

The Social Ministry Team's focus for the month of December is **Poverty**. The organization that we are highlighting this month is **Tosa Cares**, an organization that started earlier this year that provides services for families in Wauwatosa.

Tosa Cares is a food ministry which grew from several members of Mount Zion Lutheran, Mount Carmel Lutheran and St. Matthew's Lutheran Churches along with members of the community including the Wauwatosa School District, Suburban Women's Club and the Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa. Many citizens within the community have volunteered their time to collect and distribute non-perishable food, school supplies and personal care items. They are located at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 W. North Ave, in the church's education wing. They may be reached at 414-258-0456, ext 410 or at tosacares@gmail.com.

Mission Statement: *Tosa Cares* works to serve our community by providing food and assistance to families in need.

Tosa Cares works with the community through the school system and local churches to identify those in need of our service.

Food is collected through the Tosa School District, churches, scout groups, YMCA, Landmark Credit Union and other citizen groups.

Tosa Cares has packing's for families every six weeks and serve many emergency situations as they occur. The Thanksgiving packing served over 150 individuals and they distributed over \$5,000 of food in November. The need has increased for their services in the last couple of months.

How you can help;

To donate financially, make the check out to Tosa Cares Inc and mail it to Mount Zion Lutheran 12012 W. North Ave, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, attn: Tosa Cares.

For food donations, just call **Linda or Tom Ertel at 414-831-3725 or 414-861-4725** and they will meet you at the church for a drop off. Linda has a list of specific food needs.

The next packing will be Jan 10 at 9 am-12:30 pm. You can help to pack boxes of food, 9-10:30 am, helping loads clients' cares 11 am-12:30 pm. Volunteers can contact Linda at 414-861-4725 to confirm times and needs. You will then be placed on a volunteer list that will be notified by email of the upcoming needs. Other needs include checking dates and placing food on the shelves. This can take place during the week during one's free time. The room is always open. There are several volunteers that show up during the week to stock shelves. To volunteer for this, contact Linda for instructions.

Tom Ertel will be in the St. Matthew's Commons to answer questions following the 8:30 service on December 21.