

Minutes of the November 3, 2016 food pantry meeting

Attendance: Jan Balder, Katie Bell, Janet Bertelsen, Carol Brandau, Mary Clark, Mary Cook, Karen Durnin, Therese Frana, Judy Jakes, Greg Jameson, Pam Jameson, Barb Loken, Rita Patton, Lisa Reid, Alex Rodenberg, Julie Rodenberg, Jerry Rood, Joanne Stephens, Patty Stetzer, John Stubler, Sister Bridget, Kathy Warzynski

The meeting began with the Prayer for All Needs. In the discussion of last meeting's minutes, Judy Jakes noted that she had not provided information or photos about the food pantry to Sandy Jerue for the parish website. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes for the last meeting. New members were welcomed to the committee.

Under old business, we reviewed the Youth Faith Formation food drive, which collected 1514 items; the people who helped said that we needed to be more active in bringing the date/time of the drive to the attention of parents. The halloween food drive was also reviewed. This year, we followed the procedure that all other groups follow. All food was brought to Holmen Lutheran Church, where it was counted and subsequently distributed. St. Elizabeth's was notified that the pantry's share of the food could be picked at 5 pm, today. Several members of the committee picked up the food just before the meeting, and reported that the pantry had received about 4-5 carloads of food - more than ever before.

The August reverse collection had a good response. Judy Jakes read in the newspaper that Wafer had received a large donation of eggs that needed to be packed in cartons. She and Lisa Reid went to Wafer and helped with the packing; Joe and Carol Melde also went, but they were not needed. The end result was that the pantry received 246 dozen of eggs that have all been distributed to those in need.

Under new business, an article on the reorganization of the committee will appear in the next edition of the parish newsletter due out in December.

While the pantry housed in the basement rectory is relatively empty, that is, between the Caring and Sharing event and the start of Rotary Lights collections, it will be cleaned. Judy Jakes is heading up this effort and asked for volunteers to help on December 5. A sign-up sheet was passed through the group.

The question of how many guests were being received was asked. Right now, the number is 15-20 per distribution of 30-40 per week. This is less than in the summer, when the number exceeded 40 for a distribution, at times. Sister Bridget thought this was due to greater need in the summer since there are no meals at school, and also to the decrease in the number of gas cards that are being given. Providing 15 totes of each size for each distribution should be adequate. There is a need for someone to haul institutional sized food items and any excess items that the pantry cannot use to the Salvation Army; Janet Bertelsen volunteered.

Each subcommittee reported on their activities. Greg Jameson said that the Research/future planning subcommittee had not gotten off the ground yet. He asked that those interested in this topic stay after the main meeting to brainstorm some ideas.

The administrative subcommittee has held meetings. Julie Rodenberg is currently working on the January-April schedule and asked that people let her know of any dates that they are available.

Lisa Reid noted the Interact food drive on November 5. Joanne Stephens noted that this food drive is done by five high school rotary clubs. These students will pack 50,000 meals for shipment as part of this drive. To get food from this drive, the pantry has to be a member of the Hunger Task Force. St. Elizabeth's pantry is not a member, so the pantry needs to determine

whether to join. Planning has also started for Rotary Lights. The pantry will receive the food on five nights this year: December 9, 17, 21, 23, and 25. Therese and Les Frana will take their truck and trailer for every night except December 21. They also plan to unload gradually so that the food can be sorted as it comes in, rather than having to work around mountains of unsorted food. Carol and Dick Cantlon and Kathy and Larry Warzynski volunteered to cover December 21. Sign-up sheets for unloading and sorting the food from Rotary Lights were circulated.

Sister Bridget and Judy Jakes are organizing for the Caring and Sharing event. The food boxes will be distributed to the parish the weekend of November 5-6. Greg Jameson will speak at all of the Masses. Greg Jameson, Mary Clark, and Patty Stetzer will hand out boxes after the 5 pm Mass on Saturday. Judy Jakes, Bark Loken, and Kathy Warzynski will handle 8 am Mass on Sunday, and Janet Bertelsen, Julie Rodenberg, and Pam Jameson will handle the 10:15 Mass. Thanks to Therese Frana for the box slips providing information about filling the box. Sister circulated sign-up sheets for the various tasks: setting up tables, sorting recently received items (thanks to Barb Loken and Mary Clark for sorting items throughout the year), carrying/setting up food boxes, assisting at the event on December 2, and cleaning up afterward.

Judy Jakes also requested help with repacking boxes that are returned especially during and after Masses on the weekend of November 19-20

At the next meeting, the group will review the Caring and Sharing event and Rotary Lights and begin to plan for the scout food drive. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the gathering place.

The meeting adjourned with Thanksgiving Day prayer at 7:50 pm. A photo of the committee chair and the new subcommittee leaders was taken after the meeting, and the Research/future planning subcommittee met.

Respectfully submitted November 4, 2016
Kathy Warzynski