



**Who We Are & What We Do**

Luther Memorial’s Social Ministry Committee oversees the Benevolence Budget, organizes Change for Change, approves requests for the Good Shepherd Fund, and informs the congregation of ways to minister to those in need in our community.

**February**

**Change for Change**

**Blacksburg Refugee Partnership**

December’s total for the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership \$506.54

**Stock the Pantries!!!**

**Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**



**Soup** The Pantry always needs Hearty Soups such as Progresso, Chili, or Chunky soups.

**Micah’s Mini Pantry**



**Peanut Butter & Jelly and Ravioli, SpaghettiOs** Plastic containers are safer.

**Donate!**

You can donate to Change for Change or any Social Ministry charities LMLC supports by scanning one of the codes with your smart phone and designating where you want your money to go.



PayPal Scan Code



Venmo Scan Code

**Change for Change – Micah’s Closet**

Micah’s Closet was started at St. Michael Lutheran Church, and they buy a new set of fall and spring clothes for children who are in need at Prices Fork Elementary. We expanded the program by adopting 21 children at Eastern Montgomery Elementary in the fall of 2022. Micah’s Closet works closely with the school staff and school counselor, Jessica Linkous to provide new clothing for identified children. The school staff and counselor select the children who need clothes and provide the sizes. We never know who we are helping in order to protect the child. In 2023, we raised money for both the Fall and Spring semesters. The cost of a week’s worth of clothes runs from \$185 to \$200 depending on the age of the child. In the fall each child was provided with 5 pairs of pants, 7 long sleeve shirts, 5-10 pairs of underwear, 7 to 10 pairs of socks, a light jacket/ hoodie and 1 pair of PJs. In the spring we provide each child with 2 pairs of pants, 3 pairs of shorts, 7 short sleeve shirts, 5-10 pairs of underwear, 7 to 10 pairs of socks, one jacket/hoodie and one pair of pajamas.

The Social Ministry Committee has designated the Spring as our fundraising period for both the spring and fall periods. We estimate we will need approximately \$9550 in monetary donations and/or in-kind donations to help 25 children in the spring and 25 children in the fall.

**Quilted Bags for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**



Thank you to Lois Voss and to the quilters and sewers that have been making sturdy cloth bags for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. This is a joint project of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and The Quilting Party, Blacksburg’s quilt guild. The bags are made from fabric donated by three households. At least 70 totes have been made so far, and the project will continue into 2024.

**Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry Update**



As you know, the Pantry has been experiencing increasing numbers of customers. We are spending more money than we are taking in and depleting our reserves. Since we lost our wholesale dealer for meat, we have been purchasing directly from the grocery stores in our area. We now purchase hamburger from Virginia Tech at a reasonable price but not chicken. Working with Mike Whaley, owner of PK’s and Top of the Stairs, the Pantry is going to set up a repackaging station which includes installing three stainless steel sinks and tables using our current infrastructure. Mike will train a group of volunteers to repackage 40-pound packages of chicken. The cost of the station setup is approximately \$5,000. The savings to the pantry will be approximately \$60,000 a year. If you would like to contribute to this project, just mark your contribution for the Food Pantry in the offering or send it to the church office. We hope to pledge \$1,000 towards this project.