



FOR
Christmas



2023

Gift Catalog | Bless Others Near & Far

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With falling snow and lights aglow, a beautiful vision of Christmas will soon settle over our neighborhoods. The cookies, cards and carols that bring warmth and cheer to our homes also point us to the source of even deeper joy—the precious gift of a newborn King.

But what if our vision of Christmas stretched a little further?

As we have in years past, we invite you to look beyond our own community and bring the joy of Christmas to families around the world. Imagine blessings that find their way to men, women and children throughout Chicagoland and cross the ocean to fall upon India, Albania and Kenya. Envision gifts that uplift children in the Dominican Republic and bring the hope of Christ to people in remotest Thailand.

This is the essence of our **FOR Christmas** giving initiative—a vision where the heart of God and His Church meets the needs of the world.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

As you peruse the pages of this catalog, you'll see an array of giving options that forgo the "receiving luxuries" focus so common during this season.

In its place—a special collection of projects and presents chosen by our mission partners to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Building upon the rich traditions of Spirit Village and Christmas Shoeboxes, FOR Christmas offers three ways to bless others.

GIVE A PRESENT

that will be gifted to a child by their parents, providing dignity and strengthening families.

SUPPORT A PROJECT

serving one of our global or domestic mission partners or our Food Pantry ministry.

DONATE CANDY FOR A STOCKING

that will be given to a child in need on behalf of Christ Church.

Want to share the joy of giving with loved ones? Each item you select has a corresponding card that you can give to someone special on your Christmas list, indicating that you've made a gift on their behalf. You can find these cards at either Christ Church campus.

We hope you'll join us in praying for our mission partners. Your prayers for their safety, health and ministry are greatly appreciated, and your support of their work is a tremendous encouragement.

Thank you for embodying the heart of the God who gave His very self that first Christmas to meet the world's deepest needs. After all, as we learned in the story of the humble manger—the gift of a little child can change the world!

May God bless you and yours richly as you bless others in this sacred season.

—Christ Church Missions Team

GIVING OPTIONS



GIVE A PRESENT

Bless a child with a gift on behalf of their family

1. **EXPLORE** the mission partners on pages 4–5.
2. **VISIT** ChristChurch.us/ForChristmas and click on the **Give a Present** button to peruse a list of specific items requested.
3. **PURCHASE** gifts in one of two ways:
Purchase via the link on the web page and have the presents delivered to your home.
OR
“Reserve” the gift on the web page. This means you commit to purchasing it elsewhere—either in a store or online.
4. **BRING** the gift(s) to either Christ Church campus for dropoff. The deadline for present dropoff is Saturday, December 2, at the Oh What Fun! Christmas Party. (Party details on page 16.)

SUPPORT A PROJECT

Make a financial donation to bless our mission partners and the people they serve

1. **EXPLORE** the mission partners and projects on pages 6–13.
2. **VISIT** ChristChurch.us/ForChristmas and click on the **Support a Project** button to make financial donations to projects.
3. **SHARE** the joy by giving “A Gift on Your Behalf” cards to loved ones. You can find these cards at either Christ Church campus now through December 31.
4. The deadline for financial donations to partner projects is December 31.



DONATE CANDY FOR A STOCKING

Put a smile on the face of a child

1. **PURCHASE** candies of your choice (no nuts, please). Candy suggestions: Skittles, Starburst, Sweet Tarts, Sour Patch Kids, plain M&M's, plain Hersey's Kisses, Spearmint Starlites and candy canes.
2. **DROP OFF** the candy at either Christ Church campus. The deadline for candy dropoff is Saturday, December 2, at the Oh What Fun! Christmas Party.

HELP FILL THE STOCKINGS | The candy will be used to fill stockings during two Christ Church holiday events. The candy-filled stockings will be given to children in Chicagoland through our mission partners and the Christ Church Food Pantry.

Oh What Fun! Christmas Party | Oak Brook
Saturday, December 2 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Chilly Chili Chowdown | Butterfield
Sunday, December 3 | 11:30 a.m.



