

Newsletter

Stake Presidency Message

The Thanksgiving Season



President Wen

Dear Brothers and Sisters, for this season of thanksgiving and any season, I submit to you for your contemplation and enjoyment some words from a wonderful Christian preacher, William Ellery Channing:

"To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart; to study hard; to think quietly, act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common—this is my symphony."



Check out this fun family event that helps support the Akron/Canton food bank

Service at Christmas changes hearts



David Foutz

I was inspired by an article in the Church News written by Mary Richards and published Dec 20, 2021, and re-motivated to find ways to serve others in meaningful ways during this tender Holiday season.

Here are some key ideas:

President Russell M. Nelson invited the world to serve others this Christmas in large or small ways.

"I invite you to make room in your heart for those around you who may be struggling to see the light of the Savior and to feel His love." President Nelson said in a video message released Thursday, Dec. 16. "No gifts will mean as much as acts of pure love you offer to the lonely, the worn down and the weary."

Heath Bradley is now the global manager of the Church's JustServe initiative, and remembers a Christmas years ago when his family was struggling. His mom was raising him and two sisters alone in Arizona and trying to make ends meet.

After she worked all day at her minimum wage job, and the children did their homework, they would go out in the evenings and knock on doors to see if they could paint street addresses for extra money.

"We were always praying that people would answer the door and help us," he said.

One day seemed particularly discouraging, until one lady answered the door and said she was expecting them and had responded to a prompting to prepare things for them. "She brought out three large boxes of food and proceeded to say, 'This isn't from me, this is from the Lord. He is mindful of you. He loves you,'" said Bradley. She also gave his family some money and told them, "Merry Christmas."

Bradley says the whole goal of service is to be like Christ — authenticity in service is charity, the pure love of Christ. "We don't love our neighbors to convert them. That's not it. We love our neighbors because we are converted."

One Person Can Make a Difference

When Sister Jenne Hunter moved to Medina 2 years ago, she felt that God had a purpose and plan for her life here in Northeast Ohio. Leaving her family and loved ones in Utah was a really hard decision to make, but she felt inspired that God had a purpose for her in moving to Medina. Not long after her arrival, Sister Hunter was called as the Relief Society president of the Medina ward. Through her new calling, Sister Hunter felt inspired to reach out into the community. She began looking for opportunities within her new community, to make a difference.

Sister Hunter found Hope-Healing Survivor Resource Center, in Medina. It is a shelter for women and children in Medina. After establishing relationships there, she identified a great need that wasn't being fulfilled at the shelter and set about to remedy that. Working through the proper channels at church, Sister Hunter was able to secure a \$13,000 grant to help purchase the much-needed supplies for the shelter.

The Medina ward has really come together on this project, and are now preparing to assemble and distribute 250 bags of essential items to the shelter, just in time for the holidays! Items included are basic toiletry needs, clothes, and quilts that the members of the Medina ward have made.

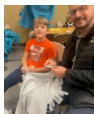


A great service has been accomplished through the inspired actions of Sister Hunter and the Medina ward. We want to thank them for being such great examples of Christ's love in our community!

There is still so much to do with the project, so please contact Sister Jenne Hunter from the Medina ward if you or your ward would like to get involved and help!



What a great way to come together as a ward- love all those smiling faces!



Stake & Community News

Stake Social Media



Are you following us on social media, yet???

Follow the stake pages on Instagram and Facebook to see some positive and Christ-centered content in your feed everyday!

Instagram: @akronohiostake

Facebook: Latter-day Saints in Northeast Ohio

=LightTheWorld starts December 1st on social media!
Mark your calendars and follow us!

25 Days of Kindness

From December 1 to Christmas Day, pay attention to the ways the people around you have shared their light with you and others. Each day, highlight their small acts of kindness on social media. Hopefully the examples you share can inspire many more to reach out with love like Jesus did. Make sure to use the following hashtag in your posts:

#LightTheWorld

A Sincere Thank You!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Monica Schneck for her extraordinary decade of service on the Stake Communications Team, and her hard work every month on the Stake Newsletter!!!

We are so grateful for all her service & will miss her! Thank you!!!

Akron Holiday Tree Festival

This year, the Akron Ohio Stake sponsored a Christmas tree for the 42nd Annual Holiday Tree Festival!

It runs
November
11th-19th
at the John S.
Knight
Center in
Akron &
admission is
free!



We are so excited that our tree won the award for the *Best Christmas Theme*, out of all the trees in the festival!!! It also sold right away at the auction- which is awesome because all the proceeds go to Akron Children's Hospital and research, to help kids and their families in our community.

Kathryn Miller, the Stake Communications Director, and Jordan Bigler, the Stake Social Media Specialist were the creative team behind this beautiful Christ-centered tree design! Way to go ladies!

