



# The LCMS Northern Illinois District's district-wide servant event

# Welcome!

**Hello! If you are receiving this packet, it means that you have officially registered for *Shine!* We are excited to have you join us in serving our neighbors and our communities across the LCMS Northern Illinois District!**

This packet is designed to give guidance and tips for your *Shine!* event. There is information on project selection, financing, scheduling, a district-wide *Shine!* Bible study, and more. Learn how to submit pictures to the District so we can share your group's service on social media.

This servant event is a group effort! The Northern Illinois District is blessed to have the Northern Illinois District Board of Directors as a sponsor.



# Servant Event Checklist

If you aren't quite sure where to start, or are worried you may have missed something in planning, here are some important items to complete before your service.

- Choose a service date and a time.**  
It's up to you! Some groups serve in the community for a couple of hours while others gather supplies and work for weeks on a project.
- Share the event in your congregation and ask for prayers.**  
Adding this information into your church's communication channels is also a great way to get more volunteers and donations for your project.
- Determine a budget and raise funds if necessary.**  
Always ask for help. There may be a church member or a business in the community that's willing to donate supplies or help raise money.
- Assemble supplies needed to accomplish your project.**  
Do you have enough tools, paintbrushes, sewing thread, or garbage bags? It's also a great idea to bring water and/or snacks.
- Safety First!**  
Gather first-aid supplies, establish emergency medical procedures, and name an emergency contact person.
- Check with your church's insurance and safety policies.**  
Participants may need to sign a waiver, or there may be other parameters the church requires for events.
- Get specific with the day's approximate schedule.**  
Check out the section "Tips for your Servant Event" for more ideas.
- Communicate event details to volunteers.**  
This includes directions, parking information, items to bring, and recommended clothing (like closed toed shoes, clothes that can get dirty, etc.)
- Designate team members' specific tasks.**  
It's helpful to assign people to a specific task. Delegate who is going to take the group picture, bring the water, clean up, return tools to owners, etc.
- Upload photos and videos** to our secure cloud storage at the Northern Illinois District at <https://nidlcms.egnyte.com/ul/XtUUvPrHJg>.  
  
This link is also on the NID website at <https://www.nidlcms.org/shine/>  
  
All photos may be published online or in print. See "Photo Information" section.



# 40 Ways to Shine!

**Before undertaking these acts of service, please contact the organization you'd like to partner with to make sure your service is welcome.**

- Bake cookies and snacks for local food pantries
  - Make lunches for the needy
  - Hold a popsicle give-away at a park
  - Volunteer at a local food pantry
  - Hold a "Donut Event" for those who serve our communities (police and fire stations, dentists, doctors' offices, nurses' stations at hospitals)
  - Pick up litter at a shopping center
  - Clean up a park
  - Clean up the school grounds of a local school
  - Rake leaves, mow lawns, and clean up the yard of a shut-in/elderly person
  - Wash windows at a shut-in's house
  - Paint playground equipment at a park
  - Collect and deliver non-perishable food items to a local food pantry
  - Collect and donate hygiene products for local shelters
  - Collect school supplies for a local school
  - Ask a local school what needs their families have
  - Collect blankets, sheets, and newspaper for local animal shelters
  - Assemble first aid kits for local shelters
  - Volunteer at your local library
  - Volunteer at a local nonprofit
  - Hold a blood drive
  - Hold a free car wash
  - Hold a car wash and donate proceeds to a local charity
  - Hold a concert for the community
  - Make birthday cards and party bags for children in shelters
  - Collect materials and make book bags for the pediatric wing of a local hospital or doctor's office
  - Write letters or send cards to seniors in care facilities
  - Write letters or send cards to service men and women
  - Color pictures for troops or seniors
  - Place door hangars that have Bible passages on neighborhood doors
  - Host a bingo event or play other games at a local shelter or nursing home
  - Sponsor a bike-a-thon; learn bike safety
  - Read to residents at a local nursing home or shelter
  - Care for children while parents enjoy a day or evening out
  - Host a sing-along or devotion time at a nursing home
  - Make quilts or blankets for children in hospitals, foster care, or shelters
  - Host a dinner for your neighbors
  - Provide water bottles to commuters at the train station
  - Partner with a local YMCA and help with events they hold
  - Complete minor repairs for a shut-in/elderly person
  - Your own way to *Shine!*
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- Your own way to *Shine!*
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# More Tips

