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Here we go, diving into a new year! Speaking with so many of you during my travels across IDW, I have had the opportunity to learn about your efforts reaching out in your communities. Here are some ideas that might be new, and I know your congregation has talented people who may want to run an event. Also, when you share what you have going on, it allows me to connect you with others who are searching for what can be done. Please keep reaching out to me, no matter which side of the coin you are on.

- **Health and Wellness Initiatives:** Host fitness classes (like stretching or running groups), healthy cooking workshops, or possibly partner with a local gym to offer a New Year's resolution challenge.
- **Financial Planning Seminars:** Many people focus on better money management in January. Offer seminars on topics like getting out of debt, saving for college, or retirement planning. Many of our congregations offer Financial Peace classes or reach out to Josh Remington at LCEF.
- **Volunteer Recruitment Drives:** This is a great opportunity to define what each of the groups in your congregation does and get the word out that you are welcoming new folks to come aboard.
- **Community Events:** Host a low-key, indoor event like a soup cook-off, a family movie night, or a board game evening to foster social connections during colder months.
- **Skill-Share Workshops:** Invite community members to teach a skill they know, such as painting, learning a new instrument, or a language class, creating opportunities for shared learning.
- **Get involved with some ongoing projects:**
 - Mercy Meals of Siouxland Faith Lutheran Church, 3101 Hamilton Boulevard, Sioux City, IA 51104. If you would like to bring a group to package, please contact us by phone or email: (712) 258-0808 (landline), Margee (712) 251-0366 (cell), or mercymealsoftsiouxland@gmail.com January 24, Feb 28
 - Do an ingathering for Moulton and Findley Elementary schools in Des Moines or connect with your local school district. They are always in need of tennis shoes, socks, and underwear for ages K-5th grade.
 - Have a 'baby shower' and collect diapers and wipes for our congregations doing Swaddling Clothes outreach.