

Gifts of Hope



Southwestern Washington Synod 2008

Gifts of Hope is an alternative gifting program for the Christmas and holiday seasons. The program started in the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 17 years ago. The Southwestern Washington Synod has been involved with the program for three years. Last year seven churches in the Southwestern Washington Synod participated in the program and over \$12,400 worth of gifts were purchased. During the three years the program has been in Southwestern Washington, \$28,261 has been raised for people in need all over the world. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has added \$6,863 in matching funds bringing the total dispersed to agencies over three years to \$34,124. Thrivent has also underwritten the cost of printing of the catalog and other forms. Because all the work is done by volunteers, 100% of the money to purchase gifts is sent to the agencies in need.

The process is simple. Shop in the catalog and pick out the gifts you would like to give. Fill out the order blank and write a check to your local church with Gifts of Hope in the memo area. Give the order blank and check to the person in charge of Gifts of Hope in your church. The money will be forwarded to the correct agency after Christmas when all the gifts have been purchased.

You will be given a pre-printed card to send to the person you are honoring with the gift. A small insert will explain to them what you gifted in their honor.

You will have your shopping done very quickly and with the knowledge that your gifts will make a difference to someone in need.

Questions may be directed to the Gifts of Hope Coordinator at your church or to Ann Miller 253-862-1050.