



St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: June 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 13:05 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

The minutes from the May 13, 2025, parish council meeting were reviewed. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, approved by all.

Priest's report – Father John Thetford

- Vacation church school will be June 25 -27, with the normal expenses (a couple hundred dollars). There will be 22 kids on Wednesday, 22 kids on Thursday, and 18 kids on Friday. We might need some help with the meal on Wednesday.
- Maddy Faldet and Alex Arnold will wed on October 4th. Details to follow.
- The fall festival will be on October 11th.
- Father emailed the bishop inquiring about him visiting on or around October 18th. He is waiting for a follow up which may include a visit to Waupaca also.

President's report - Paul Novak

Paul spoke with Dmitry about trying to have the icons for the iconostasis completed by the end of the year. Also, Dmitry previously confirmed that it's possible to put the seraphim on two of the doors.

Vice-president's report – Matt Tomac

- New mouse traps have been put in with two in the kitchen and two near the altar.
- We are looking to schedule dates to complete the outside painting, probably a span of Thursday/ Friday/ Saturday, in July or later. Paul had two specific individuals in mind to coordinate their availability. It will need to be hand painted with rollers and brushes. Also, caulking will need to be completed by the new siding, around the windows.



Treasure's report – Tom Julian

-Handouts were submitted to the council with the financials. An extra mortgage payment was not made in June. Also, the pension has not been paid yet. This is due to a bill from the IRS for \$975, representing Father's social security and Medicare matches for January through March. This was for the taxes due prior to the start of e-payments (Gusto) for Father's payroll.

-\$1707.50 has been paid up front for the parking lot asphalt repair around the catch basins (a partial payment), \$360 paid for mowing, \$75 for the web.

-There is \$2,562.30 in the Iconography Fund, with \$500 to be moved into Building Fund to pay for the metal icons. It was brought up that the funds from the Iconography Fund will not be needed until the end of the year. Some of those funds could be temporarily moved into the portfolio for a better yield, approximately 6%. Noah made a motion to move two thousand dollars from The Iconography Fund into the portfolio. Approved by all. Tom amended the motion to move a portion of the \$31,000 money market fund into the JAAA portfolio, approved by all. It would bring the JAAA portfolio up to \$15,000.

-This will be our first summer with a large amount of new people. Though it is summer, the church does not go on vacation, thus we need to remind people for giving. We do utilize Aplos and Zell for ease in e-payments. We could include Zell instruction cards. These small information cards could be placed in the bookstore, for people to take with them to aid them with their contributions.

-Overall, bill paying has done well over the past two years. new

business:

Schedules and travels:

Father John will be away June 29th (after church) through July 7th. There will be no service on Wednesday, July 1st. Saturday, July 5th will have reader Vespers. Father Tom will be coming for Divine Liturgy on July 6th. There will not be Matins on the 6th.

The Novaks will also be away July 2 -7th when Father is gone. They will away June 17 -26 in Alaska and will attend the service for the Canonization of Matushka Olga.

Father John and Paul will be away July 14 – 18, for the All American Council.

Fellowship:

The next men's group meeting will be on July 12th. Possible themes were discussed, including Saint Olga, the history of Spruce Island, etc. Tom suggested some short documentaries, specifically a pilgrimage done by Dr Timothy Patitsas of Beauty First Films. Tom will buy the film and have it available for viewing. Another film was Sacred Alaska, to be seen at the All American Council. The viewing of films could start with the men's group and then move on to broader groups, viewed before or after Saturday Vespers. It could be promoted in the Saturday eblast and the bulletin.



When asked about ideas for the women's group, Father said that his goal with the women's group is to be hands off, to let Jennifer Kribs come up with her ideas herself. She is the only women in our parish with a seminary degree and he would like to utilize her skills and background.

It was pointed out that the number one concern among mental health professionals is loneliness. Tom stated, "If the church isn't providing opportunities like that for people to plug in and have relationships, if church is not part of the solution, then we are part of the problem".

Ok, it was brought up that "Ortho bro" is a bad term associated with crazy convert syndrome, so we should avoid using it. Directory:

The church directory is off and running. Jennifer Kribs continues to get requests for updates. We can do a soft push via email or bulletin for requesting photos. The catechumens are currently not in the directory, but we are considering a separate group for them.

Security / Safety:

The google nest offers free storage for three hours of storage. After that, it dumps the data. To upgrade. It would cost \$9/month to store the data for 30 days. Another camera for the front vestibule door is \$100. Misha would need to install an outlet in the ceiling for it, with the attempt to cover as much of the lot as possible.

It was observed during the meeting that the parking lot is also being utilized by people outside of the parish. Cars come through to pick up kids from school down the block. Also, individuals park here when visiting our neighbors. We like to avoid potential problems of someone getting hurt while using the church lot. To reduce liability, we will get a metal sign stating, "St Matthew parish parking only".

- The window AC unit was donated to Kayla Belton.

- The initial repair of parking lot catch basin has been completed.

- AED questions arose. Yes, the fire department is three minutes away, but that does guarantee they could be here in three minutes. ETAs could vary. It was suggested that an AED is an emotionally driven fad, which could put a financial drain on the next general of the church. Who would follow up or be financially responsible? Pros and cons were brought up. Noah stated that he could investigate it further. Paul made a motion for Noah to do a deep dive into how much it would cost. Approved by all.

A motion was made by Paul to conclude the regular meeting, approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42.