



# Small Groups

# Service Opportunities

Through service projects, a small group will bond closer as a community while sharing unique experiences as well as the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus states in Mark 1, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Jesus came down to earth giving up part of himself so that others might live. Now, we as his followers, walk in his ways and serve not out of guilt or obligation, but simply out of the same love that he gave down to earth to share with us. As a small group (when your group is ready for this step), please pray about what and where you feel the call to serve.

Several ways that your small group can serve others in/with the name of Jesus Christ are listed below.



# **SERVE EACH OTHER**

## **IN MUSIC MINISTRY**

### **Jammin' for Jesus**

This is an event that takes place in the first weekend of June. There are many different opportunities to serve such as helping with children's games, setting up, tearing down, serving food and garbage pick up. This normally a three hour event and most jobs can be done as a group.

Contact Mary Kay at [MaryKay@lccaltoona.org](mailto:MaryKay@lccaltoona.org).

## **IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

### **Vacation Bible School**

This takes place in the summer, and has many different opportunities for people to serve with their different gifts. This is a great opportunity for your small group to serve children with the Gospel Message.

Contact Stephanie Orbhart at [Steph@lccaltoona.org](mailto:Steph@lccaltoona.org).

## **IN WORSHIP MINISTRY**

### **Communion and usher**

At any of the services offered at LCC, there is a need for people to serve as ushers and communion servers. This is a GREAT way to serve the congregation as a GROUP and to really get to know each other in a better way.

Sign up in the lobby of the Worship Center.

## **IN PRAYER MINISTRY**

The prayer ministry is a frontline ministry of Lutheran Church of the Cross, and they meet 5:00 pm on Thursdays and 8:00 am on Saturdays in the Prayer Room. Your small group can volunteer and pray for all areas of the church.

Contact Gwen at [Gwen@lccaltoona.org](mailto:Gwen@lccaltoona.org).

## **IN THE MAINTENANCE OF LCC**

### **Landscaping**

There are many opportunities to serve the community of LCC by taking care of the building and the lawn of LCC. Some of these opportunities include, adopting a flower bed, weeding, watering, and so on. This is a great chance to be out doors and have some fun as a group.

Contact Laurel Swanson at [Laurel@lccaltoona.org](mailto:Laurel@lccaltoona.org).

## **SERVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

### **BY PROVIDING RESOURCES**

#### **Clothes Hanger**

Volunteers help sort cloths and work in the Clothes Hanger. Clothes Hanger is open four times a month and is located on Main Street

(Olde Town) in Altoona.

Contact Central Place at 967-7806.

#### **Not New Shop**

Iowa Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary runs the Not New Shop. They use volunteers to sort the supplies and clothing that has been donated along with staffing the store when it is open.

Contact person is Elizabeth Johnson at 266-7610.

#### **American Cancer Society Discovery Shop**

Volunteers needed to work in shops a few hours a week. All the money raised goes to Luther Park Senior Services. The shop is open Monday through Saturday.

Contact Bonnie Baldwan at 225-3366.

#### **School-Supply Giveaway**

Volunteers sort, organize and distribute the supplies during the two-day giveaway in the Fall before School starts.

Contact Central Place, 967-7806.

#### **Transportation Assistance**

Volunteers are needed to give rides to people to their needed appointments.

Contact Altoona Christian Church.

### **Hope Ministries**

Hope Ministries provides a lot of valuable services in a variety of programs and facilities each and every year to some of the most broken and despairing people in Des Moines. They offer a variety of service and volunteer opportunities for your group to become personally involved and show some of the "forgotten" people that someone cares about them. For the variety of opportunities Hope Ministries provides, you can volunteer as a group once or on-going.

See <http://www.hopeiowa.org/> for more information.

## **BY PROVIDING FOOD**

### **Christian Food Pantry**

Volunteers are needed to stock shelves and to assist community members accessing the Food Pantry. Contact Larry O'Connor at 967-5184.

### **Monday Night Suppers**

Small groups can serve free dinners on the last Monday of each month to community members using the Christian Food Pantry.

Contact Larry O'Connor at 967-5184.

