

Create Impact

Volunteer Opportunities:
Community Partners &
Cause of the Month



WESTWOOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025



Mission

The mission of Westwood Lutheran Church is to worship God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision

Our vision is to create new connections, empower discipleship through vocation, and be an advocate for a healthy community.



At Westwood, we get excited about congregants giving their time, talents, and resources to do God's work in the world! The information in this booklet can help you learn more about volunteering with community partners and several "Cause of the Month" organizations in various ways. There is a brief overview of each organization and, most importantly, contact information for you to reach out to them and schedule volunteer activities or to learn more.

A portion of our faith-giving is also designated to provide financial gifts and support through Westwood's community partnerships.


Thank you for your generosity and leadership in supporting the thriving of our neighbors.



Mission:

Every Meal provides nutritious, shelf-stable food consisting of fruits, vegetables, proteins, and grains to children who experience food-insecurity, ensuring they have enough to eat on weekends & school holidays.

Contact Info:

 Brenda Knutson, Westwood Member

 612-568-4003

 brenda.knutson4@gmail.com

 www.everymeal.org/

 2723 Patton Rd.
Roseville, MN 55113

 info@everymeal.org

Volunteer Overview:

Every Meal volunteers help provide weekend meals to food-insecure children. The organization offers flexible volunteer roles to distribute or prepare food. Westwood supports Aquila Elementary in SLP.

Weekend Meal Program:

Distribution Volunteers are at the center of what we do! This role includes training and ongoing guidance.

- Must be 18+ and lift up to 35 lbs.
- Discreetly place food bags directly in lockers or backpacks
- Dedicate 1-2 hours on Thursday or Friday while children are in school

Food Packing in Roseville:

(Click here to sign up: https://volunteer.everymeal.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=114209)

Join other volunteers in the community to pack food.

- High-energy and high-impact opportunity
- Form assembly lines and pack bags containing meals that are nutritious and delicious



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

Mission:

LSS Refugee Services helps refugees build a new life in Minnesota by providing critical services, including transportation, legal assistance, and case management.

Contact Info:

Lynn Mullin, Volunteer Coordinator

612-470-8806

Lynn.Mullin@lssmn.org

www.lssmn.org/services/refugees

2400 Park Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

refugee.services@lssmn.org

Volunteer Overview:

Driver or Delivery Volunteers for LSS Refugee Services help get clients and donations where they need to go. Drivers may be called to bring clients to appointments, pick up donations, deliver supplies to a client, or any other opportunities within the Twin Cities or St. Cloud. Volunteers' tasks and times are flexible to work with people's schedules. For this or other LSS Twin Cities opportunities, contact Lynn.

Mission:

The mission of the Tanzania Health Partnership is to support compassionate, Tanzanian-led healthcare at Dodoma Christian Medical Center, focusing on improving access to health services and education.



Contact Info:

Anne Hussian, Executive Director

763-231-2954

anne@tanzaniahealthpartnership.org

<https://tanzaniahealthpartnership.org/>

7520 Golden Valley Rd.
Minneapolis, MN 55427

info@tanzaniahealthpartnership.org

Volunteer Overview:

Volunteers are needed for upcoming events and committees. If medical personnel want to volunteer at DCMC, they're welcome year-round, and Tanzania Health Partnership can help coordinate their visit. Nurses, pediatricians, internal medicine, family practice, PT, and dentists are particularly needed.



Contact Info:

-  westwood.church/wecc
-  9001 Cedar Lake Rd.
St. Louis Park, Mn 55426
-  952-545-5624
-  wecc@westwood.church

Mission:

Westwood Early Childhood Center helps foster the development of young children within a Christian atmosphere. The WECC is Reggio educator-inspired. Four essential partners - the church community, children, teachers, and parents - guide our work, shape our ministry, and serve as inspiration within daily practice.

