

Outreach Ministry Team
2-7-17 Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Varblow, Linda Kinsinger, Linda Laubscher, Neal Mochel, Sarah Zink

- 1) Devotions: Linda V
- 2) November/December Minutes: Not reviewed. Need to obtain from Char Clendaniel if she recorded them.
- 3) Council Report: Linda K was unable to attend the last council meeting but had some additional comments on the HTLC Strategic Plan. Outreach projects are generally open to all members of the congregation and LCM, but it would be great if we could give LCM the responsibility/opportunity to lead or co-lead a specific project. MLK Day might be an ideal time.
- 4) Old Business / Program Updates
 - a) Advent Offering: \$750 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Actual donations were lower, but we rounded up to that number with funds from the Outreach budget.
 - b) Grocery Cards: Linda V delivered \$500 (20 cards of \$25 each) to three elementary schools the week before winter break: Northside, Carrboro, and Frank Porter Graham. The social workers were *very* appreciative; there seems to be great need at these schools.
 - c) Giving Tree: Another very successful year, with 149 out of 150 tags being claimed to provide gifts for 10 people, plus grocery gift cards for two families. Thanks to Linda L for organizing this project so beautifully.
 - d) MLK Day / No-Sew Blankets: Approximately 40 people showed up on short notice to make 12 blankets, which took only one hour. In the future we should bring supplies for more. Anna Chao delivered 5 blankets directly to IFC and 7 to Project Linus. We need to start planning MLK service projects *much* earlier in the year, preferably by November, and offer LCM the chance to co-lead.
- 5) New Business
 - a) Project 5000: We put out 100 boxes, and more than 80% have already been taken. Announcements will continue to run in the email blast/bulletin through February. Thanks to Neal and Dana for delivering the boxes most weeks, and to Linda V and Linda K for taking on that duty for February 12.
 - b) Crop Walk: The organizers' meeting is March 7, and the walk is April 23. Sarah will spearhead again, trying to get matching donors from within our congregation and a fun promise from Pastor Will for us passing a certain donations goal (e.g., last year he walked the route in a superhero costume). We need to find out whether HTLC will sponsor a water station and, if so, whether the youth will run it.

- c) Lenten Offering: Pastor Will suggested a refugee organization, but since we did that for Advent, the committee would like to support Lutheran Services Carolinas. Its areas of care include adoption, seniors, and refugees.
 - d) February Budget Allocations: \$1000 to IFC
 - e) New Committee Members: Linda V will put out recruitment cards at Luther's Café, Pastor Will will talk up the committee in his New Members class, and Linda L will try to recruit people at her next Empty Nesters dinner.
 - f) New Projects: We did a quick assessment of standing projects throughout the year: MLK (Jan), Project 5000 (Feb), Crop Walk (Apr), Grocery Cards (May/Dec), God's Work Our Hands (Sept), Giving Tree (Nov/Dec). This leaves March, October, and summer without definitive projects. It is good to have "holes" for extra projects that arise, like donations for KidSCOpe participants. But four suggestions for expansion:
 - Neal: When is the Blessing of the Animals? Perhaps in conjunction with that Sunday, we could do a push for animal sponsorships via the ECLA Good Gifts Catalog. Members could donate toward honeybees, chickens, pigs, etc.
 - Linda V: Let's consider a concrete, relational project that involves more than a donation of money or goods. Neal suggested a work commitment to the Food for the Summer program, and Linda V suggested that refugee resettlement in our area may offer some opportunities.
 - Neal: This is the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Is there an opportunity to partner with other local Lutheran and Catholic churches for an event? Need to consult with Holly and Pastor Will.
 - Linda L: Do we have a means to help parishioners in need of rides to medical appointments, church, etc.? Ruth used to maintain a list of helpers, but we are not sure whether that practice was continued under Tom Hehenberger.
- 6) Next Meeting : Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 7 pm. Neal will do the devotion.