

Social Concerns Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2019

Committee Members: Reta Althaus, Bart Black, Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Tonia Land, Doris Larkins, Jean McPherson, Bruce Mehlhop, Eva Moritz, and Christine Yoder

Members in Attendance: Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Eva Moritz, Doris Larkins, Reta and Jean McPherson

Send all minutes to Father Ken Halbur (frken@slte.org), Annette Bailey (Annette.bailey@slte.org), Mike Gatzke (webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org), Mary Johnson (mcjohnson@deltadentalmn.org)

Tithe of the Tithe for August and September's Tithing

\$2,100	Meals From the Heartland
\$1,600	World Mission Sunday
\$1,500	Mosaic
\$1,000	Sacred Heart Parish, Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota
\$1,500	House of Mercy
<u>\$1,500</u>	InnerVisions Health Care
\$9,200	Total

Eva will prepare a brief write-up for Mary's Meals and the Catholic Worker House for the bulletin and the kiosk in the narthex and get that information to Vicki. The next write-up should be about the Sisters Water Project and include their video link, possibly for December's publication.

Emotional/Mental Health and Wellness Seminar, presented by Harmony Linden on September 17th was a success. Forty to fifty people attended, including some from other parishes. We served soups and bread. Julie Shannon also attended and explained her role as the Parish Nurse. There was very good discussion at this seminar.

Meals From the Heartland on October 8th was once again a success and the school children and members of the parish packed 20,000 meals. We will continue to do this twice year. We agreed that we would like to get the MFTH's video to run before each shift and put on the monitor in the narthex before the event to keep people informed of this program and to encourage participation.

Catholic Worker House meal is scheduled October 26th. Jean is coordinating that meal and serving. Eva has set up the Sign-up Genius and the slots are nearly full. The next meal is November 23rd (4th Saturday). We decided that we would make 10-12 gallons of soup, ham sliders and serve fresh fruit.

Family Promise at OLIH

Our evening as evening host is Tuesday, November 12th. Eva will get the Sign-up Genius ready and the posting in the narthex for the October 26 - 27 masses. Patsy and Doris will meet with the key at OLIH at 5:00 p.m., to open up for that night's guests.

Winter Apparel Drive

Eva prepared a notice to for the last couple of bulletins asking families to identify winter clothing they can donate (new or used) as they prepare their own families for the cold weather. Eva and Jean have bins that we can use and we will get them ready for the collection at the November 16 - 17 masses. Those of us who are able to meet in the gym following the 10:30 mass will sort the donated items and decide which organizations should receive them. Suggestions so far include Catholic Refugee Services, House of Mercy and Catholic Worker House.

Angel Tree for Christmas

We want to do the Angel Tree Project again this year. It has been very successful and it is a great service project for families to do together. We discussed some different options for this year, considering pros and cons of buying all the gifts or providing only gift cards to families. Providing gift cards in response to an individual's "wish list" would allow the parents the opportunity to shop and purchase items for their own children. So, instead of buying the items, St. Luke's parishioners would buy a gift card(s) that could then be used. Our thoughts are that parents can enjoy shopping for their own families, as there is dignity and joy in doing so. Jean will contact Kathy Sibbel (Board Chair of the Ankeny Service Center) to discuss this idea and get us signed for this year again. We would need to distribute the tags the weekends of November 23 - 24 and November 30 - December 1 and collect them the next weekend. Reta will help with this project, and all are willing to represent the committee and make an announcement and explanation at those weekend masses if Father approves. More information will be provided after contact is made with Ankeny Service Center.

Human Trafficking Awareness Seminar

The Committee agreed we would like to have a seminar on human trafficking at St. Luke's in January. Some members attended one in January of 2019 at Saints John and Paul Catholic Church in Altoona. It involved at least three parties: Altoona Police Dept., a local social services agency, and the manager of Dorothy's House in Des Moines. Jean will contact someone who was involved in Altoona's event to get contact information. Patsy will talk to Pete Haack to determine if information could go out to parents, inviting them and their children (optional) to attend. If a Wednesday doesn't work, we would schedule it for a Tuesday.

Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns meeting will be November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

We closed in prayer.