

God's work. Our hands.

Stories of mission and ministry

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

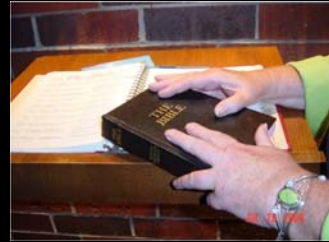
Mittens warm hands--and hearts!

by Pastor Patrick Ziems, Zion Lutheran, Superior

Speaking of hands, up here along the Lake Superior shoreline hands get very cold in our long winters. At Zion Lutheran Church in Superior, our Tuesday night mission group noticed this and put their own hands to God's work. Someone at Zion found out that a local clothing manufacturer was willing to give away fairly large scraps of that wonderful fleece material (you know, the stuff with which they make those blankets that are knotted together on the edges). They found several sewing machines and a simple pattern for sewing mittens of different sizes and went to work.



Production was going well but they were being passed out faster than they could be put together. Then someone got really creative and said "We can make even more mittens if we could get some help cutting them out from the pattern." So one Tuesday evening, instead of sewing, they put together packages of the fleece material and copies of the pattern. They invited other folks at Zion to take them home, cut them out, and either sew them or bring them back to be finished by the mission group. Then something really cool happened. People started to take these mitten kits home. They cut them out as family projects, they cut them out in front of the TV, they put their knitting aside and cut these mittens out, and then they brought them back.





Mittens of all sizes and colors were passed out to all sorts of people in need. Some even bought them to support the other costs of putting the mittens together. One person broke their arm and had it in a cast that was too big for other types of mittens and they found a pair that we made that would fit over the cast. They were given out under bridges and to schools. The best parts of making and giving away all these rather unique hand coverings last winter was that we started to see them around town. We saw people wearing them at bus stops and at Wal-Mart, even at very cold springtime soccer games. As the cold starts to creep back upon us, the scissors and the sewing will start again. God's work will be done by all sorts of folks who set aside some of their time to use their hands in service.

Share Your Story

If you have a mission story to tell, please contact Merry Soyck-Doring at 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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