

# God's work. Our hands.

## Stories of mission and ministry

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

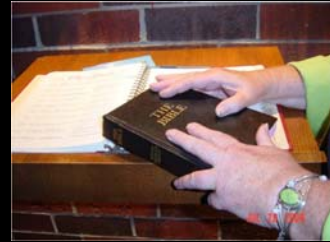
### Congregation Feeds Body and Soul

by Pastor Mary Ann Bowman, Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck

Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Bone Lake Lutheran Church, Luck, Wisconsin, fed the masses at the Polk County Fair with 450 pounds of potatoes, 160 pounds of hamburger, 200 pounds of roast beef, 200 pounds of ham, 7 roasters of baked beans, 9 roasters of BBQ, 100 dozen eggs, 175 pounds of potato salad, and 270 pies--and more! Everything served at Bone Lake's food booth is homemade and all meals are served on china, not paper plates. People come from all over the area to eat the freshly prepared food.



Each day of the fair the congregation has 50 to 60 volunteers who cook, waitress, bus dishes, wash dishes, peel potatoes, make sandwiches, and serve the food from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. Dinner specials--ham and scalloped potatoes, roast beef and mashed potatoes, Swedish meatballs and potatoes--are served in addition to the sandwich menu. And who could resist the homemade pie and ice cream?





Many congregations host delicious meals, so what is different about the Bone Lake experience? This ministry has reached out to feed and nourish both body and soul. By taking food orders and delivering meals to those who could not leave their work stations during the fair, volunteers found that many people appreciated not only the food, but the smiles and conversation that accompanied them. Carnival workers (those who set up and run the carnival rides) rarely get a chance to attend church because of their schedule--going from fair to fair. But the door for ministry was opened when they learned about the church's food booth. Some of them even came over to the booth during their breaks to talk about God and their faith. It was a wonderful way to witness faith together as brothers and sisters in Christ.



The Polk County Fair is very hard work that takes a lot of planning and coordinating. From donations of grocery items, to the work crews who set aside special days at church to make baked beans, meatloaf, BBQ's, and potato salad, everyone in the church gets involved. Many people get excited to work at the fair and wouldn't miss it for anything. Some even take vacation from work, coming "home" to their families just to volunteer at the Bone Lake food booth! It is a ministry with a long tradition and a mission focus. The money raised is used for a variety of outreach projects including helping youth go to Bible camp and on service trips, purchasing Bibles for Sunday School children, and addressing the area's poverty needs. This year a profit of almost \$13,000 was raised in the five days of the fair. The folks at Bone Lake believe they have been blessed to be a blessing. God's



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## Share Your Story

If you have a mission story to tell, please contact Merry Soyck-Doring at [msoyck-doring@nswi.org](mailto:msoyck-doring@nswi.org). If you would like help writing the story, assistance is available. Photos are a great addition to the message, but not required. To get started, download "[Telling the Story](#)."



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