



Faithful Quiet Service

“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

What do you do when you want to serve God but don't know what to do? Maybe the answer is to do what comes naturally for you. That's what the following two amazing people do.



Meet Dorothy Kern from St. John's Lutheran Church in Fenton, IA.

Dorothy has been reaching out to others for many years, one warm quilt at a time. She started making quilt tops 30 years ago. She doesn't know the exact number she has made, but does know there were years when she sewed 150 or more quilt tops. That is a lot of material and a lot of hours spent piecing and

sewing. While her children were growing up, she used her sewing talents to make clothes for her daughter and leisure suits for her sons. She has also made quilted throws for her nine grandchildren. In the basement of Dorothy's home there are stacks of beautiful quilt tops and material to be made into quilts.

People in the Fenton community bring bundles of material including blue jeans to Dorothy. She strips the clothes of zippers, buttons and trim. She then designs and sews quilt tops to be given to people with local emergencies. The rest are given to people throughout the world through Lutheran World Relief. Dorothy makes the quilt tops and backs her labor of love. Then once a year, the Ladies Aid members from St. John's and a few friends get together at church to tie and to hem the quilts. The women usually work for two weeks to complete the project.

When a family's life is disrupted, a quilt not only brings physical comfort, it also brings emotional comfort. It is a tangible symbol of God's love.

Meet Ed Ahrens from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Estherville.



Ed Ahrens lovingly makes crosses. He makes large and small wooden crosses. Through the years, Ed has made over 81,000 crosses that he has shared with many people. He attaches a small white label to the back of the cross which says, "This free gift is a reminder of what God has done for you through His Son Jesus...forgiveness of sin is free."

He sent me a box of more than 600 small crosses last fall. He asked me if I'd share them with people

on our mission trips. I asked Melissa Salomon, the director of Lutheran Hour Ministries for the country of Mexico, if we could bring them to distribute at our recent visit to Tijuana.

She was excited about the crosses and about Ed's labor of love. She sent me the Spanish translation for the wording on the label. We attached the labels to the crosses and 600 crosses made their journey across the Mexican border and into the hands of people happy to receive them. I gave them extra crosses to share with friends and family.



Pictured is part of the group proudly holding up their crosses.

Dorothy and Ed do not know how their gifts of love affect the hearts and lives of the recipients. However, they keep doing what comes naturally to them, God blesses their work and He knows the eternal benefits.

Are you serving God with what comes naturally to you?

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