

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

The Outreach Committee is currently recruiting people to serve as **Ambassadors for Christ** in two different capacities. We are looking for people who will serve as hosts/hostesses as members of **The Welcoming Party** and as Care Callers as part of **The Circle of Friends**.

The Welcoming Party (hosts/hostesses) are people who will greet guests as they arrive on the church grounds and enter the church building. They will also greet people as they leave and thank them for coming. The host/hostess will be on the lookout for anyone who is alone and/or anyone who may need assistance. If guest contact information is available, the host/hostess will make a follow-up phone call, send an email or card thanking them for visiting the congregation and invite them to return. (**NOTE:** The Welcoming Party (hosts/hostesses) is meant to augment the work of our Greeters by serving as additional sets of eyes (especially for newcomers) and by making follow-up contact, when contact information is available.

The Circle of Friends (Care Callers) is to help build caring relationships with others; to pray for them; and to help them find ways to connect with the congregation through personal contact via telephone and email. The three most important things that Care Callers do are:

- **Listen:** to allow people to express their concerns, questions, fears without judging them.
- **Love:** to show others God's unconditional love through your care and concern for their well-being.
- **Pray:** to pray with and for them, after you have listened to them and heard them express their concerns, questions, and fears.

Serving as **Ambassadors for Christ** through **The Welcome Party** or **The Circle of Friends** is an important way to build effective caring relationships with others. If this sounds like something that you feel called by God to do, or if you have any additional questions about these ministries, please contact me and I will give you more information. We want all **Ambassadors for Christ** to be prepared for these ministries. Specific training opportunities will be provided, once a core group for each ministry has been selected. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the **Ambassadors for Christ Response Form** to the church office, at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

**Your partner in ministry,
Pastor Bob Dealey
Coordinator of Stewardship & Outreach
(785) 272-5302
Rtdealey@sbcglobal.net**

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST RESPONSE FORM

Name _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

- YES!** I wish to find out more about the **Ambassadors For Christ** ministry.
- I am interested in serving in **The Welcome Party** as a host/hostess.
- I am interested in serving in **The Circle of Friends** as a Care Caller.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: DOORSTEP, INC.

On June 8, 1966, a tornado roared through Topeka. Within minutes, 17 people were killed, 543 were injured, and property damages reached \$100 million. Thousands of people needed shelter, food, clothing, and furniture. The six member congregations of Doorstep, Inc. were galvanized in their commitment to their ministry of “neighbors helping neighbors”.

Since its beginning, Doorstep has continued to provide assistance to those in need, and First Lutheran Church is one of fifty-two churches that works cooperatively with Doorstep. The emergency needs that Doorstep provides include food; clothing; rent and utilities assistance; transportation (local gas vouchers/bus tickets) and prescriptions.

In 2021, Doorstep provided assistance to 870 households/5,329 individuals (1,586 of the individuals were at or below the poverty level). Doorstep distributed 62,002 pounds of food to 1,976 individuals; assisted 950 individuals with utility assistance; 523 individuals received rent assistance; 270 individuals received prescription assistance; 400 individuals received gas vouchers and 55 individuals received bus vouchers. (The gas and bus vouchers provide needed transportation for people to get to work). In 2021, Doorstep provided \$324,434 in financial assistance to clients, which averages out to \$888.86 per day (each and every day of the year)!

A MISSION OPPORTUNITY:

In 2021, the Doorstep Executive Board saw the need to replace a 60+ year old boiler with a new energy-efficient H/VAC zoned system and began to raise funds to cover the purchase and installation costs. Because of price increases, the new system costs have gone up by 20% in the past 12 months. The original estimate was \$150,000 and now, the new estimate exceeds \$180,000. A local couple is making a generous offer to match \$1 for every \$2 received between now and April 15, 2022 (up to \$20,000), so if Doorstep receives \$40,000 in that timeframe, they will receive an additional \$20,000 from that couple.

If you would like to contribute to the H/VAC Matching Gift Challenge, please make checks payable to “Doorstep, Inc.”, with the notation on the memo line: “H/VAC Matching Gift Challenge”. You can mail your gift to Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604.

Thrivent members can also direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Doorstep, Inc. You may direct your Choice Dollars by calling (800) 847-4836 and a representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars to “Doorstep, Inc., Topeka, KS”. Please be aware that you have until March 31, 2022 to direct your 2021 Choice Dollars, so time is of the essence.

Doorstep, Inc. is one of many First Lutheran Church ministries that help us carry out God’s mission to the world. Through Doorstep, God allows us to make a positive impact on the lives of people we don’t even know. As Jesus says to his followers, “...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:35-36; 40). Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

**Gratefully yours,
Pastor Bob Dealey
Coordinator of Stewardship & Outreach**

(Anita Nelson has worked with Doorstep for nearly 20 years. She is a member of the Executive Board and serves as the chair of the Congregation Coordinators. I also serve on the Executive Board and have worked with Doorstep the past two years).