Volunteer Overview:

The Westwood Early Childhood Center seeks volunteers to come into classrooms to read with a group of children or assist in music or art experiences. Please call or email the WECC leadership team if you are interested in volunteering or learning more.

Mission:




Wednesday nights in September to May, from 5-6:30 pm, Westwood hosts a meal before evening programs for participants, families from the WECC, and people within our wider community.



Community Meal

Contact Info:

-  Ann Kisch, Kitchen Manager
-  952-767-5567
-  a.kisch@westwood.church

-  westwood.church
-  9001 Cedar Lake Rd.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
-  info@westwood.church

Volunteer Overview:

It takes a significant number of volunteers to host a weekly community meal. Volunteers are needed for the following areas and shifts. Additional help is needed for laundry and pick-up.

- Dishwashers at 5:30 pm
- Prep and Serve from 3-5:30 pm
- Serve and Clean up from 5:30-7:30 pm







Mission:

STEP provides emergency food, clothing, and financial assistance to neighbors in need, empowering individuals to overcome hardships and improve their well-being.

Contact Info:

 Mari-Claire Dart, Programs Director

 952-925-4899

 Mari@stepslp.org

 www.STEPslp.org

 6812 West Lake St.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

 info@STEPslp.org

Volunteer Overview:

STEP relies on the dedication of volunteers to provide essential services to impact the community positively. Over 100 volunteers join STEP each week to help with all aspects of serving clients. Volunteers assist in various roles (ex., managing the lobby, helping clients shop for food and clothing, stocking shelves, and providing delivery services).

Thanks to the help of many group volunteers, STEP can tackle projects and the never-ending “to-do” list. Group volunteers sort major donations, prepare for annual client events, and assist with landscaping.

Volunteering for STEP can also happen outside of our building and on your schedule.

Individual Volunteers:

Sign up for a four-hour shift during STEP’s hours of operation. Weekly volunteer opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Front Lobby and Phone Reception
- In-Person Shopping Support
- Warehouse and Donation Management
- Delivery and Order Pick-up

Off-site at Workplaces:

STEP staff members can work with you to coordinate a project at your workplace location. Past group projects for STEP’s benefit include:

- Coat drives
- School supply collections
- Food drives (inspire friendly competition!)
- Birthday, toy, and gift card roundups
- New baby bags

Group Volunteers:

On-site: Wednesdays (afternoon) and Fridays (morning). Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

Westwood Campus Opportunities:

May: Volunteers are needed to coordinate and promote a STEP food drive to prepare for the highest-demand months.

November-December: Westwood collects new toys and gift cards for the children’s gift program.


Contact Pastor Jason at j.vanhunnik@westwood.church to be on a leadership team for either event.




Mission:

The mission of The Outreach Program is to provide safe water, food, medical care, and education to children and those in need at home and abroad.

Contact Info:

 Brenda Knutson, Westwood Member

 800-513-0935

 brenda.knutson4@gmail.com

 outreachprogram.org

 301 Center St., PO Box 361
Union, Iowa 50258

 office@outreachprogram.org

Volunteer Overview:

Westwood does an annual spring on-site food packing event through The Outreach Program. All food packets get shipped to Arusha Road Lutheran Church in Dodoma, TZ, to support the Orphan and Vulnerable Children Program. To volunteer for the coordinating team or to pack food, please contact Westwood member Brenda Knutson.



Mission:

Fostering a world of just and welcoming communities.



Global Refuge

(formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)

Contact Info:

 www.globalrefuge.org/congregations

 outreach@globalrefuge.org

Volunteer Overview:

Guided by the call to welcome the stranger, it is more important than ever for faith communities to be a beacon of welcome and kindness for our newest neighbors. Global Refuge is here to support you! Please email us with any questions or visit globalrefuge.org/congregations to explore all available resources. Sign up to [volunteer](#) locally through Global Refuge partners. There are many ways to get involved; several options are listed below.

