

**Social Concerns Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2021**

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, Eva Moritz and Christine Yoder

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

We opened in prayer.

Family Promise – 1/26/2021

Eva reported that she always gets a ready response from parishioners when we are evening host for Family Promise.

Catholic Worker House

Eva reported that the "drop and go" method at the Catholic Worker House is working well. Volunteers are not being used to serve the meal until further notice, due to the coronavirus. The donations of food for the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month continue to be positive. Eva has advertised this outreach program in the bulletin and, as a result, a few new parishioners have donated food. She will put a notice in the bulletin about the need for new or gently used blankets or sleeping bags.

Tithe of the Tithe

Father Halbur let us know that we can now make decisions on disbursements in this new year, with a 2.5% amount of total tithing now, and the possibility of having it increased gradually. Jean will get the amounts for January and February from the office prior to our next meeting and we will discuss.

Angel Tree 2020

The coordinator of the Ankeny Service Center's (ASC) Holiday Program reported they were very pleased with the donations received in December. Because donors signed up and dropped off their gifts directly to the ASC (changes due to the coronavirus), we don't know how many gifts St. Luke's families provided. However, the ASC reported that a total of 273 families, including 727 children, received gifts as a result of their program. The number of donors and recipients were up this year over the previous year. Jean will prepare a message for the bulletin to thank parishioners who took part in this outreach.

### Recap/Feedback of the “Virtual Posadas” during Advent

Patsy reported on the 14 day Virtual Posadas experience of music, prayer and stories of migrants at the US Mexico border. Even though it was an amateur rather than a professional program, the stories were informative. She has not received much feedback from this program, so we are not sure how many people accessed it.

### Lent & Easter 2021

Patsy is going to speak with staff at OLIH about their Lenten Racial Equity Program, being held in conjunction with AMOS. We understand there will be a daily posting and/or blog each day of Lent, drawing from the USCCB (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) materials. If we are able to link to their program, we will inform our parishioners of that option.

We discussed organizing a service project of sending greeting cards to area seniors living in group settings. Families could involve their children to participate. Could the Religious Education classes and school’s students be given materials to make cards? Check with the office. Easter, Spring and “Thinking of You” cards would be collected throughout February and March. Collection boxes might be placed at the North and South doors and then our committee members would deliver them once or twice before Easter. Reta will talk to Deacon Fred for ideas on how best to reach out to the senior living centers in Ankeny and Polk City with which we have established relationships.

Subsequent to the meeting, Reta contacted Deacon Fred and discussed our desire to have our parish write cards or letters to nursing home residents during Lent. He agreed it would be good to reach as many people as we can. He will get Reta the contacts at the locations we currently serve (Bridges, Journey, Vintage Hills and Polk City Nursing & Rehab). We’ll have to decide if we could ask for first names of the residents. This might be more difficult when we reach out to parishioners to participate.

### Future Items

We discussed how our committee might coordinate drives to collect personal care items, including diapers, working with the Ankeny Service Center or IMPACT Community Action Partnership in Ankeny. Attention will have to be given to the safe collection and handling of these products.

### Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns Committee meeting will be March 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

We closed in prayer.