



Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

March 2024

Upcoming Events:

The month of March

- ⇒ Lenten Offering to raise funds for 11/2 Project 216 Food Packing event
- ⇒ March Food Collection - Macaroni Madness

~ March Food Collection ~

MACARONI MADNESS

Be a part of the game and donate anything macaroni today!

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center for the food bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.
No glass containers, please!



Covenant is serving lunch at the Rescue Mission once a month on the 2nd Thursday

YOU can help!

All you need is a smile and a willingness to greet and serve others - it's easy and fun!

Transportation will be provided from the Covenant parking lot.

Contact Terry Pargmann at 260-467-3070 or

thepargmanns@frontier.com

Covenant helps to feed the hungry

January - 138 cans of fruit plus a variety of other food items were delivered to Gethsemane Lutherans' Food Bank.



"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

- John Wesley



2024 Lenten Offering

The season of Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It's a time to focus on our relationship with God, on growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often by giving up something for others.

During Lent, the Mission & Outreach Team encourages you to give something up, to sacrifice, and give the money you would have spent as a Lenten offering to help cover the costs to package Project 216 meals.

Covenant will be packing Project 216 meals on Saturday, Nov. 2

The number of meals we pack will be determined by the amount of money donated to the Lenten Offering.

The 3 meanings of the name Project 216:

- **James 2:16** says, "If one of you says to those in need, 'Go in peace, keep warm and well fed' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"
- Every Project 216 box that gets shipped contains **216 meals**.
- Every 2 hours at a packing event each volunteer will pack an average of **216 meals** designed to help the hungry thrive.



The meals are formulated to provide the easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by an undernourished child. The food is acceptable to a broad diversity of ethnic tastes and religious differences around the world and is very easy to prepare.

The meal has been shown to reverse the effects of malnutrition. Each bag of food contains rice, soy, vegetables, and a Mathile M+ Micronutrients® packet which will serve 6 children when boiled with 6 cups of water. The meal provides all the vitamins and minerals a child needs for a day and a way to improved health.

It only takes \$.30 to pay for the ingredients of one meal.

Just think

\$30 = 90 meals, or \$60 = 180 meals, or \$120 = 360 meals!

Our goal is to raise \$8,000 to purchase the supplies for over 26,000 meals!

Not only will these meals improve children's health but they will be given a chance to live the life God has planned for them.

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at janet.hall60@gmail.com or

Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

To learn more about Project 216 visit www.project-216.org



**Your help is needed to support
LIFE FOR CHILDREN MINISTRY orphans!
Please read this important update from Michael Agwanda.**



MICHAEL AGWANDA

"Greetings,

2020 - 2022 were the most difficult time of our history as ministry and so are many other ministries and churches due to Covid 19 ravage. Businesses closed, jobs were lost and many families were not able to take care of their family. In Kenya, there was no incentives or funds to support those that lost their businesses and jobs. Many retreated back to the rural areas because they could not cope up with town life without jobs. Many people were shot dead due to covid 19 curfew violation. Coupled with already worse state of long drought, destruction of crops and thousand of animals killed by drought, Kenya has experienced some difficult time.

With the new Government in place since August 2022, the new administration has raised taxes to unattainable measure. Many companies has closed down, moved to neighboring countries and many have lost their jobs as a result of company closure. They are struggling to pay debts and they say that seven out of ten dollars goes to pay debts. This said, Kenya is in dare need of help than even before.

We have orphans that entirely depend on us. We have build a school for them and they are in school, they eat, and dress up because of your prayers and giving (sponsorship). Without the support we get from you, these orphans would not go to school, they would not eat and no one will ever tell them that they have a future. A future without education in no future. The only evidence that unless someone hold the hands of the orphans they are ruined is in the streets of major cities in Kenya. We are having more children joining the streets as homeless boys and girls. When they go on the streets, they get into drugs and that is almost the end of them.

Covenant, you have been part of this ministry since inception, you have send your pastors twice and teams to see what the ministry does, You have been part of the kids that most of them have now left the ministry and are now having families, jobs and serving God in different places. This would not have happened without your prayers and support. Now we have one of the boy who was helped by the ministry back and sponsoring an orphan. This would not have been possible without you holding the hands of the orphans.

As you continue to support me as your missionary, please do not tire in sponsoring orphans and partnering with us in some of our projects.

