



Bellevue's Holy Family Church helps needy

BY MARIANNE WELLENDORF | COMMUNITY RECORDER STAFF WRITER

BELLEVUE -- The small Holy Family Church in Bellevue is taking on community service in a big way, with a little help from its friends.

The church is part of the Ecumenical Catholic Church, an independent catholic community that allows women to be ordained and priests to be married. The religious sacraments are open to all Christians and the church allows everyone to receive communion.

"Everyone is welcome here," Deacon Ed Kuhlman said.

He said even though the tiny church has only been open a few months, and only a few dozen people attend each service, the church is "going great."

Holy Family holds services at 4:30 p.m. every Saturday afternoon at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 306 Center St., Bellevue.

That joint operation has turned into a community-wide push to help the needy. Holy Family and Prince of Peace want to open a thrift store to help clothe the poor. The churches already have a small food bank.

"This clothing and food drive has been going on for a few months and we will continue this forever," Kuhlman said. "Right now we get enough food so that once a month, a family in need can come in and receive an allotment of food and toiletries."

"There has been a lot of community support for us and our congregations have really gotten involved," he said.

Carol Lapin, who belongs to Prince of Peace, said even though their venture is new, they want to serve as many of the needy as they can in the region.

Kuhlman said people interested in donating can drop their items off at the church and can visit both churches' Web sites for more information: holyfamilyicc.com and princeofpeacenky.com.