



# Outside Our Walls

Covenant United Methodist Mission & Outreach Newsletter

October 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**October Food Bank Collection** - canned meat  
**Nov. 2** - Project 216 Food Packing Event  
**Nov. 16** - Red Cross Blood Drive at Covenant  
**Nov. 26** - "JA in a Day" at Lincoln: see page 3  
**Nov.** - Christmas Angel Projects: Gifts for Byron Residents & canned soup collection  
**Dec.** - Christmas Angel Projects: Gifts for children of the CASA program and Christmas offering



Thank you, Covenant!!  
 You donated 107 boxes of crayons and 31 boxes of colored pencils to Kate's Kart. Just imagine the joy your generosity will bring to a hospitalized child.

Covenant, thank you for over 80 boxes of cereal for Gethsemane Lutheran's Food Bank. Not only did you provide cereal but many other foods were also donated.



A treat for Lincoln's staff  
 A bag of microwave popcorn with a card that says:

*"Just **poppin'** in because we're **poppin'** with appreciation for all you do!  
 "Like a child, popcorn is a tiny seed with huge potential."  
 From your friends at Covenant UMC  
 Luke 18:16"*

Your monetary donations to the Mission Team allow us to show appreciation and care to the staff at Lincoln. Thank you!



Don't miss The Mission & Outreach Team exhibit at the Ministry Fair Oct. 13 & 20.

Find a place to serve or join the team!

### CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECTS FOR OCTOBER

Two ways to help feed the hungry!



### MEET THE NEED:



**Help pack meals at Covenant's Project 216 Food Packing Event Saturday, November 2 from 8:30-noon**

Signup now at the Welcome Desk or at [Covenantumc.net](http://Covenantumc.net)

We will be packing as many meals as we can because of the amazing donations given through the Lenten Offering.

Did you know the name "Project 216" comes from 3 sources?

- \* Every Project 216 box that is shipped contains **216 meals**.
- \* Every 2 hours at a packing event each volunteer will average **216 meals** designed to help the hungry thrive.
- \* **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?"

Each meal provides all the vitamins and minerals a child needs for a day. It's not just a meal, but a way to better health for starving children. The food Covenant packs on November 2 will be sent to Mission of Hope in Haiti and to Inasmuch Ministry in Fort Wayne.

**We need 120 people** of all ages to help with the packing. All ages are encouraged to participate, though children younger than 7 should be accompanied by an adult. Child care will be available for very young children.

**Signups are required** to allow the set up of enough assembly lines. Gloves and hair nets will be provided or you may wear a ball cap.

Questions? Contact Janet Hall at [janet.hall60@gmail.com](mailto:janet.hall60@gmail.com)

### MEAT THE NEED:

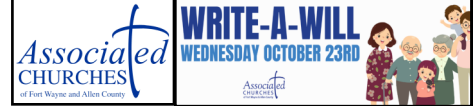
**Donate canned meat for Associated Churches Food Bank at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

- \* Canned meat ideas: tuna, salmon, corned beef, chicken, Spam, etc.
- \* Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center or make a monetary gift by check to Covenant (indicate "Food Bank"), or donate at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app.

Questions? Contact Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com)

**October Food Collection:  
Meat the Need with Canned Meat**

Leave donations at the Mission Collection Center to be taken to the Food Pantry at Gethsemane Lutheran Church



Did you know that at least 67% of Americans don't create a will during their lifetime?

Associated Churches can help during Write-a-Will week. On Wednesday, Oct. 23 you can meet with a local attorney who has volunteered to partner with Associated Churches to prepare your simple will. There is no charge when a gift in any amount is left to Associated Churches.

Why should you have a will?

- to ensure your family and loved ones will be protected and taken care of when you die
- To minimize estate or inheritance taxes
- To leave money to your family and favorite charitable organizations
- It is the only way to ensure your wishes will be carried out after you die
- Without a will, your estate administration may be chaotic and far more costly than if you die with a valid will

Please call Lydia at 422-3528 to schedule your appointment.



**Blood Drive Nov. 16 at Covenant!**

**Who can you help by donating blood?**

- \* Cancer patients
- \* Trauma patients
- \* Patients with chronic diseases
- \* Maybe someone you love
- \* Burn Patients
- \* Sickle Cell Patients

Schedule your appointment to give blood at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact Covenant member, Gina Loomis at [sam-gina@frontier.com](mailto:sam-gina@frontier.com)



**An opportunity to serve.....**

Help serve lunch at the Rescue Mission with others from Covenant on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month!**

You choose the month you want to serve. Ask a friend to serve with you! All you need is a smile and a willingness to greet and serve others. It's easy and fun!

