



## **February 2012 E-Newsletter**



While February 5<sup>th</sup> is often a time for football fans to celebrate, area congregations and schools are taking the opportunity to join LSSN in celebrating Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. The Souper Bowl is a national drive to equip and mobilize congregations, schools, and businesses to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. LSSN's food pantry has been a recipient of local Souper Bowl donations for many years, and this year is no exception for many of our area congregations and partners.

If you are available to join with one of our many partners for this event, we thank you for remembering the needy during the Big Game. Congregations are also encouraged to report their participation at <http://www.souperbowl.org/> so that we can list and thank them properly!

Right now, we would like to thank New Song Lutheran Church, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, The Lakes Lutheran Church, and Good Samaritan Lutheran Church for participating.

**It's not too late: if you're congregation would like to participate, please let us know!**

Furthermore, the Board of Directors for the Southern Nevada Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is encouraging congregations to obtain matching funds for their drives again this year! For every \$3 collected, Thrivent will provide an additional \$1 to support LSSN's ministries. Registration is simple, but must be submitted and approved before the event begins.

Please contact LSSN's Tom Maatta at 702-807-5707 or [thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:thomas@lssnv.org) to obtain the necessary forms, for help with registration, or to answer any questions. Thank you so much for your support of our ministries!

## LSSN's Open House is a Hit!



On Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, LSSN opened its doors in order to allow members of the community to see the wonderful new home that they helped us to achieve. Located at 73 Spectrum Boulevard, this new building is twice the physical size of the old location, while it triples the size of the food pantry – all without paying a cent more in rent than before.

LSSN estimates that the new facility will give us the capacity to assist another 7,000 people per year.





In addition to the greatly expanded pantry, computer lab/Community Resource Center and client processing areas, highlights of the new location include a interview clothing closet to provide professional attire for job seekers, and a designated suite that will soon house a mental health practice on-site.



Bishop Steve Talmage of the ELCA's Grand Canyon Synod, along with Board Member Pastor Marta Poling-Goldenne and LSSN's Pastor Tom Maatta, led those in attendance in a candlelight ceremony to dedicate LSSN's new home.



LSSN would like to thank Channel 13 and Telemundo, who were kind enough to come to LSSN that morning to profile our ministry on the news, as well as the Las Vegas Review Journal for covering the event itself. Channel 3 was also kind enough to welcome LSSN to its morning show on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the new building. Links to the news coverage are available on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lutheran-Social-Services-of-Nevada/117275164979836?sk=wall&filter=1> .



Members of the community united in order to make the event extra-special. Representatives offered official certificates of support and congratulations to LSSN from the offices of Sen. Harry Reid, Sen. Dean Heller, Rep. Shelley Berkley, and Rep. Joe Heck. (Sen. Reid's office was also kind enough to provide items for the silent auction at the wine tasting the evening before, as well as provide a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol to LSSN staff member Derrick Felder, who served over ten years in the United States Marine Corps.)



Staff from Albertson's were on hand to help us organize the pantry to really make it look like a supermarket, while providing several thousand dollars worth of fresh foods to stock the pantry refrigerators and freezers for the event, which were available to clients the next morning. Three Square was also kind enough to attend and make a special donation of food as a "housewarming present." Thanks also to Imperial Wine Wholesalers LLC, who donated several cases of wine that were served at the event.



Finally, thanks to all the volunteers and staff that made the event happen – both during the event and beforehand! Earlier in January, over 30 intrepid volunteers (including three professional painters) came to LSSN on a Saturday morning to paint the new pantry and ensure that everything was ready to go. At the event, members of LSSN's volunteer committee were kind enough to greet our visitors at the door and serve beverages to make them feel welcome.

