



TOGETHER WE SPREAD THE JOY OF GOD'S GRACE
HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

2016 GIFTS OF HOPE

GIFTS OF HOPE is operated by volunteers from
throughout the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, ELCA

VOLUNTEERS: Gifts of Hope succeeds because of our many volunteers; each person makes a difference in our community.

Catalog: A volunteer gathers gift ideas from our Beneficiaries; a group then selects and prices the gifts; another volunteer creates the 4-page catalog to get it ready for the printer.

Christmas Cards: Every other year a volunteer designs new Christmas cards for our donors. We have a new card for Advent 2016.

Conference Coordinators: Our 6 conference coordinators each give about 15 hours per year--distributing cards, envelopes, and catalogs to the participating congregations. They keep in contact with the church volunteers.

Church Volunteers: These volunteers make our catalogs and cards available during Advent with table displays, do some paperwork, and thank donors.

Treasurer: The treasurer tallies the totals from the congregations and online donors. GOH then disburses the funds.

Thrivent Action Teams: The local chapters of Thrivent Financial dissolved in 2016. Now volunteers create Thrivent Action Teams to raise funds to pay printing expenses.

Companion Synods Liaisons: Each companion Synod (El Salvador, Namibia, Slovakia) has a volunteer who maintains contact abroad and provides gift ideas.

CHANGES and UPDATES: Three organizations have name changes. **HOUSING UP** is the new name for "Transitional Housing Corporation." **THE SALVADORAN LUTHERAN CHURCH** is a more accurate name for the "Lutheran Church in El Salvador." **NOVACO** was formerly known as "Northern Virginia Coalition."

This catalog has 40 different gifts supporting our 17 Beneficiary Organizations. GOH has discontinued the "Congregational Designated Gift." All funds raised during our Advent Campaign will go to our Beneficiaries.

The website has new links. Find gifts arranged by **dollar amount**, **beneficiary organization** and by **category**, such as Children, Food, Housing, Medical, etc.

How To Help

Our gifts (pages 2-3) are an alternative to traditional gift-giving. There are 3 different ways to select gifts which will benefit those in need.

1. Most congregations in the Metro DC Synod (ELCA) host sales events during the Advent season. There are a variety of gifts, so find those that interest you or are at the 'right price'. (Remember to bring your checkbook.) You will receive holiday cards, including descriptions of the designated gifts, which you can give to your loved ones. 100% of your monetary gift will go to the beneficiary organizations.
2. Place an order online for Christmas or any other gift-giving occasion and receive a holiday or all-purpose card and gift description insert. Tax-deductible gifts are available year-round at: www.giftsofhopedc.org. (Payment by credit card, debit card or PayPal account.)
3. If you do not place an order through your congregation during Advent or place an order online, then please complete the order form below and mail it with your check, payable to 'Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod'.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
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MAIL TO:
Carolyn Sowinski
20415 Peridot Lane
Germantown, MD 20876

*The commandment that we have from him is this:
Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (I John 4:21)*

Facebook: facebook.com/DCGOH (you do not need to have a FB account to look at our page!)

Blog: giftsofhopedc.blogspot.com

Website: www.giftsofhopedc.org

2016 Gifts of Hope

GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Camp Scholarship

\$250

Help send a child to **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp** or **Mar-Lu-Ridge Lutheran Camp**. This gift will go toward the cost of one week of camp, and help a camper experience the joy of God in creation, meet new friends, and challenge themselves. Gifts will be distributed evenly between camps.

2. Rent Assistance

\$150

NOVACO provides emergency services to families affected by homelessness and domestic violence. This gift of hope will help a family pay rent and other bills necessary to maintain safe and permanent housing.

3. Feed a Crowd

\$145

Staff and volunteers at **N Street Village** feed women at their outreach center every day. This Gift of Hope will provide 100 women with a nutritionally balanced lunch, warming their hearts and filling their stomachs.

4. One Woman / One Year of Care

\$125

Homeless women, the clients of **N Street Village**, have health care needs. This Gift of Hope will provide access to primary care and holistic health services for one woman for one year.