Scan the QR code for more information about For Christmas and links to the **Give a Present** and **Support a Project** forms, or email us at Christmas@ChristChurch.us.

Give a Present

Bless a child with a gift on behalf of their family

■ **BY THE HAND CLUB FOR KIDS** is a Christ-centered, after-school program that takes kids by the hand and walks with them from kindergarten through college, loving and nurturing them—mind, body and soul. Your present will bless a child who is part of the By the Hand Club in the North Austin neighborhood of Chicago.

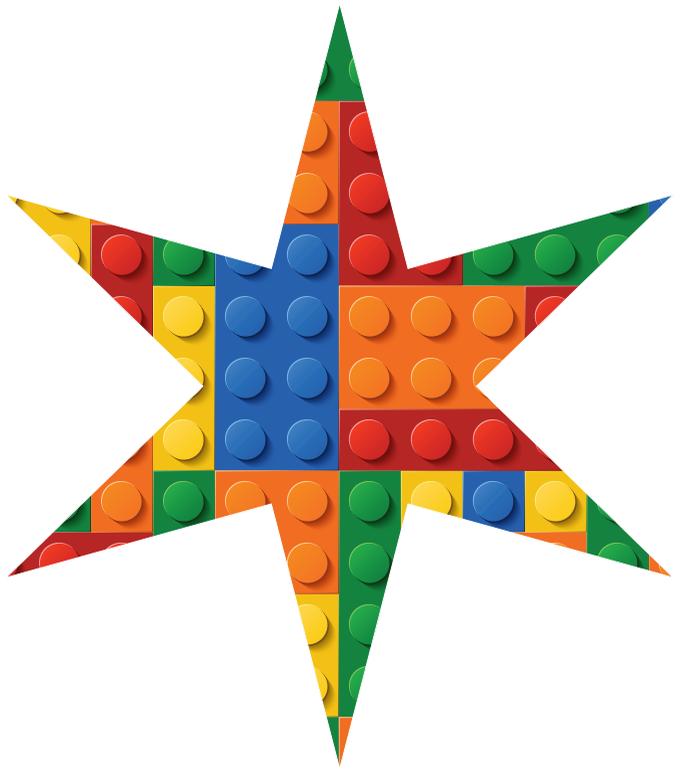
■ **CARING NETWORK ILLINOIS** is the first step for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. They welcome women with unconditional love, counsel and resources that offer the light of truth—changing hearts and saving lives. They also provide support for both mothers and babies after birth. Your gift will help these families as they adjust to a new life together.

■ **INNER CITY IMPACT (ICI)** uses after-school programs, camps and leadership development to disciple children in Cicero and Logan Square. ICI helps kids build healthy relationships, increase confidence, learn new life skills, develop spiritually and redefine their self-worth. Your gift will bring joy to a child in ICI's program.

■ **LOVE INC** seeks to mobilize the local church to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. LOVE is a partnership of many local churches, working together to unify the Body of Christ around meeting the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors. Your gift will support the Christmas store serving DuPage County families in need this holiday season.



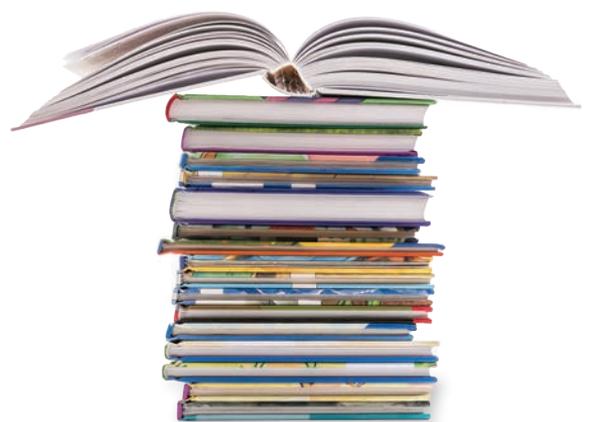
Scan to explore the specific gifts these partners have requested for the people they serve.



