

**Gloria Dei Food Distribution Center**  
"Making a Difference One Meal at a Time"

2/22/13

To: Peen Hardy  
First Presbyterian Church  
200 S. Lone Oak Dr.  
Leesburg, FL 34748

Fr.: Forrest Berg  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
130 S. Lone Oak Dr.  
Leesburg, FL 34748

re: joining hands

Dear Peen,

This letter is to provide general statistics and more information on both our present food ministry and further opportunities of serving when brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world and in some instances across the street from each other join in fellowship and reach out to others.

**The Need:** World Wide: over 1 billion go hungry every day, ½ of which are children. this lack of food results in the death of a child every 5 seconds.

U.S.A. : one in six goes hungry each and every day and of that 50.2 million, children comprise 17.2 million, or 1 child in 3 goes undernourished every day.

Florida :Florida food banks have been distributing food at disaster levels over the last three years with increases of 80% in some areas of the state .

Lake County : In addition to the need for food, 3500 hundred are living in cars every day – with no greater need for food than the **West side of Leesburg.**

**The Ministry:** the idea of our providing a food ministry was borne in Spring of 09 when we contacted the Salvation Army and United Way and started to build a foundation under the guidelines of the Human Care Network.

Gloria Dei Food Distribution Center had the first distribution of food in October 15, 2010 and has had distributions serving those from the West side of Leesburg every second Friday of every month since that time.

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This Ministry like most others is a work in progress with many areas of operational need and opportunity; always being thankful that by serving others we are planting seeds of God's Love and making a difference in the lives of others to His Glory.

**What we do:** Presently, through affiliations with 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food, United Way, Community Foundation of South Lake, Bread of Life Fellowship, Lake Cares, and the Salvation Army, we have collectively provided over 57,000 lbs. of food over the last (2) years.

We believe that through God's Love to us, we learn to love others, and that love can be expressed in many ways, providing food to the less fortunate is but one way.

**What we can do together :** although the food and amounts we provide are respectable, there are over a 1,000 in the West side of Leesburg that need food assistance – because we have done little or no advertising in getting the word out, those who come to the monthly distributions usually have been there before.

Jesus said that the poor will always be with you, and I believe that by working together, sharing our time, talents, and treasury, that God will bless our faithfulness and provide the means to feed many more of His flock.

This opportunity will equate to the need of more volunteers in many aspects of service - from coordinating – to pick-up – to distribution and everything in-between. In other words, many more get to roll up their sleeves and join the happy throng.

Pastor Roy is in accord with expanding our Food Ministry and will present this outreach to our Church Council. I know you have similar procedures and will welcome the opportunity to meet or provide whatever information we have regarding this opportunity.

Almost 30 years ago when my wife Carol and I joined Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, I have either driven by, or glanced at the neighbor Church across Vine Street as I am sure you and your Saints have done as well; Prayerfully, beyond our understanding through this opportunity we will embrace the words of our Lord as found in John 17:20-23. and make a difference in both the lives of others and our own as we plant the seeds of God's Love.

Pls call with any questions, and in any event, let's talk later in the week .

To God be the Glory,

Forrest