News From

The Lord's Table Newsletter November 2026

[GAITHERSBURG COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN, INC.]

Summer 2026

The Lord's Table Brown Bag Program (BBP) prepared and served 3,200 bagged lunches this summer, a 10%+ increase over the 2025 summer season.

A special, big shout-out to Grace United Methodist Church for again hosting the program over the three months of June, July, and August; and a special note of gratitude to Grace's key coordinators: Bob & Jen Miller, Mark & Karyn Ryan, and Bill Hicks. Grace Methodist is the founder of the BBP which was established to help The Lord's Table guests during the summer when The Lord's Table Hot Meal Program (HMP) is not in operation.

Thanks also to our larger network of volunteers who prepared and distributed lunches during the two months of May and September out of Epworth United Methodist Church (EUMC), Gaithersburg.

Fall, Winter, Spring 2026-2027 Hot Meal Program (HMP)

We began our 42nd year of the HMP the first week of October 2026. Things started smoothly. We have a new Lead Kitchen Manager (LKM) who is quickly establishing herself as a valuable addition to The Lord's Table. The early feedback: The volunteer kitchen crews like her management style and the guests like her meals. The LKM maintains food inventory, creates weekly menus based on foods available, and manages meal preparation. It is a challenging job and creativity is a must.

The HMP provides a three-course hot meal, Monday thru Friday, from October through April in a restaurant-style setting. Guests enjoy a sit-down dinner served by friendly servers in a welcoming environment. Many of our guests rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to dine in a restaurant, enjoy a multi-course, nutritious meal, and share fellowship during a meal with fellow diners.

Thanksgiving

The Lord's Table will again coordinate with St. Martin of Tours for a special Thanksgiving lunch for our HMP guests hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima at St. Martin's. 201 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg.

Corporate Matters

Legal Services

This past year our long-time legal counselor, Mr. Gerald O'Brien, retired. Jerry served The Lord's Table for close to 40 years with pro bono legal services. He was a true blessing to the organization and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

We struggled a bit to find replacement legal services, but the Lord came through again and delivered Mr. Kenneth Armstrong of the law firm Armstrong, Donohue, Ceppos, Vaughan & Rhoades, Chtd. (www.adclawfirm.com). Ken agreed to serve The Lord's Table, just as Jerry did, with pro bono legal services. Armstrong, Donohue, Ceppos, Vaughan & Rhoades, Chtd. is the law firm of our previous president, Patrick Donohue, and a long-time supporter of The Lord's Table. It is wonderful that we were able to keep this special connection to Patrick Donohue who served the Lord's Table as president so faithfully while he was with us…may he rest in peace.

Social Services

Three days each week, during the HMP meal service, The Lord's Table provides a social service counselor. The counselor assists dinner guests with referrals to other city, county, state, and private programs offering employment assistance, housing resources, clothing, language instruction, legal services, medical care and other support. We are hopeful of expanding this service with the help of additional counselors from two other non-profit organizations that have expressed interest. More news to follow on that possibility.

Student Volunteers

The Lord's Table is an approved Montgomery County Public School Student Service Learning (SSL] organization.

Middle and High School student volunteers are welcome to help with HMP meal service as way to earn SSL hours and hopefully develop a lifelong commitment to service to vulnerable communities. There is a student volunteer sign-up button on TLT website. Student service hours are also available through the EUMC Food Distribution Program and the St. Martin's Food Pantry.

Security

Mealtime security services provided by Abilex Security are again helping ensure the safety of our volunteers and a safe environment for our guests to enjoy their meal throughout the season. We sincerely appreciate their professionalism and highly recommend them for your own security service needs. https://www.abilexsecurity.com/

Cleaning

We also want to recognize and thank our cleaning service, Miracle Maids of Gaithersburg, for the excellent work they have done to keep our facilities sparkling.
https://miraclemaidsservices.com/about/

Food Resources

Our food resources have more-or-less held up this past year.

Our food comes from a variety of sources, including donations from local grocery stores, individuals, other non-profit food charities, grants, and government food resource programs. We also purchase additional food items needed directly from local stores.

Our dedicated team of volunteer food recovery drivers collect from our food donation partners weekly throughout the season. We also cooperate in food sharing with St. Martin's Food Pantry based on each organization's specialized food needs.

Food Distribution Program (FDP)

The Lord's Table also participates with EUMC in its Food Distribution program.

Food provided through a Manna grant and a federal government food program is packaged and distributed every two weeks to approximately 140 families in need. These families are identified, qualified, and referred by local community social service partners.

Finances/Fundraising

Our finances over the 2025-2026 season remained stable, allowing us to maintain a balanced operating budget. However, increases in facility rental costs and food prices mean we must increase our donations for the 2026-2027 season.

Our FY 2026 donations goal is $73,000, which should cover all our anticipated expenses this year, ALTHOUGH, we are still a bit short of that goal as of the writing of this newsletter and hope YOU can help us out before the year ends.

Donations and grants provide the financial support necessary to cover:

- Facility rental
- Insurance
- Kitchen Managers' salaries
- Security services
- Equipment purchase and maintenance
- Food purchases

- Kitchen supplies
- Facilities cleaning services

Our Board members, management team, and the 300+ people who make up our meal preparation and serving teams **all work on a volunteer basis**. We work virtually from 'home offices'. We strive to make the large majority of your monetary donations go directly to the mission, i.e., meals for those in need.

Make a Donation

Donations can be made electronically via our website (www.lordstablesoupkitchen.org) or mailed to Gaithersburg Community Soup Kitchen, Inc., P.O. Box 881, Washington Grove, Maryland 20880.

We sincerely thank every donor - and especially our faithful repeat donors. We could not accomplish this ministry without your financial support.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always in search of new volunteer members to prepare and serve meals and to serve on our various committees.

We are especially interested at this time in individuals with experience or interest in:

- Fundraising
- Marketing and communications
- Operations

Our committees include:

- Business Planning
- Communications
- Fundraising and Donations
- Guest Services and Community Outreach
- Kitchen Operations and Food Sources
- Nominating

- Strategic Planning

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a TLT member and serving on a committee or in another volunteer capacity, we would love to hear from you at lordtablesoupkitchen@gmail.com

Postscript – Special Request

We would greatly appreciate having your email address so we can keep you informed about The Lord's Table activities in a timely and cost-effective manner, such as emailing this newsletter (instead of hardcopy mailing).

Please send an email to: LordsTableSoupKitchen@gmail.com or visit www.LordsTableSoupKitchen.org and complete and send the 'Contact Us' form.

Since 1984, The Lord's Table has served several 100 thousand free meals to those in need, in Gaithersburg and surrounding municipalities. Since 2020 we have also co-sponsored, with Epworth United Methodist Church, a Food Distribution Program that provides biweekly food packages to approximately 150 families. We are supported by over 300 volunteers from local schools, churches, synagogues, civic associations, and other nonprofit organizations. Our central mission is to feed, and assist with other social services, the homeless, working poor, and otherwise disadvantaged people in our region.

The Lord's Table

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God bless us everyone!