

CHARLESTON AREA CHURCHES
FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

**“for I was hungry and You gave me food;
I was thirsty and You gave me drink; I
was a stranger and You took me in.”**

Matthew 25:35

Hours M-W-F 1:30-4:00 & Th 5:30-7:00



SEPTEMBER 2018

PANTRY NEWS

The pantry has been extremely busy this past month. Almost every distribution day had 40-50 families coming in for food assistance, with many of them being first time clients. A few of the new families are headed by single parents, which is hard enough without worrying about providing enough food for your children.

One good thing about school being back in session is that most of the children the pantry serves are eligible for free or reduced school breakfast and lunches.

The pantry is still receiving some produce from local gardeners, this is such a gift, and very appreciated.

THANKS

The pantry has a big THANK YOU to Matt Miller of Mattoon Electric for donating the water heater for the new sink in the hallway. There is now hot water for hand washing close to the pantry. This is such a safeguard for pantry volunteers to help prevent cross contamination when handling foods.

A special thank you to Mary Larson for donating birthday bags for distribution to children having birthdays in August and September. These bags have a cake mix,

frosting, a disposable pan, decorative plates and napkins, candles, and a small toy for the children. It helps make a fun time even better.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Aid donated 55# of food, thank you ladies!

Peoples Bank and Trust purchased 2 hogs at the Coles County Fair 4-H auction, and donated the processed meat to the pantry.

SBLHC also donated the profit from the sale of beef from the fair.

Memorials continued for Vineta Springer, as well as for Caroline Christanson, and Bob Rupel. What a wonderful way to honor these loved ones by giving to help others.

AUGUST NUMBERS

Families - 545 Individuals - 1,972
Meals - 17,748 Children > 18 – 756

FUN FACTS – TOMATOES

- Tomatoes originated in western South America. The Aztecs are believed to be the first to cultivate them.
- There are 7,500 varieties which are divided into many groups depending on size and shape.
- Tomatoes are botanically a fruit since they are the berry of a flowering plant, however they are considered a culinary vegetable due to having a lower sugar content than culinary fruits.
- As of 2014, the largest tomato on record weighed in at 7pounds 14 ounces, and was grown by Gordon Graham of Edmond OK.
- Vines tend to die out before all the tomatoes are ripe, leaving many green tomatoes hanging on. These green ones can be ripened by placing in a brown paper bag.

