**Minutes of the February 15, 2018 food pantry meeting**

**Attendance:** Jan Balder, Berny Balkonis, Janet Bertelsen, Mary Cook, Karen Durnin, Therese Frana, Judy Jakes, Greg and Pam Jameson, Barb Loken, Joe Melde, Kathy Nicklaus, Rita Patton, Carol Reider, Warren and Marlene Schneider, John Stubler, Dave Wolf, Sister Bridget, Kathy Warzynski

The meeting began with the Dorothy Day prayer. A misspelled name was corrected in the minutes for the last meeting.

Carol Reider reported that there was a good response to the Christmas food pantry donation cards; a total of $340 was raised. This gave rise to the creation of birthday and funeral food pantry donation cards. Donations can be made in any amount. It was suggested that the funeral donation cards could be put out in a basket with the family’s permission at funeral visitations held in church.

Rotary Lights operations were reviewed. In addition to our scheduled nights (for 4 of the 5 of which the weather was good; Christmas night was bitterly cold), we also received food on December 27th that had been donated by local businesses through their individual food drives. This was a very large quantity of food. The shelves are the fullest they have ever been after Rotary Lights. The pantry also received about eight boxes of food from the Holmen High School Spanish and French honor society and about 6 boxes of non perishable items as well as eggs, milk, etc. from the Holmen Lutheran Church sharing day in December. Carol Reider also reported there were a number of other donations in December, among them 1100 items from the Children’s Tree House. It was noted that we also shared food with the Holmen Lutheran Church.

Lisa Reid outlined the upcoming food drives, beginning with the scout food drive on March 10th. A signup sheet was sent around for volunteers to sort and shelve the food when the scouts deliver it. Judy Jakes will be at the pantry early to oversee the operation. Lisa will check with the scouts to ensure that they deliver the food as each troop’s collection is counted, rather than delivering it all at one time. The Riverland Energy Cooperative food drive that in the past occurred in February will now be held in conjunction with their annual meeting to be held April 21st. Lisa Reid has contacted Beth Alesch at Riverland and we can expect some food from that collection. Lisa and then Judy Jakes will be the contact for Riverland for delivery. It requires just sorting and shelving the food once the Coop delivers it April. The timing of the Holmen Middle School food drive was uncertain, perhaps April 27 or April 30. In either case, Janet Bertelsen, Berny Balkonis, Chip Balder, and Nick and Kathy Nicklaus volunteered to help Pam Jameson haul the food from the school to the pantry.

Sister Bridget thanked Carol Reider and Mary Clark for handling food pantry intake while she has been attending medical appointments. Anyone who can help with the Tuesday/Friday distribution days, please contact Julie Rodenberg; more help is needed. There is also a need for on-call people to pick up items from the Kwik Trip outside of the normal Monday/Thursday pickups. A signup sheet for this pickup was passed around.

Carol Reider announced that there will be a Christmas Caring and sharing wrap-up meeting between Masses on Sunday, February 18th.

In response to a question about the number of guests the pantry is serving each distribution day, the number has gone down since the end of last year. This may in part be due to giving gas cards every other week instead of every week. Currently, the pantry is serving 15-20 families each distribution day, which is more manageable then previously.

Greg Jameson, chair of the Research/Planning subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee will hold their next meeting on March 18th. He passed around a list of the quantity of food items in overflow stock to highlight those items that it is likely that we will deplete. He mentioned cereal, sides, and chicken noodle soup. It was suggested that there be a bulletin notice indicating food pantry needs each week. The possibility of using the Festival brat barn to raise funds in the summer months was discussed, and it was the consensus to do that again this year.

At the next meeting, the group will plan for the letter carriers food drive and review the scout food. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the gathering place.

The group said the Prayer for Lenten Grace and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted February 16, 2018

Kathy Warzynski