



## **Prince of Peace Pitches in for Back-to-School Clothes Mission Outreach**

Nette Kimball of Menasha will be back-to-school shopping this week, but she won't be going it alone. She'll have the help of her two daughters and a couple of volunteers from her parish, Prince of Peace, Appleton.

The group isn't just shopping for one or two children, but 92, providing each of the kindergarten through eighth grade students with jeans, a T-shirt, a sweatshirt, a new pair of shoes, socks and underwear. It's a lot of work, Kimball admits, but the rewards far outweigh the hassle.

For the last 17 years, Prince of Peace has held Christmas in August. And, yes, there's a Christmas tree with ornaments in the church narthex.

"We get a list of children who are less fortunate from Outagamie County Health Service," explained Kimball, who's been in charge of the program the last four years. "Each child gets three ornaments, one for a T-shirt, one for a sweatshirt and one for a pair of jeans. The congregation takes an ornament and purchases it; we put the size on (the ornament) and how old the child is and if they have a preference like Hello Kitty; Sponge Bob or whoever. And (the member) can try to match clothing for the child." If members don't want to purchase items, envelopes also are on the tree to make financial donations.

On Sunday, all of the bags will be blessed during worship. The following day they'll be taken to Outagamie County Health Services and given to the children.

Not only is the project a great way for children from struggling families to start school in a new outfit, it gives children at the church the opportunity to see just how fortunate they are, Kimball said. "It's just amazing when you see all these bags," she said. "And the congregation is awesome, just always stepping up to the plate for us."

*Cheryl Anderson, Post Crescent*