Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Feb 20th, 2024

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call

- *Parish Council:* Byron Albers, Kate Hemmelgarn, Jeff Stammen, Stacie Enneking, Amy Bergman, Derek Spieles, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Steve Gruber
- *Standing Commissions:* Major Bernhold, Kay Schmiesing, Gina Frick
- *Visitors:* No Visitors

Approval of Minutes
Steve Gruber motioned to approve and Derek Spieles 2nd the motion to accept the January 2024 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance (Brian Wolf)
Most projects are in process or waiting to be kicked off in the spring. There is an issue with one steeple leaking. Rich and Greg are addressing it with Wellman Brothers. Leslie is aware. Major mentioned that he heard both steeples were leaking so more to come on that.

Education Commission (Gina Frick)

- Youth Adoration night held January 17th was successful
- Confirmation was recently held February 4th
- Upcoming:

o Speakers for Faith Fire sessions include Guy Gruter and Josie Wendel
o Via Dolorosa will be held on morning of Good Friday- planning underway
o Vacation Bible School planned for July 15-17

- Discussed future of Jr High Bible Study due to low attendance. (7-8th graders and held on Sunday evening). Upcoming 6th grade seems to be very active in attending functions. It was decided to continue bible study but monitor the activity
- Commission

o Discussed member rotation: (2) members entering year 3, 2 in year 2 and 2 in year 1.
o Had (1) year 1 member step down due to family issues. Looking to get (2) new members on board at the end of spring

Cemetery Board (Ed Jutte)

- Angel of Hope Proposal. Most from cemetery board are in favor just need to find the location that suits the design and intent of the memorial.

Mission Commission (Kay Schmiesing)

- This month's speaker was from the Elizabeth New Life Center in Sidney. Elizabeth New Life Center offers free ultrasounds and parenting classes. Our parish assists with its Bottles for Babies and diaper drives and will continue to do so. Mission Commission voted to donate $1,000 to the organization.
- Still making lots of blankets and burp cloths for Rustic Hope.
- Soup and Bread Luncheon will be Wednesday March 13 th at the K of C. Members will provide crock pots of soup and bread. This year's guest speaker will be Stacie Lamm. She will discuss this summer's mission trip with Catholic Heart Work Camp.
- The Mission Commission in the past has sent Easter cards with a Wagner's gift card to parishioners that are home bound or over the age of 90. Different ideas were discussed as a possible alternative to a gift card, as flowers or small basket with Easter goodies, and brought to the homes with a visit. This went well at Christmas when 46 boxes were delivered with an enjoyable visit by our members.
- New business was a discussion on forming a fundraising committee and a speaker committee (they would contact people to speak at our meetings). Also, Connie Schafer is relinquishing her post as our president. Nominations for president were asked to be shared with Dorothy. We will vote in May to fill this position.

Finance Commission (Major Bernhold)

- Year-end tax contribution letters went out for parishioners who donated over $250 in 2023.
- Plastic chairs will be ordered to replace the metal chairs in the church. The new ones are much more lightweight and quiet. The approximate cost is $2,000.
- The business manager in New Bremen is retiring. If anyone has a recommendation for a replacement, please let us know.
- Church lighting is installed and complete. We are waiting on the remaining work in the choir loft.
- Under budget on new cemetery project.

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee (Jeff Stammen)

- Team will start prepping again for fall ministries fair. Considering different suggestions regarding holding outside with tents, offering donuts, etc.

Vision Team (Steve Gruber)

- Visioning team is complete and proud of the Mission Statement. A bit disappointed in the small font on the insert and it wasn't available for the online bulletin but the word is out there. Kay Schmiesing and other council members thought it was all done very well. The hope is that different ministries will continue to address and use the mission statement in their endeavors, in order to keep it alive and in front of parishioners.

Elections (Kate Hemmelgarn)

- 3 candidates submission forms for Parish Council have been collected. We will vote next month and newly elected will sit in on April meeting.

EAP/ASP Committee (Steve Gruber)

- Steve and Ted sat down with staff members. Secure Com has been the only security quote they have received. Building and Maintenance Committee has other quotes submitted. Staff members requested a third panic button. Also asking for additional cameras and automatic locking doors due to some new activity in the parking lot, etc. The staff will now be taking over this project. Leslie looked to Rich and Greg to head the task.
    - Police Department is looking for June completion of the Run, Hide, Fight presentation.

Old Business

Item 1 (Steve Gruber)

- Emails being checked periodically. May need to put in an officers job description. Need to make sure someone is checking between each monthly meeting. No new emails this month

Father Ken's Comments

- Parishioners appreciated the blessed candles from the Christ our Light Feast Day Candlemass.
- Survey is still going on. Considered addressing that St. John Cluster and Holy Redeemer are leading in survey attendance over St Augustine.
- Unified Council coming together. Still working out details but the Spirit of the group is very good.
- The children coming forward for offertory has been very well received and anxious to see how it grows and progresses. Very good for both adults and children to see the importance of offertory.

Next Meeting Date: 3/19/2024, 7:00pm

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Executive Session

Approval:_____

Chairperson, Byron Albers Date

_____

Secretary, Emilie Winner Date