Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025

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, Kay Schmiesing
Absent: Jana Ranly
Visitors: Dave Heckman

Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically to accept the August 2025 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance - Ike Hoying

- New ADA Ramp and concrete north of the church complete – waiting for Tom & Jerry's to install the boiler with no firm date at this time.
- South side ramp can be removed. The council approved to donate the ramp to the Auglaize County Council on Aging - they will disassemble and move the ramp. Steve will contact them to begin the process.
- B&M group voted to seed the north side yard this fall.
- Front Entry Restoration – getting budget quotes on design.
- Steeple Repair – Wellman is starting project and will fabricate parts at their shop.
- Security – start date delayed to October 2025.
- Light Poles – post bases have been installed - waiting on post to arrive.
- Entry Door Replacement – completed.
- Damaged Glass – discussing the necessity of etching/design as etching increases cost.
- Snow removal – Jeff Weigandt will review his proposal with the north side being eliminated for salting.
- Rectory Soffit – obtaining quotes.
- Parking Lot – getting estimates for future repairs and voted to have all cracks filled this year.
- Storm Windows – Reviewed quotes by Window Creations and voted to move forward.

Education Commission - Dave Heckman

- First Reconciliation is taking place on November 6 and November 13. At the 2nd grade parent meeting last week, parents signed up for the date that worked best for their family. 34 families are going on 11/6 and 38 families are going on 11/13.
- The 7th and 8th grade rotating schedule is getting great reviews from both catechists and students!

- Confession during religion classes starts next week with 3rd grade and will continue for the next few weeks. All eligible grades have one Confession class per year. Thank you to our priests for making this possible and for Jared/choir for sharing the church with us on Wednesday evenings.
- Prolife Rosary is this Sunday at 7:00 on the church steps. Students will form a rosary on the steps and will light their candles as the community prays along. It's going to look a little different this year with the focus being on those lost to abortion and the light we can shine for them. Those in attendance will receive a glow stick/candle to light as we pray.
- XLT was a great success! Paul J Kim was a very engaging speaker and the students 7th-Seniors seemed to really enjoy him.
- All Saints Day student Mass is next Sunday, November 2nd at 11:00 Mass. Students will dress up as Saints and process up the center aisle. Students will be the lectors for the Mass.
- Julie Homan has accepted the position of coordinator of youth activities. She started Sept. 15.
- Reuben booth did well. We sold out of supplies and even purchased additional ingredients on Sunday. We deposited $13,600 and had another $600 in green tickets. That doesn't include all deposits. Final numbers will be reported at next meeting.

Cemetery Board - Jacque Borchers

- Woehrmyer Concrete is to pour the next five rows of continuous foundation in section H this fall. No work has been done at this point. We are down to eight lots.
- Mike Schulze is repairing/replacing tombstone foundations as requested by the families. He is a bit behind because of the unusually dry weather as of late.
- The request from a parishioner to be able to have a cross engraved on her columbarium niche door was approved. A US flag for military service, wedding bands for married couples and a crucifix are the allowable options for engraving.
- The first interment in the columbarium happened last Friday October 17, 2025.
- We plan to purchase vinyl pull down banners to install in the two eastern sections of the maintenance building. The banners will be used to cover the equipment that hangs on the wall when the building is used for graveside services during inclement weather. The banners are nine feet tall. Two sections are 24 ft wide and two sections are 12 ft wide.
- Also in the building we are installing two garage door operators on the east end and a new walk through door and frame on the east end.
- The lawn mower leasing idea has been scrapped. The model we tested from K&L was a front end mower and Bob cited lack of mobility as the reason he didn't prefer that model.

Mission Commission - Kay Schmiesing

- The last meeting was October 13 with 36 members in attendance.
- The guest speaker was Bill Lutz from GIVE Medical Ministry in Covington Ohio. GIVE Medical Ministry lends out medical supplies at no charge to individuals. Several members brought in medical supplies to donate to GIVE.
- Garage Sale- Quarterly drop off days for donations are being discussed.
- Oktoberfest- Final numbers (expenses) are not in yet.

- Angel Program- We will be cutting out angels at the November meeting.
- Christmas Goody Box- Minster FFA will be donating fruit. Dorothy will be in contact with Amy Hilgefort regarding band candy donations. The committee will decorate the boxes at the December meeting.
- New Baby Baptism Baskets- New committee members are Audra Bernhold, Mag Dues and Mary Bornhorst. Leslie Tyler suggested a lower price point of approximately $20/basket. New committee will look into some options.
- T-Shirt Fundraiser- President Dorothy showed a prototype t-shirt. The shirt was a short sleeved black t-shirt with a cross from the front of the church bulletin on front. Back graphics are an outline of St. Augustine and St. Joseph. Mission Commission would make $5/shirt. Shirt will be available in black or white. Advertisement will be in the church bulletin and Facebook.
- Jodie Blindauer from Christ Our Light Family of Parishes will be speaking at the November meeting about an upcoming project.
- Next meeting will be held on Monday November 3, 2025. This will be our member appreciation night.

