

There was no Board meeting in September

Adoption and Orphan Support Group

Pam Mohr reported:

1. We will be teaching the Compassion4Kids lesson on Oct. 25th to 4th Grade K.I.C.K. students. We are partnering with them to learn about Foster Care and to collect backpacks and overnight supplies to be provided to children by DHS. Currently an average of 125 children are removed from their home each month in Polk County.
2. Faith is assisting with the following Adoption Awareness Event that is the combined effort of several area churches:
For All His Children Adoption Awareness Event, Sunday, November 15th, 1:00-3:30 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Event includes speakers on domestic and International adoption, foster care/adoption, and Cornerstone of Hope orphanage in Nigeria. There will be adoption and counseling agencies and a wide variety of other community resources/professionals on hand to answer questions and provide materials to attendees.
3. Adoption Sunday at Faith will be Sunday, Nov. 22nd.

Pam is also currently in communication with members of Children of Hope to see how Faith can partner with them in their ministry, which has grown to include several other area churches. The ministry works with local and global missions to serve children in orphanages and foster care. Volunteers have opportunities to plan and participate in missions; to assist in building awareness; and to be a resource for families interested in adoption or foster parenting.

Beloit Prayer Partners

Wendy Wyatt planned a campfire event for Faith's prayer partners at Beloit children's home in Ames on September 27th. Six partners attended the event and had a fun time sharing conversation, song, and food (partners took ingredients for S'mores) with their prayer partners. She is currently seeking to find a new prayer partner coordinator to replace her.

Bloodmobile/Lutheran Hospital Liaison

Jane Patten said all 22 spots for blood donation at Faith on October 13th 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. were filled. Reminders were made by postcards and phone calls. Pam Mohr agreed to help check in on the bloodmobile day of event. Jane arranged for 2 visiting nurses to speak at the Adult Forum on September 20th about "Staying Healthy – Flu Shots and Beyond."

Hunger Weekend

Ruth Cooperrider helped Pastor Mark in coordinating the weekend event October 3rd – 4th, and participated as an interviewee for the message at the services; she also put up a hunger display in the Commons, and encouraged inclusion of hunger issue in the KICK classes. For the latter, Melinda Littner planned a hunger activity and arranged for children to bring food items for the DMARC Food Pantry and for the children's offerings to go towards the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Former minister Diana Sickles coordinated a special adult forum with a panel of experts

to discuss: *Why food matters to Faith? What is being done to provide food security (nutritious food that is affordable, available and is grown in a way that sustains the environment)?*

A number of youths and adults also participated in the Hunger Hike on October 4th .

Kifula Companion Congregation

Becky Bryant met with Sherry Kocek about creating a CD of music and messages to send to Kifula. She picked out some African music for the confirmation choir to sing. Also, we will include performances by the Chancel Choir, Brass Choir, etc. Becky talked to Brian Turner about translating our messages into Swahili for the recording; he will ask one of the pastors who is visiting Iowa with the Crossing Borders program to do the translating. Becky will email the people who have visited Kifula to ask them to prepare a short message which they will read, hopefully in Swahili, for the CD. She is also contacting Eric Thorsen to be the sound engineer; Jonathan Nerdig is interested in assisting in that regard.

Becky is putting a message in the Faith Weekly and the next newsletter about the denial of visas and about how we want to step up our outreach to Kifula through a possible trip by members in January, a possible pen pal program, working on a well project, and working on a communications project. She is asking interested members to contact her to assist in those efforts. The Search and Serve Bible study indicated they would be interested in a pen pal program.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Bob Shaw said the next hosting opportunity at Faith will be December 20th - 27th .

Luther Park

Vi Munsch reported the following event: Fall Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale on Oct. 10th from 11:00-1:00 at Luther Park Apartments Community Center at 1555 Hull Ave. in Des Moines.

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Animals (October 17th 5:00 p.m. and October 18th 10:00 a.m. services).