

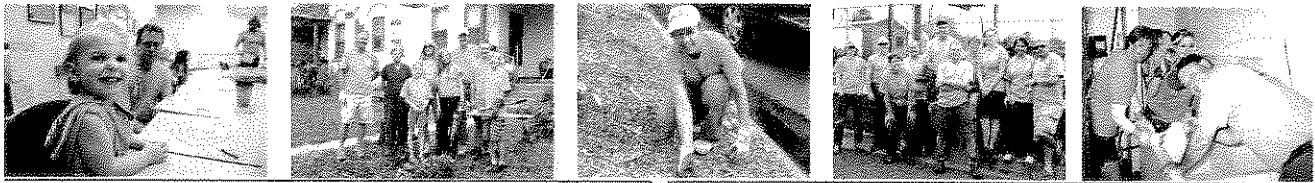
Telling the Story of Be The Blessing

The Many Ways We Were Blessed to Be a Blessing May 22, 2011

"Thank you for Being The Blessing! You gave generously of your self, your time, and your possessions so that we might be Christ's hands and feet in Denver on Sunday, May, 22. The Holy Spirit moved through us as we allowed God to use our heads, hands, and hearts to serve our neighbors in need. The stories that we all have to share about BTB are a remarkable gift. In many ways we got more than we gave through Be The Blessing. You all witnessed God doing something big through our congregation, and now its your job to go and tell the story, so that others might join the service. I hope and pray that BTB will be the beginning of a renewed life of service that grows and flows out of this church's walls and into the world. Celebrate the work that God has done with our hands, but also challenge yourself to find a way for that work to continue in your life.

As you look through the pictures and read through the stories of BTB, may you be inspired to Be The Blessing all over again."

Jess Harris Daum, Pastoral Intern and Be The Blessing Coordinator



"The Jubilation Singers and the Alpha Ringers traveled to Colorado Springs on May 22 and performed at a nursing care facility called the "Union Printer's Home". Our concert was called "Sunday School Stories in Song". It highlighted many Bible characters, in hopes that the residents might think back to their Sunday School days when they were young. The kids did a terrific job! At one point in the concert, I asked the residents to join us in the hymn "Amazing Grace". It was so touching! One woman told me afterwards with tears in her eyes, that her family used to sing that hymn together when her son was in the military.

had our choir members go out and greet the audience after the concert was over, and the interaction was so precious! WE were truly blessed to share our morning with the residents of the Union Printer's Home."



Pat Guittar, Director of Children's Choirs

"I was blessed by the opportunity to volunteer and serve. The event I chose to participate in was a partial renovation of the back-pack center at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. There were eight of us from Bethany working under the guidance and supervision of a staff member. Specifically, we installed wainscoting and trim made from "beetle kill" lumber in one of the large rooms in the back-pack center. Approximately, one-half of the room was completed in one day.



A multi-step process was utilized. At the outset each participant of the work group was asked to assume a task that they were comfortable with as they were oriented to the project. Amazingly, all found a 'comfort zone.' Moreover, this group became highly productive even though they had not previously had personal relationships with each other nor had they worked together in other congregational activities.

was blessed. I hope Sky Ranch considers our work a blessing too."

Carl Guthals, Bethany Member



"I had an good experience during be the blessing... I was part of the King Street group that worked with Extreme Community Makeover. My dad (Scott Wiggins) was the site



leader for our group. Pretty soon after we began working he noticed that everyone was working so quickly that we were going to run out of projects



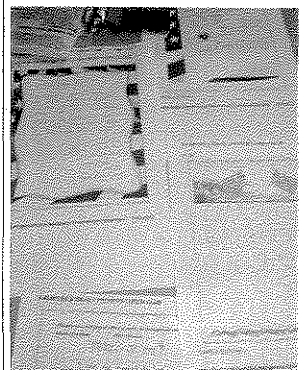
very quickly. So he sent me, my sister Elizabeth, and my brother Andrew to go find more projects. So we ended up spending most of the morning going around the neighborhood and knocking on peoples doors. Many people were extremely grateful that we were willing to just come up and talk to them and find whatever they needed done.

Another great story is we were working on a deserted lot and we were mowing it and a guy came up from across the street who owned a lawn mowing company and he just came over and helped us out."

Rachel Wiggins (age 15)

"What a great day! We had 24 participants writing letters to members of our military. Between 135 and 140 letters were written. At least two individuals took stationary and envelopes home to continue writing letters. We wrote to people we didn't know through Project Sanctuary. We also tried to send a letter to everyone in the military who is on our Bethany Prayer list."

Beth Walker, Bethany Member and Project Leader



"I have 94 (letters) that I have boxed up and am sending them to Linda at Patriotic Lunch Club to get sent to the troops! This was a very successful morning attended by several families, several retired couples, a grandmother and her 3 grandchildren, several people who have had family in military and wanted to send wishes to those serving. We had one young man who did this has his community service project for high school. Very heartwarming project!"

Sue Smith of Project Sanctuary

"I thank you for arranging the volunteers from Bethany to help at the Sunday Street Reach kitchen. They were a great group, hard working but we still had fun. They made the sandwiches, cakes, roasted, cleaned 25 chickens for casseroles plus the painting crew. Please give our thanks to all the wonderful people that gave their time and the fixings for the sandwiches and cakes. My thanks to everyone!"



