

Social Concerns Meeting Minutes September 22, 2020

Committee Members: Reta Althaus, Bart Black, Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Doris Larkins, Jean McPherson, Bruce Mehlhop, 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), Annette Bailey (Annette.bailey@slte.org), Mike Gatzke (webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org), Shani Wahl (shaniwahlpc@gmail.com)

Catholic Worker House

The next meal is scheduled for September 26. Eva reported that we have a few new people contributing to the monthly meal and we get a good response by sending out two Sign-Up Genius emails.

Tithe of the Tithe

No change

Meals From the Heartland (MFTH)

Christine reported that she talked to Mike Frandsen at Meals From the Heartland. They are now reopening for packaging at their site, but not yet ready to resume mobile sites. However, when they are ready to mobilize again, they would like to return to St. Luke's. Jean will communicate with Father Ken and Misty Hade on the question of whether or not we are ready to do the packaging again in the gym. If not, should we consider having St. Luke's provide volunteers for a packing event at the MFTH site in West Des Moines? (Note: Eva has a Sign-Up Genius set up to use for any future MFTH event.)

Winter Apparel Collection

We agreed that we want to have a winter clothing drive again this year, based on the success of last year's. Jean will ask if we are able to collect items in the narthex over one weekend. Another option would be to collect the items outside at both the north and south entrances before all the masses one weekend, and committee members would sort them outside and in their own vehicles. In either case, we will want to advertise that collection a couple of weeks in advance. New and used items (clean and in good condition) would be accepted. Last year, we used the weekend of Nov. 16-17. We have confirmed that the same three organizations who received them last year do, in fact, want to be recipients again: Catholic Charities, House of Mercy, and the Catholic Worker House.

Oxtoberfest Giving Novena

We discussed the information provided by Shani Wahl of the Parish Council's initial plans for an alternative to St Luke's annual Oxtoberfest celebration and fundraiser. This will be changed to an online giving drive over the course of 9 days. We could be part of a prayer event planned by the Council or, possibly, incorporate our winter clothing drive over one of the weekends of the 9-day novena. Or, perhaps, get a packaging event scheduled with Meals From the Heartland during that time period. We don't have enough information yet of the details of the events to be scheduled or how the fundraising will occur. Jean will get back to the planners with our response, copying all.

InnerVisions Fund Raiser "Baby Bottle Campaign"

Deacon Fred Pins and Father Ken had asked (via e-mail) this committee to consider handling this fund raising campaign. Jean did get back to Deacon Pins prior to this meeting and invited him to attend and to also let them know that InnerVisions has received funds from St. Luke's Tithe of the Tithe program the last four calendar years (possibly before that). Our committee discussed how this campaign has been one of the Knights of Columbus sponsored programs, and we feel it is more appropriate that it remain as part of the Knights' Right to Life programs. Jean will get back to Deacon Pins and Father Ken.

Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns meeting will be November 17 at 7:00 p.m. (Note: this is the 3rd Tuesday, rather than the 4th Tuesday, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday).

We closed in prayer.