

Bethel Lutheran Church's
ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7 & 14, 2025

Give Joy to the
WORLD



What is an Alternative Gift?

An alternative gift is humanitarian support given in honor of a friend or family member.

They are gifts of peace and justice, gifts that are sustainable and that build security. These alternative gifts multiply and grow, sometimes exponentially, and offer hope and new life to people facing grave crises and need. They challenge the trivia of our modern culture. These are authentic gifts that people really use and cherish. A unique shopper attends an Alternative Giving Fair (AGF). These markets typically are held in schools, churches, and service clubs. AGF does not exist to make a profit, but rather it gives away three assets. It gives joy to the donor (or shopper), global awareness and education to the recipient of the honorary gift, and great benefit to people living in poverty or crisis. You could make AGF your "one-stop-shop" and even honor many people in your life!

What are the projects in the 17th annual Alternative Giving Fair booklet?

Bethel's SHOP FOR THE WORLD project organizations for this year's initiative are:

(ELCA) Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (CAC) Community Action Center (LDR) Lutheran Disaster Response (CW) charity: water (AGI) Alternative Gifts International (LPGM) Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (GPE) Greenvale Park Elementary (RH) Ruth's House

We have carefully chosen relevant projects that are tended to by authentic and reliable, low-overhead organizations, many of which are grassroots and "on the ground." These organizations are vetted and Bethel's AGF provides a great opportunity for Bethel goers to give easily and meaningfully! We urge you to prayerfully select one or more projects that are meaningful and priced right for your family and for your designated receiver. Stop by the EAST entrance at Bethel to give in person and pick up inserts that describe the project. You can also shop online for AGF gifts through BREEZE. You could make AGF your "one-stop-shop" and even honor MANY people in your life!

When does AGF happen at Bethel and how does it work?

Bethel's Alternative Giving Fair runs for 4 weeks: Sundays, November 23, 30, December 7 & 14, 2025

We make giving EASY! You can pay by cash, check (written to *Bethel Lutheran Church*) or credit card! Just browse this booklet, fill out the AGF Shopping List insert and pay in person on Sundays OR SHOP ONLINE through BREEZE. Bethel will carefully disseminate funds to the respective humanitarian organizations.

***Fun Fact:* In past 16 years, Bethel's Alternative Giving has raised over \$200,000 for humanitarian organizations!**

Questions about Bethel's AGF? Karna Hauck (507-291-0044) or Amy Narveson (612-327-4007)

Bethel Lutheran Church's ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

HUNGER

Animals provide families living in poverty with food, funds and fertilizer—all for a better future. Gifts to God's Global Barnyard support animal-related projects of ELCA World Hunger.

10 little chicks make a big difference! When they are just months old, these chicks begin laying eggs, which make nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry. and the extra eggs generate income to grow a small business.

10 Chicks \$10

(ELCA Good Gifts)



For more ELCA-sponsored project ideas that need support, visit the [ELCA Good Gifts Advent Tree](#)

What's the buzz about bees? Beeswax is used to make handcrafted soaps and candles, and honey and pollen can be sold at the market as well. But that's not all — their mere presence on a farm means they are pollinating plants and boosting crop growth throughout the wider community. Bees, hives and training in beekeeping can go along way for a family in need.



Honey Bees \$20

(ELCA Good Gifts)

A pig in the pen is like money in the bank. Within months, a tiny piglet grows to weigh over 200 pounds! Should a family have a failed harvest, medical expense or other unexpected financial need, this pig can be sold for much-needed cash at the market.

1 Pig \$30



1 Goat \$50



If there's a superhero of the barnyard, it just might be the goat. Why?

Because goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's harshest environments – rocky terrain, drought-prone areas, small plots of land, you name it. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families.

And what's more, offspring can rapidly transform a community when shared with other families in need.

