



Julie Mann
IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
julie@iowadistrictwest.org
515-408-9696

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of the early Christian church who were working with Timothy in the city of Thessalonica (today Thessaloniki), “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you” (1 Thessalonians 3:12). My prayer is the same that God’s love which He tenderly pours through us to our family, friends, and community members continues to flow abundantly.

Are you heading into spring and summer planning, looking into new ways to enjoy time with your church family, learning about your neighbors and how to partner with them, or just stumped on different ways to engage in the community? Here are a few ministries that can always use willing help.

Mercy Meals of Siouxland – Packaging meals for the undernourished and starving around the world. Meals are packaged at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux City. In partnership with Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska, they are shipped to communities in need throughout the world.

Events at 8:30 and 10:30 am, volunteers aged 11 and up

Saturdays: March 22, April 26, May 10, June 21, July 26, and August 23

If you would like to bring a group to package, please contact by phone or email: (712) 251-0366 or mercymealsofsiouxland@gmail.com

Hope Ministries – (A two-hour evening experience in Des Moines) JOURNEY is meant to teach groups about both the root causes and difficult challenges of homelessness, as well as what the journey to life recovery looks like at Hope Ministries. [Journey: A Hope Ministries Escape Room Experience - Hope Ministries](#)

Lutheran Braille Workers – Spend some time creating braille Bibles, large print Bibles, audio materials, and/or packing for distribution (multiple MN/Twin City locations) **or** join with Blind and vision impaired folks for fellowship, Bible study, food, and other activities (South Sioux City). <https://www.lbwloveworks.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Blessing Boxes – Consider building a Blessing Box from scratch, from a prefab cabinet, or a repurposed piece of furniture to have on your property for the community. I would encourage that donations come into your church/school and someone checks them for expiration dates

and safety before going in the box. It can be a great intergenerational project to fill several times a month! Keep it updated with non-perishables, hygiene items, winter hats/mittens, books, etc.



<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Food-Safety-in-Blessing-Boxes>

I would also really enjoy hearing from you about what is going on through your congregation in outreach in your communities. Are you willing to have others from the district come join you sometime? Serving together often brings much joy and relationship building! It may be a way to find out, in conversation while serving, that you have something in common with another volunteer, or you/they have a skill set that the other is wanting to learn more about. I recently found out that two of my fellow travelers from this past holiday mission trip to California have been talking about gardening, one a seasoned gardener and one a newbie who is going to have a great mentor.

You never know who God has intended for your path cross with while doing work in His name. Have a blessed Easter!