



## Mission Statement

Churches United is a nonprofit organization of Bemidji area churches lead by the Spirit of Christ to work together to meet the emergency needs of homeless and low-income people in a prayerful way.

**"Welcoming the Stranger as Jesus"**

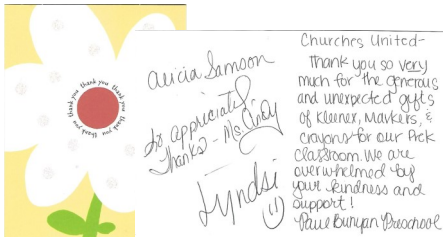
Monthly Newsletter  
November 2018

## HIGH POINTS:



Hello everyone:

At the beginning of the school year, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Women donated \$100 to go towards school supplies. Churches United received no requests for school supplies, so the money went to buy crayons, markers, and tissues that were delivered to the Paul Bunyan Preschool Center in mid October. The staff there was most appreciative and sent a wonderful "Thank-You" card.



Churches United was blessed with a Thrivent Grant for the purpose of providing sack lunches to the homeless.



Two of our volunteers worked to produce 30 lunches from the items in the photo below.



An additional 30 lunches will be assembled by a group of young people at the end of this month as part of a community service project for the confirmation class.

Churches United benefited from several grants in October.

A \$500 Rice Bowl Grant, that is earmarked for food support to those in need, was awarded by the Crookston Diocese

Beltrami Electric provided a Round-up

Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for meeting emergency needs in Beltrami County.

The second \$3,000 installment of our 2018-19 United Way Grant was also received in October.

Till next month,

Wanda

### PASTOR TO PASTOR:

We give thanks for the gifts we have received remembering: If you concentrate on what you have, you will always have enough. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never have enough.

Fr. Chuck

### Current Needs

- Gloves & mittens [all sizes]
- Travel size lotion, shampoo, & conditioner
- Diapers [all sizes & wipes]

## MONTHLY OVERVIEW - OCTOBER 2018

<b>Total Intakes</b> .....	<b>115</b>	Laundry Vouchers .....	10	Employed/Disabled/Retired .	44
<b>Total Cash Value</b>		totaling .....	\$50.00	Unemployed .....	77
<b>Distributed*</b> .....	<b>\$1,238.30</b>	Bus Tokens .....	60	<b>Initial intakes included:</b>	
Requests Accepted.....	96	totaling.....	\$90.00	Rental assistance .....	5
Requests Denied .....	18	Other Vouchers.....	0	Electric shut-off notices.....	14
Request Pending .....	3	totaling.....	\$0.00	Propane/Natural gas shut-off notices.....	3
Rental Assistance.....	2	Clothing Vouchers .....	16	Other assistance.....	7
totaling .....	\$0.00	Diapers [bundles of 10] .....	17	<b>Revenues:</b>	
Utility Assistance.....	7	Lunchables/Bottled Water .....	9	Member Churches: ....	\$2,811.65
totaling .....	\$58.30	Quilts/Blankets .....	12	Private Donations: .....	\$806.00
Other Assistance.....	0	Toiletries .....	50	Grants & Other:.....	\$5,530.54
Totaling .....	\$0.00	<b>Total number of individuals</b>		<b>Total Revenues: .....</b>	<b>\$9,148.19</b>
Food Vouchers .....	38	<b>assisted .....</b>	<b>286</b>	*Note that cash value distributed	does not include diapers, wipes,
totaling .....	\$510.00	Adults .....	152	lunchables, & water.	
Gas Vouchers.....	36	Children .....	134		
totaling .....	\$530.00	Homeless.....	38		

### PRESENTATIONS:

I am currently scheduling presentations for 2018.

If your church would like me to do a short address to your board or congregation, please contact me at 218-444-1380 or email [cunited@paulbunyan.net](mailto:cunited@paulbunyan.net) to set up a time and venue that works for you.

Thank you, Wanda

Office Hours: noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
414 Lincoln Ave SE, Bemidji, MN

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1967  
Bemidji, MN 56619



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2018  
Fall Update

### NOTES FROM THE FALL UPDATE MEETING

Churches United held a Fall Update Meeting for Member Churches on November 1, 2018 at Mt. Zion Church.

