

Lutherans offer helping hands

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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ELCA celebrates day of service Sunday.

Need help with a small job?

Call the American Lutheran Church at 537-3433.

“If someone needs a light bulb screwed in and can’t reach it or can’t climb a ladder to do something, call us,” said parish ministry associate Lonna Grabenstein. “And we’ll come over and do it.”

Grabenstein and interim pastor Tom Wilson said the church is pairing up the needs of the community with the gifts of their congregation beginning with what they are calling a Misson Sunday on Sept. 8.

The date commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America denomination that is made up of four million members.

“God’s work. Our hands,” is the mission theme of the ELCA.

“It is what Christ calls us to do daily,” Grabenstein said.

The local congregation will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Grabenstein said church members are looking at jobs that may take 10 to 15 minutes.

Sometimes, Wilson said, congregations think they need to accomplish monumental tasks.

“We forget about the little things people need,” he said. “And there are a lot of needs out there.”

The church offers another service that extends beyond Sundays—a food pantry that has been available for several years.

One reason it’s located at American Lutheran is the church is open and staffed all day, Grabenstein said.

She added that youths and adults also offer service outside the community.

Senior and junior high youths traveled to the Ft. Worth/Dallas, TX, area this summer where they helped in homeless shelters, a clothing warehouse and led worship with singing.

Junior highers also went to the Pine Ridge, SD, reservation where they provided child care, cleaned at prairie church and interacted with the Lakota people.

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