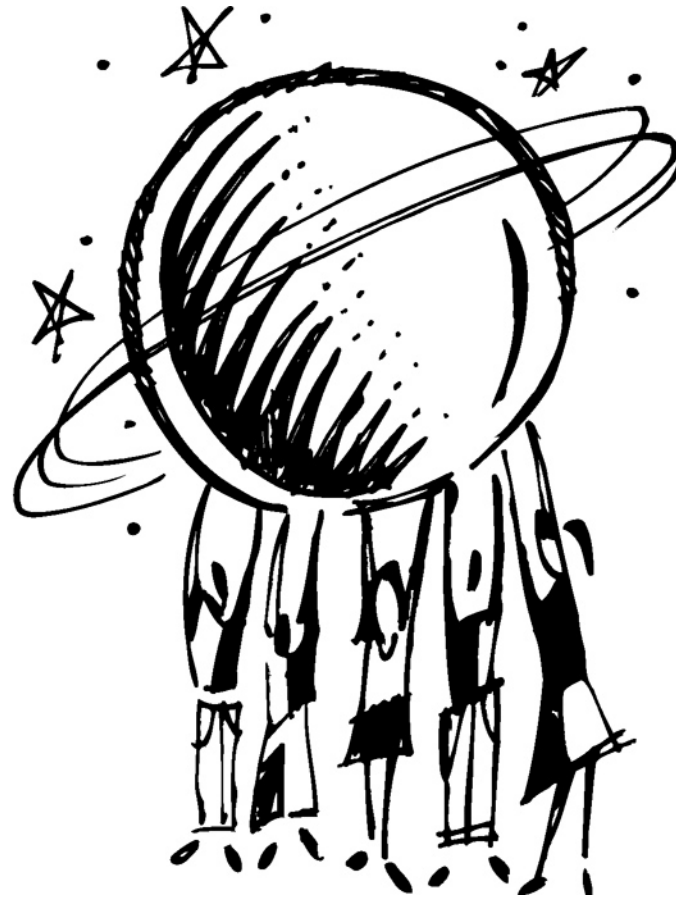


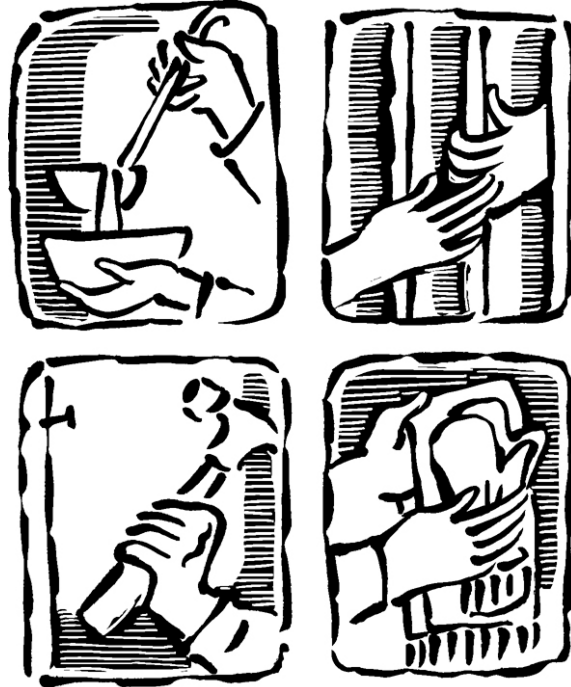
2011
MISSION
OPPORTUNITIES



Rejoice Lutheran Church Mission Handbook

In the coming weeks and months there are many ways in which where the congregation of Rejoice can engage in mission, both near and far – “*glocal*.”

Here is a selection of opportunities, and they are just that... opportunities... not expectations, with the hope that there is enough variety to support Rejoice's mission focus. We hope that everyone finds at least one outreach which they can feel passionate about supporting this year!



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MARCH

Rejoice Lenten Challenge – Clean Water for Uganda

Through April 24th

During this Lenten season, as we think about Jesus' suffering on the cross, we also think about those who drink from the cup of suffering each day. Worldwide, people suffer from the lack of clean, safe water. This Lent we challenge you to make a sacrifice and for two weeks give up all beverages except water, donating the money you would have spent on a very worthwhile cause—clean water for Uganda! 100% of your donations will support our fellow congregates the Hubbards and Loving One by One Ministry who is sponsoring a project that will help build a well in Uganda. No donation is too small... every drop makes a difference. Contact: Julie Douglas.

APRIL

World Relief Refugee Support

Starting in April

Did you know that each month refugees arrive in the Aurora area? These folks have been vetted by Homeland Security and INS and often arrive with little more than the clothes they have traveled in.

Would you like to help them get settled in the USA? We will be involved in making their new home warm and welcoming with a "good neighbor kit," and will provide mentoring to help the individual and/or family adjust... helping them with the things we take for granted but what may be entirely new experiences for them such as: Where can I improve my English? Where can I find a church, mosque, temple? What public transport is available? How do I open a checking account? Contact: Neil Edmondson or Wendy Gruber.

