

## **Social Concerns Meeting Minutes November 23, 2021**

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

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

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)), and Jennifer Joensen ([jjoensen@me.com](mailto:jjoensen@me.com))

We opened in prayer.

### Meals From the Heartland Packaging Event – October 12

St. Luke's School and Parish met the goal of packaging 25,000 meals. All of the school students and many of their parents packaged meals at scheduled time slots during their school day. Many other parishioners (children and adults) rounded out the two later afternoon shifts. Total cost for materials and supplies was \$4,698. The school collected \$910 and the balance was paid via Tithe of the Tithe.

### Winter Coat Collection

Donations from the weekend of October 23-24 included 50 coats for men, women and children, as well as some scarves, hats and gloves. Items were taken to three sites for their distribution: House of Mercy, the Catholic Worker House and Catholic Charities' Refugee Services.

### Family Promise

Volunteers from St. Luke's provided a meal and overnight hosts for families on November 9. The next date will be one night the week of March 27, 2022.

### Christmas Project/Event at St. Luke's

We were not able to conduct an "Adopt A Family" match this year. The schedule was started much earlier for 2021 by the Ankeny Service Center (ASC) to allow for the growth in their program and the time it takes to make assignments, collect and distribute gifts. There were a few slots left at the time of our meeting so we will communicate that to parishioners via the weekly "Happenings" newsletter and future bulletins. They may sign up directly with ASC if they choose to do so. The ASC is still in need of donations of \$50 or \$25 gift cards to be used for Christmas Holiday Meals at any of these four stores: Fareway, HyVee, Target and WalMart. We decided to purchase twenty \$50 cards (10 from Fareway and 10 from HyVee) with Tithe of the Tithe funds.

Jean will work with Annette Bailey to purchase SCRIP cards to be donated. We thought it might be pertinent to share poverty statistics with parishioners as we invite their participation in the project. Patsy agreed to get these statistics from the AMOS group who very recently did a poverty study on Ankeny. These could be published along with the request for participation.

#### Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl – A Lenten Project

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 2. Easter Sunday is April 17. Patsy has talked to Father Ken for the OK for our committee to bring this program to St. Luke's for Lent. Patsy attended the on-line Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl presentation and explained the many options and best practices shared from others across the country. There are many resources on their website at [csrricebowl.com](http://csrricebowl.com)

Patsy explained that in addition to collecting cash/coins in the cardboard "rice bowls," there are other ways to collect, including on-line giving. A common theme in the discussion was the need for frequent communication, via the bulletin, website, the weekly Happenings newsletter, speaking at the masses, being present in the narthex to provide more information/supplies to people, answering questions, etc. Patsy will contact David Reising (Director of Faith Formation), Nick Rahe (Parish Coordinator), and Principal Misty Hade, to see what plans they are pursuing for Lent to ensure our plans won't conflict.

Patsy offered to meet with Fr. Ken to discuss the possibility of bringing in a Global Fellow to speak at all the masses prior to introducing the Rice Bowl. These speakers are priests and deacons with experience in countries that benefit from Rice Bowl donations.

#### Tithe of the Tithe

Committee members discussed and agreed that the amount allocated for Tithe of the Tithe (for the months of September and October) should be distributed as follows:

Meals From the Heartland	\$ 188.00 (balance owed)
Sisters of St. Frances Water Project	\$2,404.78
Ankeny Service Center Gift Cards	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	\$3,592.78

#### Social Concerns' Webpages

We need to update our information on the website. Jean will update it based on the last 2 or 3 years of our activities and make sure the Tithe of the Tithe information is complete. Mike Gatzke will quickly update what we send to him. Jean will talk to Nick about adding information to the video that runs in the narthex. That information could include projects and activities we are involved with, information about the recipients of funds from Tithe of the Tithe, and featuring information about their missions and/or services.

#### Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 7:00 PM.