■ Born from the domestic missions ministry of Christ Church, **RESILIENT** provides opportunities for youth in the nearby Villa Park/Lombard area to rise up and out of adverse conditions. Resilient helps our neighbors to flourish through education and mentoring initiatives, job training and community engagement with partnering churches. Your gift will bless a student pursuing a career in the trades through Resilient's Upstart program.

■ **PRISON FELLOWSHIP** works to bring hope and restoration to prisoners, families and communities impacted by crime and incarceration. Each Christmas, Angel Tree provides Christmas presents to children of incarcerated moms and dads. Your gift will bring joy and restoration to a family separated by incarceration.

■ **THE SALVATION ARMY** is an international movement and an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible, its ministry is motivated by the love of God and its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. Christ Church partners with The Salvation Army to operate our Food Pantry ministry. Your gift will empower families to give their children presents from the Salvation Army Christmas store.



Support a Project

DOMESTIC

Bless
our local
partners
and the
people
they serve

■ **ADMINISTER JUSTICE** engages Christ followers to serve the legal and spiritual needs of the poor. Gospel Justice Centers are operated by local churches, where Christians provide legal assistance to members of their own communities. Christ Church operates a Gospel Justice Center at our Butterfield campus.

★ \$30 | Your gift covers the co-payment for a client needing legal advice who is unable to afford the fee.

■ Focused on a 40-block area in Garfield Park, **BREAKTHROUGH** partners with people to build connections, develop skills and open doors of opportunity. Breakthrough provides breakfast, lunch and dinner 365 days a year to individuals experiencing homelessness.

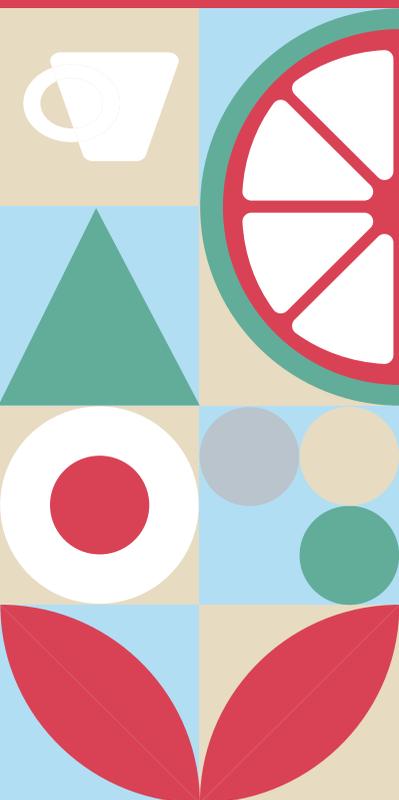
★ \$25 | Your gift provides one day of food for an individual served by Breakthrough.

■ **LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH'S** mission is to redeem the Lawndale community by bringing Christian, holistic revitalization to the lives and environment of its residents through economic empowerment, housing improvement, educational enrichment, quality affordable health care and Christian discipleship. The Garden Summer Program is one of their oldest ministries. For more than 40 years, children Pre-K through grade 6 have enjoyed days filled with academics, physical activity, arts and crafts, studying God's Word and field trips.

★ \$15 | Your gift helps the Garden Summer Program to thrive.

■ The **CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY** serves those experiencing financial hardship in the DuPage County area. Each month, in partnership with the Oakbrook Terrace Salvation Army, the pantry team provides food, clothing, hope, hospitality and prayer to more than 100 families in a single morning.

★ \$10 | Your gift provides meals for a family.





■ **YOUNG LIFE** is a Christian ministry that reaches out to middle school, high school and college students to introduce them to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith.

★ \$50 | Your gift helps to cover the cost of a student attending Young Life summer camp.



Scan to make donations to support these mission projects.

Support a Project

GLOBAL

LIFT others
around the
world this
Christmas



■ **ATUL** and **SUMAN AGHAMKAR** (pictured, right) serve with the National Center for Urban Transformation (NCUT) and the Urban Alliance Center in Bangalore, India. Through training seminars, conferences, writers' workshops and publications NCUT mobilizes and equips Christian leaders. The Urban Alliance Center serves vulnerable populations, including widows who struggle to survive within the hierarchical society.