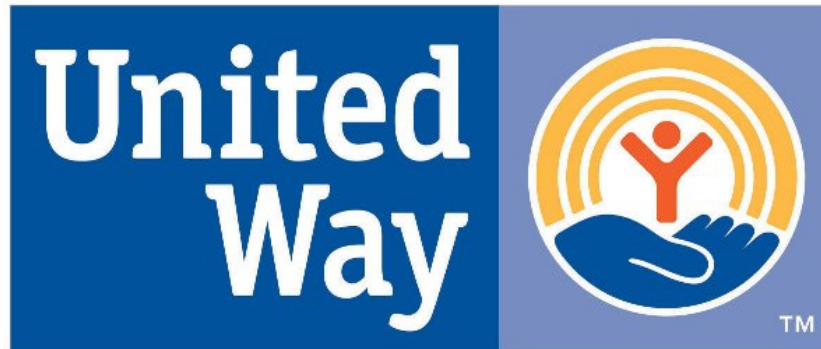


If you'd like to make a donation to help us take advantage of this wonderful new building and serve even more people, secure online donations can be made through our website at [https://www.lssnv.org/secure\\_donate.php](https://www.lssnv.org/secure_donate.php).



LSSN's staff are pleased to have the opportunity to serve, and thank you all for being generous enough to allow us to serve so many!

## Thank-You to the United Way!



Special thanks to the United Way, who in addition to accrediting the work of LSSN and assisting to collect tens of thousands of dollars to support our ministries in the community through employee designations, recently awarded LSSN a grant of \$103,119 to support our food and rental assistance programs. We deeply appreciate their support as they help us even more to serve and care for people in need right here at home!

## LSSN Wine Tasting Raises Over \$7,000!



LSSN's second wine tasting on January 18<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success. Between donations received, incredible participation in the silent auction, and ticket sales, attendees not only enjoyed an outstanding spread of food and wine, but also raised over \$7,000 to support LSSN's work with the needy in our community.

Special thanks to board member Robin Smith for her organization and generous support of the event, to the Grape Street Café for the phenomenal venue and wine, to NV Energy for their support and participation, and to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for once again providing supplemental funding to support our ministries!

In addition, this year's silent auction was completely comprised of donated items from the following generous individuals and businesses:

- A U.S. Senate Tie, Cufflinks, and a Flag from the U.S. Capitol from Senator Harry Reid
- An iPad 2 with 16 GB Memory and Wi-Fi from Ann Casey
- Three Gift Certificates for 3 Months Tanning and 3 bottles of Lotion from 24/7 Tan
- An Amazon Kindle from Pete Steinbrenner
- A Red Springs Trail Ride for Two from Cowboy Trail Rides (Daniel Barnett & Jim Sage)
- A \$50 Gift Certificate from The Capital Grille and Wine
- A Wine Picnic Basket from Robin Smith
- A Manicure and Spa Pedicure from Katherine Sherrell & Cavaricci's
- A WineFuddle Decanter and Funnel Set from Jason Menzel
- A Best Kept Secret Box, Jacket, Gift Card, and Bottle of Merlot from Best Kept Secret Boutique
- A \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card from Dave Fritz
- Two \$200 Gift Certificate from H&R Block
- A 50 Minute Massage or Facial from The Spa at Lakeside 2.0
- A Three Month Membership and Gym Bag from The David Barton Gym at Tivoli Village

Finally, thank you to all the volunteers and to those who attended for once again making this event special.



## Easter is Around the Corner!



LSSN is in the process of preparing for its annual Easter Basket program, and we need your help! By partnering with many area congregations and generous individuals last year, we were able to provide 467 Easter Baskets to area children, as well as to distribute thousands of pounds of food to area families. This year, we hope to top each of these goals and help those in need to have a blessed holiday celebration.

Easter is early in April this year – the 8<sup>th</sup> – and we are still in the process of scheduling the dates for our preparation and distribution out to the community. However, we wanted to get this information “on your radar”, so please keep an eye out for more info soon!

Donations are crucial for the success of this program. Our primary need will be donated food for Easter dinners: Canned Hams, Meats, Fish, and Vegetables, Jell-O, Instant Potatoes and Stuffing, Canned Yams, and similar foods.

Thank you very much for your help as we look forward to this blessed holiday.

## **Are you a Thrivent member?**



Are you a Thrivent member? Want to help your favorite Lutheran congregation or organization in a simple and quick way? If so, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> still available to donate! Through the Thrivent Choice program, Thrivent sets aside money for every person that owns one of their policies, annuities, or products. Each member then gets to choose where to send this money without having to make any out-of-pocket donations or fill out any paperwork!

**Local Thrivent benefit members have over \$30,000 in their accounts available to be donated!**

**This is an amazing opportunity to make a real difference in our community!**

**All it takes is an easy five minute phone call to 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836)**

At the prompt, say “Thrivent Choice”, then choose “1” from the next menu. You’ll then be connected with a friendly customer service representative who can answer your questions, check to see if you have any Choice Dollars remaining, and help you send them to the Lutheran congregation or organization of your choice. **That’s all it takes!**

Or, if you prefer, you can also log in at <https://choice.thrivent.com> and go through the process online.

As always, the Lutheran Social Services of Nevada is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who is eligible to direct Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider the Lutheran Social Services of Nevada as you help direct Thrivent Financial’s charitable funds.

If you’d like to make your contributions even more convenient, you can even choose to automatically send Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> to LSSN every month or year using this option!

If you have any questions or encounter any issues with your direction, LSSN Development Director Tom Maatta will be happy to help. He can be reached at 702-807-5707 or [thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:thomas@lssnv.org).

## **\$500 Voucher for Respite Care Available for Angels of Care – Home Care!**



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
OF NEVADA

*Angels of Care - Home Care*

In order to make our home care even more accessible and affordable to those in need, LSSN is proud to announce a partnership that provides a free voucher for respite care up to \$500 for those who qualify!

This voucher is available through the wonderful participation of [Helping Hands of Vegas Valley](#)

In order to participate, please download [this form](#) and return it to LSSN's Home Care Coordinator, Shawna Brody, by e-mail at [shawna@lssnv.org](mailto:shawna@lssnv.org) or via fax to 702-639-1736.

Questions about the voucher program can be directed to the above information or to Helping Hands of Vegas Valley at 702-633-7264.

### *What does Home Care consist of?*

Home Care is the term we use at Angels of Care-Home Care to describe all services provided to the client at home.

#### Our services include:

Homemaking Services can encompass planning & preparation of meals, along with routine housekeeping activities such as making/changing beds, dusting, vacuuming, washing floors, cleaning kitchen and bathroom, and laundry.

Companion/Sitter Services includes non-medical care, socialization and basic supervision to ensure a client's safety and well-being. Companions may provide light housekeeping tasks, which are secondary to the care and supervision of the client.

Respite Services are services furnished on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care.

If you know of anyone who might be in the neighborhood for home care services, or if you would like more information, please check our website at [http://www.lssnv.org/home\\_care.php](http://www.lssnv.org/home_care.php).

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**Would you like to join us in expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for those in need?**

**Food donations are collected at many congregations or may be delivered to LSSN.**

**Financial contributions may be mailed to LSSN, PO Box 2079, Las Vegas, NV 89125.**

**Online secure donations can also be made at [https://www.lssnv.org/secure\\_donate.php](https://www.lssnv.org/secure_donate.php).**

**Thank you for your support!**

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**Please note that Derrick Felder is the contact for food pick-up scheduling.**

**He can be reached at [derrick@lssnv.org](mailto:derrick@lssnv.org) or 702-639-1730, ext. 16.**

*Sharing the love of St. Valentine, our congregational monthly food donation theme for February is "Gifts from the Heart." Suggested food items for the month are boxed foods, such as mashed potatoes, rice, stuffing, macaroni & cheese, Jell-O & pudding mixes, cereals, instant soups, and Hamburger or Tuna Helper.*

*Looking forward to St. Patrick's Day, our theme for March will be "The I(s) of March", focusing on Italian and Irish dishes. Suggested food items will include potatoes (fresh, boxed, or canned), corned beef, canned hash, mixed veggies, canned carrots, and any non-perishable Italian food items (such as pasta, sauce, Italian green beans, and cannellini beans).*

*Our theme for April will be "Spring Fling with Food" as we enter into the holiday season. Suggested items come from a traditional Easter dinner: Canned Hams, Meats, Fish, and Vegetables, Jell-O, Instant Potatoes and Stuffing, Canned Yams, and Canned Pineapple. Remembering also the Passover Season, any non-perishable foods from the Kosher specialty food section would be appreciated.*

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*"Expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for people in need."*

Lutheran Social Services of Nevada  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2079, Las Vegas, NV 89125-2079  
Office Location: 73 Spectrum Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Phone: 702-639-1730 Fax: 702-639-1736  
E-mail: [info@lssnv.org](mailto:info@lssnv.org) Website: [www.lssnv.org](http://www.lssnv.org)