphanage in the village of Mokrets. It currently houses children, ages 3-14, but can

accommodate up to 40 children. The conditions are those of an old kindergarten building.

Volyn Regional Center

We've newly added the Volyn Regional Center in Kovel, which is operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine. It constantly houses 30-40 children, ages 3-18.

These are children who find themselves in difficult circumstances: orphans, children deprived of parental care, children who have been subjected to various forms of violence.

Zhytomyr Orphanage

The Zhytomyr Orphanage houses 40 children, ages 5-8 years old.

Nova Borova Orphanage

Nova Borova Orphanage is located about 50 miles north of Zhytomyr. This orphanage houses 70 girls, ages 6-30. These

are extreme special-needs cases, many suffering from cerebral palsy or Downs Syndrome, many who are completely bedridden. The director has been told to expect a 45% cut in their budget for this year, & next year 20 boys will be transferred to this facility.

Doneshi Orphanage

Doneshi Orphanage is located about 50 miles west & south of Zhytomyr. This institution houses 80+ special needs children, ages 6-12. Many suffer from autism, speech impediments, or other disabilities. Government regulations are nearly impossible for them to meet.

Kmitiv Orphanage

Kmitiv Orphanage houses 80 children, ages 6-16 and has great needs.

The support we give to our mission partners in Ukraine enables them to

**provide Gospel outreach & deliver
humanitarian aid.**

**If you would like more information or
might be interested in supporting this
institution, please contact Paul Leckband.**

Email: pleckband@ogt.org.

Call: 402-992-0578.

**Quilts / Immanuel Lutheran - Hooper and
Fremont, NE / OGT Norfolk**



Marilyn and Gerald Bohling, both in their 90's, traveled to Orphan Grain Train Norfolk to deliver ten boxes of quilts. The quilts were gathered from the Fremont, NE area and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hooper, NE. Thank you, to all the women who sewed the beautiful quilts and shared them with OGT. Thank you, Marilyn and Gerald for continuing to travel to Norfolk to deliver these quilts.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:**

Psalm 37:3-5 NIV



OF THE WEEK



Quilt #33



Quilt #34

Do you recognize this quilt?

Every quilt has a story. Many beautiful and unique quilts are

shared with Orphan Grain Train, but not their story. Quilts are sewn into the history of Orphan Grain Train. Quilts were included on the first shipments to Latvia and Russia in 1993, and were given to children in orphanages.

Orphan Grain Train accepts quilts and blankets in all sizes, year-round.

All 27 Orphan Grain Train branches and collection centers receive donated quilts which are shipped by OGT to people in need both domestically and internationally.

Announcements

OGT Lincoln



2026 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Charity Event
Save the Date

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

**WOODLAND HILLS GOLF COURSE
6000 WOODLAND HILLS DR. EAGLE, NE**

Lunch provided by Amigo's

Schedule of Events

7:30AM Registration
8:00AM Shotgun Start
Awards Afterwards

Cost to Participate

\$600 Per Foursome
Sponsorships Available

**REGISTER AT WWW.WOODLANDHILLSGOLF.COM
Deadline to Register: August 1, 2026**

✉ ogtlincoln@ogt.org ☎ (531) 269-0586 🌐 www.ogt.org/our-story.com

OGT Christmas Boxes



Packing for Orphan Grain Train 2026

**Christmas boxes is beginning! Come and
be a part of this amazing mission!**

2026 Schedule for Packing Days:

Wednesday, July 15th, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 19th, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 25th, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 30th, 7:00 p.m.

**North Basement of Grace Lutheran Church, 416 W. Park Ave.
in Norfolk, NE**

**(Use the north entrance door right off the north parking lot-
once inside, go down the steps.)**

Please come when you can and go when you need to leave.