Our school, St. Antony Wachara Christian school is the best in our district and number three in the entire country. We produce some of the best brains that would have gone to a waste had we not held their hands through your sponsorship. Without your supports these kids would be no where today. Please, I' pray that you would continue partnering with us in this area.

Thanks and be blessed.

Michael Agwanda

You can help these precious children of God by donating to Life for Children Ministry orphan support. Write a check to Covenant and indicate "orphan support" on the memo line, or donate on Covenant's website or on our app. Any amount you donate will make a difference in the future of a child.



Easter is March 31st! Will you help someone in need this Easter?

The Rescue Mission is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. The Rescue Mission receives no government funding.



Will you help support the many hungry, hurting, and homeless people in our community this Easter season? Your financial gift helps provide restorative care to men, women, and children experiencing a homeless crisis. There are several ways you can make a donation: donate to Covenant (indicating "Rescue Mission" on the memo line); donate on Covenant's website or app; or visit fwrn.org

[Click here](#) to read the Rescue Mission's response after images of people sleeping on floors and benches in the hallways at the Rescue Mission were sent to WANE 15.



What can be done about the violence in our community?



Alive Community Outreach (ACO) is a faith-based 501(c)(3) with a mission **to cultivate a community of nonviolence through relationships and education**. They support families affected by homicide and educate youth & youth-serving organizations in nonviolence and conflict reconciliation. Rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy of nonviolence, they maintain that violence is ultimately a symptom of deeper issues that must be addressed in order to bring about lasting change.

Angelo Mante is the founder and Executive Director of Alive Community Outreach, which has become a strong community resource. There is currently an ACO staff at Southside High School where there is a noticeable reduction in violence at the school. The good news is that ACO has just signed a contract with FWCS to expand into multiple high schools. Watch for ways Covenant can become involved in the future with ACO at Northrup High School.

For more information about Alive Community Outreach, visit <https://alivefw.org/>

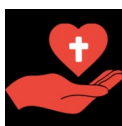
Opportunities to make a difference in Fort Wayne

1. Volunteer at Inasmuch Ministries (930 Broadway)

Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9-11am or Mon. 5-7pm

- * meet with clients
- * help with office work
- * help in the food or clothing pantry

Visit iam@gobroadway.org for information

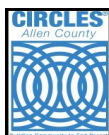


2. Circles of Allen County

Volunteer Mondays 5-7pm (includes meal & childcare)

- * Be an Ally (mentor) to those wanting out of poverty
- * help with a meal or childcare or be a greeter
- * make financial donations

Visit info@circlesofallencounty.org for more information.



For information on what the Mission & Outreach Team is doing or to become involved with the team contact: Barb Hering at barbhering@gmail.com

You've prayed for the hungry and homeless.
You've given financially to help feed the hungry, to provide programming and to build the building at 404 E. Washington.
You've been curious about the new building - what it's like and what goes on there.
 Now is the time to find out!

Covenant members, Terry Pargmann and Janet Hall are trained to give tours of

The Rescue Mission.

Just ask! You choose the day & time.

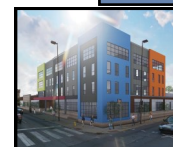
Contact Terry at

thepargmanns@frontier.com or

Janet at janet.hall60@gmail.com

to arrange your tour.

You will be amazed!



and



**LINCOLN
ELEMENTARY**

Did you know Covenant has a prayer box in the staff lounge at Lincoln School? The staff appreciates the prayers Covenant offers for them. Please keep the staff, students, and their families in your prayers.



News from Caleb and Amy Cox (rec'd 2-27-24)



Last night, I (Caleb) had the privilege of teaching the boys at our Cru weekly meeting. Every Monday night about 60 guys and girls from all the Plano campuses gather for games, a lesson, and small group discussion. The topic based on Matthew 7:7-11 was how difficulties can make it feel like God is stingy or uncaring when we ask him for things. But the reality is that God deeply cares for us and gives good gifts to his children. The more we trust his love and presence, the more of his peace we will have in our challenges.

After the teaching, we split up by grade into student-led small groups. The two seniors I was with did a great job encouraging their group of juniors to honestly share about times they've questioned God's love. One talked about doubting after a breakup and another about feeling unrecognized despite his efforts on the football team. Another shared, "In 8th grade, I was going through stuff that was



Caleb teaching at Monday night Cru

too much for me to handle. But when you have God in your life, you know that even if no one else is there for you, God is with you and has your back."



