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As families prepared to celebrate Thanksgiving, Immanuel Lutheran School (ILS) students spent a day last month giving thanks and helping others during the school-wide Annual Day of Service. Throughout the day, students and parents had the opportunity to participate in a variety of special projects to serve our many neighbors in the school, in the church, and in our community.

The school collected items for the Orphan Grain Train, a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical supplies and other needed items to people in the

Immanuel Lutheran students help others ahead of Thanksgiving

United States and 64 countries around the world.

The students sorted and packed nearly 150 hygiene kits with donated supplies, including towels and washcloths, toothbrushes, soap and combs. Students helped to assemble the kits, from the youngest student in Junior Kindergarten counting and wrapping band aids, to older students who helped the lower school students assemble the right supplies and wrap and tie the bundles to be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train facility in Annapolis.

In addition to this school-wide project, individual classes spent time serving others within the school and church community. The second-grade class entertained the Junior Kindergarten class with a dramatic performance, while fourth, fifth and sixth-graders helped to prepare and serve a lunch for older members of the Immanuel Lu-

theran Church congregation. The third-grade students then entertained the group during lunch with a hymn concert, allowing the congregation members to pick their favorite hymns for the students to lead the group in singing. Students also drew and wrote out cards for injured service members and mothers at Assist Pregnancy Center, and helped with various projects around the school.

"At Immanuel, service towards our neighbor is an integral part of everything we do," said Headmaster Julia Habrecht. "Our Thanksgiving Day of Service is a wonderful opportunity to unite our community — our students, their parents, our faculty and staff, as well as our congregation — in specific projects which provide opportunities to carry out acts of service for the many different neighbors, far and near, in our lives."