

**Social Concerns Meeting Minutes
November 26, 2019**

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

Members in Attendance: Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Doris Larkins, Jean McPherson, and Christine Yoder

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 October's Funds

\$1,500 Sister Water Project
\$1,500 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
\$1,500 IMPACT Community Action Agency (IMPACT) Energy Assistance Program
\$4,500 Total

The committee members appreciate that the Tithe of the Tithe write-ups are being placed in the same place in the bulletin. This calls attention to the fact that is (and has been) an ongoing ministry of St. Luke's.

Patsy will prepare a brief write-up for the Sister Water Project and submit it to the office to be placed in an upcoming December bulletin, the website, the Facebook page and posted on the kiosk in the narthex. Note to include their video link.

Jean will prepare the next write-up for a January bulletin, re: IMPACT Community Action Partnership. Tithe of the Tithe funds have been awarded to them for both their Energy Assistance Program and their Food Pantry in the past.

Winter Apparel Drive

Parishioners were extremely generous in the donations to the winter apparel collection the weekend of November 16 – 17. We should have counted the coats and other items! There were at least 30 large trash bags filled. The coats, hats, gloves, socks and snow pants were delivered to three locations: House of Mercy, the Catholic Worker House, and the Catholic Charities warehouse where they will be distributed to those in need. A few late arrivals were taken to TAKE, the Ankeny Clothing Exchange, in the Neveln Bldg.

Catholic Worker House

Since our last meeting, meals have been served on October 26 and November 23. The next two meals are scheduled for December 28 and January 25.

Angel Tree for Christmas

The Angel Tree was set up for the Nov 23 – 24 masses and will be there the weekend of Nov 30 – Dec 1 masses. Notification will be in this week's bulletin, on the web page and Facebook and in the weekly "Happenings" e-mail. We have received 16 families from the Ankeny Service Center (ASC), comprised of 43 children, 22 adults, and 10 family pets. A flyer was prepared explaining the process and the reason we are requesting parishioners purchase gift cards in lieu of the actual items on the individuals' lists, and if possible, buy those gift cards via the SCRIP program. We had agreed that having at least one person from the Social Concerns Committee after each mass to encourage participation and answer questions would help this program be successful again this year.

Gifts are to be returned at the Dec 7 – 8 masses (needing committee members to be on hand for that) but we expect some to be returned the weekend of Nov 30 – Dec 1. The box for gift cards needs to be secured in the office after all the masses, as well as other gifts that are received. All gifts are due to the Ankeny Service Center by Dec 10. At least two committee members will handle that final collection and delivery of the gifts to the ASC. Doris and Jean volunteered to do that.

Human Trafficking Awareness Seminar - January

We have begun plans to host a seminar on this topic on a Wednesday evening in January. The Parish Council is supportive of this. Pete Haack has agreed to scheduling it at a 7:00 – 8:15 PM timeslot so that high school students and their parents can attend, in addition to all others in the parish. We are working on arrangements to have representatives from the "Teens Against Human Trafficking" organization, the Ankeny Police Department, Dorothy's House and possibly others. In addition to human trafficking, we plan to include discussion on cyber bullying and digital awareness for parents.

Political Discourse

The Church will be distributing the Faithful Citizenship document this year. Bishop Joensen may be asking parishes to consider a way that they can address political discourse, perhaps in small groups. We agreed that our committee could help with this effort if he does.

Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns meeting will be January 28, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

We closed in prayer.