

# 2015 Christmas Ingathering

**FACT SHEET**

“You are the light of the world.” **Matthew 5:14**

The Christmas Ingathering supported by congregations in the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod has:

- Been a ministry of southeast Pennsylvania congregations for more than **48 Years**
- Provided more than **\$94,000** in gifts and donations each year for the last **ten years**
- Given gifts to more than **1,000** children who otherwise would have no holiday gift
- Supported the charitable giving of congregations by **providing postage and delivery** of gifts and donations to people in need in the Philadelphia area and around the world

This year, your congregation is invited to gather gifts and donations for the following organizations:

- **Lutheran Children and Family Service** – gifts, gift cards, monetary donations, and backpacks
- **Seamen’s Church Institute** – men’s tube socks and work gloves
- **Lutheran World Relief** – quilts, baby care kits, personal care kits, and school kits for people served around the world
- **Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries** – men’s socks and travel-sized toiletries for the homeless
- **Local Lutheran Food Pantries** – bags of non-perishable food items
- **Local Institutions** – personal hygiene/gift packets

On **Sunday, December 6, 2015**, congregations bring their donations to five collection points from **1:00-2:30 PM**. Each collection point brings donations to a central warehouse where all gifts and donations are sorted by volunteers and delivered to the appropriate institution:

**Christ’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
700 E. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Oreland, PA 19075 • 215-886-4612

**St. John Lutheran Church (Mayfair)**  
3101 Tyson Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19149 • 215-624-5505

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
7240 Walnut Street  
Upper Darby, PA 19082 • 610-352-1610

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
39 Bonnie Brae Road  
Spring City, PA 19475 • 610-948-3323

**Little Zion Lutheran Church**  
267 Morwood Road  
Telford, PA 18969 • 215-723-7404

It’s easy to participate and see how our congregational donations will multiply as we work together to serve people in need. Only five simple steps:

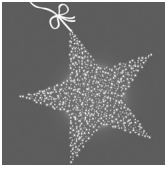
- **Choose** which kind of donation your congregation will give
- **Let us know as soon as possible** using the Commitment Form in this kit
- **Invite** people in your congregation to give
- **Collect** donations in your community
- **Deliver** donations to a collection point on Sunday, December 6

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the **Reverend Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen** at [jollikainen@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jollikainen@libertylutheran.org) or **610-425-2981**, or **Darliese Scott**, LCFS at [darlieses@lcfsinpa.org](mailto:darlieses@lcfsinpa.org) or **215-456-5700**.

*Supported by the congregations of the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod. Managed by Liberty Lutheran.*





# 2015 Christmas Ingathering

## DONATION INSTRUCTION SHEET

“You are the light of the world.” **Matthew 5:14**

### 1. NON-PERISHABLE FOOD Lutheran Food Pantries

Donations of food will help support hundreds of families who use our Synod food pantries at the listed locations.

#### Instructions:

- Collect NEW canned, packaged, non-perishable food items.
- Double bag them in plastic bags or paper bag within a plastic bag.
  - Grace - West Philadelphia
  - LTSP Seminary
  - St. John's - Mayfair
  - St. Mark's - Oak Lane
  - St. Michael's - Kensington
  - St. Paul's - Olney
  - Tabernacle - West Philadelphia

### 2. SOCKS AND WORK GLOVES Seaman's Church Institute

Men's tube socks and work gloves help serve merchant seaman of all ethnic and religious backgrounds along with the entire port community. Seaman's Church Institute greets visitors on every cargo ship that arrives in Philadelphia and New Jersey.

#### Instructions:

- Collect new tube socks and/or work gloves
- Pack in boxes
- Clearly mark boxes with “Seafarers” and the number of pairs of socks and work gloves

### 3. SOCKS AND TRAVEL-SIZED TOILETRIES Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries

Men's socks and travel-sized toiletries help serve the homeless population of Philadelphia.

#### Instructions:

- Collect socks and toiletries
- Pack in boxes
- Clearly mark boxes with PLM

### 4. QUILTS Lutheran World Relief

Simple, sturdy quilts are used by their recipients in a number of ways. They provide coverings on cold nights and protection from the sun during the daytime. In crowded refugee camps, they often become room dividers. Quilts can be made from any new or good used fabric except fiberglass. Suggested sources for the fabric are discarded clothing, draperies, bedspreads, tablecloths, blankets and sheets.

Leftover pieces of yarn or floss can be used to tie the layers together. The number of layers will depend on the weight of the fabrics used.

Quilts should be approximately 60" x 80" inches in size and about 3 to 4 pounds in weight. Cut the fabric only when necessary. Sew firmly and be neat. Keep the quilts simple.

#### Instructions:

- Make quilts.
- Place quilts in BOXES; count the number of quilts in each box.
- Clearly label the box with “LWR QUILTS” and the number of quilts.

### 5. HOLIDAY GIFTS AND DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES served by Lutheran Children And Family Service

Holiday gifts to specific children in care with Lutheran Children and Family Service. Monetary gifts are used for other family needs.

