January 20, 2026
Opening Prayer
Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: **Amy Bergman, Stacie Enneking, Steve Gruber, Beth Mescher, Derek Spieles, Jeff Stammen, John Stechschulte, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Emilie Winner**
Absent: **Joel Wuebker**
Standing Commissions: **Major Bernhold, Jacque Borchers, Ike Hoying, Jana Ranly**
Absent: **Kay Schmiesing**
Visitors: **None**
Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically to accept the October 2025 PPC meeting minutes and the December 29, 2025 emergency meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports
Building & Maintenance - Ike Hoying
- **Steps are continuing to be repaired**
- **Board members changing – looking at ammending the bi-laws to allow brothers to be on the board together.**

Education Commission - Jana Ranly
- **Kim Wiford has resigned as CRE with her last day being 1/18/2026. She will be helping with Wednesday morning mass through the end of the school year.**
- **10 volunteers stepped up after the call to action for religious education help at the Sunday masses. Parents & teachers are stepping up/volunteering for the sacraments.**
- **Steve and Jodie looked at the top floor of the Halls of Hanover for extra classroom space. Cost is $20,000 for 4 classrooms. Painting and possible flooring would be needed.**
- **There is a meeting with Minster Schools scheduled Feb. 25 to talk about space issues.**
- **The group will work to determine current and future classroom needs and formulate a plan. They will review projected numbers to determine if 16 classrooms will be enough.**
- **Jodi Blindauer is moving to a part time roll for evangelization and will let the individual churches handle religious education, beginning Feb. 22. Jodi will continue to be at the parish center for Wednesday morning & Thursday afternoon class times to assist Carol.**
- **Scheduling for Religious Education typically happens in February for the upcoming school year.**

Cemetery Board - Jacque Borchers
Updates from the October meeting:
- **Woehrmyer Concrete was not able to get any rows of continuous foundation poured in section H last fall. Mike Schulze went ahead and formed one row in early January and had it poured on January 12 to provide at least one row for buffer.**

- **Vinyl pull down banners to be used in the maintenance building in the event of inclement weather for graveside services are not installed yet.**
- **Same to be said for the two new garage door operators to be used on the two farthest east garage doors of the building. Moeller Door told Mike that when they were ordered last fall it would be 16-18 weeks before delivery .**

New Topics:

- **Money is in the budget to purchase a new grasshopper lawn mower this spring. The plan is to keep the oldest and use it as a backup and also a weed sprayer unit.**
- **The cemetery directory is in the process of being updated. Last update was 2014. Hopefully the new directory, updated through 2024 will be available late spring '26. Globus Printing is printing the directories. We plan to get 100 directories that will be for sale to the public.**
- **We have noticed quite a few abandoned burial plots in the cemetery.**
- **Heath Hegemann has asked one of his associates to check into and do some research on the reselling of burial plots. When we get the information we will then see what we can do to move forward.**
- **Steve asked if the cemetary directory would have a digital copy – Jacque will look into this.**

Mission Commission - Kay Schmiesing – read by Beth Mescher

- **Mission Commission meetings: November 3 with 36 members attending and December 1 with 25 members attending.**
- **Rosaries: 1,000 rosaries were packaged and sent to Madagascar.**
- **T-shirt fundraiser: The t-shirts and sweatshirts looked great. Total profit has not been determined yet.**
- **Thanksgiving Drive: The religious education students collected items to be given to families and individuals in need. Pam Schmitmeyer and Bonnie Traska head this project. Items were given to places as the Calvary Chapel Food Pantry, the Angel Tree families, and Mercy Mission House.**
- **Garage Sale: Approximately 30 donations came in on the first donation day held on November 22. There will be a sorting day on January 19th. There will be another drop off day before the Minster Community Garage Sale Days. Date yet to be determined.**
- **Christmas Goody Box: 33 Boxes were decorated after the December meeting. They will be assembled on December 15 from 9am to noon with fruit, candy, bread and jams. A card will be included. They will be delivered to the elderly and housebound that afternoon or the next day.**
- **Angel Program: Bonnie Trzaska heads this program. We have 9 families and 8 Heritage Manor residents that are being assisted. Parishioners have been very generous. Pickup was this week.**
- **Baptism Project: First baskets will be delivered in January 2026. The baskets will include a t-shirt, bib (donated by right to life), teething ring, possibly a receiving blanket sewn by members, and a special card signifying the occasion.**
- **Next meeting is February 2, 2026**

Finance Commission - Major Bernhold

- **$1.1 million on balance sheet**
- **Moved money to prepare for expected capital projects**

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee - Jeff Stammen

- **11 responses to the surveys and in the process of contacting those people. The group was happy with the responses.**
- **Discussed the next leader as Jeff is rolling off the parish council. A decision will be made at the next meeting.**
- **The group will discuss having a Ministry Fair this year.**

EAP/ASP Committee - Steve Gruber/John Stechschulte

- **There will be policies and procedures needed for the security system.**

Elections Committee - Amy Bergman

- **Amy starting to plan for the election.**
- **Steve & Emilie both would like to stay on the parish council for 3 additional years.**
- **Amy will have an announcement in church, list it in the bulletin and put applications in church entrances. This will need to happen in February so that we can have a vote at the March meeting.**

Unified Pastoral Council Update – Emilie Winner

- **Discussed the larger projects that are happening in the next 10 years. The St Augustine planning spreadsheet was used as an example for planning and each group discussed the 5-10 year needs.**
- **A few of the Christ Our Light churches are researching how to add seating.**
- **October attendance from Archdiocese was a 4% increase from last year.**
- **There are 5 phases in Beacons of Light – currently in the 3rd phase, Family Unity Discernment. This phase is an assessment of finances – what are the giving levels by age? How is staffing meeting the needs of each parish? There will be an assessment by deanery to go through all of the information and to assess each building.**

Old Business

Steeple Preservation Update - John Stechschulte

- **John spoke to Leslie and they received new pledges over Christmas.**
- **Has over $900,000 in pledges – will probably need to use some of the $250000 in the general fund due to increased cost of hiring a scaffolding company.**
- **Father researched other companies to do the work, however could not find any place locally. Wellman is making internal changes.**

New Business

None

Comments from Father Ken

- **St Johns will have another parish meeting to meet the architect and share their input. They were able to get a lot of items out of the parish before the demolition.**

2026 Future Meeting Dates: 3/17/26, 5/19/26 — All at 7:00pm

Closing Prayer