

Orphan Grain Train †

Relief for Human Need Worldwide



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Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus



Serving Those In Need

18 Happy smiles after loading a semi at Gethsemane Lutheran church, [Colorado West Collection Center, in Northglenn, CO.](#) Volunteers from Risen Savior, Peace Lutheran and others, loaded 336 boxes of clothing, linens, etc., 60 boxes of isolation gowns, 52 preschool cots, sleeping bags, bicycles, exerciser, shower seats, crutches, and other medical equipment. These donations will go to Norfolk Warehouse to be shipped where needed. What a joy to help others!

Help for Hurricane Victims

In early December, Christmas blessings were delivered to Saint Andrew Anglican Church in Edneyville, NC from [Ohio Collection Center in Napoleon](#). Many blankets, new toys, food, cleaning supplies, mail boxes, diapers, bikes, new kitchen items, new clothes, hygiene supplies, appliances and school



supplies will bless many families for Christmas! Every time Ohio volunteers make a delivery, the first thing people see when they open the doors is a picture of Christ. This time it was a picture of Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This is the reason we do it - To serve our Jesus 🙏🌲 Merry Christmas!

Unloaded for Christmas

Evangelical Lutheran Diaconia in Lithuania was excited to unload quilts, diapers, towels, bicycles, children's items/toys, school kits/supplies and other aid in time to distribute before Christmas. What wonderful blessings from [North Dakota Branch donors & volunteers!](#)



Gifts for Children's Hospital

Maryland Branch volunteers were thrilled to load various medical equipment and supplies, student chairs, microscopes, stuffed toys and blankets which is enroute to Sri Lanka in support of a children's hospital. The Maryland Branch collaborated with the Hospital Services Council of Greater Washington Area, Potomac Falls, Virginia for the shipment to South Asia. Great work by all Maryland volunteers with arranging this!

Pick Up for Border Missions

Pastor Ramon Contreras, with Lutheran Border Concerns-San Diego was in Phoenix attending a conference. He stopped at our [Phoenix Branch warehouse](#) and picked up a truck load of donations to take back to the border with him. Pictured with Pastor Ramon is Susan Thomas our Branch Secretary. He was given blankets, sleeping mats, and clothing.



Phoenix Branch



Serving Those In Need

On November 19th, the Phoenix Branch volunteers loaded a 26-foot truck and delivered 612 boxes, bikes and medical supplies to the Tohono O'odham Nation,

in Sells, AZ. The donations are distributed between fourteen districts with the Nation which cover a total of 2.8 million acres of land about the size of the State of Connecticut. This is a four-hour drive from our warehouse. After unloading we returned to Phoenix! Our contacts were so happy, thankful and appreciative to receive these donations. Photos include the pallets ready for loading & Ken Weber-volunteer and Allen Hobratschk-Warehouse manager are all smiles after the truck is completely filled.

Food for the Hungry

A shipping container filled with 256,608 Mercy Meals has arrived in Zambia, Africa all the way from Norfolk, Nebraska! Praise be to God! Thank you, OGT supporters & volunteers!



Unloaded in Kentucky

[Indiana Branch volunteers in Jonesville](#)

delivered various food, 14,256 fortified rice meals, children's items, household items, clothing, & blankets for Manna from Heaven in Myra, KY. They serve many families living in poverty in the Appalachian region.

Additional News

Houston Branch volunteers delivered winter coats & accessories, blankets, water to several organizations that help the homeless and families living in poverty. What comforting gifts to share the love of Christ.

[Central Nebraska Branch in Grand Island](#) worked with Somosvida A.C. in Mexico to receive 28,512 Mercy Meals, quilts, sleeping mats, household items, medical equipment, bicycles, and other goods to share with many families in need.

[Houston Branch volunteers](#) delivered winter coats & accessories, blankets, water to several organizations that help the homeless and families living in poverty. What comforting gifts to share the love of Christ.

[Missouri West Collection Center volunteers in Concordia](#) loaded and delivered 1,170 boxes of various aid and supplies for Cornerstone Children's Ranch in Quemado, TX. Many wonderful gifts for families living along the border.

[Norfolk Warehouse volunteers in Nebraska](#) loaded 34 pallets of various foods for Native American Heritage Association in Black Hawk, SD. The needed food is distributed to many families and organizations on reservations in two states.

Manna from Heaven in Kentucky was grateful to receive more than 8,000 pounds of various foods, 11,880 Food for Kidz meals, furniture, household items and other goods from [Wisconsin Branch in Westfield](#). This ministry helps many families living in severe poverty and those still recovering from natural disasters.

Weekly Devotion

Bethlehem's Star: *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him" . . . After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11a)*

Over the years there has been much speculation about the nature of the Bethlehem Star. Some think it was a planetary conjunction. Others attribute it to a meteor or comet. Some have even suggested that it may have been a UFO. Seriously? Whatever the case, the Magi—or wisemen—definitely saw something in the sky that led them from the east to Judah. Here's what I found at crosswalk.com: "Whenever people ask about the Star of Bethlehem, they want to know if there was an actual recorded astronomical event that accompanied the birth of Jesus. But one of the many problems with trying to answer is that we do not know for sure when Jesus was born. Also, even if we assume a range of years when Jesus might have been born, there are no clear-cut astronomical events within the range that would

meet all the requirements of the Star of Bethlehem according to Scripture, science, and secular history.”

So, what DO we know? According to St. Matthew, the Magi were led by a “*star*” from the east to Jerusalem. Then it led them on to Bethlehem, leading them directly to Baby Jesus. Gentiles encountered the Savior of the world in the flesh for the first time. We read in *Isaiah 60:1-3*, “*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of the dawn.*” God’s Light, our Savior Jesus, shone into a dark world then. It shines into a dark world now.

Prayer Prompt: Praise God that He has shined His light into your heart. Pray that His light would shine into the hearts of those who don’t know Jesus.

By Paul Leckband OGT's Director of Spiritual Correspondence



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