



House of Prayer

Evangelical Lutheran Church

MINISTERS: EVERYONE
PASTOR: MICHAEL SOURWINE
724/375-2033
FAX: 724/375-2033

2100 IRWIN STREET
ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA 15001-2943
www.hoplutheran.org
[hopelc@hoplutheran.org](mailto:hopolc@hoplutheran.org)

Dear friends in Christ,

I am part of the House of Prayer church community. I want to tell you about a vision of ours and invite your participation. We at House of Prayer have been reflecting on what it means to be a Christian community here in Aliquippa. What are some of the needs around here and how do we fit in with those needs? We have realized that we, in many ways, are a truly blessed community. We believe that we are called to share what we have and be a blessing to others.

One way in which we are trying to extend God's love into our community is by starting a meal at our church to feed the homeless, hungry and lonely in Aliquippa and our surrounding communities. We believe that God wants us to reach out to those less fortunate and that this would be a terrific way to do that. Although there is one other church in Aliquippa that offers a lunchtime meal, there is no other evening meal offered.

We will be beginning this new project in October 2010. Our goal is to host a weekly dinner at House of Prayer starting October 5 on Tuesday evenings from 5:30PM to 6:30PM. We have decided to name our outreach "Manna", which is the biblical name of a sweet-tasting food that God provided to sustain his people as they escaped slavery. In our own way, we hope to provide food and companionship for people in our community who are in the bounds of poverty, illness or even just loneliness.

However, we can not (and should not!) support this ministry alone. We are searching for other partners in the community who would be willing to work with us. We are looking for a number of other church communities or social organizations to join with us. With this approach, the expense would not be too large for any one group, and we could accomplish extraordinary things for the people in our community who need help.

Will you consider being one of our partners? The following are some of the ways you could help:

- Commit to serving a meal 4 times a year at House of Prayer for approximately 50 people. The meals do not have to be fancy or expensive – just filling and dependable. Some other churches have told us that franks n' beans or simple spaghetti are some of the favorite meals of their guests!
- If you can not commit to serving a meal 4 times per year, you could commit to serving just once sometime in our first quarter of operation (from October through January) to try it out and see how it goes. If it does not work for you, we understand. However, I'm guessing that you will find your hearts so filled with joy and compassion that you will want to serve again!
- If you can not commit to serving a meal at all, would you at least consider making a donation to our ministry? Although we will try to work as economically as possible, the reality is that we will need donations of supplies and cash to begin and continue reaching out to the community. Some of the types of things we will need are paper plates, paper cups, placemats, plastic utensils, drinks and money. Any of these things would be an enormous help, and extremely appreciated.

Maybe you can even think of some other ways that would help that we have not even thought of! Of course, any donation that you make is totally tax deductible.

The truth is, we at House of Prayer, generally seem to have enough food. Sometimes, we even have too much food and we end up throwing it out. I'll bet your church or organization is the same way. It makes me so sad to think that there are children who live so close to me that go to bed hungry because their families can not make dinner for them. Maybe there are parents who do not eat any dinner themselves because there is not enough food for their children if they eat, too. Maybe there are elderly people who do not feel like eating dinner because they are so lonely and do not like to eat alone. There are so many different types of people that we could help if we work together. Wouldn't it be nice if they knew that at least once a week they could count on being able to have dinner at our church?

Will you join with us?

God's peace,