



St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: April 8, 2025

Virtual zoom meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Father John Thetford - rector

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Noah Becker – corresponding secretary

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guests: Jeff Zdrate

The minutes from the March 11, 2025, parish council meeting were reviewed. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, approved by all.

Paul made a motion to accept the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on February 2nd, approved by all.

Priest's report – Father John Thetford

-Everything is in place for services over the next two weeks.

-Vera Limberopoulos will be doing the rose petals for Holy Friday.

-Sixteen people will be coming into the church on Saturday, April 12th. On Sunday, April 12th, Nicholas Elsinger will be baptized at 1pm. An additional person will come into the church on April 19th.

-We will be starting up a women's group on May 10th. Father chose Jennifer Kribs to be our facilitator after multiple conversations with her. She became orthodox in November, is a seminary graduate and has taught in the protestant world. The group will have a meal and discussion at the Krib's house.

-Father is looking towards a date for the next men's group meeting, with a tentative date of May 31st or June 7th. While father has been leading the group, Chuck Bayerl and Mark Kotz have been the unofficial leaders of the group. Father is looking towards it being led by a lay person in the future.

-Friday, June 13th will be the next liturgy in Sister Bay.

-Saturday, May 24th will be the next liturgy in Waupaca.

-St Macrina Chapel: We will not be going forward with moving to the Amhurst location. Deacon Spyridon has found another location with potential. This new location has many pluses. It has not been used for two years, we would



have sole use of it 24/7, it is privately owned by a board of trustees from the previous Methodist Church, it isn't right on the highway while it is in a good location in Dopp. Father John and Paul will go and check it out.

President's report - Paul Novak

- He has received positive feedback regarding the painting in the Narthex. Some small purchases have also recently been made. Father purchased an icon of the resurrection that will be placed on the brown wall in the narthex. It will arrive after Pascha. Additionally, two aluminum icons that are digitally printed will replace ones that have quickly faded from the sun. One will be placed in the wooden icon box outside and another will be on the wall in the vestibule. Also a few directional signs have been ordered. They will be placed in the hall at the base of the stairs and at the top of the stairs. They will be labeled Herrick Hall, Founders Hall, library, church balcony and bathrooms.

Vice-prescient's report – Matt Tomac

Nothing to report. Matt exited the meeting.

Treasure's report – Tom Julian

An attachment was sent to the council with the financials. Things are going well on the financial side.

\$3,607 will be deposited tomorrow morning. All the funds in operations have been ear marked for expenses. The weekly income has been approximately \$3,000, allowing us to meet the mortgage. Yesterday, he made a payment of \$1,000 towards the principle. This is the first month that we've been able to do this.

Within the last four weeks, we received more than \$250 donated for Pascha flowers. We have received more than \$2,700 for chairs to date. We will be paying out for two camp scholarships, and possibly two additional.

The installer that installed the tile in the front vestibule donated his service. Though Keith and Vanessa Jorgensen are not members of our church, they found it in their hearts to donate their work, blessing us with their service. A thank you letter was mailed to them. We would like to remember their generosity by inviting them to our fall picnic.

\$7,500 had previously been put into a CD in the legacy and endowment fund, giving us \$7,600.

\$11,000 will need to be committed for the icons on the iconostasis. We will need to do a little fundraising to meet that goal.

Once the women's bathroom is done, we will have spent \$14,000 on the various projects (including the chairs) this first quarter. The women's bathroom includes donation of goods and installation, work to be completed by Chuck Bayerl and Gabriel Landergren. \$1,800 in supplies have been purchased and paid for including: a new sink and countertop, cabinets, and paint. This project received prior approval from council. These have been paid for from ongoing income.

There are a few items on the original ten-year project list that we would like to work on. (This list is posted in Herrick Hall.) Going forward, these items need to be prioritized. (Continued in new business.)

The parking lot needs to be maintained with sealing and relining. This is recurring work that needs to be done to keep the lot in good condition. We anticipate the price to be \$3,000 to \$4,000. Paul will get a quote.



There is a donation pending in the legacy and endowment fund available to us if we don't need it for other expenses.

new business:

We are in good shape for Pascha.

Paul brought up church security. Founder's Hall is being well utilized. Also, the upper door near Founder's Hall gets regular use on Sunday's when people park in the upper lot. Currently, this door is a blind spot to people going in and out. We would like to do our due diligence to keep our parish safe. Paul has done some initial research into getting a (web) cloud-based security camera. It would be placed on the far wall in Founder's Hall with a view of the door, and through the door window to view the outside door. (Father simulated the view with his cell phone.) The camera would record motion and be stored in the cloud for thirty days. This would give us the ability to go back with a record if there were to be a potential security question. The web camera would cost \$150 and google cloud service for storage would be \$8 a month for 30-day storage. This system is easy to set up and works with google nest. In following best practice, we would also put up a sign stating this area is being video recorded. Father suggested putting a second camera on lower door since it is a public space and not a private space. Noah asked, do we have a pressing security concern, not feeling the need for it, if there is not a pressing threat.

Tom had been in security in the past and stated that we are overdue with addressing this genuine concern, pointing out our weak points. We currently do not have any security. Father also agreed on the need for safety measures. Father John and Paul would be the only people with access to this cloud service.

Paul made a motion to move forward and purchase a google nest security camera and a 30-day license for storage, with the price between \$8 -\$10 /month for storage. The motion was passed with 4 yes and one opposition (Noah).

The church picnic location has been selected as noted in prior minutes. It will be held at Green Isle Park, 12 – 15 minutes away. Paul did an onsite assessment and noted that it has a private pavilion which can be driven right up to for ease in access. It is close to the swings and a ballfield.

During prior a council meeting, it was agreed on that we hold an in-person council meeting in May. That date would fall on Mother's Day. Paul suggested changing it to Saturday, June 14th. It could be the monthly meeting plus a parish council retreat. We would be able to cover more in-depth discussions such as future projects. It was agreed to hold the meeting on June 14th, 1pm to approximately 4:30 in Founder's Hall. Noah expressed wanting an in-person meeting so others could try it. It was agreed that the virtual meetings can be attended by church members remotely.

We will be reapproaching the purchase of an AED. It was mentioned that they can be wired into the phone system to alert EMS when used. Paul will investigate the cost. It was stated that it's useless with training. Vera brought up some options for training.

Steve Gilray is not doing very well and has been hospitalized for the past two weeks.

The church retreat went well in Herrick Hall.

We are putting the potential audio system on hold.



guest questions:

Jeff Zdrale noted his preference that the processional banners be stored on either side of the iconostasis, rather than their current location. Father agreed to take it into consideration.

Jeff inquired about the variation in color tone of the tabernacle's dome. Father relayed that he believes that it is made from two different alloys that revealed itself when he polished it a few years ago. He also reports that it is shaky. Jeff also asked if the dome could be replaced or if we could order a new one. (This was in case an individual wanted to earmark a donation.) Father also reported the seven-branch candle stand is shaky and slightly crooked. They are both functional. Father reported that the tabernacle would be very expensive to replace, but he would be open to the idea.

A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting, approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

Father gave the closing prayer.