Happy Fall Everyone!
How lucky are we to live in Southern California? Blue skies, just a tinge of Fall weather, maybe a little rain here and there...

But as winter approaches – even in this beautiful land of sunshine and palm trees – we need to remember that there will be many, many cold and hungry and wet people this winter. We need to remember to love our neighbors, the homeless, the marginalized, the underserved, both individuals and families with children – with food, used clothing (especially socks!), blankets, donations of volunteer hours and funds – to help support the hundreds of people that come through LSS’s doors every day, every week, every month, and all year long.

Between now and the end of winter, LSS is collecting gently used footwear for men, women and children. Any size, any material, anything that is used, but not totally worn out is needed. Shoes are important to everybody, but especially to the poor and overburdened when the weather turns cold or rainy.

Ask your church to collect shoes from the parish. You can either drop off the shoes at your nearest LSS Community Care Center or invite an LSS person on a Sunday to thank the congregation and offer a prayer of blessing for the gifts of the shoes, and for those children of God who will receive them.

“This is not just a used shoe drive. This is a commitment to collect all types of SOLES for all kinds of SOULS.”

Contact Debi Groon 714-244-4261 DGroon@LSSCommunityCare.org

The Word Became Flesh

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.

150 Hygiene Kits were given to our Long Beach Center. They were provided by Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamitos.

9 Boxes of Food were donated to our LSS Garden Grove Pantry by Redeemer Lutheran in Seal Beach.

Lutheran Social Services is blessed to work with awesome congregations like these.

Blessings,
Jan Maseda
Interim CEO/President
LSS Community Care

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LCMS 2015-2016
Hearts for Jesus Project
Beginning last month, the Missouri Synod chapel offerings from all their schools in Southern California will be directed toward LSS. This is the start of a deliberate strategy to connect Lutheran schools at all levels with community engagement provided by LSS. More details will be forthcoming. We are blessed to have this partnership in Christ with the LCMS.

SALEM
Lutheran Church
50th Anniversary Celebration
On Sunday, September 27 Salem observed their 50th Birthday. The theme of the celebration was God’s Faithfulness. They reflected on their history and the spiritual leaders who helped form their congregation. Then they reached out to others.

They donated, then delivered to our Garden Grove food pantry, 52 bags of food, toiletries and house hold products. In addition, they collected $1,100 in cash to support the centers on going needs.

Congratulations to everyone at Salem, and thank you for thinking about LSS on your special day.

On Saturday October 3rd, CCLM and San Bernardino County LSS representatives participated in the LSS Walk to Fight Poverty. Walkers from 6 to 68 walked the track at San Bernardino High School for almost two hours.

October 3rd “Walk to Fight Poverty” Walk-A-Thon
TOTAL LSS: 234 WALKERS and 584 MILES

Sunday August 30 CCLM honored its volunteers at the 5 PM vespers service, and they were then treated to a meal along with community members and residents of the mission.

Pictured is Rev. Lara Martin, Amy Fawcett and Deborah Stilt.

Our Caring Neighbors Program in San Diego was the recipient of two Thrivent Action Team grants. Most of the supplies were bought with Thrivent monies. Caring Neighbors helped supplement the supplies.

Saturday September 19 a local Realtors Group painted the entire exterior of a mobile home.

Sunday September 20 volunteers from Carlton Hills Lutheran Church worked with several seniors, installing grab bars and smoke/CO detectors, yard clean up and house cleaning.

LSS is proud of our Caring Neighbors Program, and grateful for the continuing support from Thrivent.
LSS Vehicle Donation Program

As we move into the last quarter of 2015 don’t miss your chance to donate your car, truck or other vehicle to the Lutheran Social Services of Southern California vehicle donation program. You can get rid of that car in your driveway that nobody wants, or begin the process of purchasing the new car you need. The tax benefit alone will be worth it. And, the proceeds will go toward assisting those in our many communities in search of help and hope.

“Call us at 844-530-GIVE (844-530-4483) or online at www.LSSCommunityCare.org.”

Embrace someone in crisis, and start the new year with a bounce to your step. Donating is easy. Give us a call and we’ll take care of the rest; from picking up the vehicle, to processing the paperwork, to making certain the donation makes it to LSS and the ministries you already support.

The Southwest California Synod Women of ECLA have agreed to “Fill the Truck” in support of our LSS Community Care Center in Long Beach.

Long Beach needs to purchase a used truck, with a forklift, in order to pick up larger and healthier varieties of food donations on behalf of our many clients. The goal of the project is to purchase 100 “Bags” at the price of $57.50. Once we get the 100 bags underwritten by raising $5,750 we will be half way toward reaching our goal.

Combat Radio Broadcast from Canoga Park

August 11 was an evening of food, fun, family and faith in the San Fernando Valley. Combat Radio brought Our Place Bar-B-Que to the families and homeless individuals who are clients at our LSS Canoga Park office. Over 150 people attended.

Live on the air music was provided by DJ Jerry Machado, and everyone enjoyed a meal of chicken, green beans, rice, bread and cake.

A young woman, dressed as Belle, from the Disney movie took photos with all the children in attendance and handed out candy.
Many people build retirement earnings by creating a deferred gift annuity. They leave a legacy of giving.

How it Works:
- You transfer cash or securities (stocks/CDs that produce little dividends or interest) to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.
- You receive a charitable deduction.
- Beginning on a specified date in the future, which you designate, LSS begins to pay you, or up to two annuitants you name (generally husband and wife), fixed annuity payments for life.
- The remaining balance passes to LSS when the contract ends.

Benefits:
- Deferral of payments permits a higher annuity rate and generates a larger charitable deduction.
- You can target annuity payments to begin when you need them, such as retirement, or when a grandchild needs help with tuition payments.
- The longer you defer payments, the higher the effective rate you will receive.
- A portion of your annuity payments will be tax-free.

“Legacies are footprints we leave behind after we die. They prove that we were here: we lived, we mattered, we made a difference.” – Rachel Freed

For more information, call Dr. Walker Railey, LSS Chief Development Officer, at 714.244.4276