

Love One Another congregation phase off to a strong start in SC

LSC's *Love One Another* campaign is now in its congregational phase, and LSC is grateful for the enthusiasm churches are bringing to their efforts.

Grace Lutheran in Rock Hill ran its campaign in three weeks instead of the usual six, with fantastic results. Pastor Ray Mohrmann, who is an LSC development officer, preached and made a presentation on their kick-off Sunday. Committee member Nora Sliney said the committee was impressed by the programs the campaign will support, programs that will help refugees, youth transitioning out of foster care, and services for the disabled. They were also gratified to learn that campaign funds would help those in York County. "We felt like it was really our responsibility to help our neighbors," Nora said.

Getting personal testimony from committee members helped people understand how the programs could affect their lives and the lives of church members, she added. One member spoke of fostering and then later adopting a child through what was then Lutheran Family Services, as well as supporting a refugee family and sustaining a relationship with them for decades.

"If you have passionate people presenting," Nora said, "that is contagious. It moves people."

On Celebration Sunday, the Rev. Mary Finklea, chair of the *Love One Another* campaign, announced that the church had far exceeded its goal.

Also exceeding its goal was St. Michael's Lutheran in Greenville. Its campaign was headed up by David Cooke, with help from Van Matthews. Cooke, who credits LSC with giving them a good playbook to follow, worked closely with Pastor Robert Miles to educate the congregation about LSC and the campaign projects. Pastor Miles supported the campaign vigorously in writing



All Saints Lutheran raised funds for *Love One Another* before the official start of their congregational campaign. Louise Deely and Candace Collins organized the event; Louise's husband, Tony (third from left), organized a team that participated.

and from the pulpit and helped keep LSC visible throughout the campaign. "Without a doubt, Pastor Robert getting behind the program was of paramount importance in the campaign's success," David said.

David stressed that people give willingly and generously if they are giving toward something specific and tangible. "With the *Love One Another* campaign, people know where their money is going," he said. "I think most churches will give if they realize that their dollar is making a difference. And most anybody who's been around the Lutheran Church in the Carolinas knows someone who benefited from Lutheran Family Services."

All Saints Lutheran in Mount Pleasant has not yet begun their formal campaign but has already generated excitement through

a parish golf tournament that drew 60 golfers, with proceeds designated toward the congregation's goal. Louise Deely, the LSC Champion at All Saints, helped organize the tournament at Dunes West in Mount Pleasant along with her co-chair, Candace Collins. LSC foster care staff helped out at the event, which raised more than \$2,800 toward the church's goal.

Deely and her husband, Tony, have a special place in their hearts for foster care and appreciate the new after-care program for children transitioning out of foster care that *Love One Another* will help fund. Louise and Tony fostered three boys years ago when they lived in New York, and Louise's mother and her siblings were foster children.

"I feel very strongly about the responsibility we have to one another," Louise says.