Transportation provided from the Covenant parking lot. Leave at 10:45 and return about 1:00.

To sign up contact Terry Pargmann at 260-467-3070 or [tpargmann@gmail.com](mailto:tpargmann@gmail.com)



**A CO-LEADER IS NEEDED**  
**WHEN COVENANT HOSTS THE GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN FOOD BANK EVERY THURSDAY MORNING IN APRIL & OCTOBER**

Covenant donates to this food bank year round - let's continue our responsibility of hosting it also!

The co-leaders' responsibilities include

- ⇒ being present at the food bank every Thursday morning, 8:45-noon, in April and October to unlock the food bank, turn off the alarm & direct the volunteers; a sub may step in if they're unable to be there
- ⇒ you will NOT be responsible for scheduling volunteers - Shannon Clever has volunteered to do this
- ⇒ You will NOT be responsible for publicity or food delivery, unless you want to take this on :)

Steve Roser has been leading this ministry and is ready to turn the responsibility over to someone else. The Mission & Outreach Team appreciates Steve's dedication to this ministry and his desire to see Covenant's participation continue. Steve will explain everything a new food bank leader will need to know.

To learn more, contact Steve Roser at [srosler1309@gmail.com](mailto:srosler1309@gmail.com) or Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com).



## Volunteers are needed for Lincoln's "JA in a Day" Event at Lincoln on Tuesday, Nov. 26

"JA in a Day" is a high impact way to deliver JA's lessons in one day. Lincoln will have all grades (K-5<sup>th</sup>) participating on the same day.

What does a volunteer do?

- Participate in an 1-1/2 hour training session at the JA Building on Coldwater Road (date & time TBD)
- On Nov. 26 lead lessons in your assigned class at Lincoln
- Teachers are present at all times
- Arrive at the school at 8:30 and be finished by 1:30
- Enjoy Pizza Hut pizza and salad for lunch provided by JA
- A free background check through FWCS will be completed

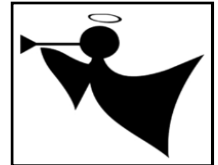


For more information visit [jausa.ja.org](http://jausa.ja.org) or contact Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com)

## 2024 Christmas Angel Projects

### OCTOBER

- \* **MEET the Need:** Volunteer to help at the Project 216 Food Packing Event" - see page 1
- \* **MEAT the Need:** Donate canned meat for Associated Churches Food Bank - see page 1



### NOVEMBER

- \* **GIFTS FOR BYRON WELLNESS COMMUNITY RESIDENTS:** Help fill wish lists of residents of Byron Wellness Community, many who are lonely and forgotten at Christmas.
  - \* Wish lists will be available early November with gifts due back **Nov. 17.**
  - \* Thanks to Peg & Steve Roser for leading this project.
- \* **CANNED SOUP COLLECTION:** Soup for the hungry for Associated Churches Food Bank.
  - \* Leave your soup donations at the Mission Collection Center from **Oct. 27 - Nov. 24.**
  - \* Or make a monetary gift by check to Covenant (indicate "Food Bank"), or at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app.



### DECEMBER

- \* **GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF THE CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) PROGRAM:**
  - \* Find gift wishes on a Christmas tree in the church lobby starting **Sunday, Dec. 1.**
  - \* Wrapped gifts, with the tag attached, must be returned by **Sunday, Dec. 15.**
  - \* Or make a monetary gift by check to Covenant (indicate "CASA gifts"), or at [covenantumc.net](http://covenantumc.net) or on Covenant's app and project leader, Pat Fosdick, and her helpers will shop for you.
- \* **CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Make a special offering during the **month of December** as a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and make a difference in the lives of others.
  - \* This Offering will be divided between **Life for Children Ministry** in Kenya, **Inasmuch Ministry** in Fort Wayne and **The Rescue Mission** in Fort Wayne.