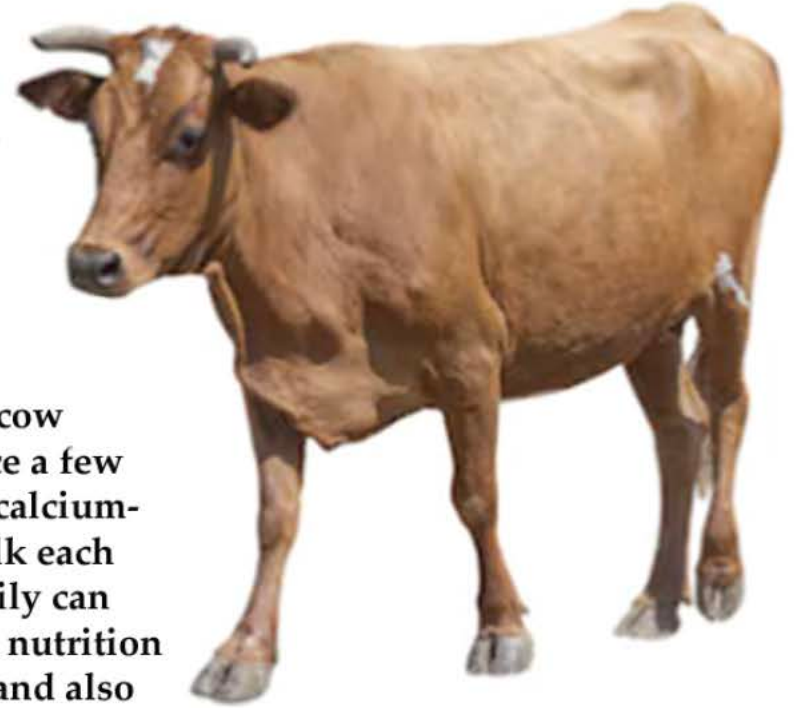
Add a rooster to the chicken coop, and help the farm grow! More chickens on the farm mean more eggs to eat and sell at the market. This gift is a great leap forward for a family struggling with hunger and poverty.

1 Rooster \$15



share of a Cow \$50

Full Cow \$500



One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of calcium-packed milk each day. A family can receive the nutrition they need and also start a small business selling extra milk, cheese and more. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all.

ELCA Good Gifts

Your gift to God's Global Barnyard helps provide families living in poverty with a better future - one filled with hope.

Food Support for Girls Literacy CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (LPGM)

As part of a pilot literacy initiative between LPGM and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in CAR, 80 women and girls are learning to read and write ...and so much more!

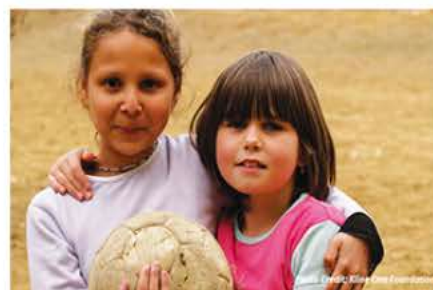
We all know students learn best when they are well-fed. For most people in CAR, hunger is part of life. Just \$5 will help provide sustenance for the students and teachers as they meet in church and seminary spaces, providing nutritious snacks and clean water so they can learn and teach their best. And knowing they'll receive

these snacks is an extra incentive, encouraging attendance!

**nutritious
snacks
during
courses
\$5**



Food & Healing for Ukrainian Refugees UKRAINE (AGI)



Once a thriving industrial hub of 100,000 people, Konstantinovka in Ukraine's Donetsk region, is now a shell of its former self; bombed out, battered, and nearly abandoned. Though authorities urge evacuation, a few thousand remain. The elderly, the disabled, the very young, and those caring for loved ones simply have nowhere else to go. Food is vanishing. Grocery stores are empty. Even if shelves were stocked, the people left behind have no money.

Kline One Foundation and Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship support a community kitchen, serving 80 to 100 people daily, providing free hot meals, made from donated food. Every dollar counts. Every meal matters. Will you help?

**food for a day for one person \$8
food for a week for one person \$54**

EDUCATION

SAFE HOUSE School Supplies TANZANIA (LPGM)



When girls and young women first come to LPGM's partner Eripoto's SAFE HOUSE, they only have the clothes on their backs. They leave all their belongings and their families behind in order to escape dangerous situations such as forced early marriage, which is part of Maasai culture.

SAFE HOUSE is a place where these girls can stay when boarding school is out of session. At the SAFE HOUSE, they can find healing and restoration in a Christian environment while learning vocational and life skills. With your gift, Eripoto can provide these girls with a school uniform, shoes, and school supplies like pens and notebooks, to continue to pursue their education.

shoes, uniform & school supplies \$38

2-Month Scholarship for a 12th Grade Student INDIA (LPGM)

Your financial gift will provide a scholarship for a high school senior (12th standard) in India as they complete their final 2 months of school. There are many older students that do not have a sponsor and would love the support of a sponsor during these last 2 months. Students will be graduating in March of 2025. This is a great way to experience another culture as well as the joy of giving and sharing God's love. You can give a student that extra push to keep going and graduate strong!