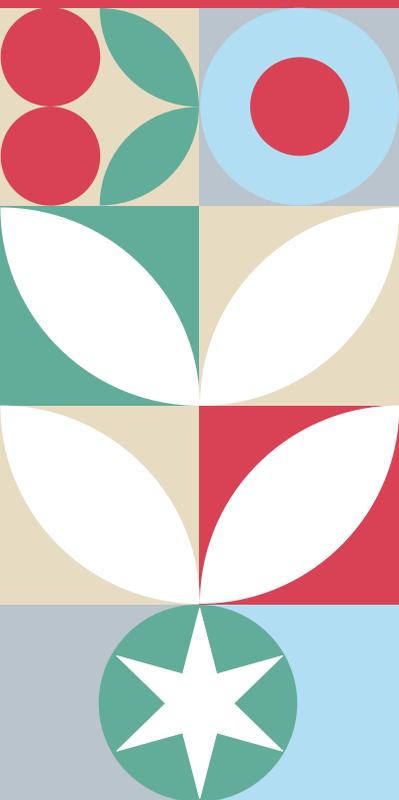
★ \$25 | Your gift provides a month's supply of food for a widow.

■ **PHILIP** and **JILL ASPEGREN** founded Casa Viva Costa Rica in 2003, which provides a safe place for children when they become separated from their families. Local families provide small, secure and specific solutions for children in need. Casa Viva collaborates with local churches and governments, Costa Rican donors and partners in the United States.

★ \$7 | Your gift provides a safe night's sleep for a child.

■ An interactive learning community focused on equipping Christian disciples, **CHINA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY** (CGST) is committed to upholding the evangelical Christian faith through theological education. More of a dynamic spiritual movement than an academic institution, CGST cultivates servant-leaders for the Kingdom of God, undertaking the holistic mission in partnership with the Chinese Church and bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

★ \$10 | Your gift provides mainland China students studying at CGST with Logos Bible e-Resources.





■ CRU's mission is to win, build and send Christ-centered multiplying disciples who launch spiritual movements around the world. **KEVIN CONWAY** and his team provide biblical training for 1,000-plus national CRU staff in Eastern Europe, Russia and Israel. They also support ministries for vulnerable populations.

★ \$50 | Your gift provides support for a Serbian child with a disability to attend summer camp.

■ **STEVE** and **MARGIE DOTY** are Bible translators with Wycliffe. Payap University's Bible Translation Program prepares students studying to be Bible translators.

★ \$50 | Your gift provides textbooks for the library.



Support a Project

GLOBAL

Share the
gifts of love
and hope



■ **JAKE** and **HONAH FINN** serve with Cornerstone Counseling Foundation in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which provides biblical mental health services to missionaries and their families throughout Asia. Cornerstone is building a new facility to accommodate 10 counseling offices, two workshop rooms and a conference room.

★ \$10 | Your gift provides 70 bricks for Cornerstone's new building, designed to meet the growing mental health needs of the community.

■ Millions of children, women and men face the reality of modern slavery, exploitation and abuse every day because people in power prey on the vulnerabilities that poverty creates. The **INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** partners with local communities to build a more just world where everyone can expect to be safe and protected.

★ \$30 | Your gift contributes to the cost of rescuing an individual who is being trafficked.





■ **TAMMY** and **MIHAI LUNDELL** support missionaries through One Challenge while working with their local church in Genova, Italy, where they support a growing young adult community and work with refugees. Mihai serves as chairperson of the European Member Care Board for One Challenge and Tammy provides resources and expertise around spiritual formation opportunities.

★ \$30 | Your gift helps an Italian youth to attend a volleyball outreach camp.

■ **PASTOR PAUL** and **LEAH MANYARA** serve a large portion of Kenya surrounding Nairobi. As Bishop of Africa Inland Church, Pastor Paul oversees more than 100 churches, including many fledgling church plants. Purchasing a goat or sheep for a family in Kenya transforms lives! Not only do livestock supply families with food security by providing milk, protein and fertilizer for crops, but they also give families economic security. Goats and sheep can be sold at market and the profits support a family financially.