### **Kid's Café**

This is a summer weekday lunch and learning activities program for young children. Volunteers needed to help make lunches, deliver lunches to the sites, help with activities and form positive relationships with the children.

Contact Cathy Beck-Cross at 967-7806.

### **The Connection Café**

This is a free lunch program offered at downtown Des Moines. Volunteers needed to provide ingredients, to help put lunches together and serve them. Days that you can serve are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Contact Rob Hoover, Coordinator 771-1481.

## **BY PROVIDING COMFORT**

### **Hospice of Iowa**

There is a number of volunteer opportunities.  
1206 Mulberry Street in Des Moines.  
If interested, contact them at 557-3100.

### **Taylor House (Hospice)**

There is a number of volunteer opportunities.  
3401 E. Douglas in Des Moines.  
If interested, contact them at 557-3111.

### **The Family Violence Center**

This co-exists with Children & Families of Iowa and they are in need of volunteers to work directly with the clients. A person must complete extensive training for working in the capacity of taking crisis calls and helping to take in clients into shelters.

Other volunteer opportunities include one time tasks (that require no training needed) such as: organizing and providing activities for families (Christmas parties, school supply drive), cleaning, preparing meals, and dropping in to have conversation with women and children at this facility.

Volunteers must need to be able to cope with crisis situations, empathetic and non-judgmental, able to make decisions, caring and sensitive, able to communicate effectively and flexible, patient and perceptive.

Contact 243-6147 for information about volunteering.

## **DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

### **Season of Sharing**

Season of Sharing is a program at Central Place where they match SEP District families that are in need with sponsor/sponsors who provides gifts, food, gift certificates, and clothing for Christmas.

Volunteers are needed to organize donations, put together food boxes and get packages ready for distribution to the families.

Contact Central Place 967-7806.

### **Christmas Family Dinners**

Volunteers are needed to cook, serve, greet and eat with community members who have accessed the Food Pantry in the last year. Dinner served the Sunday night before Christmas.

Contact Larry O'Connor at 967-5184.

## **SERVE THE WORLD**

### **THROUGH GIVING GIFTS**

#### **Compassion International**

Serve a child in poverty by collecting money as a group and sponsoring this child with a monthly donation. Your group can write letters of encouragement and faith to your child, as well as receive letters from your child. This creates on-going relationship that is as (if not more) valuable than the financial donation.

For more information, check out  
<http://www.compassion.com/default.htm>

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

This event takes place around Christmas time. Fill a shoe box full of small toys, hygienic items, washcloths, small books, etc. and drop it off at one of the local drop off sites. It will be taken to a child in a poor country. The child receives this gift while they learn about Jesus Christ and a presentation of the Gospel Message is made to them in many different ways. A small group can together fill one or more shoe boxes (even of the same item). This is a great chance to invite children or grandchildren to help with this service.

For more information  
<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC.asp?MPGID=1>  
<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

## **Gospel for Asia**

Gospel for Asia works in to plant churches in unreached areas by send native missionaries through a connection with other local churches in other countries. Gospel for Asia trains and sends native missionaries (missionaries that grew up in that area) because they have proven extremely effective. They are already familiar with the language and culture, and they live at the level of the people they serve, thus removing many social barriers.

Gospel for Asia sends 100 percent of the money donated goes for work on the mission field to the field. Nothing is taken out for administrative expenses.

Sponsor a native missionary (or a child) as a small group, and take part in spreading the Gospel Message to Asia.  
<http://www.gfa.org/sponsorship>

## **THROUGH GOING**

### **MLCC** (Mission Committee at LCC)

There are many opportunities to go and serve in many different countries as a small group doing construction, planning children's activities, providing medical services, etc. Mission trips are valuable and are unbelievable experiences we you can see God's work in the world. This is a perfect way to serve and an experience to share with your small group.

Contact Dan Adams at [daniel2485@mchsi.com](mailto:daniel2485@mchsi.com).

## **RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL IDEAS**

**They Will Know Us by Our Love: Service Ideas for Small Groups**, published by Group Publishing

**250 Big Ideas for Purpose Driven Small Groups**, by Pastor Steve Gladen and Pastor Lance Witt

**The Church of Irresistible Influence**, by Robert Lewis