#### Instructions:

##### Gifts:

- Pledge the number of gifts valued at \$25 which you can provide.
- We will send you cards with the names of the children and their wish list.
- Purchase and wrap gifts.
- Attach the gift request form securely to the wrapped gift.

##### Monetary Gifts:

Checks should be made out to: Lutheran Congregational Services

Send your donation by November 19 to:

2015 Christmas Ingathering c/o Liberty Lutheran

7002 Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002

### 6. PERSONAL CARE KITS Lutheran World Relief

Clean hands, good grooming, bright and shining smiles – you can help bring them about through the gift of health kits.

#### Instructions

- Wrap all the smaller items in the towel and tie it firmly with ribbons or yarn.
- Place kits in a BOX; count the number of kits in each box.
- Clearly label the box “LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS” and the number of health kits.
- Gather the following NEW items for each kit:
  - One bath towel (dark color)
  - One sturdy comb
  - Two bath-size bars of soap
  - One metal nail clippers
  - One adult toothbrush

Wrap all items in towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn.

**7. PACKETS for Local Institutions**

These packets are gifts for people served by the following local institutions:

**Bucks County Youth Center** A state institution for juvenile offenders.

**Elwyn** A residential and day-program facility for the developmentally disabled.

**Eagleville Hospital and Rehabilitation Center** A hospital devoted to the treatment of alcohol and drug dependent men and women.

**Inglis House** A residential facility serving chronically ill and physically disabled adults.

**Norristown State Hospital and Montgomery County Emergency Service** A state-operated facility serving people with mental illness.

*Instructions:*

- Assemble the items in a clear plastic bag and tie with a bow.
- Bag or box the packets together.
- Clearly mark the bag or box with the designated institution and number of packets.
- Gather the following items for each packet:
  - A small packet of tissues
  - One wash cloth
  - One sturdy comb
  - Two pens and two pencils
  - One metal nail clippers
  - One toothbrush
  - One tube of toothpaste (not Pepsodent)
  - Box of 20 note papers and envelopes
  - A plastic bottle of shampoo male/female
  - A personal note with church name (no personal name or addresses) optional

**8. BABY CARE KITS Lutheran World Relief**

In refugee camps, mission hospitals and villages around the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to infants and their mothers.

*Instructions:*

- Wrap the first seven items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with the safety pins.
- Place kits in a BOX; count the number of kits in each box.
- Clearly label the box with “LWR BABY CARE KITS” and the number of baby care kits.
- Each layette should contain the following, which should be NEW or like-new:
  - Two shirts or onesies
  - Two gowns or sleepers without feet
  - Two 4-5 oz. bars of gentle soap
  - Two receiving blankets
  - Four cloth diapers, flat fold
  - Two diaper pins
  - Two pairs of socks

**9. SCHOOL KITS Lutheran World Relief**

For children whose lives have been disrupted by war or other disaster, a school kit provides needed tools for learning. Adults in literacy classes also use these supplies to learn to read and write.

*Instructions:*

- Pack all the items in the bag, fold the handles over and secure with two large rubber bands.
- Place kits in a BOX; count the number of kits in each box.
- Clearly label the box with “LWR SCHOOL KITS” and the number of school kits.
- Gather the following items for each school kit:
  - One pair of blunt scissors
  - One pencil sharpener
  - One eraser approximately 2 1/2” long
  - One box of 16, or 24 crayons
  - Four 70-sheet notebooks of ruled paper, approximately 8 1/2” x 11”
  - One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
  - Five new #2 pencils with erasers – unsharpened secure with rubber band
  - Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel) – secure with rubber band
  - One cloth bag approximately 12” x 14” inches w/cloth handles or drawstring

Here is a “no waste” pattern for three cloth bags with handles made from a piece of sturdy fabric, 30” wide x 45” long. The seam allowance is 1/2” . Sew slim panels into tubes. Cut into three pieces for handles.

Bag #1	Bag #2	Bag #3	10” x 3”
			10” x 3”
15”	15”	15”	10” x 3”

**10. BACKPACKS Lutheran Children And Family Service**

These backpacks are for children in foster care or being resettled in our area.

*Instructions:*

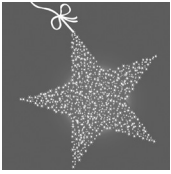
- Gather the materials listed for a younger child OR older child.
- Put materials in the backpack.
- Label the backpack according to age group.

For younger children, include one of the following:

- Box of crayons
- Box of markers
- Glue stick
- Pad of construction paper

For older children/young adults, include one of the following:

- Single subject Notebooks (1-4)
- One box of thin markers
- Notebook paper
- One box of colored pencils
- Protractor
- One packet blue /black ink pens
- Folders
- One sweater or sweatshirt
- One packet pencils
- One hand towel
- Calculator (optional)



# 2015 Christmas Ingathering

## CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING GUIDE

“You are the light of the world.” **Matthew 5:14**

Serve people in need at Christmas in five easy steps:

**(Forms are also available online at [www.lutherancongregationalervices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalervices.org) under serve/volunteer tab)**

**1. Choose** which kind of donation your congregation will give.

- Find the **Donation Instruction Sheet** in this kit that give specific information about each kind of donation.
- Choose which charity and the donations your congregation will collect.
- Appoint a contact person from your congregation.

