

# Helping Hands

To the Members of St. Paul's:

Throughout the Scriptures we learn that the promises of God are for all people everywhere. From Abraham to Solomon to Jesus to the Church, we hear that the Good News of Jesus Christ is for all people. Abraham had received the promise of becoming a great nation and his seed becoming a blessing to the world. For a time, Solomon's kingdom became a blessing to the nations around Israel. And with the advent of Jesus, the only begotten Son, the world is blessed through His life, death, and resurrection.

The message of the Gospel is the Truth that transcends culture and language and age. Christ our Lord says in Matthew 28:19-20, ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..."***

In the Acts of the Apostles, we see the proclamation of the Gospel spread into all nations.

The Church's mission is to spread the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to the world without distinction. This message is for every person regardless of income, race, language, nationality, or sex. The Church is concerned with the eternal soul, but also the body. After all, Christ took on human flesh, and human flesh will be raised on the Last Day. Throughout the centuries, the Church has started hospitals, cared for widows and orphans, the poor and homeless, and buried the dead. This is no different for our congregation.

Last year, St. Paul's began a new initiative to become more present in the community. The question became: how can we help the community around us both in word and deed? In answer to this question, we were presented with the Helping Hands Initiative. For the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, The Lutheran Foundation awarded a special grant for congregations to enter into their community. Last year we used this grant to show mercy to the East Central Neighborhood. The goal was to help homeowners fix up areas in their homes that had accrued fines because of code violations. This presented a great opportunity for the neighborhood to see our concern and love of our community. It also gave rise to many great conversations and occasions to proclaim the Gospel.

Once again this summer, we are going back into our community, both to show love and tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. This year we also desire to get more of the congregation involved. There will be more information to follow how you can help regardless of Your skill level. It is our sincere hope that those in our communities will see the love of Christ and hear of His forgiveness for all people.

Joy,  
Pr. Smith