5. Education and Training Scholarships

\$100

Clients served by **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation** better their lives by attending a local community college or training academy. Help cover educational costs of upgrading skills and obtaining certifications.

6. Church Roof Repair

\$100

Architecturally beautiful churches in Slovakia need repair. This gift will provide funds to replace and repair the roof at the church in Nandraž, a member of the **Lutheran Churches in Slovakia**. Your gift will provide a safe, dry worship space.

7. Household Furnishings Kit

\$80

Provide a homeless family at **Housing Up** (formerly Transitional Housing Corporation) with a basic household furnishing kit. Families entering Housing Up's program come straight from emergency shelter, often with no belongings.

8. Utility Bills

\$80

NOVACO provides emergency services to families affected by homelessness and domestic violence. This gift will help a family pay utilities and other bills crucial to maintaining permanent housing.

9. Fund for Retired Pastors

\$75

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia** does not maintain a pension fund for pastors who retired before 1990. This gift to **ELCIN** will go into a retirement account and will support an outreach workshop for these elderly pastors.

10. Rebuild and Repair Church Walls

\$75

Architecturally beautiful churches in Slovakia need repair. This gift will provide funds to rebuild the walls at the Tvarožná church, a member of the **Lutheran Churches in Slovakia**, making it safe for worship.

11. Chapel Paraments

\$75

Enhance the worship space with liturgical colors! In honor of **Roanoke College's** 175th and the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017, this gift will support the purchase of new paraments for the college Chapel and altar.

12. Repair Children's Orphanages

\$75

Nineteen hostels for children (orphanages) served by the **ELCRN** community in Namibia are aging and need repair. Your gift will help provided cleaner and healthier facilities, including bathrooms, showers, and upgraded septic systems.

13. Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep

\$75

Refugees have entire apartment homes that need to be filled with furniture and other household supplies. Give the gift of sleep by helping to fund the purchase of a mattress by **Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area**.

14. One Week of Service

\$60

LVC volunteers work on social justice issues at over 120 non-profits across the country, including DC, giving access to affordable and skilled employees. This gift allows **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** to provide one week of service, addressing injustice through direct service, advocacy and support.

15. Green our Campus

\$60

A charter member of "Blessed Earth", the **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg** continues campus greening efforts using your gift to implement all-geothermal heating and cooling and environmentally friendly walking pathway.

16. Computers for Seminary Library

\$60

We all rely on computers for writing and information gathering. Students at the **Paulinum Seminary** Library in Windhoek, Namibia, need new computers and your gift will help cover the cost to help educate students to become pastors.

17. Pipe Organ for Chapel

\$60

Help bring a pipe organ to the **Chapel at The Village at Rockville**, a National Lutheran Community. A beautiful instrument will enrich, enthrall, and engage residents.

18. Equipped for the Job

\$50

Getting a job is great until the supervisor says you need an ID card, text book, uniform, work boots or tools. This gift equips **Southeast Ministry** clients with items necessary for their jobs, moving them on a path to self-sufficiency.

19. Pack a Backpack

\$50

Housing Up (formerly Transitional Housing Corporation) provides hundreds of backpacks and school supplies to make sure that children in our programs are prepared for the school year. Your gift will ensure that kids will have notebooks and pencils for class on their first day of school.

20. Auto Repair

\$50

Reliable transportation to employment or school is a key to success. This gift ensures that clients of **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation** have access to working vehicles.

GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

21. Support and Feed Tomorrow's Leaders \$50

Those called to public ministry sacrifice time, energy, and money while they study **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg**. This gift of hope will help meet the basic needs and underwrite expenses for students and their families.

22. One Woman/One Night of Care \$50

Shelter is a basic need. **N Street Village** staff and volunteers work tirelessly to help women who experience homelessness. This gift provides transitional shelter and case management for one woman for one night at Luther Place Night Shelter.

23. Music Therapy \$45

Have a favorite hymn? Music therapy encourages awareness, concentration, and social interaction in seniors. Sponsor the purchases of iPods for seniors living in memory care at **The Village at Rockville**, a National Lutheran Community.