## Need more help finding a project?

Perhaps you and your group already know exactly how you'd like to serve. If so, that's great! If you're still exploring options, check out the following:

- Pastors are great resources! Ask if he is aware of any areas of high need.
  - School principals have a good read on families in a community and may offer a unique perspective on how to help.
  - Call non-profit organizations (food pantries, homeless shelters, etc.) in your area that would appreciate a few extra helping hands.
  - Your town may have a special department/committee for volunteerism. See what city hall has to say about serving others.
  - Use an online search engine to find the numerous websites and online message boards posting volunteer opportunities in your area.
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## Something to Consider:

Service events can be varied for different needs. Great inside events include creating care packages for community homebound or making quilts to donate. There are many options that can be adapted to any volunteer in your church.

There are also great options for those looking to limit exposure. For example, a group may commit to picking up trash, but members could spread out or assemble into smaller groups.

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## Our project involves a cost. Now what?

Some projects require purchasing supplies, buying food, or renting equipment. Here are some funding options:

- Hold your own mini fundraiser. This can involve things like a Saturday morning car wash or serving a meal with a suggested ticket price.
- Is someone on your team a member of Thrivent? Apply for an Action Team Grant.
- Have a door offering at church one Sunday.
- Talk to local businesses about donating either dollars or materials.



# Some Final Tips

## Scheduling the Project

- Determine if an hour, two hours, half day, or full day is suitable to complete your project.
  - Plan ahead—some events need several weeks/months to collect items or specific supplies.
  - If applicable, plan travel time to and from the site.
  - Begin the gathering with a prayer (see a suggested prayer below).
  - Include 10-minute breaks often for water, snacks, etc.
  - Allow time at the end for participants to discuss and relate their experience of service to daily faith life.
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## Responsibilities Can Be Shared

Below are suggestions on responsibilities to delegate:



- Necessary tools and supplies
  - First-aid kit and emergency phone numbers
  - Water and snacks
  - Official group photographer
  - Prayer leader
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## Group Prayer from President Buss

We want our service to our neighbors to begin with prayer. Here is a suggested prayer your group can use on the day of your event.

Lord Jesus Christ, You took upon the servant's form by serving the weak and needy in healing their diseases and providing for their needs of body and soul. By Your Holy Spirit, make us to be humble servants by showing mercy to our neighbor and helping others in every bodily need. Thank You for coming into our world and sending us as a light into the community where You have put us. May our service point those we serve to You, our Victorious Savior. In Your name we pray. Amen.



# Photo & Video Information

We want to see your amazing service!

We are so excited that you are participating in *Shine!* and want the whole District to know about it! Remember to take lots of pictures throughout the day. Video is also welcome. Did you record your group singing a hymn during devotion time? Awesome – send that too!

Here is how to send your photos and/or videos to the Northern Illinois District:

## Pictures and Videos

- Upload your photos and videos to our secure cloud storage at <https://nidlcms.egnyte.com/ul/XtUUvPrHJg>.
- (also found at the NID website: <https://www.nidlcms.org/shine/>)
- You can share them via Messenger on our Facebook profile!

**Be sure participants sign a photo release before photos and videos are submitted.**

# Legal Information

By participating in the LCMS Northern Illinois District's *Shine!* event, you, your group, and all volunteers and participants assume full responsibility for any actions, mishaps, or incidents that occur in participation or association with this event.

Additionally, any photograph(s), image(s), voice(s), or video(s) submitted to the LCMS Northern Illinois District arrive with consent of use and may be used and reproduced regardless of whether these materials are used for advertising, publicity, or any other purpose on behalf of the LCMS Northern Illinois District. The LCMS Northern Illinois District is not responsible for unauthorized duplications or use of the images, videos, or audio recordings by third parties, on the internet or otherwise. In addition, all claims are waived to compensation or damages based on the use of image or voice, or both, by the LCMS Northern Illinois District. Also waived are any rights to inspect or approve the finished photograph, video, or audio recording. This consent is perpetual, and may not be revoked.



# Thank You to Our *Shine!* Sponsors

**The Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors  
Individual Donors**

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## Contact Information



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