



## **St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting**

**Meeting: May 13, 2025**

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:00 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: Kaine Bernarde (joined 6:03), Jennifer Kribs, Jeff Zdrate

The minutes from the April 8, 2025, parish council meeting were reviewed. It was noted that the final copy had a correction with Noah's name added as a "no" vote. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, approved by all.

### **Priest's report – Father John Thetford**

- As usual, we continue to have new people visit the church. Continue to greet them and make sure they fill out one of the forms so they can get on the email list. All new people will be getting on the approved email list.
- Since the last meeting, 16 new people have been received into the church. We anticipate having two more join the Sunday after Pentecost.
- Ministry – New servers have been added.
  - Prospora: We are doing well (with a couple of new people added.)
  - Vacation church school had a meeting and we discussed some ideas. We have some new volunteers and continue to solicit new ideas.
  - The first meeting of women's fellowship had 15 women attend. The next meeting will potentially be on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after Labor Day.
  - The next men's fellowship meeting will tentatively be on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - On August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be preparing bagged lunches for the shelter.
  - We will be looking into preparing a meal at New Community Shelter, sometime in July, August or September. Ezra works there as a cook and relayed that you go there and prepare everything in their kitchen.



- Waupaca Mission: The second potential relocation site had been visited by Father John and Paul. The building had been abandoned for two years and would need a lot of work since it's in a dilapidated condition. It was decided that this was not a viable site at this time. More discussions will continue regarding it, and they are keeping options open.

- Father John and Paul will be going to the All-American Council July 14 – 18.

- June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup>, Father John will be on vacation in Pennsylvania. Father Tom Miller will come to do hours and liturgy on Sunday.

### **President's report - Paul Novak**

- We have a window AC unit in the upstairs storage room. It was purchased 4 years ago and is no longer needed by the parish. It was agreed to offer it to the parish via the Saturday email, for a family that might need it.

### **Vice-prescient's report – Matt Tomac**

-Matt will be putting out new mouse traps, within the next week or so.

- We will be looking towards setting dates to paint the back of the church. This is the outside north wall, so it will match the new siding. We already have the paint. We are considering a Thursday/Friday/ Saturday. Matt will come up with some possible dates. Additionally, there will be a one-day event to finish the caulking outside. It would be a few guys led by Deacon Spyridon.

### **Treasure's report – Tom Julian**

- A breakdown of the cash on hand was sent out to the council.

-We are in relatively good shape financially.

1. Paid an extra \$1000 towards the mortgage the last 2 months. The mortgage will fall below \$150,000 this month.

2. Zelle (e-tithing) gives more consistent payments. Our cash on hand has been going up. There were costly things during Pascha which were covered by donations. We are getting approximately \$1,000 in cash contributions weekly.

3. The Legacy & Endowment fund and building fund has a bit of a reserve.

4. Father's salary is now being paid via electronic payment service (Gusto). We now pay part of his Medicare and taxes which is different then what we did in the past. The amount of money is basically the same. This service is approximately \$500 per year and also covers our taxes and W2s. Paul is Tom's back up person to handle banking.

### **new business / old business:**

- We are going in a new direction with the church directory. Under Father John's direction, Jennifer Kribs has been doing preliminary work for an e-directory. It is a secure program used by churches which can be utilized as a website or as an app on mobile devices. Jennifer would act as the administer, adding the preliminary information. Church members would access and update their information via their personal email (that had been submitted to the church). Family photos that had recently been taken would be added to the directory. Members would update their personal information, so that Father would have it, but could choose whether they wanted to make it visible to



other church members. The site information will not be posted on public forums and only be available directly inhouse at church. If individuals are not tech savvy, we could assist them and print a copy for them if needed. The decision to pursue this option was made because maintaining and printing a directory is a laborious task in a growing parish. The fee to maintain the service is \$99.80 a year (for the software) and could be rolled out at the semiannual August meeting. The web site images, and name were shared with council members, but will not be disclosed in our public minutes. Tom made a motion to start the service, approved by all council members.

- The parking lot had been replaced in 2017 and has been resealed once since then. It is due for maintenance. Two bids were obtained. #1: Asphalt Seal and Repair quoted \$5,500 which would include sealing and some repair work. #2: Quality Asphalt quoted \$6,815. (They put in the parking lot and did the resealed.) This quote included more extensive repairs. There are two large drains in the lot with considerable sinkage. This spring the catch basins had been evaluated and found that the concrete metal pipe to be sound and that the sinking was caused by freezing and thawing. The second quote would address this by cutting out 10 x 10 around the drain, putting in additional rocks and compacting them. The cost of the two drains alone would be \$1,000 each. Also, larger areas that need patching would be dug out and repaired. Council members feel that Quality Asphalt does quality work and that we already have a working relationship with them. When they resurfaced for us in the past, they did a good job. At this time, we have half of the funds, but we could wait until August or September to start when we anticipate having all of the funds. Tom made a motion to go with Quality Asphalt for repairs quoted at \$6,815, approved by all.

- At the April council meeting, a security camera was approved for the upstairs door. We currently have an extended router. Paul will check to see if it works upstairs, if not he will investigate adding a router for Founders Hall. A suggestion was made to add two additional cameras installed inside, facing outside by the lower doors. They would be utilized via google nest. Paul made a motion to expand the video security system, that was approved last month, from one camera to three cameras with power supply. The motion was passed with five yea and one nay (Noah).

- We are checking into training for an AED, prior to obtaining one.

- The next parish council meeting will be in person on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 4 pm, in Founders Hall. If there is a specific subject that you would like to address, forward an email to Paul with the subject. During the June meeting, we will be going through the calendar year.

#### **guest comments / questions:**

Jeff suggested that the new banners be equally elevated during processions. Also, the banners are displayed in the sanctuary and temporarily leaning on the wall. It would be nice if they could have a more secure display. Paul reports that \$45 has been spent for the proper gold holders.

Jeff inquired if there was a possibility of obtaining electric candles for Pascha, since the flames tend to blow out (even with the shields). Paul and Tom confirmed that this option is cost prohibitive for 150 candles plus batteries. An option might be to use bigger candles, which are more expensive. Jeff also suggested that lighting the candle during the Pascha service might be less chaotic if we to light from only two people go up to light from Father's candle, versus several people approaching him.

Jeff offered that if the tabernacle needs replacement in the future, he will assist with the expense. He reports that we got it second hand in 1981 and it wasn't of great quality.



A motion was made by Paul to adjourn the meeting, approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16.

Father gave the closing prayer.