Doris Zesbaugh of Street Reach, an outreach ministry of St. Paul Lutheran

"We had a very successful service morning at Street Reach at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We had a terrific team of folks making well over 250 sandwiches and 4 iced sheet cakes."

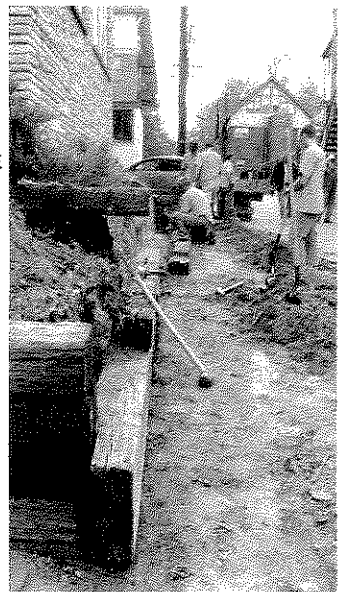


Street Reach serves 800 - 1000 meals every Monday from 1-5. Wow! Volunteers show up every Monday morning to prepare the meals. We were invited to come tomorrow and see God's presence in their community dining room.

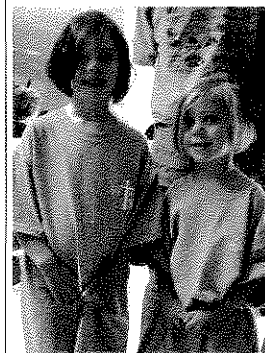
Several of us went into the Church to receive communion during the 10:30 service. It was an amazing experience."

Kathy Truglio, Bethany Member and Project Leader

"WOW! An amazing amount of work was accomplished at both Urban Servant Corps houses yesterday! I was truly amazed at the number of tasks that were completed! I am very grateful for the ways that members of Bethany were a HUGE blessing to us! I can only imagine the service that was done all over the community....simply based on the great impact just for us! Incredible! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"



Krista Ullestad, Executive Director of Urban Servant Corps



"On May 22, I served at Rowan Community through a volunteer organization known as Bessie's Hope. Rowan Community is a nursing home for people who have neurological disorders and sever brain injuries."

I was able to get to know some wonderful, loving people who resided at the nursing home. We talked, laughed, danced, hugged and held hands. Each person I came in contact with had a story to tell, whether it was their words or looking into their eyes. This was a very special and warm experience. I went out to be a blessing to

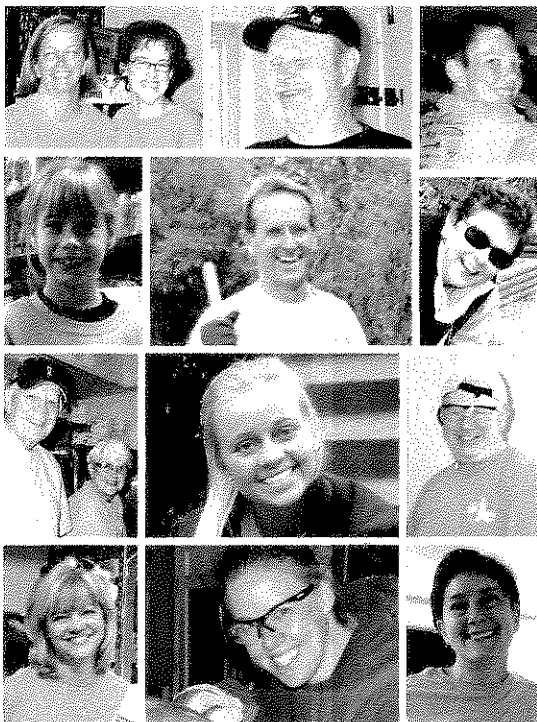
others and was blessed by the appreciation and kindness of the residents of Rowan Community. I saw Jesus in their eyes.

As I made my way around the room giving and receiving hugs from each resident, one woman cried as I made the sign of the cross on her forehead saying May the Lord Bless you and Keep you. She said how she needed to hear that and was thankful. A gentleman, retired Navy, told me he did not deserve the benefits he was receiving as I thanked him for serving our country and fighting for our freedom. He said he just got sick in the Navy and others had lost more. I was taken by his humbleness. Another residents eyes lit up as she asked if she could feel my pregnant belly and told me if your baby's a girl, I hope she is just like you. These are just a few examples of how the body of Christ is at work everywhere you go.

As I left with tears in my eyes, I was grateful for the blessings Jesus had bestowed upon me in meeting this wonderful group of people."

Amy Meissner, Bethany Member

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Win cash and grants! May 17 - June 30

Share the story of BTB with your friends and family...

Send them the link to our videos on YouTube

Our congregation entered our "Be The Blessing" video in the 2011 ELCA Video Competition.

We answered the question: what does it mean to us to live Lutheran?

To us, it means Being The Blessing for others as we are freed in Christ to serve.

Watch the go-second video and a longer version as well on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/romigvideoservice>