Finance Commission - Major Bernhold
- Reviewed the Annual Financial Report
- 1.2 mill on balance sheet

<u>PPC Committees</u>

Parish Ministry Committee - Jeff Stammen
- Updated the Ministry List and added Helping Hands.
- Jeff contacting Julie Homan to determine who is now covering CYO, Little Flowers, and Small Group Leaders (Faith Fire & Daring Disciples - if this is still planned for at all)
- Picked weekend of November 8th and 9th to hand out Ministry Surveys (doing this in off years of the ministry fair)
- Stacie is confirming dates with Cindy and working with her to determine the number of surveys needed to hand out after Mass.
- Planning to have 4-5 people hand out surveys at the end of Mass for people interested in joining a ministry. Will ask Parish Council and Ministry leaders to help. Jeff will put together the schedule.
- Reviewed and updated the Ministry Survey.
- Surveys can either be physically turned in or the QR code can be scanned and parishioners can fill out the survey online.
- Each member of the formation committee to wrap a shoe box and bring to Masses as a place for parishioners to deposit their surveys.
- Plan to put a note in the bulletin and have an announcement after Mass about the survey.

EAP/ASP Committee - Steve Gruber/John Stechschulte

- Security project – Steve suggested keep this committee going to plan for schedules/pass cards, documenting processes, etc. Ask Leslie when the church will be locked up and opened.

Elections Committee - Amy Bergman

- Amy stated the following for parish council member's terms:
  - 2026 – Jeff Stammen (6 years), Emilie Winner & Steve Gruber (3 years)
  - 2027 – Stacie Enneking & Derek Spieles (6 years), John Stechschulte (3 years)
  - 2028 – Amy Bergman (6 years), Beth Mescher & Joel Wuebker (3 years)
- Steve nominated Beth to help with the Elections committee.

Unified Pastoral Council Update - Stacie Enneking

Beacons of Light Annual Reports for Christ Our Light

- **N**ick offered a breakdown of the Pathway of the Christ Our Light BOL. He identified that there are 2 reports needing to be completed (Annual Report & Family Planning Report).

Annual Planning Report

- The A.R. provides multiple criteria for evaluation pertaining to the "6 Principle Areas" of Beacons of Light. This is strictly for the archdiocesan staff. The archbishop does read this. It allows us to acknowledge the advancements and growth of our family. From our data, several archdiocesan staff visited the COL leadership team and offered assistance in what they can do to help us keep moving forward.
- Eucharist: We do have a Director of Worship and have established a family worship commission. Nick feels that we are in a good spot right now. We gather and celebrate the Eucharist in a higher percentage of occupancy than other families. One area that we are struggling at is a 50% capacity for one mass (HR 8:00 mass is below benchmark). While this may be slightly under 50% capacity attendances, it has greatly helped the 10:00 overcrowded capacity problem. In comparison, we are still exceeding capacity at many masses that other families are operating at.
- Church: We have a liturgical calendar for all COL parish feast day celebrations. The COL family is trying to keep the identity of each church. Each feast is celebrated in the bulletin.
- Leadership: Highlights include a unified pastoral council with a unified vision statement.
- Stewardship: We are just starting to get off the ground. A Core Stewardship team has been established.
- Evangelization: There are many big areas involved in evangelization. We have a director, Jodie Blindauer. She is in the infant stages of developing a team.
- Love in Action: This one area we haven't gotten to. It is a broad principal with no dedicated staff to this area.
- Administration and Communication: Leslie Tyler (administration) and Sarah Mescher (communication). Two areas that we are excelling with are fiscal responsibility and offering the sacraments. Fr Ken reports that both areas are in good shape.

Family Planning Report

- The Family Planning Report provides a summarization of what is happening in our family of parishes, which is dedicated for parishioner knowledge. This report will be published to the parishioners. Nick feels that we are excelling in many areas compared to many other families!

Old Business

Steeple Preservation Update - John Stechschulte

- Met goals for donations – over $900,000 from parishioners
- Cranes to get sections down this fall – scaffolding put up in the spring
- There is an importance of communicating the progress of the project – someone needs to own the communication of the steeple repairs. Steve asked that between the parish staff & building maintenance that a leader should be selected to have communication at least 1 time per month in the bulletin.
- Dave Heckman offered to take drone pictures.

New Business

- Steve suggested adding a committee to get all of the updated bylaws of the Standing Committees.

Comments from Father Ken

- Father discussed the annual report for accountability to the Archdiocese. Working on a plan similar to a 'state of the union' - a narrative across the whole family of parishes.
- St. John updates - Architect interviews are in progress – will have open sessions on Nov. 9 with St. John parishioners – referencing the Built of Living Stone2 document for guidelines on designing & renovating a Catholic church.
- Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP) is being offered at McCartyville. Archdiocese is offering information sessions for men considering the Diaconate.

- Jeff asked if Archbishop Casey has made any changes with Beacons of Light – Father said no. Archbishop Casey will be at St Charles for the 5K for vocations on Nov 8.

2026 Meeting Dates: 1/20/26, 3/17/26, 5/19/26 — All at 7:00pm

Closing Prayer