★ \$65 | Your gift provides one goat or sheep for a family.

Support a Project

GLOBAL

Equip our
partners
to spread
the Gospel



■ **JEAN BAPTISTE MUGARURA** serves with Youth for Christ Rwanda, a worldwide Christian movement working with young people around the globe. Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, Youth for Christ shares the Good News with young people. Every year, more than 50,000 young people are reached and 1,600 evangelists trained in 24 local communities where Youth for Christ Rwanda is operating.

★ \$50 | Your gift provides meals and training materials for a week-long training session for youth disciplemakers.

■ In Asia, there are more than 25 million people without access to Christian resources. **PROJECT VIDEO** strives to develop a team in each culture that can make Christian resources in their own language. Video can be mass produced and passed around where evangelists cannot go. When people see these Gospel movies in their heart language, they realize that the Gospel has relevance to their culture. Project Video Gospel players are portable audio players that hold a range of audio media, including testimonies, worship songs, preaching and teaching segments. They are offered in any language and serve people groups that cannot read or write or have limited access to internet or other media resources.

★ \$25 | Your gift provides an audio Gospel player for people without access to the Gospel.





■ **MARK STOSCHER** serves as director of Crossroads Torchbearers, which proclaims the transforming presence of Jesus Christ to the people of Albania through biblical teaching and practical training, equipping men and women for service in His church worldwide. Winters in Albania can be challenging for low-income families, particularly with the rising cost of fuel throughout Europe, Crossroads supports these communities.

★ \$20 | Your gift provides a coat for a child in the Crossroads program.

■ **VIC** and **LESLIE TRAUTWEIN** have been working with Kids Alive International in the Dominican Republic since 2002. Their work covers many areas in order to lift children spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. Most of the 1,900 students in seven Kids Alive schools live in impoverished conditions and can't afford dental care, which can lead to the loss of permanent teeth and a mouthful of trouble.

★ \$10 | Your gift provides bi-annual preventive dental care.

■ **NOT SURE WHERE TO GIVE?** If you'd like to bless all of our domestic and global mission partners, simply give to the **undesignated fund**. The missions team will allocate these gifts equitably to all of our partners. For a full list of mission partners, visit ChristChurch.us/MissionPartners.





The Five Passions of Christ Church

We believe that God's goodness, beauty and truth can transform lives, neighborhoods, cities and the world. That's why Christ Church gives our time, talents and resources to advance the following FIVE CAUSES that we are most passionate about.

LIFTING WOMEN & CHILDREN

Jesus advocated for women and children in a time when few people did. As a result, we fund partners who work to protect kids and women from abuse; ensure that they are adequately fed, clothed, and cared for; and provide them with the spiritual and academic nurture that increases their health and hope, and draws them closer to God.

RELIEVING SUFFERING

The Gospel is about the "GOD Samaritan" who came to help people who are beaten, down in a ditch and without the resources to help themselves. Having experienced this grace from God, we are moved to offer relief to people who have been ravaged by crises and need practical help to get back on their feet.

In 2023, Christ Church Global Outreach (GO) Teams witnessed firsthand the work of our partners in Romania (this page), Malawi (top of page 15) and the Dominican Republic (bottom of page 15).





TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

The Bible reveals God's passion not only for individuals, but for the flourishing of whole neighborhoods and cities. For this reason, we invest in Christian ministries that advance integrated community development strategies, attending to needs such as clothing, shelter and housing; nutrition and healthcare; vocational assistance and micro-finance.

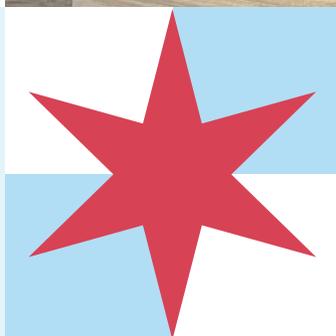
DEVELOPING LEADERS

Jesus chose apostles who could not only influence individuals but multiply ministry that changed entire regions. In like fashion, we seek to identify catalytic change-makers and provide them with theological education, leadership training, financing, volunteer support and prayer that helps increase their impact.

