

Social Concerns Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020

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

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

Send all minutes to Father Ken Halbur (frken@slte.org), Annette Bailey (Annette.bailey@slte.org), Mike Gatzke (webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org), Shani Wahl (shaniwahlpc@gmail.com)

We opened in prayer.

Catholic Worker House

The next meal is scheduled for November 28. Eva has put a notice in the weekly e-mail blast inviting people to sign up to contribute food and/or their service.

Winter Apparel Collection

The winter apparel collection was successful, even though fewer people are coming into the church or narthex due to the coronavirus. It helped that Eva put out a second call for winter clothing AND blankets for the Catholic Worker House. Many blankets were collected, in addition to coats, hats and gloves. Multiple deliveries were made to the Catholic Worker House and House of Mercy.

Just Faith Program "Faith & Racial Equity"

Patsy has asked all the participants to provide feedback about their participation in this course, and has received some. She will share that feedback with Father Ken.

Tithe of the Tithe

No change at this time. The Finance Committee keeps it on their agenda.

Potential New Members

Jean suggested we look for opportunities to suggest or invite others to join the committee. Even short of joining, we can certainly benefit from the talents of our parishioners representing a cross-section of our members.

Angel Tree

We discussed options to what we did last year in conjunction with the Ankeny Service Center's (ASC) Holiday project. Jean shared that ASC is still conducting their gift program, but has expanded their options for how people can donate and how they can

drop off their gifts with minimal contact at their site. Members of the committee agreed that it is not a good idea to set up the Angel Tree process as we have in the past, due to the complications caused by the coronavirus: Fewer people are coming into the church for Mass; members of the committee would rather not spend time in person to “staff” the distribution of gift tags; and the collection, sorting and delivery of the gifts. Jean is gathering more information from the ASC and then will get back to the committee. Also, she will prepare a quick note for the weekly e-mail to the parish and the bulletin to let everyone know we will be conducting a variation of the Angel Tree this Christmas.

(NOTE: The original drop off dates for gifts at the ASC were Dec. 6-8. That has been changed to Dec. 13-15)

Lent 2021

Patsy suggested we start thinking about what we might do for a Lenten project or activity. Further discussion needed on that before the next meeting. In the past we have packaged meals for Meals from the Heartland. In January/February we have had guest speakers on Human Trafficking, depression and mental health. A possibility for Lent might be a “letter writing” campaign for those shut in at our area nursing homes. The RE program or school children could be tapped as well for this??

Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns meeting will be January 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.