Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 18th, 2024

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: Byron Albers, Kate Hemmelgarn, Jeff Stammen, Stacie Enneking, Emilie Winner, Amy Bergman, Derek Spieles, Ted Beckman, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Steve Gruber

Standing Commissions: Brian Wolf, Major Bernhold, Kay Schmiesing, Gina Frick

Visitors: None

Approval of Minutes
Steve Gruber motioned to approve and Jeff Stammen 2nd the motion to accept the February 2024 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance (Brian Wolf)
- Creating a revised price for heated sidewalk on north side of church and ramp.
- Need to figure out temporary ADA access to the church.
- A different church created a temporary solution of having people stand and assist at the doors—but this is not an ideal solution. Will look at a temporary ramp.
- Looking at bullet-resistant glazing on 6 doors; doesn't prevent a bullet but doors prevents from shattering so active shooter can't walk right through.
- Working on temporary fix for steeple which is leaking. Will then work on a permanent fix. Waiting to see price on this before finalizing numbers for the restoration since this will be an expensive fix. Should have an update next week.
- Rich had an idea to put new ADA doors on the ramp. It would need to be a custom door to achieve the same look.
- Looking at two quotes for updated security. The quotes weren't apples to apples, so need to have both companies come out and walk us through their quotes so we can compare them.
- Light project is finished in the church.
- We can look at which projects can wait a year. We may be able to do the front entrance in phases. Something to look into.

Education Commission (Gina Frick) – submitted via email
Education K-12 (Kim Wiford)
- 2nd grade church tour was in February. It went really well with great attendance and a lot of positive feedback

- March 20 is the last class of confessions for our religion students. Thank you to all 4 priests for offering confession to teach grade level again this school year
- 8th grade retreat was cancelled due to conflict in scheduled (Holy Thursday). The content offered at the retreat will be shared with the students during a religion class yet this school year
- Holy Thursday Mass is planned with sophomores participating in the feet washing, carrying the oils, offertory and Eucharistic ministers
- We are bringing back the Jesus Retreat for the 2nd graders on April 13th. They will participate in guided prayer at the Tabernacle with the Children of Mary Sisters. The students will then come to the Parish Center to construct their First Communion banner, play games and finish final preparations for First Communion. Parent volunteers will be here to assist
- The schedule for next year is pretty much set. We are just waiting on the Archdiocese to get back with us on our Confirmation date for 2025
- Kim Wiford has meetings with all teachers either scheduled or completed for the remainder of the year. These are going well with good feedback and discussion

Youth Ministry (Stacie Lamm)

- Girls CYO got 4th Place at State CYO
- Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt with Junior High is Palm Sunday (March 24) from 6-8 PM - Donating Food Pantry Items to Calvary Baptist Church
- Via Dolorosa - Good Friday at 10:00 on the Church Steps
- March 27 & April 10 - Guy Gruter - will be speaking to the Faith Fire and Daring Disciples Groups on Forgiveness
- Damacus Praise and Worship Team will be coming April 3 from 7-8:30 PM at St. Augustine
- Online Registration is being worked on for next year. Hoping to roll it out before the end of the school year

Other

- Men's Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) Retreat is March 23-24. Please pray for their grace over this weekend.

Commission

- We did not meet in March. A meeting is scheduled in April. Discussions will be year end wrap up and commission membership/ leadership.

Cemetery Board (Ed Jutte) – submitted via email

- **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

As of January 31, 2024, total current assets are $184,504.27. Cemetery dues collected totaled $1,110. We received $3,750 from the sale of lots and $2,500 from the Herkenhoff Trust. The financial reports were approved by voice vote following motions by Scott Hogenkamp and Ed Jutte.

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mike has continued to clean in the maintenance building to make it work better for him. He purchased a generator to use for pumping out graves and will be buying a new sump pump. He also purchased a new flag for the flagpole – the old one was worn and tattered. He has been adding a lot of topsoil to recent graves and has 1 order for a new foundation. Jim usually did foundations twice per year, ahead of Memorial Day and again in the fall. He is still waiting to see how the "Wet & Forget" spray from Menards will work on the test stones to clean them up, as the results can take up to 6 months. This product was used out at the cemetery at Fleckenstein farm along with pressure washing, and those look great. The board discussed possibly adding a bulletin notice in the spring to remind parishioners that headstone maintenance is the family's responsibility, and that spring and summer are great times to visit the cemetery to see if any sprucing up needs done.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

Jacque reported that Greg Maltinsky and Rich Larger will be taking care of the fine line cracking in 3 of the Steinemann Chapel windows, and Ed Jutte shared that Terry Thobe will take care of the 2 small areas of plaster that need repaired by the chapel altar. Work will take place sometime this spring.

The board received $2,500.00 from the Herkenhoff Trust to repair and straighten headstones. Jenni mailed a thank you card to them signed by the board, and we will send another card when the work has been completed later this year. Jenni followed up with Leslie on a few of the other donations we received in December, and no further action needs to be taken on those. Keith thought we may have received a donation from the Weigandt family recently. Janice has not seen this come through, so Jenni will follow up with Leslie Tyler to see if there are any follow ups from that.

Jacque stated that Scott and Ed's terms are up in July 2024. Jacque will reach out to Heath Hegemann after our May meeting about taking an open position, and we will need a bulletin announcement to advertise for the other open position.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jacque shared updates about the new Angel of Hope site. The Parish Council shared a list of concerns and questions about the project (per February meeting notes), which the board was able to answer. Tracy forwarded the February meeting notes to Ed to share with the Parish Council, and Brian Kauffman reached out to Byron Albers directly. Both the Parish Council and Finance are now aligned to the project, and Brian is moving forward with the design process.