- [Fresh Change Service Project Opportunity](#): Pack bags to welcome our neighbors at the border and throughout the country with care and dignity.
- [Journey to Welcome Educational Simulation Exercise](#): An educational and service-based activity that is a great fit for students, church youth groups, and even adults.

Mission:

Clare Housing provides a continuum of affordable and supportive housing options that create healing communities and optimize the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. Because many of our residents are survivors of systemic and individual harm and discrimination, we commit to ensuring that living at Clare Housing feels healing, empowering, dignifying, and connective.

Contact Info:

 Jenny Harding, Director of Advancement
 612-236-9515
 jenny.harding@clarehousing.org

 www.clarehousing.org
 929 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
 info@clarehousing.org

Volunteer Overview:

Clare Housing can't fulfill its mission and goal without the time and energy of compassionate, committed people like you! Sharing in a conversation with a resident or landscaping at a building may seem simple, but these acts are critical in creating and sustaining a healing community. Please let us know if you have a new idea or skill you'd like to share; we're excited to welcome you into the community.

In-Kind Donations:

Want to give a tangible gift to residents? [Visit our Target registry](#) to find household essentials needed. Items ordered from the registry can be delivered directly to the main office for staff to distribute.




Mission:

To holistically and equitably support the developmental needs of young children from families of varying incomes, races, ethnicities, religions, and cultures to promote long-term social, emotional and academic developmental success.



Contact Info:

 Kylie Cooper, Executive Director
 952-277-9583
 k.cooper@riseearlylearningcenter.org

 www.riseearlylearningcenter.org
 8119 Hwy 7
Saint Louis Park, MN 55426
 info@riseearlylearningcenter.org

Volunteer Overview:


Rise Early serves up to 62 infants, toddlers, and preschool children. Please contact the executive director to learn about volunteering or donating items.

Mission:

Our mission is to be a beacon of hope to residents of the Harrison Neighborhood, to the people of North Minneapolis, and for the greater church around the world.

Contact Info:

 <https://www.redeermpls.org/>

 (612) 886-1468



1800 Glenwood Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55405



admin@redeermpls.org

Volunteer Overview:

Redeemer Lutheran Church has been a Westwood Community Partner since the mid-2000s. Below are several opportunities to volunteer or donate to support Redeemer and the greater community. If you have questions, please call or email Redeemer or visit the website and [click on volunteer](#) to complete a form.

- Diaper Donations: 10 am dropoff at Minneapolis Central Church of Christ (4th + Newton). Donate for the following 3rd Saturdays of the month. Stay, volunteer, and connect with neighbors from 11-2 pm.
- Monthly Redeemer Meals: Providing a space to gather over a meal, there are options to purchase a \$25 punch card to donate as an optional way to support the meal ministry. Upcoming meal dates are February 5 and May 7 - Volunteers are needed!
- Summer Block Party Meal Volunteers: Each summer, Westwood volunteers to serve one Wednesday evening meals at Redeemer. Contact Susie Fjelstad at sbfjelstad@gmail.com to sign up as a block party meal volunteer.
- Christmas-Giving Store Volunteers: Each December, Redeemer hosts a Christmas-giving store where volunteers and donations are needed. Reach out to Redeemer in early November for links to sign up, volunteer, and/or donate.



Each month, Westwood highlights a different organization, ministry, or movement that we believe in and can financially support as a congregation through monthly donations and offerings.

Consider a monthly, one-time gift using the QR code or visiting Westwood's Cause of the Month webpage to support organizations. You can also give directly to the organizations at any time.

2025

January

St. Louis Park Dinner at Your Door

February

LSS Refugee Services

March

Camp WAPO: Scholarships

April

The Outreach Program: Food Packaging

May

STEP: Food Shelf

June

Clare Housing

July

Global Refuge

August

Every Meal

September

WECC: Scholarship Fund

October

TBD...more info to come

November

Westwood Community Meal

December

Arusha Road Orphan Ministry

