

Outreach to the Community of Lucerne

It is the goal of First Lutheran Church in Lucerne, CA, to reach out to young people and young families, as well as those in need. One way to do that was to plan a Reformation service and Oktoberfest. To get the word out, the service and Oktoberfest event was announced in church and in Sunday school beginning in September. An announcement in the local paper was started the first part of October and flyers and handouts, designed by a First member, were printed and distributed in the middle of October. Since we had canvassed our neighborhoods for previous events, the community was most welcoming this time. Getting our face and name out there is beginning to show dividends.

Our Reformation service was attended by 36 people, 3 young families with children among them. We had 75+ enjoy our Oktoberfest (with authentic German food) and this included several more young people, others from our community in need, as well as members from both St. John's Lutheran Church and their Mission Church.

Follow up and ongoing activities include a community invitation to our regular Sunday services and lunch. We have also revamped our monthly food and necessity cupboard to encourage people to have coffee and goodies, as well as sit and visit with our volunteers. That has been very well received and every once in awhile someone will tell us how they were raised Lutheran. Of course, we encourage them to join us for church.

One thing that has become apparent is the need for ongoing service to the Lucerne community in reaching those with the Word of God. Thus our community Christmas Eve dinner and service continued the communication that started with the Oktoberfest. Our congregation served nearly 100 meals and 42 people attended our candlelight service.

With that said, the members of First Lutheran are committed to these goals. The mini grant we received from our district is helping tremendously in our endeavors. Our thanks to all who made this possible and we praise the Lord for opening this opportunity to us.