

St. John – Oshkosh
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ST. JOHN'S BREAD MISSION ~ 2004 AND 2005

The Bread Mission had its beginnings with bake sales conducted by the women of St. John's on election days. St. John's is a polling place for the 8th District, and bake sales on election days are especially lucrative.

After baking bread for these occasions, people began asking if the pastor would be baking "that good bread" again before the next election. Orders were taken, and baking with more frequency had begun.

The Bread Mission monthly bake days got underway in 2004. Members of the congregation donated bread pans; the church kitchen had most of the rest of the needed equipment, including a Hobart commercial-size mixer. Bread Mission purchased a dough hook to assist in kneading large quantities of dough, and a few other kitchen supplies.

For each bake day, several members of the congregation are involved. One person assembles all the dry ingredients into ice-cream pails the day before; another greases all the bread pans. Pastor over-sees the baking, proper. Others have helped with preparing the dough, and with clean-up. In 2005 we began using the new institutional dishwasher for clean-up, thus insuring the bread pans and other metal equipment is properly sterilized.

In 2005, we had bake days on February 10 and 22, April 5, May 24, August 30, September 30 and October 28. We usually make 24 loaves of bread each bread mission. Extra baking was done for the Oshkosh Conference Assembly, for Waypost Bible Camp near Elderon, WI., and for the Interns and Supervisors in the N.E. Wisconsin Cluster. Bread is offered for donation, and we usually receive \$4.00 or more per two-pound loaf. We regularly share a few loaves *gratis*.

Our basic bread offering is a wheat and rye mix, enhanced with soy flour, wheat germ and bran. It can be made with honey, molasses, sorghum, or pure maple syrup. This year we offered oatmeal bread and cheddar cheese bread. We try to buy our ingredients at either local grocery stores, or in bulk from Mennonite stores in central Wisconsin. Most of the ingredients are donated to the Mission, thus minimizing our "overhead" expenses.

Proceeds have been used for various mission projects, as well as some St. John's projects. At home, we have donated to the Intern Fund, purchased 4 folding chairs for the lower level, offered \$100 to purchase Our Daily Bread devotional books, offered \$100 to our Good Samaritan Fund (for food and gas vouchers), and have purchased some equipment and supplies for the Mission. In the community, we have donated to Red Cross Bridges Emergency Response program, Muscular Dystrophy, to expenses for the visiting South African Lutheran Bishop and Women's Choir, for book expenses for a student (member of the congregation) in the Synod Lay School of Theology, and the Oshkosh Area Refugee Resettlement Fund.

Our goal for 2006 is offer bake days monthly, and to offer new and different breads alongside "Our Pastor's Bread" – our signature loaf. I am personally grateful to all who help

make the bread and all who purchase our products. The Bread Mission will enable St. John's to respond to smaller and more immediate mission requests which normally cannot be budgeted for. The Mission will continue in 2006 as an outreach of the Pastoral Office.

We are excited to announce that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is willing to support the Bread Mission at the rate of \$100 for every 35 hours logged. This will be an outreach of their Care in Community fund

An accounting of our expenses and contributions follows.

Contributions to Missions in 2004:

St. John's Good Samaritan Fund	\$100
Oshkosh Area Resettlement Fund	\$100

Contributions to Missions 2005:

Our Daily Bread devotional booklets	\$100
South Central Synod Visiting Bishop	\$100
St. John's - 4 folding chairs	\$ 76.45
Muscular Dystrophy	\$ 85
Lay School of Theology books	\$100
Intern Program speaker	\$125

Balance on Hand, December 31, 2005 **\$278.88**

Contributions to Missions 2006

Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh for CPE program	\$100
Sudanese Refugee Gas Vouchers	50

Report submitted by Pastor Joel Olsen