MULTIPLYING CHURCHES & DISCIPLES

The primary way God changes the world for the better is through the radiant influence of disciple-making churches. We, therefore, invest in individuals and ministries serious about evangelistic witness, discipleship and church-planting. In this way, we advance the redemptive work of Christ faster than any other measure.





OH WHAT FUN!

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 2

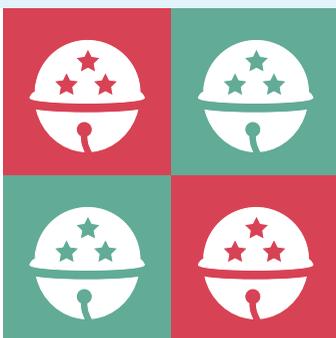
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Oak Brook

Lunch for Purchase | Chick-fil-A

Get ready for a fun-filled family Christmas experience! Join us for a day of making meaningful memories with your kids or grandkids this season.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

No reservation or admission fee required.



Come see Christ Church transformed into a winter wonderland, complete with:

- A Christmas train and petting zoo
- Bouncy houses and photo stations
- Face painting, crafts and cookie decorating
- Stocking stuffing station
- Live music and carol-oke
- FOR Christmas giving center

Christ Church | 501 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook | ChristChurch.us/party





LIFE ON MISSION WITH CHRIST CHURCH

There are a number of great ways to serve beyond the walls of the church during the holiday season and into the New Year!

1. Sign up for our **monthly Serve email** by scanning this code or visit ChristChurch.us/MissionUpdates.



2. Join us for the **Christmas Food Pantry** December 9 at our Oak Brook campus. Learn more at ChristChurch.us/FoodPantry.

3. Come experience the **FOR Chicagoland First Saturday Serve**. New opportunities are available monthly. Learn more at ChristChurch.us/ForChicagoland.

4. Consider joining a **Global Outreach Team**. Learn more at ChristChurch.us/GoTeams.

5. Save the date for **Global Mission Fest | May 3–5, 2024**.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US



Oh What Fun! Christmas Party

Saturday, December 2

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Oak Brook

Chilly Chili Chowdown

Sunday, December 3

11:30 a.m. | Butterfield

CarolFest

Sunday, December 10

3:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Oak Brook | Online

Selections from Handel's *Messiah* and Songs of Christmas

Free tickets available at ChristChurch.us/CarolFest



Family Movie Night

Friday, December 15

6:30 p.m. | Oak Brook | Auditorium

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 15

6:00–9:00 p.m. | Butterfield

Registration required | Opens November 21

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Magical | Parts 1–4 | Searching for the Deep Meaning of Christmas

Sundays | December 3–24

December 24 | Family Sunday

Oak Brook | 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Classic & Contemporary Worship

Butterfield | 10:00 a.m. | Contemporary

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, December 23

Contemporary Worship

Oak Brook | 7:00* p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Contemporary Worship

Oak Brook | 3:00* & 5:00* p.m.

Butterfield | 4:00 p.m.

Classic Candlelight Worship

Oak Brook | 7:00* & 9:00 p.m.

*No children's programming will be offered to allow families to worship together. Child care will be available for children 4 years and younger.

CHRISTMAS DAY | Monday, December 25

We will not be gathering as a community but hope you will check out our special worship offering on demand.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Magical | Part 5 | The Cost of Christmas

Sunday, December 31 | Family Sunday

Oak Brook | 9:00 a.m. | Classic Worship

10:45 a.m. | Contemporary Worship

Butterfield | 10:00 a.m. | Contemporary

CHRIST CHURCH 

501 Oak Brook Rd., Oak Brook | 630.654.1882 | ChristChurch.us

 ChristChurch.us

 [@ChristChurch.us](https://www.instagram.com/ChristChurch.us)

25361 Glen Park Rd., Lombard | 630.654.1884 | ChristChurch.us

 Christ Church Butterfield

 [@ChristChurchBC](https://www.instagram.com/ChristChurchBC)



Scan to learn more about the holiday season at Christ Church.