



The Missouri District's first ever statewide servant event

Welcome!

Hello! If you are receiving this packet, it means that you have officially registered to join us in the first ever statewide servant event for the Missouri District. Congratulations! We are so excited that you are on this journey with us.

This packet is designed to be a guide to help your group and its leader. Inside you will find information on picking a project, financing a project, scheduling a project, submitting pictures to the District, and more.

This servant event has been a group effort! The Missouri District is blessed to have sponsors helping to defray various costs. Check out the enclosed material from our lead sponsor, Lutheran Church Extension Fund!

Servant Event Checklist

Thank you for devoting time to help your community through Christian service! Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians: *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."* 2 Corinthians 9:12

- ☐ Choose a service date.
- ☐ Pick a length of time to serve.
- ☐ Share the event in your congregation and ask for prayers.
- ☐ Determine a budget and raise funds if necessary.
- ☐ Assemble needed supplies (facemasks, water, tools, etc.)
- ☐ Establish plan for maintaining best practices for COVID-19.
- ☐ Gather first-aid supplies, establish emergency medical procedures, and name emergency contact person.
- ☐ Check with your church's insurance and safety policies. Participants may need to sign a wavier.
- ☐ Get specific with the day's approximate schedule. (Check out "Tips for your Servant Event" for help.)
- ☐ Communicate event details to volunteers, including directions and wearing appropriate clothing (such as closed toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty).
- ☐ Designate a team member to take photos, bring tools, etc.
- ☐ Send photos to the Missouri District at elsa.mort@mo.lcms.org.



Tips for your Servant Event

Need help finding a project?

Perhaps you and your group already know exactly how you'd like to serve in April. If so, that's great! If you're still exploring options, check out the following:

- Pastors are great resources! Ask your pastor if he is aware of any pressing issues in the area.
- School principals have a good read on families in a community and may offer a unique perspective on how to help.
- Call non-profit organizations (food pantries, homeless shelters, etc.) in your area that would appreciate a few extra helping hands.
- Look into helping the various LCMS Recognized Service Organizations.
- Your town may have a special department/committee for volunteerism. See what city hall has to say about serving others.
- Use an online search engine to find the numerous websites and online message boards posting volunteer opportunities in your area.

Something to Consider:

There are many projects that allow team members to complete tasks as individuals. For example, a group may commit to picking up trash, but members do so separately or within their own "bubble." These types of ideas are great options for those looking to limit exposure to groups.

Our project involves a cost. Now what?

What if you've got some great ideas on how you'd like to serve, but it means buying some supplies? How should your group pay for these plans?

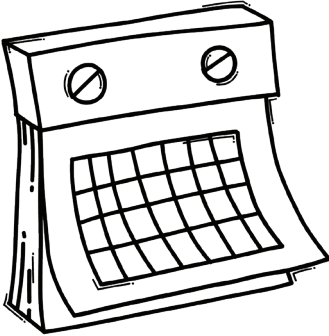
Try some of these:

- Talk to local businesses about donating either dollars or materials.
- Is someone on your team a member of Thrivent? Apply for an Action Grant.
- Have a door offering at church one Sunday.
- Hold your own mini fundraiser. This can involve things like a Saturday morning car wash or serving a meal with a suggested ticket price.



More Tips for Your Group

Scheduling the Project

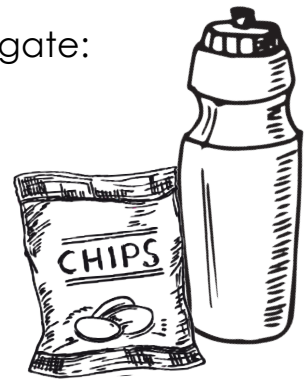


- Determine if an hour, two hours, half day, or full day is suitable to complete your project.
- If applicable, plan travel time to and from the site.
- Begin the gathering with a prayer.
- Include 10-minute breaks often for water, snacks, etc.
- Allow time at the end for participants to discuss and relate their experience of service to daily faith life.

Responsibilities Can Be Shared

Below are suggestions on responsibilities to delegate:

- Transportation
- Necessary tools and supplies
- First-aid kit and emergency phone numbers
- Water and snacks
- Official group photographer
- Prayer leader



Group Prayer from President Hagan

Start your time of service by praying with your group.

Lord Jesus Christ, You took upon the servant's form by serving the weak and needy in healing their diseases and providing for their needs of body and soul. By Your Holy Spirit, make us to be humble servants by showing mercy to our neighbor and helping others in every bodily need. May our service ultimately point those we serve to You, our Suffering Servant and our Savior; In Your name we pray. Amen.



Example Press Release

A great way to increase engagement with your group's project is to send a press release to local news media. A press release is a short, formulaic letter that conveys the basic information of your project and invites the press to come and take pictures and gather interviews. Below is an example press release that you can alter with your institution's information.



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

**Your Institution's
Logo/Letterhead**
(top center)

PRESS RELEASE

02.05.21

For Immediate Release

Missouri District

314-590-6200

elsa.mort@mo.lcms.org

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Press Release

For Immediate Release

Your Institution's Name

Phone

Email

(left justified)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP TO VOLUNTEER AT SOUP KITCHEN

CATCHY HEADLINE IN BOLD, CAPITAL LETTERS

(center justified)

St. John's Lutheran Church has arranged a group of more than 20 youth to participate in the local community soup kitchen. Starting at 5pm on Friday, April 16, 2021, the youth group will help prepare a variety of soups and sides, assist in serving, and clean up.

This endeavor is part of a state-wide movement from the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Many churches, schools, and institutions are participating in serving their local communities.

Youth leader Joe Johnston states, "We are so excited to be engaging in our community..."

BODY COPY HERE. REMEMBER THE 5 W QUESTIONS

(left justified)



Photo Information

We want to see your awesome efforts!

We are so excited that you are participating in SHINE! We want the whole District to know about it! Remember to take lots of pictures throughout the day. Video is also welcome. Did you record your group singing a hymn during devotion time? Awesome – send that too!



Here's how you can send your photos or videos to the Missouri District:

PICTURES

- Email your pictures to elsa.mort@mo.lcms.org.
- You can share them via Messenger on our Facebook profile!

VIDEOS

- Upload videos to cloud storage and share with elsa.mort@mo.lcms.org.
- You can use <https://wetransfer.com/> to send small or large video files.
- You can share them via Messenger on our Facebook profile!

Legal Information

By participating in the Missouri District's SHINE! event, you, your group, and all volunteers and participants assume full responsibility for any actions, mishaps, or incidents that occur in participation or association with this event.

Additionally, any photograph(s), image(s), voice, or video(s) submitted to the Missouri District arrives with consent of use and may be used and reproduced regardless of whether these materials are used for advertising, publicity, or any other purpose on behalf of the Missouri District. The Missouri District is not responsible for unauthorized duplications or use of the images, videos, or audio recordings by third parties, on the internet or otherwise. In addition, all claims are waived to compensation or damages based on the use of image or voice, or both, by the Missouri District. Also waived are any rights to inspect or approve the finished photograph, video, or audio recording. This consent is perpetual, that may not be revoked.



Our Thanks to These SHINE! Sponsors

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Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS



Contact Information



Missouri District

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