

KIDS IN ACTION

Operation Christmas Child



The junior and senior youth groups of Peace, Warren packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child, a mission project for Samaritan's Purse. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations

around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love.

The youth, with the help of the congregation, collected items for boys and girls ages 2-14 such as small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, school supplies, toothbrushes, soap, candy, and socks. These items were packed in gift-wrapped shoeboxes and sorted and labeled by girl, boy, and age. Youth members prayed over the boxes and for the recipients before taking them to the region's drop-off center.

The \$7 shipping cost for each box was provided by the congregation via a free-will offering. The youth packed 18 boxes this year. This is the second year they have chosen this mission project. For more information on Operation Christmas Child, visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

"Walk On" Shoe Drive at St. Peter, Macomb

As part of its summer sermon series, "Walk On," St. Peter, Macomb recently collected and shipped 993 pairs of shoes to flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The sermon series, based on the book of James, caused the congregation to "put faith into action."

St. Peter's associate pastor, Brian Davies, said: "We worked with Trinity Lutheran in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who sponsored a community event helping people in need due to severe flooding this summer. Collecting the shoes became a natural way to not only reach out to the community in Iowa but to put our own members' faith into action by becoming involved with this effort."

Upon learning the final count was just short of 1,000 pairs, one seventh-grade student suggested the entire class take off their shoes and donate them! Forty three boxes of shoes were packaged and shipped due to this effort. And, yes, the seventh-graders did go home with their own shoes on that day!

"This was a huge effort that touched the lives of so many people in and around our own congregation," Davies said. "The project was as much a blessing to our own members as it was to the people who ultimately received the shoes!"

LWR Walk-a-thon

The students of Immanuel, Macomb held a walk-a-thon to raise money for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), an organization that helps people in need throughout the world. Each classroom was assigned a country serviced by Lutheran World Relief. The classes made flags of the countries. They waved the flags as they walked along a marked area of the Immanuel campus. Some of the students made more than 20 loops during the two-hour span. Through their efforts and chapel offerings, more than \$10,340 was raised for LWR.



Robert Christian, principal of Immanuel, stated: "What a thrill to see the enthusiasm of our students as they helped people throughout our world. We try to help our students understand that the Lord has blessed us so that we might be a blessing to others."



Pictured with Pastor Brian Davies is Mrs. Dunklau's seventh-grade class, who helped count, box, and ship shoes for flood victims in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.