1 scholarship for a high school senior \$80

Teach a Woman, Teach her Family CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (LPGM)

Central African Republic (CAR) has been suffering from an on-going civil war. More than 1.1 million people have fled their homes in a country of about 5 million people. In addition to the political turmoil, poverty is a plaguing issue. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry believes in the power of education, especially of women & children, to help break debilitating cycles. With the literacy rate for women in CAR at just 26%, there is huge opportunity to make change, starting with these mothers, grandmothers, and aunties. Your gift will help make this program possible and provide teachers to lift these women up through literacy. Teach a woman to read, and you teach her whole family.



literacy program for women \$15

Language Opens Doors INDIA (LPGM)

With 22 official languages, and 30 languages with more than 1 million speakers across India, English has become the unifying language of government and commerce across the diverse nation. And yet the boarding home students Lutheran Partners supports mostly speak in Tamil.

Thanks to LPGM's English+ program, students in 50 primary schools receive extra English education, while their teachers are gaining confidence and new techniques to better teach the language. This opens more doors and provides greater opportunities for students to study in universities across India (and abroad!) or take better paying jobs in a wider range of cities. Gifting bi-lingual books for these students opens many doors for a brighter future!



bi-lingual books \$3

Literacy & Libraries ETHIOPIA (AGI)



**30 children's
story books
\$22**

In Ethiopia, very few children have access to books. While school

enrollment rates have increased, an estimated 52% of people ages 15 and older still cannot read. Even if a child is learning to read, the number of books available in Ethiopian languages, beyond textbooks, are limited. Additionally, school and public libraries are scarce and poorly equipped.

Ethiopia Reads' programs make reading accessible for children and families, through donkey powered libraries and other activities. Primary-aged children are more passionate about reading when the power of reading is promoted by their families at home. Your gift will improve literacy and encourage Ethiopian children to embrace the joy of reading.

Play & Exercise INDIA (LPGM)

While a day in the life of a boarding home student at our Lutheran Partners' boarding homes includes school, chores, meals, devotions/prayer, and sleeping, it also includes playing and games! With hundreds of students sharing equipment on a daily basis, it means that items such as cricket bats, balls, and rackets need regular replacement.

Your gift will provide countless hours of fun and exercise for the students to enjoy in their free time hours.

sports equipment \$15



HEALTH & MEDICAL

Pedaling Out of Poverty

NAMIBIA & ZAMBIA (AGI)



**\$38 sends
one bicycle**

According to the Bicycling Empowerment Study in Namibia, a girl from a household with a bike is 70% more likely to attend school on a consistent basis. Bikes are a defining line between having access to healthcare, education, and employment in rural Africa. Distances are vast and a bike can significantly reduce the time it takes to reach critical services. With a bike, a person can reach the clinic to get their medications, a child can reach school, and a family can use their bike to travel to work or to market. In each case, a bike is a game changer. A bike is a simple solution which aids rural Africans struggling to break the cycle of poverty. Bicycles for Humanity has shipped over 22,000 bicycles to Africa since 2008. We're in it for the long haul and see the difference a bike makes in these villages. In 2025, we hope to ship 2,000 bikes and your support can help us achieve this goal.

Medicine for Refugees

BURMA (AGI)

Daily Burma army attacks on ethnic minorities have caused 3 million villagers to flee their homes to wherever they can find safety. Soldiers enter villages, randomly shooting and often raping to intimidate. Mines are planted in fields to prevent escape. Brave medics travel to remote refugee camps and tend to horrific wounds as the result of landmine blasts. Equipping these medics with materials and medications to address illnesses like malaria, is essential.

Burma Humanitarian Mission equips backpack medic teams with necessary supplies to treat common, yet lethal conditions like – dysentery and infections to post-partum complications. These teams travel dangerous territory to isolated villages and camps, providing life-saving, medical and maternal care. Your gift can equip medics with supplies to treat more people.

**3 months of
antibiotics \$5**



Speech Therapy for Kids with CLP MEXICO (AGI)

Like Cynthia, many children with cleft lip and palate (CLP) face major speech challenges yet lack access to consistent speech therapy due to financial and geographic barriers. Cynthia's family would walk and ride several buses over 4 hours to get from their remote hometown to therapy in Mexico City.

Since 2022, ConnectMed has helped fund multi-day speech therapy camps. Studies show that participants achieve the same speech improvements as those in year-long therapy. ConnectMed seeks to expand these life-changing camps in Mexico City and introduce them in Tijuana because they offer a lifeline to families who are unable to access regular speech intervention.



