

Mission Moment

God's Work Our Hands

By The WHLC Kitchen Volunteers

We love to feed people here at WHLC-it is a massive ministry and the Community Meal is a huge part of our Wednesday night schedule. Did you know we have some really amazing volunteers in our church family who handle most of the work in the kitchen? Zach got the chance to catch up with them and ask them why they loved serving in this beloved ministry!

Ellen Graham:

"I love working in the kitchen. We have such a beautiful kitchen now and can do so much more than we used to. The best is the community meal on Wednesdays. Families come on Wednesdays. I get to know all the kids and parents who come for supper. And there is lots of them!"

"Then there are afternoons when I'm cooking and someone will come in off the street, always hungry. A glass or 2 of milk and a bowl of hot soup or whatever goes a long way. Elderberries come for a pot luck lunch once a month. Pastor Robin provides a program, and the fellowship before and after the meal is so much fun. The feeding of people is my celebration of love, companionship and mission."

Linda Anderson:

"My whole life has pretty much been spent in a kitchen! From living on a farm, 4-H, getting a degree in Home Ec (now we call it Family and Consumer Sciences), teaching foods classes at Valley where I remodeled and designed 3 kitchens; so when I had the opportunity to be a part of the kitchen planning committee I jumped at the chance!"

"The hours we spent designing the floor plan, selecting appliances, discussing whether or not to have a gas stove, looking at silverware and even tasting coffee was so much fun! We continue today with our fellowship as we watch the many groups use the kitchen."

"I will admit from the beginning when the kitchen was ready to be used I was over protective, but I also felt it was my mission as the kitchen coordinator to be sure everyone knew and were trained before using it! We held training sessions, gave demonstrations and welcomed anyone who wanted to learn the in's and

out's of the WHLC kitchen! To this day, 6 years later there are still members who do not want to run the dishwasher or cook on the gas stove (myself included) but that's all right, because there is always someone around to teach and lead them through!

"It makes my heart full walking into the kitchen and seeing the fellowship amongst the members whether it be Elderberries, funeral lunch, WELCA events, weddings, confirmation, Lenten suppers, VBS and many more. I am truly blessed to be a part of the ministry that evolves in and around our kitchen."

Kathy Safris:

"I help in the kitchen because I like to cook and it is very satisfying to cook for 60 instead of two. I know that many folks who come have been at work all day and the Wednesday night dinners give them a chance to sit down with their families, relax and not have to worry about fixing dinner. It gives them a chance to be "in community" with others in our church. It is an opportunity for the young people to "hang out" with friends.

"I appreciate the faithful folk who are not on a schedule but get up and help out with the dishes or cleanup. I especially appreciate Paula Virtue who every week wipes the tables and counters and then wipes the fridge and stove for good measure. Thanks to Chuck Young who week after week does the dishes and makes us all feel part of an important service to the church body."

Diane Greenfield:

"I agree with what Ellen said about preparing food for the community meal on Wednesday's. Ellen may be more passionate about it than I am, however! I do love the reaction of the kids when they see what is prepared. Usually if my grandkids like it, almost everyone will!

"I have also helped at WELCA events and funerals. Many times we just serve catered food or desserts. But we always appreciate the well stocked kitchen with lots of work space, as well as the many colors of table clothes and napkins we have.

"Whenever people meet and are fed, there is good fellowship among friends. It has helped us to enhance our mission to Invite - Grow - Serve."

Suzanne Nelson:

"Serving meals on Wednesday nights has been an excellent way for me to meet members of the congregation since I joined Windsor Heights Lutheran Church four years ago. I appreciate my co-workers on Wednesdays and I enjoy serving

the meals made by the talented cooks. This fellowship is rewarding as people talk when they come through the line and then when they are seated with family and friends during the meal. Every week I am privileged to see the benefits of people sharing their time together before going to other activities.”

Marilyn Warling:

“Internally, we are inviting the men and more women to serve in the kitchen at small and large events. It is always a joy to teach them how to make coffee and they are astonished at how easy it is!

“We are growing in our visibility in our community as we can host more events due to our wonderful kitchen. We are serving in so many ways. I especially feel blessed to help serve the luncheons after funerals. The families always express how much they appreciate the lunch (right down to the cloth napkins).”

Thank You to all our kitchen volunteers for the amazing work you do to help serve our church family & the community with tasty and filling meals! Your ministry is a blessing to all of us, and we are so grateful to have you all as part of our church family! A reminder that everyone is welcome at our Wednesday Community Meals, and we are always looking for new faces to help out in the kitchen!

