

St. John's Lutheran Church

PO Box 55, 1253 County Trunk J, Little Suamico, WI 54141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1-12-2010

AREA CHURCH COLLECTS OVER 5,000 FOOD ITEMS FOR AREA PANTRIES

Members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Little Suamico, WI reached their goal of collecting over 5,000 food items for area pantries. In July, 2009, Pastor Solveig Zamzow challenged the congregation to collect 5,000 food items over five months in response to the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 in the Gospel of John. Over the next five months, adults and children brought in everything from baby food to pancake syrup. The food drive ended on December 26, 2009 with a grand total of 5,405 items donated.

Each week, members brought in boxes and bags full of food items, toiletries and paper products. Young and old alike participated. As the pile of food grew higher and higher, members were kept informed of the weekly total via announcements and signs. The final number of 5,405 items was reached shortly before Christmas, though not revealed to the congregation until January 3, 2010 in hopes of encouraging additional donations above the original goal of 5,000.

"During these challenging economic times, many families in Northeast Wisconsin are hurting. As Christians, we are called to serve God and one another by sharing our blessings," said Pastor Zamzow.

"We purposely chose to complete the challenge after Christmas, so that our donations would reach area pantries after the holiday season, when they are typically low on supplies."

Four area food pantries will benefit from the donations: Paul's Pantry in Green Bay, Pulaski Food Pantry in Pulaski, New Beginnings Food Pantry in Gillett and the Kingdom Come Food Pantry in Oconto Falls.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Little Suamico, WI is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It has 720 members from communities throughout Brown and Oconto Counties.

For more information, contact Pastor Solveig Zamzow, 920-826-7785

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