**Please come and participate locally or contribute
toward toward reaching the 1,500-box goal. These Christmas
boxes bring such joy to the children who receive them.**

**If you have any questions, please call Kelly Asbury at
(402) 371-3521 or Orphan Grain Train at (402) 371-7393.**

OGT Convention 2026



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN CONVENTION 2026

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12, 2026

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NORFOLK SERVANT CENTER

&
MIDTOWN EVENT CENTER

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 4:00** Opening of Convention
- Ysleta Mariachi Band from Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas
 - Karla Gonzalez – Interim Executive Director of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso
- 5:00** Three-Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 5:15** Dinner – Paul's Paellas from San Diego
- Introduction by Paul Dimech
- 6:15** Bar open
- Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- 6:30** A conversation with Rev. Ray S. Wilke
- 7:30** Three Quilt Spotlight Auction Break
- Silent Auction Final Bids and Three-Quilt Auction Winners
 - Proceed to Checkout and Pickup your Treasures
- 8:00** Concordia Seward Choir

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 7:45** Doors open at Midtown Event Center
- 8:30** Opening Service
- 8:50** Toi Carter/Pastor Manning – New Orleans
- 9:30** North Carolina Disaster Recovery
- 10:15** Break
- 10:30** Dr. Pieper or Hyannis Connection/Jamaica Water Demonstration
- 11:00** Alla of Bible Orphan Ministry in Ukraine/Kirk and Brian Rosin

12:00 TO FAIR WELL

Finish up speakers/lunch served either as sit-down for conversation or to-go boxes offered



QUILT AUCTION

Orphan Grain Train will once again have a quilt auction. This year, twelve quilts will be juried by three professional quilters and auctioned Friday evening. We are asking that all quilts donated be new, stitched, not tied and of good quality. Since space is limited, only one quilt will be accepted from each donor or organization. There is no set size or quilt style. ALL quilts have to be received at the home office in Norfolk, NE before **August 1, 2026** and clearly marked "For Quilt Auction." If you have any questions, please contact Kamryn at (402) 371-7393



LODGING: SPECIAL PRICE LODGING OPTIONS

Please mention that you are with Orphan Grain Train, tax not included with price.

Norfolk LODGE
A SUTTER

King or 2 Queen \$123.00
(402) 379-3833
4200 W. Norfolk Ave.

Holiday Inn

King or 2 Queen
\$149.00
(402) 379-1524
920 S. 20 St.

Hampton Inn

King or 2 Queen
\$149.00
(402) 379-3585
904 S. 20 St.

Fairfield
BY MARRIOTT

King or 2 Queen
(402) 370-2244
1302 Cyhawk Loop



FOR ALL LODGING OPTIONS GO TO:
NORALL VISITOR INFORMATION

<https://visitorsnorfolkne.com/home/places-to-stay/>



Weekly Devotion

SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLY IN LOVE

Galatians 5:13

By Paul Leckband

Orphan Grain Train, Director of Spiritual Correspondence

**You, my brothers, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge the
sinful nature; rather, serve one another in
love. The entire law is summed up in a
single command: “Love your neighbor as
yourself.” (Galatians 5:13-14)**

**Freedom: My dad was principal and teacher at St. Paul's
Lutheran School in Concordia, MO. When I was growing up, I
observed that Dad never purchased alcohol, even beer, in
Concordia. Nor did he drink any alcohol at any kind of
gathering, such as the annual choir picnic at Southside Park
or at any wedding reception. I called him on that when I got
older. Why, I asked, did he do this, when it was perfectly legal
for him to do so? His answer was that in his position as a
church worker, his behavior would be scrutinized, so he took**

care not to offend anyone.

In Galatians 5:1, St. Paul writes, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” He was speaking of the “yoke” of the Law. The Galatians were struggling with a false teaching that only by observing and submitting to the Law of Moses could they rightfully claim to be Christians. Paul strongly reminded them that it is only by God’s grace that we can be made right with God. Observing the Law—performing good works—can never win us God’s approval.

So, what about my dad’s situation? St. Paul also wrote, “Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” My dad cared about his Christian brothers and sisters so much, that he chose not to buy alcohol or drink in their presence, lest they be offended. I didn’t understand what that was all about at the time. I understand it now.

**Lord Jesus, may we never let our freedom
cause us to offend others. Amen.**



Orphan Grain Train, Inc. PO Box 1466 Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1466

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