Lenten Supper

Wednesday April 6th 5-7pm

Come and eat a fabulous soup supper provided by your Mission Support Team. Learn more about the mission opportunities that are available through Rejoice! Come and share your ideas about how we can better engage in missions.

Bingo at Geneva Care Center

Saturday April 9th 2-4pm

Join us at Geneva Care Center for a fun afternoon of playing bingo with

the elderly in our community. Sign up now in the narthex. Contact: Amy Frazer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sunday April 10th 11:45am

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Rejoice is EVERY person at Rejoice ... those that give shawls, nurturing and caring for those in need; and the people that knit and crochet, generously giving of their talent and their time. While the majority of the work is done in our own homes when time permits, Prayer Shawl meetings are held from September through May in the church basement after the second service. Dates are listed on the church calendar and reminders are posted in Connections. Meetings consist of lunch, fellowship, planning strategies, and productivity. Willing teachers can help you learn to knit or crochet if you would like to make shawls to donate to this ministry. Donations of supplies are always welcome. Contact: Ruth Bastian.

Moms in the Mission

Tuesday April 12th 9-11am

This is a mission-focused group for all moms throughout the community. Develop friendships with other moms while making a difference in the lives of others! Monthly meetings include fellowship, discussion/devotions, and mission projects. New members are warmly welcome to join throughout the year, and members may come and go as their schedules permit. Childcare is available at a nominal charge for infants—kindergarteners. Contact: Jessica Pluta.

Rebuilding Rejoice and Aurora Together

Saturday April 30th 8am-4pm: Rebuilding in Aurora

Saturday April 30th 1pm-4pm: Clean-up at Rejoice

One crew will work at Rejoice on spring clean-up. Trimming bushes and trees, mulching around the church and trees, applying fertilizers and weed preventives, installing gutter drain pipes, planting, and spring cleaning inside. The other crew will support Rebuilding Aurora Together. Join a “blitz-team” of 700 volunteers from around the western suburbs to provide home repair and rehabilitation services to low-income homeowners in Aurora, focused on serving seniors, individuals with disabilities and families with children. Last year RBAT rehabbed 30 homes during the blitz! Ages 14 and older for RBAT. Sign up now in the narthex.

Followed by pizza, reflection and fellowship for all back at Rejoice at 4:30pm! Contact: Neil Edmondson.

MAY

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sunday May 1st 11:45am

Knitters and crocheters both novice and experienced are invited to join us for lunch, fellowship and crafting of our prayer shawls. Contact: Ruth Bastian.

Rebuilding Aurora Together

Saturday May 7th 8am-4pm

A second opportunity to join a “blitz” of 700 volunteers from around the western suburbs to provide home repair and rehabilitation services to low-income homeowners in Aurora, focused on serving seniors, individuals with disabilities and families with children. Join our team, ages 14 and older. Last year RBAT rehabbed 30 homes in just 16 hours of work. Sign up now in the narthex! Contact: Neil Edmondson.

Moms in the Mission

Tuesday May 10th 9-11 am

This is a mission-focused group for all moms throughout the community. Develop friendships with other moms while making a difference in the lives of others! Monthly meetings include fellowship, discussion/devotions, and mission projects. New members are warmly welcome to join throughout the year, and members may come and go as their schedules permit. Childcare is available at a nominal charge for infants—kindergarteners. Contact: Jessica Pluta.

Hesed House

Saturday May 14th 6pm-Sunday 7am

Hesed House is a shelter and advocacy center for the homeless located in Aurora. The volunteers from Rejoice staff this facility from 6 pm to 7am and helps to provide and serve a hot dinner and breakfast, as well as a bag lunch for those not able to return to Hesed House during mid-day. Other tasks include dispensing supplies, washing towels and dishes, monitoring the sleeping areas and helping guests with a variety of needs. Contact: Scott and Karla Fellin.

JUNE

Vacation Bible School – “Shake It Up Café”

Tuesday, June 14 through Friday, June 17

Vacation bible school is a great opportunity for our children to be missionaries! It's as easy as bringing a friend with them that week to VBS. This simple act can introduce a child to the love of Jesus. Be intentional by discussing with your child who he or she could bring with them that week and think of asking someone who does not have a church home. The child you bring will be blessed and so will your own child knowing he or she is helping to partner with Jesus in missionary work! Contact: Barb Loomis.

The Love Project2: ASCENT High School Mission Trip

Saturday June 18th – 26th

This summer high school students from Rejoice will travel to New Orleans. They will be ministering to families in a part of our own country where poverty is at an all-time high, and is still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Joining hundreds of other students from around the country, they will be demolishing condemned houses to make way for new ones to be built in their place, and taking to the streets to spread the love to the people of the Gulf Coast. Contact: Jake Fry.

Loving One by One Uganda

Wednesday June 29th – Friday July 15th

Support and pray for Ron and Becky Hubbard as they travel to Uganda to serve the orphaned and poor with Loving One By One - a ministry dedicated to helping refugee or homeless children in Uganda reach their full potential. Interested in serving with this ministry in January 2012? Contact: Ron Hubbard.