Questions? Contact Barb Hering at [barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com) or 482-8486

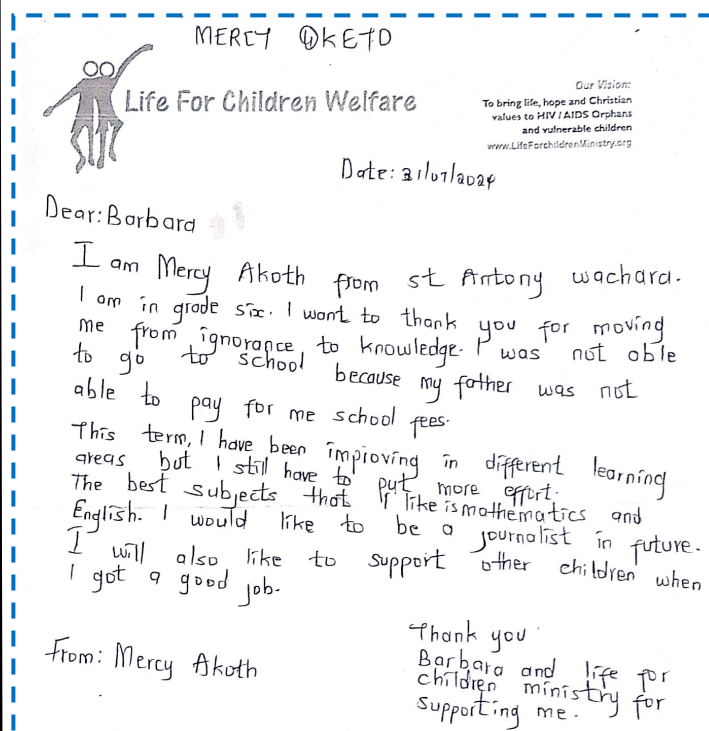


## COVENANT MEMBERS SHARE THE STORY OF ONE OF THE LIFE FOR CHILDREN MINISTRY (LCM) ORPHANS THEY SPONSOR

Barb and Perry Clark have been supporting Life for Children Ministry orphans since 2006 after Michael Agwanda, founder of the ministry, first visited Covenant. After Covenant's Mission trip to Kenya in 2014 the Clarks sponsored another child. A couple of years after that, they sponsored 2 more children. The original children have all aged out of the program but they have continued to sponsor children and currently sponsor 4 children. One of the children they have been sponsoring is Mercy Akoth Okeyo who is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The following is an update on how Mercy is doing, sent by the ministry and shared by Barb Clark.

*"Just like other pupils, Mercy has closed school for August holiday. They will be at home for a period of three weeks before they resume back to school for third term classes. By the end of her second term examinations; Mercy manage to be number one out of forty two pupils in her class with 361 marks out of 500. This is a good performance and we encourage her for even much better performance in her next examinations. Mercy is excited and very happy with her perform; she promised to put more efforts in her academics so that she can achieve her dream career of becoming a journalist and help other orphaned children in the society. We really thank you Mrs. Barbara for your sponsorship. It is a blessing to Mercy and her family.*

*Two years after the death of Mercy's Mother, Mr. Bernard (Mercy's father) has remarried. He is staying with her new wife who will help him in raising and taking care of his five children when he is out late. Mr. Benard depends on ridding motorbike for transportation. We pray that Mercy's step mother will be a caring mother."*



This is a letter from Mercy



Life For Children Ministry, (LCM) a 501(c)(3) charity, provides family-based care for children who have been partially or totally orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in western Kenya. They work with local churches, schools, and trusted community members to identify the most vulnerable of these children.

LCM believes the best environment for a child is a stable and loving home. They work diligently to find the closest extended family member, who is willing and able to take the child in and be their guardian. Once they have placed the child into a home, they continue to keep a close relationship with the guardian and child to ensure that the best love and care is being provided. Sponsorship (\$65/month)

provides clothing, food, education (including uniforms & fees), health care and Christian teachings.

Barb Clark is very interested in talking with you about her experience in sponsoring LCM orphans.

You can contact her at [barbaraclark04091947@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraclark04091947@gmail.com) or at 260-452-7404.

Contact Barb Hering ([barbhering@gmail.com](mailto:barbhering@gmail.com)) to learn how you can sponsor a child.





## News from Mason & Claire Miller (rec'd Sept. 19, 2024)

September has been a month of healthy rhythms (in a good homeschool routine, work life balance, and feeling better pregnancy wise); sweet ministry moments (camping with 30 high schoolers, long fire-side chats, kids asking deep questions, and more and more new kids showing up for youth group); and excitement and grief about finishing our ministry well here.

Our camping trip was a highlight this month. We went to the tea fields to a campground with epic (read: very homemade) waterslides, beautiful hikes, and swimming holes. Being able to just be a kid and splash in the water is rare here, so it felt like some core memories were being made! That night, we sat around the campfire and talked deeply about people pleasing and how that can easily turn into an idol in our lives. The teens were eager to participate and share about how being a third culture kid (someone who lives in a different culture than their home country) can give you the super power of connecting with anyone anywhere, but how this can sometimes turn into a dangerous game of trying to seek approval and be liked



by anyone, anywhere. My 30 minute lesson turned into an hour discussion about how we can overcome this temptation, find our identity in God, and not strive to earn the approval of man, but God. Both Mason and I continued to have fireside talks with students for hours after, processing with them about who they want to become and their next steps of faith.