3-day speech
therapy camp
\$80

Professional Health Insurance for Women TANZANIA (LPGM)

The average life expectancy for females in Tanzania is just 53 years. For many of the young women finding refuge in our partner's Safe House, this is their first opportunity to access professional healthcare. Common issues of women's health range from anemia and malaria to the affects of violence against women as well as maternal health services for those who come to our partner after forced pregnancies. Your gift allows these women the best healthcare possible as they choose to pursue an education.



annual health
insurance
for a woman
\$24

EQUALITY & DIGNITY

Children in Gaza need life-saving support

GAZA (UNICEF)



**humanitarian
support \$20**

Two years of bombardments and fighting have wrought catastrophic devastation across the Gaza Strip – more than 64,000 children

reportedly killed and injured, and homes, hospitals and schools destroyed. The toll on children is unconscionable.

Famine was declared in parts of the Gaza Strip, and Gaza's entire population of children under five is at risk of facing acute malnutrition and in urgent need of support. More than 56,000 children have lost one or both parents. All children have experienced traumatic events and significant interruptions to their education.

UNICEF staff have remained on the ground, working with partners day in and day out to provide safe drinking water to displaced families, treatment for severely malnourished children, psychosocial support, and medical supplies and vaccines for children in camps and shelters.

Women for Conservation

GUATEMALA (LPGM)

Women in Agroecology Leadership for Conservation (WALC) is a holistic leadership training program for girls. Students learn about farming, nutrition, cooking, health and hygiene, family planning, self-esteem, and a large array of other life skills.

When the students complete the program, they receive a scholarship to stay in school for another year. These opportunities change the lives of young women and have a positive impact on their immediate family/household. The young women with their knowledge then influence their entire village and the ecological health of their region. Your giving will help the Community Cloud Forest Conservation in the highlands of Guatemala to continue their educational work with these amazing, capable young women.



1-month tuition for a young woman \$23

Sewing a Path out of Poverty INDIA (AGI)

Girls born into India's lowest social class have three strikes against them. First, they are rural or live-in city slums. Second, they are Dalits – Untouchables - born into the lowest rank of India's social caste system. Third, they face discrimination at almost every level: from access to education and medical facilities, to restrictions on where they can live, worship, and work. Menial, hard labor jobs, such as 12-hour days as a field worker, yield a mere 200 rupees a day (about \$2 per day). Most married women are often unskilled, and if the husband is unable to work, everyone suffers. Many elderly widowed and childless women end up begging

on the streets. These outcomes can change when women learn an income producing skill through India Partners' seamstress program. This new skill can financially stabilize her future and allow her to have a dignified home-based business.



Photo Credit: India Partners

one month of seamstress training \$36
a sewing machine for a new graduate \$200

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Reforest to Sustain Income & Food Supply HAITI (AGI)



Haiti remains the poorest and most severely deforested country in the world. Two-thirds of Haiti's vulnerable population survive on subsistence agriculture. Haiti is also one of the most severely deforested

countries in the world. Rural poverty, food insecurity, and deforestation are connected. Deforestation leads to landslides and soil loss, diminishing agricultural productivity.

To turn this around, Quixote Center supports tree planting that also generates household income and produces food for rural Haitians. Fruit tree production in tree nurseries is an activity that helps not only in reforestation efforts, but also enables farmers to gain more profit from the trees they cultivate. We hope to produce a total of 29,000 fruit trees within 12 months. Your gift of any amount will help cultivate this result.

plant 25 trees \$28

Saplings and Seedlings GUATEMALA (LPGM)

The Community Cloud Forest Conservation's (CCFC) agroecology program works with smallholder farmers to promote the establishment of agroforestry parcels in remote mountain villages at the edge of the cloud forest throughout CCFC's work area.

CCFC is actively teaching, promoting and encouraging agroecology and over the past 8 years, hundreds of Women in Agroecology Leadership (WALC) participants have taken home seeds and starter plants to establish their own agroforestry parcels on their family's smallholder farms. Fruits, vegetables and starter plants not only quickly improves the nutrition of Q'eqchi' Maya families but also provides produce for the families to sell in local markets, providing much needed income to an impoverished people.

saplings & seeds
for nutritious food
\$10



Water Brings Life and Growth AFRICA, ASIA, INDIA, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA (CW)



In Africa alone, women spend 40 billion hours a year walking for water. Through Charity Water, access to clean water gives communities more time to grow food, earn an income, and go to school -- all of which fight poverty.

663 million people in the world live without clean water. That's nearly 1 in 10 people worldwide. Or, twice the population of the United States. The majority live in isolated rural areas and spend hours every day walking to collect water for their family. Not only does walking for water keep children out of school or take up time that parents could be using to earn money, but the water often carries diseases that can make everyone sick. Access to clean water means education, income and health - especially for women and kids.

