

### "Summer Sandwiches in the Park" Program 2023

This year our program fed people every Thursday, from June 15 to August 24, 2023, for a total of 11 weeks. Lunch was served from 11:30-12:30pm at the old Clark Park shelter.

#### COST:

Cash donations and gift cards: \$ 934.77  
2 Thrivent cards: \$ 500.00  
Piggly Wiggly Church credit: \$ 66.69 *(note that these were the only funds used from outreach budget)*  
**TOTAL SPENT: \$1,501.46**

There were 662 lunches served in 2023. St. Luke's served 11 weeks, averaged out to 61 lunches served a week at the cost of \$136.50 a week, or \$2.24 per lunch.

In 2022 we served 935, so we served 273 less lunches this year. Our cost per week last year was \$89.50 or \$1.05 per lunch. So, this year there was an increase of \$1.19 per lunch.

Some key factors in the higher cost this year are:

- we received less food donations,
- we received less cash donations,
- the economy, everything is more expensive.

Some possible solutions to offset increased costs in 2024:

- ask for 3 Thrivent cards instead of 2,
- provide STL members monthly updates as to what is needed while the program is running (June, July & August),
- encourage members to give year-round to the "Summer Sandwiches Fund" *(note when making gift)*,
- ask members to donate extra food. Examples would be deer meat (hamburger), extra turkey, or cases of dry foods given, looking for family members who work for companies that give employee discounts.

For 2024, St. Luke's has received a check for \$50 from Shared Community Mission Group, care of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on 413 S. Second street, here in Watertown. This was deposited in the Summer Sandwich Fund here at St. Luke's.

The 4 churches involved are applying for a grant from the city for \$900. This would help to offset weekly costs and allow us to purchase new yard signs to post around town. The yard signs would have ALL the park locations with serving time, that cost would be about \$250 for ten signs. The remainder of the \$900 would then be split amongst the four churches, maybe \$160. per church.

God did bless the program with some continuing relationships.

- \* Linda Ruesink, along with Larry & Marlene Schlomer have been a great help with one of the families that we see every week. They are a Spanish speaking family that Linda knows through their son and her work as a translator at Shur's elementary school down the street from church. They are always happy to see each other and enjoy good conversation.
- \* Our family of 3 generations that moved to Janesville did not visit us this summer. However, one of the children - a daughter is bringing her children periodically. When she does attend, we ask her how her family is doing in Janesville. This family was neighbors to Ruth Uttech when they lived here in Watertown.