

## **CHURCH OF THE MONTH – HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC**

**Suggested items to donate this month** –any kind of cereal, cereal bars or oatmeal; canned fruit; **canned soup**; canned pasta; shampoo; bar soap; toothpaste

### **New Volunteer Expectations**

It was decided at our quarterly meeting that starting now member churches need to send **4** volunteers each Saturday instead of 2. One person that can lift boxes in and out of shopping carts and into cars. One person that can assist people with produce and table items. Both these volunteers will be out in any kind of weather and should dress accordingly. Two people to sort, prep items, etc. as you have been doing. Please park on Lewis Street on the west side of the building. You can enter through either the front or back doors. A donation of \$200 from the church of the month is requested to help share in the cost of rent, electricity, and pest control. Checks are payable to Interchurch Council.

The Dollar General stores in both Blue Mound and Macon have continued to donate a large amount of just past the due date items, as well as milk and other cold items which we have been putting out for the families weekly. This month we also were given items from the Blue Mound Caseys store. I continue to pick up items from the Taylorville Food Pantry each Friday. We recently have been getting bread items and fresh lettuce. Last week I even received some meat! Thanks to the churches that continue to bring donated items throughout the month.

Now that the holidays are behind us, the number of families coming to the pantry for food has diminished. In January we averaged 55 families per week. It was pretty cold every Saturday, so anyone who came out was definitely in need. I want to thank the church volunteers who have helped outside at the tables. With the extra people outside, no one person has to be out in the cold for a long time.

The USDA has continued to send large quantities of free commodities over the past several months. We are still looking for people who can lift boxes to help with our deliveries from the Central Illinois Food Bank. We have had several volunteers not available again this month, so new volunteers are vital! In February these deliveries will come on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> around 9:00 am.

Macaroni and cheese was finally on the list this Monday, but toilet paper still is not on the list. After my delivery this Monday, I will have to wait 3 weeks before the next delivery due to the holiday. Any donations of toilet paper would be greatly appreciated.

I have been notified that the US Department of Agriculture has made a program change which was effective as of January 1, 2025. Pantries receiving USDA commodities (we are one) will have to serve anyone living anywhere in the state of Illinois who comes to us for food.

A special thank you to Earl Alberts who has spent several days cleaning the bathrooms, scrubbing down the walls in the front part of the hallway, and mopping the front entrance. He used a lot of elbow grease (along with a lot of bleach) to remove the mold that was starting to grow.

The Stoneington United Methodist Church will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The price of a meal is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 10 and under. Bruce and I went last year and the food was wonderful! Any churches planning a fundraiser or other event open to the public can get the information to me, and I will get it into the newsletter.

**Member Churches**

2025

February – Holy Trinity Catholic

March – Stonington United Methodist

April – Remnant Church

May – First Baptist Church – Stonington

June – Meridian Church of God

July – Blue Mound United Methodist Church

August – Joy Assembly

September – First Christian

October – Old Stonington Baptist

November – Macon United Methodist