



SAMPLE BULLETIN AND/OR NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRY APPEAL

Too many of our young people are at risk.

You can make a difference in the lives of our children. “Focus on God’s Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal” is your opportunity to support ministries to children throughout our synod. The synod’s Witness and Service Ministry Team is making support of these children a social ministry priority. This appeal will enable all of us to help.

“Leave no child behind” is the current slogan. Before that it was “It takes a village to raise a child.” Long before either the words of Jesus provided guidance for us. “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me” said our Lord. “Focus on God’s Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal” is one way we in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod can welcome children in the name of Jesus. Funds raised will support ministries to and with children throughout our synod.

393,466 children in Pennsylvania live in poverty. 36,733 were reported abused in the last year examined. 35% of fourth graders scored below basic reading levels. We know the alarming numbers. We also know that we can make a difference. Your gift to “Focus on God’s Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal” will support ministries to and with children throughout the territory of our Synod.

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me” (Matthew 18:5).

Jesus’ concern for children is one that the church shares. We have an opportunity to help our young people by contributing to “Focus on God’s Children: the 2008 Lutheran Social Ministry Appeal.” Funds raised will be used to support a variety of ministries to and with children throughout our synod. Congregations will be encouraged to envision new programs and activities that support young people and their families. We will also encourage collaborations among congregations and with our social ministry organizations to benefit children.

As you consider prayerfully the amount of your gift, please pray too for our children and all who are involved in helping them grow in knowledge, strength, and faith. God’s call to us to care for our young people is both a blessing and a responsibility. May you find joy in your giving and satisfaction in knowing that your generosity makes a difference.