

## **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD! THREE EXAMPLES:**

### **WHAT-SEW-EVER:**

Every Wednesday, a group of women meet at the church from 9:00 a.m. to noon to make quilts and to make a difference in the world in a variety of ways. During the past 12 months, these faithful servants:

- Have made **135 quilts** for Lutheran World Relief, the Veterans Administration in Topeka, and LifeHouse (a child's advocacy program in Topeka); and
- Have made Christmas gifts for **18 homebound** members.

God has provided in abundance for this dedicated group, as they have more than enough boxes of fabric to make quilts for the coming year. They are in need of willing workers who will share their gifts of time and talents to assemble quilts. No sewing skills are necessary. If you are able to tie your own shoelaces, you have the necessary skills to tie quilts. There are even some people who are not able to attend the Wednesday sessions, who work on quilts at home. For further information on how you can make a difference in the world through this ministry, please contact Carolyn Olson at (785) 272-6428 or at [Colson3958@yahoo.com](mailto:Colson3958@yahoo.com).

### **CHILDREN'S DAY OUT PRESCHOOL:**

Children's Day Out (CDO), a faith-based pre-school ministry of First Lutheran Church, is in its 41<sup>st</sup> year and since its inception, CDO has touched the lives of thousands of children. Current enrollment is 160 students and the school follows a nine-month academic year Monday-Friday for children (ages 2-5). Recently, the pre-school has been designated one of the top 3 in Topeka and the staff and volunteers work hard to maintain a high level of excellence, while, at the same time, actively teaching children about the love of Jesus.

As our congregation continues to make a difference in the world through this ministry, one way that you can make a difference is to help provide financial support for income-based scholarships. For further information about this or any aspect of CDO, you may contact Kathy Dale, Director, at (785) 272-5999 or at [director@childrensdayout.net](mailto:director@childrensdayout.net).

### **GATHERING TABLE MISSION TRIP, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>:**

On Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be partnering with the members of the Gathering Table in Kansas City, MO to make a difference in the world, as we work together with them in a variety of ways. We will be installing energy-efficient blinds and shelving in their church building; we are assembling health/hygiene kits for distribution to local residents; and we will also provide gloves, hats, socks and underwear for local distribution.

On Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., a group will be meeting at First Lutheran Church, to assemble health/hygiene kits and to sort donated clothing items. You are welcome to join us as we work together to make a difference in the world!

**One person cannot do everything, but every person can do something!**

**Thank you for your generous support as we are making a difference in the world!**

# RADICAL HOSPITALITY

September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Jenny, Diane Dukat, Juli Tinoco, Bob Wollin and I attended the Leadership Institute, an annual conference sponsored by the Church of the Resurrection United Methodist Church, Leawood, Kansas. The congregation started in 1990, when two couples decided that they were going to start a church for people who are nominally familiar with Christianity. Today, the 22,000+ member congregation has six campuses throughout the metro Kansas City area and has a flourishing ministry.

One of the concepts that was featured throughout the conference was that of “radical hospitality”. They define radical hospitality as *“beyond friendly; strives to consistently exceed people’s expectations of welcome and inclusion”*. The congregation certainly made us feel welcome, as they had more than 600+ volunteers on hand to welcome and assist those who attended the conference.

The congregation practices radical hospitality using **“Three Principles of Radical Hospitality”**:

**1. NOTICE:**

- Arrive early so you are not rushed.
- Offer a warm greeting to each person, starting with the person in front of you.
- Be on the look out for people who are alone or lost. Say, “Hi!”.

**2. PERSONAL ATTENTION:**

- Introduce yourself, and learn people’s names.
- Practice the 10-foot rule and 3-minute rule (see below).
- Introduce people to others you know.

**3. EXCELLENT FOLLOW-THROUGH:**

- If you become aware of a problem, help solve it or find someone who can.
- Offer a warm and sincere goodbye.

**10-Foot Rule:**

Take responsibility welcoming those within 10 feet of you, especially those who may be alone.

**3-Minute Rule:**

Spend at least 3 minutes before and after worship talking to someone you don’t know very well.

*“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.  
Let your conversation be always full of grace...”*  
--Colossians4:5-6a (NIV)

How might we practice **“radical hospitality”** that is *“beyond friendly; and strives to consistently exceed people’s expectations of welcome and inclusion”*?