**Suggestions for Community Projects**

**Expectant Parents/Mothers Outreach**

* Pregnancy counseling and assistance center (CLR affiliation)
* Diaper/Blanket drive (pregnancy and birthing needs)
* Chocolate shakes/refreshments/gifts for newborn mothers (check local hospital rules)

**Children’s/Youth Outreach**

* Local support for children’s agency in gifts of money, clothing, baby care supplies
* Power hour for mothers with young children / Mommy and Me
* Toys for Tots
* Backpack and school supplies give-a-way in the fall
* Early Childhood Center as community service
* Trunk-or-Treat
* VBS
* Baby and Kids Expo (Organize or participate)
* Christmas and/or Easter for Kids - community invitations, dinner served for attendees
* Kids at Christian Day School or Sunday School participate in the "Stuff a truck" program, providing food for the hungry.
* Kids occasionally sing at area nursing homes
* Fall Carnival/Petting Zoo
* Geocaching
* Trading Card Events

**Charitable Service/Outreach**

* Food Pantry volunteerism, funding, supplies
* Church sponsored sharing shelf
* Kwik-Trip Fuel cards
* Giving Tree—with donations of mittens, scarves, winter hats
* Service at local co-ops annual meetings
* Monetary gifts to families with extra medical needs
* Support for care centers where members are in residence
* A “community resource fair”
* Hygiene kits for homeless people with socks, toiletries, snacks, etc.
* Connecting the homeless to shelters, group homes, or rehabilitation centers (flyers for these services on hand to give out as needed)
* Open up facility to local nonprofits to host free and low cost GED classes
* A *sunshine fund*, which provides canned goods, cash for fresh foods and on occasion help with bills, etc.
* Care packages for students in specialized public school for behavioral issues

**Civic Projects & Veterans Projects**

* Blood drive
* Polling location
* US Constitution lectures
* Road cleanup duty
* Memorial day service in the cemetery, VFW color guard participation with 21 gun salute

**Miscellaneous Projects**

* Parents classes
* Personal safety and security events
* “Socktober” event, gathering socks for veterans
* Sew pillows/blankets for the local children’s hospital
* Host outside group for service projects for work and fundraising for charity
* Partnership with neighborhood associations
* 4th of July party
* Financial literacy class
* New winter clothes donation drive
* Men's breakfast -featured speaker, men encouraged to bring a neighbor or friend
* Counselling partnership
* Community parade involvement – Gospel swag
* Womens brunch - service project for a local charity
* Community focused Thanksgiving service and dinner
* Winter wear drive - donations plus devotional material given to a local charity
* Volunteer support for Christmas lights display
* Support a facility for addicted mothers and their children during treatment
* Assistance and material items for homeless teenagers
* A food collection at church that is regularly donated to the local Food Shelf
* A food booth at local festivals
* Chamber of Commerce
* Youth: food bags for members to hand out from their cars to homeless (water, nuts, bars, etc., along with a pair of socks and a New Testament).
* Gift cards for a local grocery store that are given to the homeless
* “Honest Conversations” events several times a year where the community is invited to hear a talk on a given topic (e.g., internet security, Islam, gun safety)
* “Game Night” where we simply play board games and eat (members are encouraged to invite others).
* Worldview Conference
* Monthly (or regular or occasional) worship service at local Care Center
* Vegetable garden with sharing of produce from Messiah’s vegetable garden]
* Craft and baking event to raise money to support home, foreign missions, etc.
* Providing temporary (commercial) lodging for the needy.
* "Christian Services Fund” for assistance requests - gas, helping pay bills, food cards. It is replenished through Thrivent membership payouts and donations.
* Projects
* Christmas Caroling
* Local Nursing Homes – various projects for and with residents, Bible studies
* Volunteer at Thanksgiving and Christmas time with our community's 'wheels on meals"
* Emergency fund

**In House: Plan for promotion**

1. Cover Letter Announcing Program Theme: **You Are My Guests** (Leviticus 25:23)
2. Provide a Sermon Study on the Gospel for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity (For Aug. 17, 2025)
3. Provide Sunday Bible Study Material for August 17 target date: St. Paul’s Conversion contextualized for personal witness in Acts 9:1-22; Acts 22:1-21; Acts 26:1-29, as suggested in Judith Paulsen, *A New and Ancient Evangelism: Rediscovering the Ways God Calls and Sends,* p. 113-127. (This will need to be baptized somewhat and conformed to the Book of Concord.) Allow for a brief brainstorming session with this list of suggestions for community projects. Include a follow-up two weeks after the session to revisit suggestions and implementation.
4. Disseminate fliers at the synod convention announcing this project to pastors and delegates. Pastors find the materials waiting for them in their email inbox upon return from the Synod Convention.

*It’s up to the Board to decide whether it’s worth all the fuss.*