Freeport Mennonite Church

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In an effort to stamp out hunger in our community and worldwide, we are delighted to inform you that Freeport Mennonite Church (FMC) will host the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canner again this year for the 2026-2027 canning season. As communities and nations continue to deal with issues locally and globally, we "can" come together and make positive, lasting relationships while helping feed those in need.

We collect donations for the meat canning project throughout the year, especially during October and November. The Canning Ministry at Freeport Mennonite is an above-budget project that is done entirely through donations like yours. The more contributions we receive, the more people we can help. We are excited to announce that we have been given five days to can meat.

As MCC's 80th year of meat canning begins, FMC has partnered with MCC for the 74th year. We couldn't be more excited to invite others to join us in this unique mission project. Tim Bastian is returning as our canning coordinator. MCC is always looking for "canner guys" who can make a two-year commitment, so if you know of someone who might be interested in learning more, let us know. We would be happy to connect them with MCC.

This project is open to anyone and everyone: businesses, school groups, churches, civic organizations, families, and individuals. If you or anyone you know would like to help stamp out hunger, we will be canning December 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, & 15th at Freeport Mennonite Church, 3416 E Brick School Rd., Freeport, IL 61032. If you don't have time to help, consider giving your financial support by mailing a check to Freeport Mennonite Church at the above address with Meat Canning in the memo. If you are interested in seeing what happens at "meat canning" or would like to see the portable canner, feel free to contact Tim Bastian (Meat Canning Coordinator) at 815-821-2469, David Graybill at 815-238-7208 and Toby Penner at 815-821-1403 (Assistant Canning Coordinators). Additionally, 2023-2024 canner boy, Caleb Moss (815-238-5242), and his dad, Steve Moss, have returned as part of the canning committee. Also, if you are interested in someone coming to talk about the canning project at your business, school group, church, or civic organization, don't hesitate to contact one of the above individuals.

Freeport Mennonite Church produced 20,223 cans of chicken last year. Ten percent of the cans (2,022) stayed in our community, distributed at Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC), Rockford Rescue Mission, Joseph's Pantry in Freeport, Lancaster Food Pantry of Lancaster, Wisconsin, and Faith Community Church of Davis. The remaining ninety percent was sent to MCC to use in their missions worldwide.

The MCC Canning event isn't just a five-day effort, and it isn't just about canning meat. Women in Mission and Service (WMS) collected comforters, baby blankets, Dignity Kits, School Kits, Hygiene Kits, and Sewing Kits throughout the year. These items were also sent to MCC for distribution worldwide.

This project continues to be needed all around the world. We encourage you to be a part of this year's canning project. Some canning shifts fill up fast, so call 815-821-2469 and sign up for a shift early before they are filled. You can also sign up online at: https://freeportmennonite.churchtrac.com/canningvolunteer or scan the QR code.