Present were: Pastor Dave Cronemiller (Mt Zion), Mark Elliott (Calvary Lutheran), Char Espe (Bethel Lutheran), Pastor Arlo Feiock (Bethany Free Lutheran), Fr. Chuck Huck (St Philip's), Karen Kraeplin (Our Redeemer's Lutheran), Pastor Eric Nygren (Evangelical Free Church), Pastor Steve Thompson (Mt Zion), Pastor Pete Warren (Aardahl Lutheran), and Wanda Yoemans Churches United Director).

Pastor Arlo opened with a devotional from Matthew 9:35-38 on the subjects of 'compassionate fatigue and compassionate concern for the suffering'.

After introductions, Fr. Chuck [Chairperson] reviewed the Churches United Mission Statement.

Mark Elliott [Treasurer] reviewed the year-to-date financial statement. The cash balance on 9/30/18 was \$8,113.34. [See the chart to the right for information on revenues for the first 9 months of 2018.

Pastor Pete [Vice Chair] reviewed the year to date activity report. [See the breakout below for an overview of the information covered.

A lunch of pizza was served.

Wanda [Director] gave a brief update on orange cards [note if your church needs there, please stop by the office and pick them up]. She also discussed the monthly newsletters and the need for volunteers.

The Churches United website updates were discussed. The monthly newsletter will be posted to the site. Other changes are in the works.

Also discussed were the valuable partnerships that have been formed with other organizations.

The SOS will begin on December 30. SOS meetings are held in the Churches United office on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Churches United NEEDS: adult gloves/mittens, lotion, quilts, travel size shampoo and conditioner.

An open forum followed the presentations. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address the lack of church participation in Churches United and the need for volunteers. This will be discussed further by the Executive Board.

Pastor Steve suggested a fundraising idea that would involve churches having a 50 cent Sunday. This could be a special collection ear-marked for Churches United where each person would donate 50 cents. He felt that if churches would do this twice per year, they would meet their financial commitment to Churches United.

It was also suggested that Wanda make an occasional appearance at the 'Net of the North' meeting of area pastors as a good way to network for Churches United.

REVENUES	9 Months Ending	9 Months Ending	DIFFERENCE
Member Churches	\$27,894.50	\$35,433.66	-\$7,539.16
Private Donations	\$810.00	\$1,200.75	-\$390.75
Grants	\$7,500.00	*\$10,750.00	\$750.00
Other	\$43.43	\$470.68	-\$427.25
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$36,247.93</b>	<b>\$47,855.09</b>	<b>-\$11,607.16</b>

\* 2017 grant amount includes \$4,000 grant for remodeling of office space.

The difference when this is removed from the equation is -\$7,607.16.

## YEAR TO DATE OVERVIEW

## 1/12018—9/30/18

<b>Total Intakes</b> .....	<b>1335</b>	Gas Vouchers .....	420	Adults .....	1902
<b>Total Cash Value</b>		totaling .....	\$9,250.00	Children .....	1572
<b>Distributed*</b> .....	<b>\$41,000.50</b>	Laundry Vouchers .....	280	Homeless .....	652
Requests Accepted.....	1135	totaling .....	\$1,400.00	Employed/Disabled/Retired	586
Requests Denied .....	197	Bus Tokens .....	1,273	Unemployed .....	846
Request Pending .....	2	totaling.....	\$1,862.50	<b>Initial intakes included:</b>	
Rental Assistance .....	25	Other Vouchers.....	3	Rental assistance .....	122
totaling .....	\$3,986.65	totaling.....	\$138.00	Electric shut-off notices.....	152
Utility Assistance.....	43	Clothing Vouchers .....	185	Propane/Natural gas shut-off	
totaling .....	\$7172.99	Diapers [bundles of 10] .....	155	notices.....	16
Other Assistance.....	13	Lunchables/Bottled Water ..	218	Other assistance.....	60
Totaling .....	\$2,180.36	Quilts/Blankets .....	96	*Note that cash value distributed	
Food Vouchers .....	643	Toiletries .....	427	does not include diapers, wipes,	
totaling .....	\$15,010.00	<b>Total number of individuals</b>		lunchables, & water.	
		<b>assisted</b> .....	<b>3474</b>		

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Churches United Member Church Representatives will be held on:

**Friday,  
February 22, 2019  
At Mt. Zion Church**

The exact time will be announced in the January 2019 Newsletter  
The 2018 Annual Report will be available at this meeting