24. Women's Clothes \$40

Do you have a favorite dress that fits well? Those who are homeless or low-income struggle to have an outfit for church, work, or an interview. Your gift to **Community Family Life Services** will help these women look and feel better.

25. Emergency Services \$40

NOVACO provides emergency services to families affected by homelessness and domestic violence. This gift will help a family purchase food and other basic needs which are critical to families' health and well-being.

26. Sports Equipment and Nature Study \$35

Campers at **Mar-Lu-Ridge Lutheran Camp** and **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp** spend much of their time outdoors—exploring, playing, and creating. This gift provides for activities, including fishing, archery, caving, and science.

27. Winter Boots \$35

Low-income families, served by **Community Family Life Services**, need a variety of services including winter boots. Your donation will help men, women and children keep their feet warm and dry during the colder months.

28. Medications Co-Pay \$30

Most of us have a co-pay when we purchase our medications. Due to limited income many seniors at **Fellowship Square Foundation** must choose between medicine and food. This gift will help cover costs of their medications.

29. Bridge the Digital Divide \$30

Access to information technology (IT) is not a luxury; it is a key to improving the educational and economic prospects of **Southeast Ministry** learners. This gift helps purchase equipment and maintenance to help learners succeed.

30. Brain Food \$30

Urban gardens, cooking lessons, and healthy food choices! This gift helps **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** volunteers reach and teach at-risk youth the benefits of growing, choosing, and preparing healthy foods.

31. Adventures, Activities, and Outings \$30

The best part of childhood is being able to be a kid. Help **Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area** give children in the foster care program or affected by HIV/AIDS an opportunity to smile, socialize, and learn by sending them to museums, picnics, theaters, and adventures.

32. Medical Care for Families \$25

Medical care for low-income and at-risk families can often be unaffordable and difficult to access. This gift to **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** will help make accessibility and affordability possible.

33. Salary Support for Pastors in El Salvador \$25

The pastors of **The Salvadoran Lutheran Church** serve in impoverished and marginalized communities. Because families struggle daily to meet their basic needs, they cannot fully support pastors. This gift, placed in an ELCA endowment fund, creates supplemental income for Salvadoran pastors.

34. SmarTrips for Success \$25

Families at **Housing Up** (formerly Transitional Housing Corporation) continue to commute to work, interviews and job trainings while making the transition from homelessness to housing stability. Your gift helps cover transportation costs.

35. Dental Care \$25

Help someone who wants to smile again or enjoy a meal in comfort. Your gift to **Fellowship Square Foundation** will help low-income elderly or disabled persons get needed dental care which can be expensive and is not covered by Medicare.

36. Food for a Family in El Salvador \$15

Help **The Salvadoran Lutheran Church** provide for their neediest families. Your gift will purchase rice, beans, sugar and cooking oil, giving sustenance to a hungry family for one week.

37. Children's Underwear \$15

Superheroes, stripes, and fun colors—new underwear is an item needed for younger clients at **Community Family Life Services**. Your gift supports needed essentials for children.

38. Our Daily Bread \$10

Help feed clients of **Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area**. Provide one meal through Giant or Safeway gift cards to underprivileged children and families who are living with or have been affected by HIV-AIDS.

39. Rush Hour Ride \$10

A bus ride can be the difference between a **Southeast Ministry** learner attending class/work, or living another day without self-sufficiency. This gift provides needed transit help for low-income individuals.

40. A Nutritious Meal \$10

Help provide a nutritious meal to a home-bound resident at a **Fellowship Square Foundation** residence. This gift subsidizes the cost of food, the preparation, and the serving of a meal.

GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFICIARIES

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp

Located on 270 acres in the Shenandoah Valley, CFLC serves the Metro DC, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synods of the ELCA with summer camp sessions and year-round retreat facilities where guests grow with others in faith. **Gifts #1 and #26**
www.carolinefurnace.org

Community Family Life Services

Founded in 1969, CFLS provides children, youth and adults with the tools to move beyond poverty and homelessness into permanent self-sufficiency. Programs include affordable housing, mentoring, employment coaching and placement, case management, parent education, youth development, and food and clothing distribution. **Gifts #24, #27 and #37**
www.cflsdc.org

Fellowship Square Foundation

FSF provides affordable housing and support services for low income seniors and the disabled with caring and secure living environments, and important support services which help residents to stay independent as long as possible. **Gifts #28, #35 and #40**
www.fellowshipsquare.org

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

GSHF's mission is "To provide housing options for vulnerable individuals and families with low income, particularly those struggling with mental illness". Support services include partnering with area service providers and providing case management, life skills and rental assistance. **Gifts #5 and #20**
www.goodshepherdhousing.org

Housing Up

Previously known as Transitional Housing Corporation, Housing Up provides housing and comprehensive support services to more than 600 families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the District of Columbia. **Gifts #7, #19 and #34**
www.housingup.org

Lutheran Churches in Namibia

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia cooperatively support a Lutheran Seminary in Namibia and sustain other educational and economic projects which improve life and livelihood and meet spiritual needs of the Namibian people. **Gifts #9, #12 and #16**
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

Lutheran Churches in Slovakia

Since 1989 LCS, with the assistance of missionaries and financial support from partner churches, works to reclaim its pre-World War II properties, reopen numerous Lutheran secondary and elementary schools, establish a Lutheran Theological Seminary complex in Bratislava and minister to the Roma (Gypsy) community. **Gift #6 and #10**
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Proclaiming God's grace, LSS/NCA works to create a society where our most vulnerable among us find wholeness, justice and self-sufficiency. In 2017, LSS/NCA celebrates 100 years of serving the Metro DC Community; current programs include: Adoption & Foster Care, Caregiver Support, Congregational & Community Education, Refugee & Immigrant Services, Youth Haven Camps (HIV/AIDS). **Gifts #13, #31 and #38**
www.lssnca.org

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

The seminary offers graduate degree tracks and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions. **Gifts #15 and #21**
www.ltsgeu.edu

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

A national service and leadership development organization, LVC matches volunteers with full-time, year-long positions in social justice organizations. Volunteers work at nonprofits in 13 U.S. cities, providing direct service, advocacy, community organizing, and education. Living together in household communities of 4 to 7 people, volunteers commit to 3 core spiritual practices: building community, working for justice, and living simply and sustainably. **Gifts #14, #30 and #32**
www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge

An outdoor ministry of the ELCA situated in Central Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, MLR ministers through its summer camp, and retreat and conference center—providing experiences which change lives, make disciples, build friendships, and create Christian communities. **Gifts #1 and #26**
www.mar-lu-ridge.org

N Street Village

Founded by Luther Place Memorial Church in 1972, N Street Village provides services to homeless and low-income women in Washington, DC and addresses both emergency and long-term needs such as housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery. **Gifts #3, #4 and #22**
www.nstreetvillage.org

NOVACO

NOVACO helps homeless victims of domestic abuse become healthy, secure and self-sufficient. Programs address housing, education, childcare, counseling, mentoring and financial management needs. **Gifts #2, #8 and #25**
www.novaco.org

Roanoke College

Roanoke College is an independent, co-educational, 4-year liberal arts college in Salem, Virginia. Founded in 1842, we are the second-oldest Lutheran-related college in America. Because of our Lutheran heritage, we live at the intersection of faith and reason. Reason calls us to be honest. Faith calls us to be authentic. **Gift #11**
www.roanoke.edu

Salvadoran Lutheran Church

The Salvadoran Lutheran Church provides spiritual guidance, hope and reconciliation to El Salvadoran people in urban and rural areas. Unemployment, lack of basic health care and violence are daily occurrences for vulnerable women, senior citizens and children among those most vulnerable. **Gifts #33 and #36**
metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

Southeast Ministry

Located in Ward 8 of Washington, DC, SEM provides a ministry of hope for men and women in a safe and respectful environment through education, job readiness and other programs that build self-esteem, transform lives. **Gifts #18, #29 and #39**
www.southeastministrydc.org

The Village at Rockville

Serving seniors and their families with quality care for over 120 years, TVAR offers independent living, short-term rehabilitation, extended nursing care, respite, hospice, assisted-living and memory care services. **Gifts #17 and #23**
www.thevillageatrockville.org