

ACC Parish Council Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2026

Present: Bill Riestenberg, Fr Alan Wielinski. Cathy Wilde, Diane Schauff, Jose Escobar, Joel Myhre, Fr Lucho Palomino, Rhonda Antrim Petersen, Deacon Dean Pawlowski, Steve Maresh, Andrew Hinrichs, Judy Zenner, Maria Stokka, Diane Aschnewitz, John Schmidt, Deacon Mario Santaana, Walt Paler, Phil Stotesberry

Absent: Wanda Zimmerman, Carrie Wedll, Deacon Joe Hilber, Mike Rengel, Rosaneli Barragan, Abram Silbernagel,

Opening Prayer: Gospel and St Joseph Prayer – Father Alan & Rhonda

No Additions to the Agenda

Approval of Agenda: Motion made to approve by Marie, Second by Dini. All in agreement

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made to approve by Marie, Second by Cathy. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. Update OLV progress: Joel and Deacon Dean reported that the staff have moved back into the OLV office. There are a few odds and ends to finish, but it is functional. The insurance company has paid most of the claims submitted, and it appears that there will be approximately \$27,000 remaining after expenses. Thanks to all the volunteers, to all the parish members, and community members who helped during the rebuild. A special thank you to Jeff Jennen and Pat Griffin for all their help.
2. All Things NEW Update: Father Alan shared the plan going forward. The future of our parishes will be guided along by Canon Law and Civil Law. Our three parishes are scheduled to be decreed as one parish by the bishop, through the dictate of Canon Law, this spring. As far as all our “civil business” we will still be acting as three parishes (three corporations) until we go through the process set out by Civil Law (which is not likely to happen for 2-3 years). As one parish, we will still be served by three churches at this time, with that being reevaluated whenever we cease having two full time priests. Moving forward, there will be further discussion into the naming of the NEW parish, appointing trustees for the NEW parish, and combined finance council. A transitional sub committee will be formed to help with the transition. Father suggested that we think of the NEW parish as we do the trinity – 3 in 1. One entity with 3 departments. More information will be provided to all parishioners as changes occur. Discussion took place.

New Business:

1. Discussion regarding the Holy Week schedule
2. Reviewed the New Parish Corporation guidelines provided by the Diocese in preparation for Civil Law changes.

Discussions:

Reports:

1. ACC Business Office Report: Finances look good, with all three parishes within budget
2. YTD ACC budget: Joel is working on the 2026-2027 Budget.
3. Safety Committee: No update since the last ACC meeting.
4. Youth ministry update: (OLV) Deb has retired, Danielle Jensen and Andrew Dembrowski will take over as elementary coordinators to help bridge the school and faith formation program. OLV has reserved the Westridge Theater for two nights for the showing of the Passion of the Christ movie. At St Leonard, Susanna C is discerning to be part of the youth ministry program.

5. Parish updates

- a. OLV: The stewardship committee is making plans for Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts, the OCIA supper; and the Easter Vigil lunch. Corpus Christi procession will be led by Father Alan.
- b. Elizabeth: Upcoming Men's pancake breakfast on March 21, celebrating 70 years. Ham supper and Bingo will take place on March 28.
- c. Pelican Rapids:

6. Pastor comments

Father Tim will be celebrating his 60-year ordination anniversary on June 7th in Little Falls. He also wishes to celebrate at OLV on June 21st Mass with a reception to follow.

Fr Lucho will celebrate 30 years of ordination on December 12, 2026, The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At OLV, there will be a bilingual celebration. This will also be the 2nd week of Advent.

Father Alan encourages us to enter the spirit of All Things New, to respond proactively, strengthen parish life. In the spirit of the synod, come, express honest feelings to allow the Holy Spirit to move. Each member was invited to share their thoughts on the NEW parish plans.

Future Agenda Items: New terms will begin July 1. New members needed.

Closing prayer: Fr Alan

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21 at Our Lady of Victory

Respectfully submitted: Diane Aschnewitz