

Minutes of the September 14, 2017 food pantry meeting

Attendance: Jan Balder, Berny Balkonis, Carol Cantlon, Mary Clark, Mary Cook, Anita Dahlby, Therese Frana, Judy Jakes, Greg and Pam Jameson, Barb Loken, Joe and Carol Melde, Rita Patton, Julie Rodenberg, Jerry Rood, Warren and Marlene Schneider, John Stubler, Dave Wolf, Sister Bridget, Kathy Warzynski

The meeting began with a prayer for those suffering from the hurricanes. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes for the last meeting. Therese Frana will serve as chairperson. Therese also reviewed the other members of the leadership team for the committee.

Next, we reviewed the recent food drives. A young boy, Bennett Hottenstein, ran a lemonade stand this past summer and donated his proceeds of \$200 to the food pantry; that money went to "We Care." Manning the brat barn at Festival Foods raised \$510 in July and \$333 in August, which was spent at Festival on food for the pantry. The consensus was that this was a worthwhile effort and we should plan to do it again in 2018. Food also was donated at the Mike Dummer services. Mary Clark's grandsons sold pumpkins on the honor system and donated \$60 in proceeds to the food pantry. The "Hunger doesn't take a vacation" effort brought in 9 cartfuls of groceries. Compared to reverse collections, both efforts were considered productive.

On Wednesday evenings when there are no faith formation classes, the church is locked. There is a key to the church at the pantry in the rectory. Also, Joe Melde tried to determine when the sidewalk at the rectory can be replaced, that is, when is there a break in pantry activities so the new concrete can cure.

Julie Rodenberg passed around the contact list for corrections/updates. She also circulated the distribution schedule for Fridays. Several spots needed to be filled. Finally she asked about doing the packing schedule in 6-month segments, and about sending reminders to those scheduled. The group agreed that a 6-month schedule would be fine.

For the next scheduled food drive, the Faith Formation drive on October 4, the Meldes, the Balders, the Jamesons, and Barb Loken volunteered to haul the food to the pantry. Judy Jakes will sort and shelve it on Thursday morning. Greg Jameson and Judy Jakes will speak to the classes on September 27 about the food drive and enlist older students to sign up for the Halloween food drive. Mr. Brueggen will be asked to send an e-mail notice to all of the Faith Formation families.

Pam Jameson will lead the Halloween food drive; she asked for help with contacting students who sign up to help. Mary Clark and Anita Dahlby will call the students. Julie Rodenberg, Therese Frana, and Anita Dahlby volunteered to drive. Julie Rodenberg will e-mail the date that the food can be picked after it is dropped at the Lutheran church on Halloween night. Judy Jakes will sort and shelve.

The 150 reusable bags that were collected were all washed by Lisa Reid, the ultimate bag lady. They will be used at another time.

Greg Jameson, chair of the Research/Planning subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee will hold a meeting Sunday, October 15, at 9 am at church. He invited anyone with ideas to attend. Jerry Rood suggested building a pyramid of cans in the gathering space. Another suggestion was to encourage people who go south for the winter to donate their food that they are not going to be using. Greg said that these were the kind of ideas that the group is seeking. The pantry will not be using the Hunger Task Force at this time.

The Caring and Sharing event will be December 1. Boxes will be distributed at the weekend Masses November 4-5. Mary Clark, Mary Cook, Rita Patton, and Warren and Marlene Schneider will distribute at 5 pm; The Meldes, the Dahlbys, and Barb Loken at 8 am; and the

Rodenbergs, the Jamesons, and Berny Balkonis at 10:15 am. Greg Jameson and Anita Dahlby will make the announcements before those Masses. The requested return date is November 18-19. Judy Jakes, Barb Loken, Jan Balder's son, and the Schneiders volunteered to haul and fill the returned boxes over the period that boxes are returned.

At the next meeting, the group will plan further for the Caring and Sharing event and for Rotary Lights, and review the Faith Formation and Halloween food drive results. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the gathering place.

The group prayed an Our Father and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Respectfully submitted September 15, 2017

Kathy Warzynski