

Social Ministry Committee Update - May 2020

We would like to share with you places to get food assistance in our area as well as some new volunteer opportunities. Besides supporting Messiah during this covid-19 time, we would like to encourage you to support the greater church body and the world during this global pandemic.

- ♥ **The Greater Cleveland Food Bank** has an interactive map of a current list of open hot meal sites and food pantries near Messiah. Please note you must register before attending a drive-thru food distribution: <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/get-help/map>. To volunteer visit: <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give-help/volunteer> Note: all volunteer shifts are currently cancelled, but this site is updated weekly. To donate visit: [greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give](https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give).
- ♥ **The ELCA has a Covid-19 Response Fund.** You can help the ministries of the ELCA by supporting your local congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's Covid-19 Response Fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and church wide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. <https://community.elca.org/advanced-donation-form/covid-19-response-fund>
- ♥ **The Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC)** is open. Clients may pick up food and donations are being accepted. We ask you to please continue collecting items for Messiah's Lenten Food Drive at home and drop them off at church when Messiah reopens. Delivery to the HEFC will resume after the church reopens.
- ♥ **LMM Men's Shelter, Wellness Center and offices are open to clients, but closed to the public and volunteers.** LMM serves and often employ some of the most vulnerable populations in our community. If you would like to contribute during this covid-19 time, they are gratefully accepting pre-packaged meals or meal sponsorships at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside. Please contact Lydia Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator at the Men's Shelter, 216.566.0047, for more info. To donate visit: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=581a81>
- ♥ **LWR Personal Care Kit Collection.** The Social Ministry Committee & Sunday School have set a goal to collect the items needed for 50 Personal Care Kits. We ask you to please collect these items at home and drop them off at church when Messiah reopens. LWR Personal Care Kits are given to families whose homes are destroyed or who must flee for safety. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, people are scared, vulnerable and dirty from travel. These kits provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. The items needed are towels, soap, toothbrushes, and nail clippers. Combs no longer needed!
- ♥ **ELCA Sanctuary Denomination Educational Campaign**
The social ministry committee has placed educational posters about the ELCA's history of helping refugees through the work of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) by Messiah's coffee station. Visit lirs.org for more info on this organization.