The trip was such a good reminder of the incredible privilege we have of loving these students, being a constant presence in their lives, and how we can constantly learn from them. Our church always says "youth aren't the future of the church, but the church today", and we have the honor of a front row seat of seeing how they are leading, inspiring others, and worshiping God with an honest desire. It also brought up a lot of mixed emotions about next year and our transition! On the one hand, we feel so grateful to be near family and friends again, in a culture that feels familiar, and on the other hand, we are grieving the loss of a place that has felt like home since 2018, friends who have become family, work that has become meaningful, and relationships with youth that are so life giving.

Would you please pray for us that we would have peace in the upcoming year as we put the hard work into transitioning well (empowering others to take over our work, preparing our students for our absence, and saying goodbye well.) Please pray for open doors for work opportunities as well!

Lastly, would you pray about considering joining our support team for 12 months so that we can cover the costs of increased rent, debrief training, off-boarding flights, costs of flying luggage home, and new baby (due Feb. 28), and a transition salary before we start work in the states. We are praying for 4 new monthly donors to join our team for the next year to take us through August of 2025.

If you're interested or have any questions, we would love to hear from you and schedule a zoom to tell you more about our work and ways your support can help us!

Thank you for your constant support, love, and prayers! With love, The Millers

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](http://www.blueskyglobal.org/give-staff-millers) or write a check to Covenant and indicate "for the Miller's" on the memo line.



Zion, Mason,  
Holland & Claire



**Caleb and Amy's Adventures - in ministry with Cru**  
(received Sept. 24, 2024)



“How many of you have heard the story Jesus told about the prodigal son?”

I (Caleb) looked around the group of about 60 freshmen football players huddled under the shade of an equipment shade. I expected this to be a familiar story. To my surprise, only about five of them raised their hands. Evan, a youth pastor at the church where we have our Monday night Cru meetings, went on.

He proceeded to tell them about the lavish love and surprising forgiveness of a father overjoyed that his son was back home again. As Evan continued to speak, I silently prayed that the freshman hearing this story for the first time would have their eyes opened to understand the depth of God's love and grace towards them.

Because of restrictions from the administration, Vines freshmen haven't been a part of these chapels for a few years. But because the Vines freshmen practice at a different high school this year, they are finally able to participate! Local youth pastors, our boss Benton, and I are taking turns sharing Bible stories, mostly from the life and parables of Jesus. Every week players line up to shake our hands and tell us thank you for coming. Their desire to learn more about God is obvious!



Sharing the gospel with the freshmen

As always, our ability to be on the field working with high schoolers is made possible by your faithful prayers and support! Thank you for coming alongside us in our ministry!

**PAST**

Praise God for open doors with the freshmen football team and for their spiritual hunger. Pray that the stories they are hearing would open their eyes to who God is.

**PRESENT**

Pray that the players would start coming to Monday night Cru so that they can be plugged in after the football season ends.

**FUTURE**

Continue to pray for God to raise up student leaders at Vines High School who want to reach out to their friends and start a Bible study at their school.

**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

Covenant helps to support Caleb & Amy and their ministry by sending them \$415 a month, which comes from the Mission & Outreach Team's budget.

To help support Caleb & Amy make a donation to Covenant (indicate Caleb & Amy Cox) or visit [give.cru.org/0864190](https://give.cru.org/0864190)



**Covenant in going to Guatemala!**

**November 1-8, 2025**

Dian Lute, was part of the Covenant team that went to Guatemala in February 2024 and would love to share her experiences with you.

Contact Dian at [dianalute@gmail.com](mailto:dianalute@gmail.com) to learn more about what the trip will be like.

**A Baby's Closet is in Need of DIAPERS & WIPES**

A Baby's Closet is a ministry of Associated Churches which helps families experiencing hardships by providing essential baby items to safely and adequately care for their children.

Over 23,000 diapers were distributed in 2023. A Baby's Closet is now experiencing a need for diapers & wipes. Leave donated diapers & wipes at the Mission Collection Center.

Learn more about A Baby's Closet and other ministries of Associated Churches at [associatedchurches.org](https://associatedchurches.org)

