

Mission: Thanksgiving in June

Two years into the strategic planning process, guided by Kevin Ford of TAG, Galilean Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi faced the challenge to put action into the core value of "mission beyond self". As a direct challenge by a task force of the congregation, the Food Bank of Corpus Christi was targeted as the beneficiary of the congregation's effort to go beyond the walls of the congregation.

On Sunday, June 24th, after an abbreviated Worship service, of song, Word and communion, Galileans hit the streets...going out into the neighborhoods directly surrounding the congregation's campus. The people of Galilean Lutheran Church went out, ringing doorbells, knocking on doors, making a simple request to help the hungry of the community. Runners in vehicles provided water and collected the food so generously donated by our neighbors.

Upon their return to the Church for a celebratory lunch, Galileans rejoiced in seeing the fruits of their labor. In about one hour, parishioners collected just shy of 1300 lbs. of food. In addition, monetary donations, along with matching funds from Thrivent Financial, amounted to over \$1000.00 for the Food Bank. More donations still are being accepted.

The most amazing part is that 111 people from the congregation were involved on some level of this mission project. But this was just the beginning!

The success in congregation participation can be directly attributed to the fact that each household was contacted personally, as opposed to just signing up. Each family or individual was asked how they would be able to assist in this ministry. When personally asked, the reception was enthusiastic and willing.

"I can't remember a day when I saw so many smiles. It just felt good doing something for someone else and everyone seemed to bond working for a common goal," commented Phyllis Vaughn, task force vice chair.

Bea Hanson, Executive Director, Food Bank of Corpus Christi, complimented the congregation with these words, "I am amazed by the power of God expressed through His people! The members of Galilean Lutheran Church are a vivid example of what can be done when people become God's hands and feet to help those in need. On behalf of 122,100 people who eat food from the Food Bank every year, I want to say thank you so much for your love and your efforts!"

Seeking to "engage our community with the amazing love and grace of God" is the journey that Galilean Lutheran Church has begun.