\$20 to provide clean water to one person

FAIR TRADE GOODS



SERRV International



Your Divine chocolate purchase helps support a dignified livelihood for cocoa farmers in Ghana. Cocoa farmers with the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative in Ghana co-own Divine Chocolate. With the money they earn from the sales of chocolate, the cooperative invests in their own projects to improve the farmers' living, health and education standards, and farming productivity. A percentage of the price of Divine goes towards producer support and development, which Kuapa Kokoo spends on farmer education, and helping to maintain the values and vision of the cooperative as it grows.

A fair trade, women-led 501(c)3 nonprofit, SERRV International empowers small-scale global artisans & chocolate farmers!

3 oz. chocolate \$5
1.2 oz. chocolate \$2
advent calendars \$15



GIVE LOCALLY...

Transitional Shelter for Women & Families RICE COUNTY (RH)

The Ruth's House mission is to empower lives and provide hope to women and children in crisis. Ruth's House serves women and their children in the Rice County area by providing them with shelter, case management, and support as they face homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, and substance abuse disorders.



Ruth's House serves as an emergency transitional shelter for women and families. They are provided with food, basic necessities, 24/7 support from trained staff and volunteers, and weekly life-skill education classes to uplift their healing journeys. Any collected financial donations go to operational costs to keep the lights on and heat the facilities, transportation vouchers, and shared resources for the residents.

Ruth's House is currently in a state of URGENT SUPPLY NEED! Donate funds or provide any items on this list to help TODAY! (Drop these items off at Bethel's EAST ENTRANCE anytime between Nov. 23 & Dec. 14, 2025)

- paper plates •paper cups •toilet paper •sippy cups
- plastic silverware •tissues (regular sized boxes) •hand soap
- laundry detergent •diaper rash cream •reusable bibs
- bottle brushes •over-the-counter Ibuprofen •Pepto Bismol
- allergy medication •chewy tums •toilet cleaner •sponges
- steel wool •toilet brushes •dish soap •disinfectant wipes
- disinfectant spray •Fabuloso floor cleaner •gal. freezer bags

resources for Ruth's House residents \$ _____
(any amount)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors NORTHFIELD'S COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER (CAC) - Hillcrest Village & SNAP

The CAC believes that everyone deserves healthy food to eat and a safe place to call home. Unfortunately, many in our community struggle to find affordable housing (or have lost their housing) and struggle with food scarcity.

The CAC's Hillcrest Village housing has designated 4 units to be used as transitional housing. Transitional housing helps people live independently, addresses issues that led to homelessness or kept them homeless, rebuilds their support network and transition into permanent housing.

Your donation will help restock Hillcrest homes for new transitional families moving in. Bethel has committed to help support this Homes for God's Children outreach program that provides restock items to unhoused families.



The "One Big Bill" passed in July included the largest SNAP cuts in history. During this time of SNAP instability, many of our neighbors are also feeling a deep and immediate sense of scarcity. Uncertainty about food and other benefits, rising grocery prices, and stretched household budgets are pushing more families to seek support from CAC's food shelves. In response, we are leaning intentionally into our core value of abundance, trusting in the strength of our broader community to ensure no one faces hunger alone. As food costs rise for families and for food shelves alike, Bethel's partnership and generosity helps us continue meeting the growing need with dignity, stability and care.

restock items for Hillcrest or SNAP donation \$ _____
(any amount)

Combat Hunger in Our Neighborhood GREENVALE PARK ELEMENTARY

Sometimes there are needs in our own backyard that we are not aware of...

Here's one:

Greenvale Park Elementary has a shockingly high poverty level of nearly 50%.

For some kids this poverty shows up as evidence in food insecurity.



Studies show that food is the most important school supply. In addition to lifting some of the financial burden from families, school snacks give children access to food that powers their day, sets them up for success in the classroom and ultimately helps them thrive. Kids can't learn on an empty stomach, and school snacks help kids focus. When kids feel better, they learn better.

A team of educators, volunteers and administration has created a good solution... a snack cart that is available each morning. However, in order to access the cart, there is an annual fee for the school year. Some students at Greenvale Park Elementary School are not able to afford this fee. To support this program and create more equity, please consider making a donation to help cover the \$80 cost of snacks for a year for one child.

child access to school food cart for one year \$80

gifts inspiring
change

Bethel's Alternative Giving Fair COMPLEMENTARY GIFT CARD

An insert describing your chosen project will be included, as well.



My Gift is
small
and
Simple



If you would like a complementary gift card for each donation purchased, please stop by the narthex between services. There will also be inserts for your chosen projects explaining the gift to place into a card.

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