**Minutes of the November 9, 2017 food pantry meeting**

**Attendance:** Jan Balder, Berny Balkonis, Janet Bertelsen, Katie Bell, Mary Clark, Mary Cook, Anita Dahlby, Karen Durnin, Therese Frana, Anne Hein, Judy Jakes, Greg and Pam Jameson, Barb Loken, Joe Melde, Nick and Kathy Nicklaus, Rita Patton, Carol Reider, Julie Rodenberg, Sue Ann Ross, Warren and Marlene Schneider, Phyllis Wilson, Dave Wolf, Sister Bridget, Kathy Warzynski

The meeting began with the Dorothy Day prayer prayer. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes for the last meeting.

The activities preceding Caring and Sharing as well as the event itself on December 1 were discussed. Sign up sheets were passed around for the setup activities beginning on Sunday, November 26 and for December 1. The Schneiders, Rodenbergs, Jamesons, and Janet Bertelsen volunteered to help Judy Jakes in topping off the boxes returned by parishioners the weekend of November 18-19. The Franas and the Dahlbys volunteered to bring their trailers to help with moving items from the rectory to the gathering space and for distributing food outside on December 1. Berny Balkonis also volunteered to bring an open trailer, if needed. Sister Bridget announced that there would be an appreciation pizza lunch for all the volunteers on December 1 after the event. Barb Loken is researching where the items remaining after the event may be taken. Currently, 160 families are registered to participate.

Greg Jameson, chair of the Research/Planning subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee will hold their next meeting after the new year. He invited anyone with ideas to attend. Berny Balkonis volunteered to help with making food pantry announcements before Mass.

Christmas donations cards were shown. This is an opportunity to make a donation to the food pantry in someone’s name as a gift to that person.

Next, we reviewed the recent food drives. The Faith Formation food drive yielded 1724 items. This is an improvement over last year; the group thought this might be due to having Greg Jameson, Judy Jakes, or Janet Bertelsen speak to all of the classes. Pat Brueggen also e-mailed all of the families. For the Halloween food drive, we were assigned three neighborhoods. We lacked follow-through on the part of young people who had volunteered to help - only about a third of those who volunteered came to work, even after being called. We did receive a good amount of food from this drive, however. The Holmen Middle/High School band concert collected food donations, and we received about eight boxes from that event. The Holmen Lutheran Church collected coats, and we received a large number of coats from them for the Caring and Sharing event. The Facebook post that noted that the food pantry was closed because we were out of food brought in a large amount of food from the Holmen area, but the exact quantity is unknown. We anticipate that there will be a Holmen High School Christmas food drive; no details were available yet. The Riverland Energy Cooperative food drive usually occurs in February. It requires just sorting and shelving the food once the Coop delivers it in March.

The Rotary Lights dates for this year are: December 8, 16, 20, 22, and 25. The Franas are able to have their trailer there for every one of the nights except December 20. Volunteers to help with packing the trailer were also requested. On December 20, the Warzynskis and the Cantlons will bring their trucks to haul food, and Barb Loken will be on call. A sign up sheet was also circulated to help with sorting/shelving the food on the days following our assigned dates.

Last Distribution day for the food pantry is November 21; distribution resumes January 9, 2018.

At the next meeting, the group will plan for the Scout food drive and review the Caring and Sharing event and Rotary Lights. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the gathering place.

The group prayed a Hail Mary and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

Respectfully submitted November 10, 2017

Kathy Warzynski