Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026
Opening Prayer
Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: **Amy Bergman, Stacie Enneking, Steve Gruber, Beth Mescher, Jeff Stammen, John Stechschulte, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Emilie Winner, Joel Wuebker**
Absent: **Derek Spieles**
Standing Commissions: **Jana Ranly, Greg Knapke**
Absent: **Jacque Borchers, Major Bernhold, Kay Schmiesing**
Visitors: **Will Hahn**
Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically to accept the January 2026 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance – Greg Knapke
- **New ADA ramp and concrete north of the church**
- **System is supposed to be up and running 1/28/2026**
- **South side ramp spring start can be removed**

o This project schedule might move some depending on scaffolding for the steeple project and window creations storm window project
- **Front entry restoration**

o Getting budget quotes on design
o Step caulking in process
- **Steeple Repair - waiting on scaffolding update from Wellman Brothers**
- **Security at Church - Systems is up and running**
- **Entry Doors Replacement - Broken Glass has been complete**
- **Window Creations**

o Window Creations stopped and did a preventive caulking for any areas they believed to be a concern over the winter.
o They are working on frames at their shop.
- **Board Members**

o Commission voted unanimously to make an exception to the bylaws (section 2) that immediate family members cannot serve on commission together
o The exception was made to allow Matt Niemeyer and Brian Neimeyer to be on board at the same time
o Matt Niemeyer will be replacing Brian Wolf as a commission member
o Greg Knapke was voted as new Chair
o Nick Woehrmyer was voted in as Vice Chair
o Sean Dorsten was voted as Secretary
o 2026 will be the last year on board for Adam Clune and Isaac Hoying they will have served two consecutive three-year terms and will need to find their replacement
- **The next meeting is March 31, 2026**

Education Commission - Jana Ranly

- **We have hired Will Hahn as our new 6–12 Coordinator of Religious Education and Youth Minister. He started February 24, 2026.**
- **Jeanette Wente has been hired as the K–5 Coordinator of Religious Education, with her start date scheduled for sometime in June. This will be announced in this weekend's bulletin.**
- **We have the following plan in place for space utilization for the 2026–2027 school year. This plan will serve us for many years in the future:**
  - **We created 2 Wednesday evening sessions.**
  - **Grades 6–8 will now meet from 6:30–7:30 PM (New earlier time for 7 and 8, new for 6).**
  - **Grades 9–12 will adjust back 15 minutes, meeting from 7:45–8:45 PM.**
  - **Our K–8 Wednesday morning Mass will continue as it currently does.**
  - **Following Mass, Grades 3–5 will have their religious education time as normal (minus 6th grade).**
  - **6th, 7th & 8th Grade will immediately return to school after mass. (New for 6th grade.) Grades K–2 will meet on Thursday afternoons as normal.**
- **Education Commission is working on establishing a parking lot pick-up and drop-off process for Wednesday evenings to help ensure the safety of our students.**
- **Final Forms will launch on April 6 for 2026–2027 program registration.**
- **Carol McMasters will be retiring at the end of May. We are grateful for her many years of service and dedication to our parish and its mission.**
- **Jodie Blindauer has resigned her role. Her last day will be March 20. We are thankful for her dedication to our parish, especially these last few months with all the transitions.**

Cemetery Board - Jacque Borchers

- **No report. The committee has not met since the last meeting.**

Mission Commission - Kay Schmiesing

- **Last meeting was Monday March 2nd.**
- **Rich Stein was our guest speaker and gave a wonderful talk on Radio Maria.**
- **There have been 15 baptismal baskets given out in the last 2 months. Families have been very appreciative.**
- **Saturday, March 21st, 10 am- noon, there will be a drop off at the Halls of Hanover for Items donated for our annual garage sale.**
- **March 25th will be our Soup and Bread luncheon at the K of C at 12 noon. Dave Meyer with Operation BBQ Relief will be the speaker. Members will bring in a variety of soups and bread for everyone in attendance.**
- **March 31st Easter bouquets with a chocolate bunny will be delivered to parishioners age 90 and over and the homebound (approx. 35). Easter cards are sent to the nursing home residents.**

Finance Commission - Major Bernhold

- **The finances are in good shape with a little over $1.1 million on the balance sheet.**
- **We are expecting to give more money to the Steeples, but that is still being worked out.**
- **We are proceeding on normal capital projects as they come up.**
- **We are exploring the use of a QR code for the younger generation to get connected/give.**

<u>PPC Committees</u>

Parish Ministry Committee - Jeff Stammen/Stacy/Derek
- **Discussed having a Ministry fair Sept. 19-20.**
- **The group is looking for someone to lead the Helping Hands ministry.**
- **Therese Brown is looking for a replacement for the Family Rosary ministry.**

EAP/ASP Committee - Steve Gruber/John Stechschulte
- **John & Steve met with Jared Post. They agreed that the priority is communication to the parish about the locks and cameras with targeted communication about the buttons. There will be several articles in the monthly newsletter.**
- **A process is needed for key fobs for the buildings – the process for getting a fob, the approval process, and how you get and return the fob.**
- **All locks will be changes so the old keys will no longer work.**
- **The fobs are serialized, so if one is lost or stolen, it can be turned off.**
- **The cameras and locks are installed and SecureCom is paid.**
- **The church is open 7 AM – 9 PM daily**

Elections Committee - Amy Bergman/Beth
- **Linda Winner was voted in to replace Jeff Stammen on the Parish Council.**

Unified Pastoral Council Update - Stacie Enneking
- **Amy attended the 2/12/26 meeting. They discussed the synod where clergy, religious, laity & archbishop Casey pray to consider what the Holy Spirit wants for the archdiocese.**
- **There are 5 Beacons of Light phases - we are currently working on the Culture phase which will be completed by June.**
- **Each parish is to assess the future building and maintenance needs to provide to the archdiocese. St. Augustine and Christ Our Light are leaders in the Archdiocese for the planning.**
- **The family is analyzing giving patterns across different age groups. These demographic will help inform planning and guide decisions for the future.**
- **The Family Unity discussion will discuss the canonical structure of the family of parishes by 2027. As part of this process, one-day sessions will be held by deanery,**

with our deanery's session scheduled to begin February 2027. More information to follow.

Old Business

Steeple Preservation Update - John Stechschulte

- **Steve spoke with Leslie regarding the steeples and parish communications; however, there are no significant updates or measurable progress to report at this time.**
- **Wellman Brothers is currently reevaluating its operations following the church fire and will no longer be handling the scaffolding work. They are in the process of obtaining a separate scaffolding quote, which is still pending.**
- **The copper materials have already been purchased**
- **The contract with Wellman has not yet been finalized. And there has been no luck finding a different contractor.**
- **The steeples have been temporarily patched, so there is no immediate concern related to the delay.**
- **Work is now expected to begin sometime in the spring.**

New Business

- **Steve Gruber was nominated and elected to replace Emilie Winner on the Unified Pastoral Council.**

Comments from Father Ken

- **There will be a staff gathering in April and that will include a culture survey.**
- **The Archdiocese sent out a parish vitality report, which includes a survey. Please visit at https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/parish-vitality-report/**
- **Nick Wilker will serve as supervisor for religious education leaders.**
- **Gail Mueller has been hired as director of communication for Christ our Light and will begin in June.**
- **St Johns has staff retirements and is looking to hire administrative assistants.**
- **St. Johns hired architects to work on designs for the new church.**

Next Meeting Date: 5/19/26 at 7:00 PM

Closing Prayer

Executive Session – Parish Council Elections

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes