



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
OF NEVADA

October E-News from LSSN

Las Vegas Lutherans Got Talent...from God! Coming on December 5th.



Singers, by Anthony Maragou

Looking for some good fellowship and family fun as we prepare for the joys of the Christmas season?
Want to share some of your God-given talent?
Care enough to help the needy during the Season of Giving?

Then join us at Christ Lutheran Church for the first annual Las Vegas Lutherans Got Talent...from God. On Sunday, December 5th at Christ Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, Area Lutherans will pit their best against each other in the best spirit of Christian competition, while our celebrity judges will (metaphorically, of course) separate the sheep from the goats and determine who will be the next Las Vegas Lutheran Sensation!

No matter your talent, performers of all kinds are needed, and both individuals and groups are encouraged to perform. If you would like to register an act, please contact Brian Comeno, Christ Lutheran's contemporary worship leader and band leader of Grateful, at bcomeno@embarqmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Maatta at Lutheran Social Services at thomas@lssnv.org.

Tickets will soon be available for pre-purchase at local congregations, as well as at the door. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and participants. Come early and join us for a community barbeque before the show. Dinner is planned for 5:00, with curtain at 6:30 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Lutheran Social Services of Nevada.

Let's thrive:  **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**

We would like to especially thank the South NV Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their sponsorship of this event through the Care Abounds in Communities program.

Thanksgiving Collection Details:



LSSN is excited to once again be hosting programs to give additional support to people during the most joyous time of year, allowing Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas blessings where there would otherwise be none. Our contact person for both Thanksgiving and Christmas is Derrick Felder at 639-1730 (work), 286-8179 (cell) and derrick@lssnv.org. Please refer any questions to him.

Our Thanksgiving distribution will be held on the Friday before Thanksgiving, 11/19. Last year, we were able to distribute over 10,000 pounds of full Thanksgiving dinners to seniors and families through our partnership with the Housing Authority. This year, we hope to do even more...with your help.

Our volunteer needs are as follows:

- 1) LSSN has sufficient volunteers to assist with the collection of food from specific drives during the week of November 8th. Thank you for your support.
- 2) Volunteers are still needed on Monday, November 15th and Tuesday, November 16th to help assemble the meal baskets. This will be in the mornings of these days, here at LSSN.
- 3) Volunteers (especially strong volunteers) are still needed for the distribution itself on Friday, November 19th. We will meet at LSSN at approximately 8:00 am in order to load the truck, then proceed to the housing complex for the distribution at approximately 10:00 am. Distribution is usually finished at about noon.

Food needs are as follows:

- 1) "Trimings", such as boxed mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, and canned vegetables, for the meals are needed. These can be contributed at any time between now and Sunday, November 14th through the standard weekly pickups at congregations, as well as delivered to LSSN Monday-Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 pm.
- 2) Turkeys are especially needed. LSSN will have staff conducting pickups at congregations on Sunday, November 14th: if you have turkeys, please call Derrick for scheduling the pickup. If your congregation is able to store the turkeys until Monday, we will be happy to pick them up then. Should you be able to deliver the turkeys to LSSN, we ask that they be delivered between 8:00 and 4:00 pm on Monday the 15th or Tuesday the 16th. Again, please let us know if you are coming and how many turkeys you have.

We would prefer to not receive turkeys any earlier than Sunday the 14th.

In Her Own Words:

Dear Friends at LSSN:

Thank you so much for the work you do! I've lived in the Las Vegas Valley since the very early 1950s and I've see the growth. In this growth the small town philosophy to know and care for your neighbor has eroded. Most people may not even know their neighbors or worse yet be afraid of them. We know the need is great for feeding the people of this valley, not just for the bread of life. It is the breath of life: kindness, caring, opportunity, support, hope, faith and all of the fruits of the spirit that are needed. It is impossible and overwhelming to me as a person to imagine the fullness of the need right here at home in our valley.

LSSN's food drives have allowed my husband, Tony and I to participate by using a portion of our food money each week to make a difference. We know that we are a part of something bigger than our donation thru LSSN. We know we are purchasing to fill a direct need. Each week in New Song Church's bulletin we look for the insert that tells us what is needed, like October is baby items. As we purchase these items we can pray for the person who will receive the food. We will never know this person and maybe when they receive the food they will know someone cares for them. This touches my heart and I so appreciate the fact that LSSN links us to our neighbors in a profound and meaningful way. Yes, the food is important and we are glad to do that. For me the greater part is that I CAN do something which connects me to others in a spiritual way too. When we have our turkey, peanut butter and other food drives than WE are a community and WE are connected. In a small way we've connected with another person who can feed their family and feel a sense of pride offering a good meal. In a broken world the sharing of bread is indeed a gift of the spirit to the giver as well.

I've appreciated your coming to our church and showing us the photos of LSSN's pantry & activities. Your talk just reinforced my feeling that when we go to the store purchase the needed product and we put the donation in to the LSSN "house" in our church that we are making a difference. Thank you for the opportunity to do this and for what you do day in and day out for those in need. God bless!

Blessings,
Tina Aguiar

"Trick or Treat for Hunger" at St. Thomas More:



Every year, right before Halloween, the youth group at St. Thomas More Catholic Community holds their annual "Trick or Treat for Hunger" food drive. This long standing tradition involves dropping off bags to over 1,000 local households a few days ahead of time. On the big night, the youth converge over the course of about an hour to collect these filled bags.

This year, in that hour, they collected 3,347 pounds of food to support LSSN's ministry to the hungry. This food is currently on our shelves.

All of us here at LSSN are humbled and touched by the generosity and thoughtfulness of these enthusiastic youth, and offer our most sincere thanks for the real difference they have made.



Volunteers meet for the organizational "pep talk" before the collection.



Volunteers help LSSN staff prepare to deliver collected food to our pantry.

Bank of America Teams With LSSN:



Last month, we reported that the Bank of America and Merrill Lynch began a partnership with LSSN's Career Assistance Program to add financial literacy training to our curriculum. We are proud to report now that this program is taking off in the big way, with our program logging a record number of participants.

Again, our thanks to Bank of America for helping to break the cycle of homelessness and bring independence into the lives of those that need it the most!

LSSN/LAMN/Family Promise Hunger 101 Simulation Success!



Derrick Felder and Sharian Alessi man LSSN's "Virtual Food Bank".

On October 16th at The Lakes Lutheran Church, dozens of local congregational volunteers and leaders attended the Hunger 101 Simulation, sponsored by the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Nevada, along with LSSN and Family Promise. With a limited budget, attendees attempted to "feed" their family for one day. The simulation recreated the realities that visiting a grocery store, food pantry, and local food stamp office hold for people at risk of hunger.

Often citing feelings of profound surprise, participants reported a newfound respect for the day to day struggles of those in our area facing a shortage of food, and a majority declared a renewed desire to take action to combat this increasing epidemic. They also hope to take what they have learned back to their home congregations, and to hold similar events to continue to spread the word.

We would like to thank The Lakes for hosting this wonderful event, director Maxine Harju for her organizational skills, LAMN and Family Promise for their hard work, and everyone that participated.



Facilitator Mark Peters from the ELCA Home Office in Chicago serves as the “banker”, checking the “account” of Terry Lindemann of Family Promise and her partner, Ed Cotton.



LAMN's Larry Struve checks out at the “grocery store” as he tries to get his family enough food for the day.

LSSN Informational Video Now Online



[Camcorder](#), by Petr Kratochvil

Due to the thoughtfulness and skill of the video production team at Community Lutheran Church, LSSN now has a video that highlights our ministries in the community and shows our work first-hand!

You can check out the new video on our website, or view it directly through YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laH51uUgQ6E>.

Special thanks to David Sage for his hard work during production, as well as to Mike Watkins, Community's Minister of Praise, for providing the beautiful background music.

Facebook Page is Live – Join LSSN's Friends List



Like to keep up to speed on the latest news? Curious about what's going on above and beyond our monthly e-newsletters? Want to know what's going on at LSSN today?

Then we would like to invite you to join us on Facebook!

We invite you to check out our page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lutheran-Social-Services-of-Nevada/117275164979836>, and hope that you will link us to your own page through the "Like" feature.

Thank you again for your generous support. Only with your help can we continue to express the love of Christ by serving and caring for those in need!

Thrivent Choice and Simply Giving Programs Now Active



Help support Lutheran organizations you care about through Thrivent ChoiceSM.

 *Thrivent Financial for LutheransSM*
Let's thrive! [Learn how](#)

The advertisement features a photograph of two men in white hairnets and aprons, one in a red shirt and one in a white shirt, sorting through stacks of cash in a cardboard box. The background shows other people in a similar setting, likely a food bank or donation center.

Thrivent Choice is a new program that lets members help choose where Thrivent Financial gives back. To date, LSSN has received over \$1,600.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars, through your generosity and thoughtfulness.

As always, LSSN is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who is eligible to direct Choice DollarsSM, we ask you to consider LSSN as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. To do so, log in at <https://choice.thrivent.com> and follow the prompts, or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and at the prompt, say "Thrivent Choice". If you'd like to make your contributions even more convenient, you can even choose to automatically send Choice DollarsSM to LSSN every month 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.



Looking for more convenience in your donations?

LSSN now offers the capability for donors to set up regular automated deductions from their checking or savings accounts to support our ministries in the community through Thrivent's Simply Giving Program. All that you have to do is fill out a simple form and provide a voided check to LSSN, and we can take care of all the details. This form is available at <http://www.lssnv.org/donate.php>.

If you have any questions or would like to enroll, LSSN Development Director Tom Maatta will be happy to help. He can be reached at 702-807-5707 or thomas@lssnv.org.

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 .

Thank you for your support!

Please note that Derrick Felder, Lead Case Manager, is now the contact for food pick-up scheduling. He can be reached at derrick@lssnv.org or 702-639-1730.

As we remember the needy at the holiday, our theme for November is "Counting our Blessings".

Non-perishable food items appropriate for the feast table are most welcome: canned green beans, corn, yams; gravy, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, boxes of jell-o and pudding, coffee, tea, and canned broths (beef, vegetable, chicken).

WE ESPECIALLY NEED TURKEY DONATIONS FOR OUR MAJOR THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION!

As we continue in our holiday celebrations, LSSN's December theme of "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" once again prepares for the coming of Immanuel. Non-perishable food items appropriate for the holiday dinner table are most welcome: canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned broth (beef, vegetable, chicken), instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, rice, beans, coffee, tea, and fruit juice. Food from the Kosher section of the supermarket is also especially appreciated, as we wish our Jewish brothers and sisters a very happy Hanukkah.

As the "chilly" weather begins, our January theme is "Comfort Foods of Winter". Suggested items include canned chilis, soups, and stews, along with cornbread and muffin mixes.

Sponsorship forms for the Christmas Adopt-A-Family program have been sent to local congregations. Contact Derrick at derrick@lssnv.org for more information. Christmas sponsor forms are due to LSSN by November 19th.

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

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