

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Meeting Minutes January 8, 2026

Mary Weyandt called the zoom meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Bill Dorgan, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Kim Roering, Laurie Diamond, John Muggee, Fr. John Mitchell, Martha Arko, Carol Depouw, Mary Huettl, Ann Madlung, Mary Tacheny, Chris Igielski

Martha Arko lead the group in the Opening Prayer

Mary Weyandt began the meeting by asking "*What's motivating you to act in our world? What's calling you to action?*" Various committee members shared their thoughts and answers. Discussion centered around concern regarding immigration activity in the Twin Cities, and the group agreed to plan an action event (prayer service) upon Fr. John's return from vacation.

Crisis Resource Project: Mary Huettl gave an update on the Crisis Resource Signs that are to be placed on the inside doors of St. Pascal's bathrooms. Those interested in helping Mary finalize the signage will meet later in January. Laurie Dimond said she would like to help. John Muggee commented that "211" is a great resource provided by United Way, with contacts for every need with access to community resource people to assist those in need.

Lily Grant Renewal thru St. Catherine University (Contemplative Discipleship): \$4,000 to do outreach actions of Discipleship. Examples are grief support, small group materials, etc. Discussed renewing at Parish Council. The Council responded with an enthusiastic yes. In the fall, the parish is eligible for \$5,000 over a 4 year period. There is a \$500 mini Grant offered for planning on how St. Pascal's would like to utilize the funds. We could invite a facilitator from St. Catherine's if needed. It's possible that Progressive Baptist, Grace Lutheran, Gustavas Adolphus, etc. could also participate. Fr. John will check on the application process and deadline for Living as a Disciple in your Community for a future meeting. Mary Weyandt suggested perhaps we do some action around immigration issues. Those interested can contact Mary.

REPORTS

Progressive (Julie Ludden):

The Saturday before Christmas, several people asked for an additional food to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member who was too frightened to come and pick up their food so they were doing it for them. Apparently ICE spent one weekday parked at Progressive. Since food is distributed on Saturday, there was no disruption. We continue to bring extra food down to the homeless encampment. There is no lessening of food available with rescue food and donations seemingly increasing even as numbers go down.

Merrick: Thank you to our wonderful "Merrick Monday" volunteers who donated gift cards to give away with food distribution this month. The generosity was amazing with a total of 73 gift cards purchased! The cards were distributed to those who came for food as well as the 7 families who

received Angel Tree gifts. Special thanks to the Scouts and Women's Club for their contributions of wreaths and baked goods to this month's outreach.

Donation Closet:

- December - Giving Tree (Catholic Charities) & Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship)
- Thanks to St. Pascal's hospitality, 21 Angel Tree gifts were provided to children and two carloads of items were delivered to Catholic Charities, with at least one more delivery taking place after Christmas.
- January - Brittany's Place (Julie Ludden & Martha Arko)

Beacon (Julie Moore): There is a Beacon Convening on Tuesday, January 20, 7:00-8:30 at Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church and hopefully will receive some updates at that time.

Immigration Coalition (Mary Weyandt): The "Lilly Grant/St. Catherine University" group met on Tuesday, January 2nd. The team is working on a name, hoping to collaborate with the Archdiocese and leaders are currently reaching out to Bishop Kevin Kenny. There will be a prayer vigil/rosary preceding a formation event on Wednesday, January 28th at Pax Christi in Eden Prairie at 6:00 pm. The speaker is Tom Hague (Minnesota Interfaith Coalition). More information forthcoming. St. Pascal's is currently the only East Metro congregation in the group and there is interest in our parish hosting an event, perhaps in the spring.

Care for Creation Team (Bruce & Sue Labno): Our first meeting of 2026 is scheduled for Monday, January 12, via Zoom at 6:30 pm. The focus of the meeting will be planning for 2026. We have a number of topics to consider from last year and Team Members have been asked to suggest other topics for 2026.

Options for Women - East: Ann and Kim attended and filled gift bags, and it was fun

Bloodmobile (Margaret Malec): no report

From Laurie Dimond: Isaiah has training for how to engage in the caucus process. Caucus Night in Minnesota is February 3rd at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting is February 5th at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Prayer: Chris Malec

Minutes: Carol Depouw

February agenda items include:

- Finalizing the We Care Collection March 7-8. Suggestions were: Progressive Baptist to help people with specific needs, Walking with Purpose, Merrick, Open Cupboard at Guardian Angels, Listening House food needs, supporting our neighbors on immigration laws.
- Finalizing the Crisis Resource Signage

Adjourned at 7:41 PM

Respectfully submitted by Mary Tacheny