**Minutes of the February 21, 2019 food pantry meeting**

**Attendance:** Lorraine Atkinson, Katie Bell, Janet Bertelsen, Mary Clark, Mary Cook, Karen Durnin, Therese Frana, Judy Jakes, Pam Jameson, Mary Krueger, Barb Loken, Rob Majewski, Nick and Kathy Nicklaus, Rita Patton, Lisa Reid, Carol Reider, Jerry Rood, Sue Anne Ross, Warren and Marlene Schneider, Dave Wolf, Sister Bridget, Kathy Warzynski

Sister Bridget opened the meeting by leading the group in prayer. The minutes for the October meeting were approved as written. Therese Frana passed around a contact list so that people could check their contact information and correct it, if necessary.

Carol Reider gave a wrap-up report on the 2018 Caring and Sharing event. The event was very successful. Of the 150 signed up, only 12 did not attend. A few unregistered guests were accommodated. Overall, the guests were very appreciative. Caring and Sharing is scheduled for December 6, and Mass that day will again be at 7 am, which worked well in 2018.

Food distribution numbers were 171 for January until February 19. The highest number for distribution was 29 and the lowest number was 5. The low numbers have probably been due to the extreme cold and snowstorms. Carol Reider also noted that the Majewskis have started to provide birthday bags with the ingredients for a birthday cake to guests on their birthdays.

It has been agreed that the Wafer Mobile Pantry will be at St. Elizabeth’s on the first Tuesday of the month even when the food pantry is not open (September, November, and December). Nick and Kathy Nicklaus have been helping with the mobile pantry; Warren Schneider and Jerry Rood are willing to sub when Nick and Kathy are not available.

The pick-ups from Kwik Trip on Monday have been very large lately, which has greatly added to the work of the Monday packers. Jerry Rood volunteered to do the Monday pick-ups from Kwik Trip on a regular basis; Nick and Kathy Nicklaus are willing to sub for him.

Lisa Reid reviewed the Halloween food drive, Lisa Reid, Therese Frana, and two parents did the food pickup with 10 confirmation students in the two areas assigned to us (the rectory neighborhood and the Prairie View elementary school neighborhood) and took the food to the Holmen Lutheran Church. On Thursday, November 1, about seven vehicles of food were picked up food from the Lutheran church and transported to the rectory. A few days later, we received some expired items from the drive. In mid December, the Holmen High School Spanish and French clubs dropped off food that covered the two tables at the pantry. In December, we also received food donations from a number of businesses that collected food. Among these were Heritage Village, the Holmen Lions, the businesses behind McDonald’s on OT, Features, Floral Visions, and others.

We had six nights at Rotary Lights this year. The weather on our assigned nights was average as was the amount of food that we received. Judy Jakes thought that we received a little less than in 2017. We also received some additional food after Rotary Lights was done.

The souper super bowl collection brought in 626 cans of soup, and we are still receiving soup. Currently, the food pantry is still pretty full.

The scout food drive is scheduled for March 9; Lisa Reid passed around a sign-up sheet for help sorting and shelving. Riverland Energy Cooperative will be collecting food at their 3/30 meeting; they usually deliver several boxes of food after the event. There was no date yet for the Holmen Middle School food drive; Lisa Reid will request help when she knows the date. The Knights of Columbus are planning a lenten drive for hygiene items for the pantry. The theme is “Cleanliness is next to Godliness.”The post office food drive will be May 11 and discussed at the next food pantry meeting. It was noted that there is still a need for a chairperson for the Food Drives and Donations subcommittee.

Jerry Rood suggested that we have Holmen Food Pantry at St. Elizabeth t-shirts made that volunteers can wear when doing things like manning the brat barn, helping at Rotary Lights, or distributing food.

Each committee member in attendance at the meeting received a small flower bouquet donated by Floral Visions.

The date of the next meeting is April 25, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the gathering space. At the close of the meeting, we said the Hail Mary; the meeting ended at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted February 21, 2019.

Kathy Warzynski