

# Synod Snapshot – Games at Grace, South Range

## Scrabble, Banana-gram, Skipbo, Cribbage, Pinochle, Yahtzee...games anyone?

The Evangelism Team at Grace Lutheran Church in South Range was thinking of ways that we could open our doors to the surrounding community to do things that might be beneficial to them in some way. We have a nice, bright space that's barrier free and has lots of coffee available. We found a few things like hosting the local "Let's Eat" free community meals program once a month; Knit, Pray, Crochet, once a week; and Gentle Exercise weekly as well, but we still had one day free for community activities.... Thursday afternoon we were empty!



We started thinking about who would have the time to attend activities in the daytime when the building is open and started reminiscing about how much our parents used to enjoy going the local Senior Centers when they were still available in our area. They used to visit with their friends, play cards and make new friends. "We could do that," we thought!

Never satisfied to do things half-way, we decided we would at least start out providing a mid-day meal for game players, as well, so it was chili and then beef stew and then one of the guests brought some brownies and then some ripe tomatoes from their garden and pretty soon we had Thursday afternoons off to a rip-roaring start with not only a lot of folks from Grace, but many from the local (and not-so-local) area as well.

We thought maybe the lunches weren't necessary, but it didn't seem to be too much trouble to whip up a one-dish meal in a big crock pot at home and bring it in. But, buying the groceries was falling on the same few people so the Thrivent Action Team Grants came to mind. They seemed to be just right for this purpose, so one of our team who is a Thrivent member applied. The grant was approved and now we can afford the ingredients for a nutritious hot meal (and the coffee, of course!) for all of our "gamers."

Now on Thursday afternoons, we have a room full of people and friendly voices, enticing aromas, smiles and laughter, and just real, genuine, fellowship!

