

Social Concerns Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021

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

Members in Attendance: All

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.

Family Promise – Next Date: May 4

Eva reported on Family Promise. Even during this time of the pandemic, we always get a ready response from parishioners for the meal items, but we don't get volunteers for overnight hosts. Paul and Eva have been the overnight hosts when it is St. Luke's evening for the meal and overnight stay. The meal is not served in a congregate setting; rather, the food is placed on a cart and left in the hall by each family's room.

Catholic Worker House – 4th Saturday of every month

Eva reported the monthly sign-ups for the food have been filling up quickly. Since a notice of this outreach has been in the bulletin, more parishioners have been signing up to help provide food and supplies. Personal products (i.e., toiletry items, clothing) are always in need.

Lent & Easter 2021

We briefly discussed OLIH's Lent 2021 Program "Open wide Our Hearts," their Lenten Racial Equity Program. This information has been shared with our parish via the bulletin and weekly email. St. Luke's "Hallow" app has also been provided by the parish.

Easter Cards for Senior Living Residents

We have not collected enough Easter cards for the three senior living facilities to which we have committed. We will likely get some more the weekend of March 27/28, but committee members will prepare some as well. Jean will deliver them on March 29.

Tithe of the Tithe

Father Halbur has let us know we can now make decisions on disbursements of 2.5% of each month's total tithing, with the possibility of having it increased gradually. We have the dollar amount for February (\$1005), but decided to wait until our next meeting to make decisions on disbursements. This will allow us all time to review past years and to consider possible new recipients. Jean will get March and April's dollar amounts from Annette before we meet in May.

Ankeny's "Love Lunches" 2021

During this past year, the Ankeny Schools received a Federal grant to provide free lunches to children and teens in Ankeny. However, this specific program is nearing its completion and the Ankeny churches will again take over the "Love Lunch" program as they have in past summers. Doris will attend a meeting on this topic in the near future. She will recommend to the committee that during this coming summer, St. Luke's would like to give people the opportunity and information needed to serve in the capacity of community volunteers, helping other churches fulfill the weeks they are signed up for. We will communicate to parishioners the need for volunteers and donations to this program. More information will be gathered.

Drive-Through Easter Treats

Christine informed us about the drive-through Easter event planned for Holy Saturday morning. Volunteers will hand out candy and trinkets. Donations can be made in the box in the narthex before that day.

Little Helping Hands

We discussed the ever present need to address food insecurity in the community. Christine reminded us of the Little Helping Hands food pantries around Ankeny. They are small pink and green structures where food can be placed for donations and picked up by anyone who needs it.

Next Meeting

The next Social Concerns Committee meeting will be May 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

We closed in prayer.