The board conducted its annual review of the cemetery fee schedule and voted unanimously to increase the fee for opening/closing for cremations by $100. The fee for cremation opening/closing will now be $300 for parishioners and $400 for non-current and non-parishioners. Jenni will update the fee schedule and send to Cindy Wuebker to use immediately. She will also let Cindy know that the fee schedule will be updated again later this spring or summer after the columbarium fees and niche details are completed.

- **COLUMBARIUM:**

Jacque shared that a notice about the columbarium will be in this week's bulletin. It will advise parishioners to use caution this spring when work is being done for the foundation.

Jacque reported that the columbarium was in port as of 2/29/24 and is in route to the warehouse. We have received updated quotes from Woehrmyer ($15,872) and Scot Kitzmiller ($15,500), and Jacque asked Nick Woehrmyer and Scot Kitzmiller to meet to finalize the foundation details prior to pouring the 30' x 23' space to ensure any retaining wall and seating wall footer needs are covered. The seating wall will be outside of the 30' x 23' dimensions to maximize the space inside the columbarium area. The board also discussed that we want to make sure the colors/hardscape materials for the columbarium and the Angel of Hope coordinate well together.

Jacque shared an update on niche pricing. After the February meeting, he reached out to multiple parishes to inquire about niche pricing, and prices varied widely. We determined that some of the parishes are likely adding in the cost of opening/closing the niche and the niche engraving to their price. The board reviewed Jacque's potential niche pricing scenarios from February, and they are still in favor of the first scenario. This has pricing varying from $1000-$1300 (bottom to top row) for the 64 niches. There will be no discount given if purchased ahead of the time it is needed, and the cost will be the same for 1 urn or 2 urns. As with the rest of the cemetery fees, prices will be doubled for non-parishioners or those not current on their cemetery fees. The niche prices do NOT include the opening and closing costs or the engraving fees. These will be charged at prevailing/current costs when they are needed. The total cost of a niche, with opening/closing and engraving will still be a nice discount vs. traditional burial, as there is no need to purchase a headstone. The board will review these costs again at our next meeting prior to finalizing and voting on pricing to add to the cemetery fee schedule.

The board then changed over to the topic of niche engraving. We discussed that simplicity – and limited options – will be keys to success with the niches. Jacque will reach out to Gary at Nickol for guidance and recommendations on putting together what we want to offer for fonts, pictures, birth/death dates, military, etc. Jenni suggested that any military designations be engraved vs. a plaque added to the niche. Some of the plaques tend to "leak" down the front of headstones, and we don't want that to happen to the front of the niches.

<u>Other:</u>

The columbarium will probably be done this summer. Want to wait to sell them until we know when it will be installed or after it will be installed.

We have had 30 funerals this year but usually average 1-2 per week.

It will probably not be ideal to have a designated spot for miscarriages due to the labor involved and placement. We could do something when we open up another section for infants in the future. Perhaps we ask what a good solution would be for miscarriages.

Mission Commission (Kay Schmiesing) – submitted via email

- Guest speaker was Denise Limbert from JTDMH volunteer program. She shared volunteer opportunities for our members. Donation to the Grand Lake Hospice was made. Also to the Mercy Mission House.
- Soup and bread luncheon was held at the K of C on March 13 th. Communion service by Deacon Klosterman. Speaker was Stacie Lamm regarding CHWC. Attendance approx. 50. Food was delicious.
- Easter cards and fresh cut flowers will be delivered to our parishioners 90 and older and the homebound. Members will arrange the flowers and deliver on March 26 th . Easter cards will be sent to nursing home residents.
- Garage sale is set for July 21-24.

Finance Commission (Major Bernhold)

- 1.3 million on the balance sheet
- Capital projects under budget this year
- 2 nice donations to the Cemetery and Mission Commission
- Will the church be locked for the eclipse due to the influx of people? The parking lot will be closed. We wouldn't want it to be a public bathroom or be vandalized. Or, why wouldn't we welcome Catholics from everywhere?
    - For Oktoberfest we unlock church an hour before mass and an hour after mass.
    - The bank is drive-through only. The parish office will not be open on Monday. Campgrounds are sold out, fairgrounds sold out, businesses in Sidney are selling parking spots…
    - If church is open, we can place donation envelopes and history of the church pamphlets.
    - Lots of varying opinions on bathrooms, if they should be closed, etc. There will be porta johns all over town.
    - Also looking into creating a QR code people can use to donate (through Venmo, etc.)
    - Father Ken's comments after meeting: The church has a plan in place for when the doors will be locked, parking lot will be closed, and there will be church tours given during a specific time frame so that we can share our church and evangelize.

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee (Jeff Stammen)

- No updates

EAP/ASP Committee (Steve Gruber)

- No updates. Goal is to pull something together with the police in June.

Elections (Kate Hemmelgarn)

- Elections happening during executive session.

Old Business

Carpet replacement

- This was brought up in an email several months ago (November) but has not been brought up again. Not on Brian's radar, but he said there are plenty of options you could look at for carpeting (where to carpet, what kind of carpet, etc.). Brian said to get a quote to see what it would cost and sit on it for a few months. This could turn into a larger project that might not be necessary with other large projects in the works.

New Business

None

Father Ken's Comments

- Fr. Ken is in confessions until 8:30, so he will not be here until the executive session. Added comments to eclipse notes above.

Next Meeting Date: 04/16/2024, 7:00pm

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Executive Session

Approval:_____

Chairperson, Byron Albers Date

_____

Secretary, Emilie Winner Date