**2. Let us know**

- Choose the drop-off site that is most convenient for your congregation.
- Fill out the **Commitment Form** in this kit and send it in **as soon as possible** so that we can plan our deliveries.
- if you collect gifts for children, arrange to receive gift request forms from Darliese Scott (darlieses@lcfsinpa.org or 215-456-5700).

**3. Invite** people in your congregation to give generously.

- Post the Ingathering poster in a prominent location in your congregation.
- Decide on a time-line and communication strategy that will work in your congregation.  
**Work backwards from the drop-off date, December 6, 2015.**
- Fill-in, copy and distribute the Ingathering bulletin insert to the congregation. (on back)  
An electronic version is available online at [www.lutherancongregationalervices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalervices.org)
- If collecting gifts for children, distribute gift request forms with instruction sheets. A coordinator for your congregation should track who takes each form in case follow-up is necessary.
- Invite adults or youth groups to volunteer on December 6 sorting gifts at the central drop-off location (call for location). Contact Darliese Scott (darlieses@lcfsinpa.org or 215-456-5700) with the number of volunteers who will serve and additional information.

**4. Collect** donations in your community.

- Offer a secure location for gift drop-off, especially if collecting money or gift cards.
- Plan your strategy for delivering your congregation's donations to a drop-off point. If many large gifts, food bags or multiple boxes for Lutheran World Relief are gathered, you may need multiple delivery vehicles or trucks. Remember all gifts must be delivered to the drop off site on **December 6th, between 1-2:30 PM.**

**5. Deliver** donations to a collection point on Sunday, December 6.

- Use the service of Blessing and Sending at the regular Sunday worship service on December 6 to give thanks and pray for the recipients of your congregation's donations. (see back)
- Deliver donations to a drop-off point.
- Publicly thank volunteers and donors for their generosity.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact the **Reverend Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen** at [jollikainen@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jollikainen@libertylutheran.org) or **610-425-2981**, or **Darliese Scott**, LCFS at [darlieses@lcfsinpa.org](mailto:darlieses@lcfsinpa.org) or **215-456-5700**.

**Supported by the congregations of the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod. Managed by Liberty Lutheran.**



## Evangelical Lutheran Worship Blessing and Sending for Mission

*This order may precede the blessing and the dismissal.*

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send these donations gathered for the Christmas Ingathering.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless these \_\_\_\_\_.

Food, sustenance – May those who receive them be nourished and strengthened,

Personal-care supplies – May those who receive them be cared for and healed,

Clothing, quilts – May those who receive them find dignity in their use and comfort in their warmth,

Holiday Gifts – May those who receive them receive joy and happiness,

Backpacks – May those who receive them be strengthened through learning, and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through  
your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church  
and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Adapted from "Blessing and Sending for Mission,"  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly,  
©2009 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.



## 2015 Christmas Ingathering

"You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14

The Christmas Ingathering supported by congregations in the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod has:

- Been a ministry of southeast Pennsylvania congregations for more than **48 Years**
- Provided more than **\$94,000** in gifts and donations each year for the last **ten years**
- Given gifts to more than **1,000** children who otherwise would have no holiday gift
- Supported the charitable giving of congregations by **providing postage and delivery** of gifts and donations to people in need in the Philadelphia area and around the world.

Your congregation is participating by collecting

---

For:

Please bring your donations to the church by

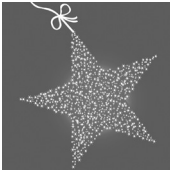
---

### QUESTIONS?

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Supported by the congregations of the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod.  
Managed by Liberty Lutheran.





# 2015 Christmas Ingathering **COMMITMENT FORM**

"You are the light of the world." **Matthew 5:14**

**Complete this form and submit it as soon as possible.**

**Return to: Darliese Scott**, Ingathering Coordinator, LCFS 5401 Rising Sun Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19120-3008

**or call:** 215-456-5700 and read the information into the voice mail system **or Scan/Email:** darlieses@lcfsinpa.org

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate the numbers/amounts of what you intend to provide:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran Children and Family Service** Holiday gifts for children

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran Children and Family Service** Dollars for children/family needs

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran Children and Family Service** Backpacks for refugees or kids in care

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran World Relief** School Kits

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran World Relief** Quilts

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran World Relief** Personal Care Kits

\_\_\_\_\_ **Lutheran World Relief** Baby Care Kits

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seamen's Church Institute** Socks

\_\_\_\_\_ **Seamen's Church Institute** Work Gloves

\_\_\_\_\_ **Local Food Pantries** Bags of food

\_\_\_\_\_ **Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries** Socks/travel-sized toiletries

\_\_\_\_\_ Packets for the following **Local Institution(s)**

Name	Number
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

We intend to bring our donations to the following drop-off location:

\_\_\_\_\_

Other comments/information:

\_\_\_\_\_