JULY & AUGUST

Hesed House

Saturday July 9th 6pm-Sunday 7am

Join us as we serve the homeless at Hesed House, a shelter and advocacy center for the homeless located in Aurora. Through multiple programs, Hesed House provides food, temporary shelter, clothing, supplies, legal advice and health care to people in need. Contact: Scott and Karla Fellin.

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Saturday July 23rd 9-11am

Help us in sorting, evaluating, cleaning, and packaging of donated food and get it ready for distribution to hungry families in Northern Illinois. 8 years and older. Contact: Neil Edmondson.

Pine Ridge South Dakota Mission Trip

Saturday July 30th – August 6th

Two teams from Rejoice will be serving at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Team 1 will consist of 20 Rejoicers (July 29 - Aug 6) and Team 2 will consist of 8 (Aug 6 -Aug 13). We will provide help in refurbishing trailers, helping families with projects and just showing up with love to listen in an area that is the poorest population center in the United States. In each of our mission trips the congregation has always been full partners with those who made the journey. We are currently in the information gathering stage to see what the Pine Ridge community needs most and how we can help. Stay tuned for more information and keep our two teams in your prayers. Contact: Leslie Kling or Pastor Lou.

Family Mission Overnight

Details to follow – watch for more information in E-Connections.

SEPTEMBER

Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build

September 8-9-10th

We would commit to organizing volunteer teams of 10-15 people each day to work onsite building a home with a local family. A great workout to prepare for the October trip to Slidell. Age 16 years. Contact: Inga Theeke / Mike Stanch.

Fill the Boot with Geneva Fire Department

Sunday September 11th

Support the burn camp for children in Northern Illinois - "Camp I Am Me." The camp provides the setting for burn survivors to share their common experiences while being able to play and not feel self conscious about their scars. The benefits to the campers - physical, psychological, and emotional - have been enough to inspire a long list of eager volunteers and contributors. This is Rejoice's turn to support this powerful ministry! Contact: Shelly Erdmann – and watch the video at <http://bit.ly/hBdkyq>.

Hesed House

Saturday September 10th 6pm-Sunday 7am

Join us as we serve the homeless at Hesed House, a shelter and advocacy center for the homeless located in Aurora. Through multiple programs, Hesed House provides food, temporary shelter, clothing, supplies, legal advice and health care to people in need. Contact: Scott and Karla Fellin.

Rockin' for a Cause

Date TBA

An annual event that showcases the many musical talents of our fellow Rejoicers along with collecting donated items and raising funds for the different Rejoice missions. In the past, we have used the funds and energy of the Rejoice congregation to ...

- collect & ship medications to Hondurans
- collect and assemble care packs for the homeless of the Gulf Coast
- provide scholarships to individual Rejoice missionaries
- fund the missionary work of Giles & Debbie Davis in Spain

OCTOBER

Mission on the Bay Slidell, LA

Saturday October 1st – Saturday October 8th

We will be working with Habitat for Humanity in St. Tammany West and our efforts will focus on improving housing conditions to enhance the overall quality of life across struggling neighborhoods in the area by providing simple, decent and affordable shelter.

We will also have teams working with The Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church Feeding Ministry in Slidell, which feeds residents who are facing economic burdens and serves about 350 lunches six days per week, excluding Sunday, from its facility on Second Street in Slidell. Contact: Neil Edmondson.

NOVEMBER

Hesed House

Saturday November 12th 6pm-Sunday 7am

Join us as we serve the homeless at Hesed House, a shelter and advocacy center for the homeless located in Aurora. Through multiple programs, Hesed House provides food, temporary shelter, clothing, supplies, legal advice and health care to people in need. Contact: Scott and Karla Fellin.

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week, November 14-21

Want to brighten the life of child in need this Christmas? It's simple. Wrap and pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child! You and your family can be part of this Christmas miracle in 2011 - discovering the power of a simple gift and reminding a child in need that God loves them and they have not been forgotten. Sponsored by our 5th grade Justice Leaguers, shoe boxes are packed with Christmas presents and are shipped to needy children throughout the world through Samaritan's Purse. Contact: Julie Douglas.

DECEMBER

Angel Tree

Angel Tree is a way for Rejoicers to provide Christmas presents to needy children in our area. Traditionally, Rejoice partners with two different groups: Breaking Free, an outpatient addiction treatment program in Aurora; and Washington Middle School in Aurora, which has a high population of very needy kids. More details to follow in November.

JANUARY 2012

Loving One by One Uganda

January 2012

Travel to Uganda to serve with Loving One By One - a ministry dedicated to helping refugee or homeless children in Uganda reach their full potential. Since its inception, Loving One By One has clothed and fed orphaned street children; conducted numerous medical and de-worming clinics; established New Creation Centre, a school for refugee children; and most recently, opened New Creation Family Home, an orphanage which serves children in a loving family atmosphere. This video will help you understand this important ministry - <http://bit.ly/eNsgGF>.

Interested in serving with this ministry in January 2012? Contact: Ron Hubbard.

Rejoice

Lutheran
Church

Creating a place where...

God is experienced,

Community is shared,

Lives are changed!

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