Students at Monday night Cru

It is encouraging to see God drawing these students closer to himself through good times and hard times. Thank you partnering with us in what God is doing. It is a privilege to get to disciple these students as God teaches them more about what he is like. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! It makes all of this possible.

PAST

Praise God for the student leaders and volunteers who lead and serve in various ways at Monday night Cru!

PRESENT

Please continue to pray for more open opportunities to meet students, help them grow in their faith, and reach out at their schools.

FUTURE

Three Plano students are going on a Cru spring break mission trip to Spain. Pray for them to grow in their faith as they share the love of Christ.

Caleb & Amy would love to hear from you!

Caleb.Cox@cru.org
(256) 258-9537

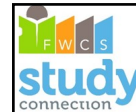
Amy.Palmer@cru.org
(260) 704-8753

4402 Cordova Lane
McKinney, TX 75070

To help support Caleb & Amy visit give.cru.org/0864190

Covenant helps to support Caleb & Amy and their ministry by sending them \$415 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget. Your donations to the church budget make this possible - thank you!

A report from leaders, Jenny Hines & Sue Weirich, about Covenant's Study Connection Program at Lincoln School:



"Study Connections at Lincoln is going very well. We currently have 13 students. We had 13 tutors however one person resigned. Jenny graciously offered to take her spot. We had seven subs but now have six, so we are still in good shape. February is our trickiest month so far due to some of our tutors heading south for a winter vacation (lucky them) but subs are filling in for those who are absent. Everyone is doing a wonderful job and seems to be enjoying their students. At our last session before Christmas break, we celebrated by having one of our tutors play an instrument and we sang songs and had games and treats. The year is going fast, and everything is going smoothly."



News from Mason & Claire Miller (rec'd 2/20/24)

What a month it's been! We've had the joy of hosting Mason's family in January and my family in February; it's such a gift to watch your people love the people and places that we love! When you move abroad, it kind of feels like that first week of college of trying to find your people + ground yourself so that you feel less lonely and so that it feels more like home. To bring our families into our home away from home is a big blessing.

We've been working tirelessly on planning our D-NOW event! We hit registration maximum capacity faster than ever despite not having our co-workers' help and despite the price going up from years' past. The gift of pouring in weekly to our students and this being our 4th D-NOW is that we've built up trust with our students + their parents, and they know that they can expect an impactful, life changing weekend.

Our weekend theme is Epic Fail, and we are praying that the students walk away with a sense that, despite all our failures, we are still loved beyond measure. That we are seen through the eyes of grace. That we can have courage to get back up and keep fighting when life knocks us down. That failure builds resiliency, power, and courage.

We feel like this message is so important to our students because so many of them have a hard time allowing themselves to still feel loved, cherished and accepting of grace when they make mistakes. We find our students to be so forgiving and understanding to everyone except themselves, so the message that they are recklessly pursued in spite of their mistakes is a timely message!

Life hasn't slowed down as we are in full blown planning mode! We are still having weekly youth group, community groups, meetings, and mentoring of students. Students are continued to be poured into and transformed by the Gospel, and we are honored to be a part of it, even if it feels a little crazy right now!

Our kids continue to bring us laughter and gray hair! Holland turns two this week (HOW?!) and Zion says he's so excited to have a "little big sister" who is now big enough to play with him. They spend their days outside, with friends, and learning! Zion loves doing "school" because then he gets 5 minutes of a show, and Holland loves when Zion does school because he leaves her alone for a few minutes (ha!) Holland is determined to potty train herself (while standing up like her brother). They make us laugh and lean on Jesus for help in parenting them with wisdom every day! Mason and I love doing ministry together and are grateful for the chance to be a team in work, parenting, and marriage.

We are beyond grateful for your continued support in our ministry as we seek to mentor, disciple, and walk with the next generation of multicultural students!

Much love across the ocean,
Claire, Mason, Zion, and Holland



Claire, Mason,
Holland, & Zion

Covenant helps to support Mason & Claire and their ministry by sending them \$415 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget. Your donations to the church budget make this possible - thank you! You can also join the Miller's support team at www.blueskyglobal.org/give-staff-millers or write a check to Covenant and indicate "for the Miller's" on the memo line. For more pictures, see the binder at the Mission Center.