

Proposed “Local Missions” to Receive our 5% Benevolence Dollars

Celebration has a core value of giving generously outside of our own needs. Before we address our own needs, we give 10% of all income to our shared ministries through the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; an additional 5% of all income is designated to local ministries. Through 2015 that 5% was divided between two Latino ministries in Burlington and Mount Vernon.

Here is the list of ministries and organizations currently nominated to be recipients. You are invited to suggest ministries to receive a portion of our gifts.

- [Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center](#)
 - *In partnership with Western Washington Lutheran Congregations, Lutherwood is a year-round outdoor ministry, renewing all in the Holy Spirit through education, adventure, service, and prayer.*
 - Located on the north end of Lake Samish, Lutherwood offers summer camps for children and youth, supporting faith development and confirmation ministries, experiences of God’s work in creation that shape environmental stewardship, and opportunities for congregational campout, leadership retreats, and spiritual retreats for groups of varying sizes.
- [Open Door Ministries](#)
 - The mission of Open Door Ministries is:
 - *To extend Christ's affirming, inclusive love to persons who have often felt excluded and condemned by church and society because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.*
 - *To encourage and support the Church and its members as they address issues of human sexuality and biblical interpretation.*
 - *To bring the compassion of Christ and his Church to persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other health-related issues.*
- [Faith Action Network](#)
 - We Are a Network of Faith Communities That:
Believes justice work is part of our religious calling
Communicates with elected officials about critical social issues
Advocates for a more just and sustainable world
- [Simple Gesture – Salvation Army Feeding Program](#)
 - As a non-profit volunteer driven organization our mission is very simple. Our goal is to feed the hungry in Anacortes. How do we do this? Simple. Every other month we spend the second Saturday morning driving through town collecting Red Bags filled with food that our donors leave out on their front porch. That food is brought in, weighed, sorted and packed for distribution to various food banks, the Anacortes Family Center, Food to Go and our Red Bag Pantries located throughout the city. The majority of food goes to The Salvation Army who have the largest food bank in town. It is through collaboration with the various agencies in town that we are able to collect and distribute food to the needy.
- [Anacortes Family Center](#)
 - The Anacortes Family Center has a three-pronged mission:
 - *To provide shelter for single women and families with children who seek emergency shelter due to a crisis in their lives.*

- *To bring together the efforts of churches, government, civic organizations and individuals in providing emergency shelter and services for homeless women and families with children in Anacortes and the surrounding community.*
 - *To create an alliance with the area's network of social service agencies so that we can assist and support our residents in finding a path to self-sufficiency and a permanent end to their homelessness.*
- [Boys and Girls Club](#)
 - *The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.*
 - *Our Core Belief is that each of our four Clubs provides our Members a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals, life-enhancing programs, character development experiences, and hope and opportunity.*
- [Earth Ministry](#)
 - *Through education, outreach, organizing, and training, Earth Ministry builds a powerful moral constituency of people of faith taking action for the health of our communities and the environment.*
- [Family Promise of Skagit Valley](#)
 - *Family Promise of Skagit Valley is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on helping homeless children and their families. Family Promise feeds and houses homeless families overnight at host congregations. During the day guests are at work or at our day center. Our staff give guests counseling services and assistance in job placement. Family Promise of Skagit Valley is funded by donations, grants, and fundraising events.*
- [Holden Village](#)
 - *The vision of Holden Village is the love of God making new the church and world through the cross of Jesus Christ.*
 - *The mission of Holden Village, a Lutheran ministry, is to welcome all people into the wilderness to be called, equipped and sent by God as we share rhythms of*
 - *Word and Sacrament*
 - *Work, Recreation and Study*
 - *Intercession and Healing.*
- [Dinner at the Brick](#)
 - *In Matthew 25 we read of Jesus' close association with people who are on the margin. In the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus reminded his followers of the need to share food with those who are hungry.*

Beginning back in 1999, Westminster opened its doors to host a free Sunday dinner for anyone who wanted to come. Now, Dinner at the Brick, as the meal has been named, is an ecumenical ministry supported by more than 10 different churches and services organizations in Anacortes. The meal is always served in Westminster's Fellowship Hall, but is prepared by various church groups and services organizations. Dinner is served every Sunday at 4:30 P.M. It is free and open to the public.

- *Note: Celebration participates in this as part of our own ministry, and as DAB is not a separately incorporated ministry, it may not qualify as a local benevolence; our support can instead be made through our budget, as a ministry of Celebration, and we can still receive dedicated gifts to cover members' costs in putting on these dinners.*

- [El Camino de Emmaus](#)
 - *This Lutheran ministry is led by Rev. Emilio Benitez and worships together at Burlington Lutheran Church.*

- *“Como Lutheranos, seguimos a Jesucristo, nuestro hermano y redentor mayor. Creemos en el Padre y Espiritu Santo. La iglesia Lutherana tiene miembros a nivel nacional e internacional, así como en USA, Latinoamerica, el Centro y el Caribe, Asia, Europa, Africa y el Oriente.*
- *Nos esforzamos por amar a nuestro proximo, como a nosotros mismos y respetamos la diversidad y dignidad de toda persona.*
- *Damos la bienvenida a hombres, mujeres, niñ@s, y otr@s. Celebramos nuestra unidad en Cristo y respetamos nuestras diferencias, colocando siempre el amor y la solidaridad.*
- *Todos son Bienvenidos a encontrar un hogar espiritual en la Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”*
- [La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección](#)
 - This Latino ministry meets at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon, and is served by Rev. Helen McPeak, Pastoral Leader Francisco Lopez, and Children’s Minister Baudelina Paz.
- [Quaker Cove Camp](#)
 - Located on Fidalgo Island in Washington State, Quaker Cove is a Christian camp and a refreshing place to get away from the busyness of daily life. We would be happy to host your camp, event, or have you as a guest at one of ours. We look forward to seeing you soon!
- [PFLAG - Skagit](#)
 - Welcome to Parents, Families, Friends and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Trans* Community: Skagit County Chapter
 - PFLAG provides opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity. We work to create a society that is healthy and respectful to human diversity. We often have entire families and their friends come to our support meetings.
- [Reconciling Works](#)
 - Since 1974, Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.
 - In relationships built through outreach and education, Reconciling Works shares Christ's message, the Gospel, which is for everyone equally. We advocate for systemic change in policy and practice in church and society, working to alleviate not only the painful symptoms of oppression but also to eliminate its root causes.

A Possible Grouping of Nominees by Category

Homeless

- Family Promise of Skagit Valley
- Anacortes Family Center
- Salvation Army – Simple Gesture
- Dinner at the Brick (might not be eligible)

LGBTQ

- Open Door Ministries
- Reconciling Works
- PFLAG

Advocacy

- Faith Action Network
- Neighbors in Faith (Rev. Terry Kylo)

Care of Creation

- Earth Ministry

Youth

- Boys and Girls Club

Outdoor/Camping Ministries

- Lutherwood
- Holden Village
- Quaker Cove Camp

Latino

- La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección (Rev. Helen McPeak)
- El Camino de Emmaus (Rev. Emilio Benitez, Lutheran)