

A Letter from the President of the Salem Community Pantry, Inc.

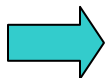
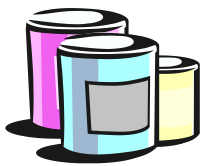
Thank you for all your church or organization has done to see that the new Community Pantry is up and running. We would not be where we are without you and most certainly not without a Lord whose compassion for those in need sees that those needs are met through the church despite denominational differences. Praise be to God!

Application for our 501(c)3 charitable organization status has been filed, but not yet approved, and that process could take anywhere from 2-3 months up to a year. We are looking at ways to expedite that process. We have learned that until we receive that designation, Second Harvest cannot provide food to us (a result of their parent organization's requirements). Therefore we will be appealing to our partnering congregations and organizations to help fill our shelves until such time as our 501(c)3 is approved.

Your help in collecting specific food/toiletry items will be important for us in the weeks ahead, keeping our shelves stocked. We will be asking our participating churches and organizations to provide different food/toiletry items as needed. Please look for these important notifications in your bulletins or announcements and remember to bring in the specified item. With your food/toiletry offering we will easily make it through this "interim" period and continue to service the large number of families in Salem who depend on us for their daily bread.

Blessings,

Rev. Alan Smearsoll
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
President, Salem Community Pantry, Inc.



Presbyterians' food item to collect for the pantry is a canned meat-based product such as stew, chili, or sloppy joe mix.