



St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: September 9, 2025

Zoom meeting called 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

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

Noah Becker – corresponding secretary

guests: Danny Panella, Jeff Zdrale

comments: Jeff inquired if the church still has two sets of wedding crowns. Father reports that we have Greek and Russian style sets which are available as back up for loaning out. He does share this information. Father relayed that couples prefer to buy their own so that they can keep them. Jeff also reports that our processional cross was donated by the Pabich brothers. It currently appears chintzy and tarnished, inquiring if there is interest in replacing it. Father stated that he thought that our processional cross and fans are nicer ones, compared to what he has seen. He did state that they hadn't been polished in a while.

The minutes from the last meeting had been sent out. Paul made a motion to approve August 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Approved by all.

Priest's report – Father John Thetford

-We continue to get new people and have recently had some new people move to our parish that are Orthodox. He reminds us to keep greeting people and to reach out and talk to newer folks that you might not have talked to yet.

-There have been some recent transitions. Melissa A. has taken over the ministry team at Father's request. Mary P. had been looking to step down for about two years. Elaine G. requested to no longer lead the prosphora team, assigning the bakers each month. Emma N. will be leading the prosphora team.

-The October liturgy schedule has been sent out.



-The bishop will be coming October 18th and 19th. Father and Paul still need to finalize the bishop's lodging details (for Friday and Saturday). He will be in Waupaca on Saturday day and here on Saturday evening and Sunday. Our church tradition when the bishop comes is to do a parish council plus spouses' dinner after Vespers on Saturday. It will be on October 18th. It was agreed on to go to The Village Grill in Allouez. Paul will make reservations.

-We will need volunteers for the Fall Festival in October, including cleaning up. We've been doing well asking for volunteers including our new people. Paul N coordinates the overall festival, Katherine W. coordinates the bake sale, and Father coordinates the pumpkin carving. There is a sign-up sheet already out and an announcement has been made regarding volunteering, etc. Father will talk to Maddy F. to see if she will be available again this year (for the pumpkins with the kids).

- Women's group was September 6th. Jennifer K reports that it went very well. Multiple people told her that they loved it. Saturday December 6th will be the next women's group meeting. Jennifer K. will send out a survey to the women to see what kind of interest there is for activities, format, etc. She will run it by Father first and then it will be put in the Saturday email.

- November 1st will be the next men's group meeting. Father talked with Marc K. about ideas.

- Sunday school will start in a week. There will be three sections and two new teachers.

- Waupaca: There was a consideration in using the Veteran's Home Chaple. This is no longer a possibility since they occasionally still use it. Father is still looking into other options.

-The shelter meals bagged lunches will be this Friday, September 12th.

-We also do a catered meal for House of Hope on October 15th. This will cost \$300 or so. It's catered for because it's a closed facility with children. Tom reports that we have \$1,200 in our missions account and that he'll be paying \$900 out (three \$300 donation payments) on October 1st.

- Russell Rolffs on Washington Island runs a non-profit farm. On October 25th they will be holding an open house for our parishioners to come up and help them out with some basic tasks. They also held this last year and some of our young men went and really enjoyed it.

President's report: Paul Novak

-The deep cleaning day at the church has been changed to Thursday, October 16th. This is in preparation for the bishop's visit.

- Dmitry is working on the icons. He had a discussion with Paul about placing the six-winged seraphim on the iconostasis. He said that it would be abnormal and a bit odd and agreed to go back to having the archangels instead.



-The snow removal contract for 2025/2026 has arrived. They charge by inches. It went up by \$25 for 1 – 3 inches. Also, snow shoveling increased \$50, which is done on the upper walk. The company communicates well regarding our needs. Paul made a motion to accept the contract for Healy and Son Snow removal. All approved.

-Resizing of the Nave will start the first week of November. Misha M. is good to go for work and suggested getting new doors. The double door layout will be staying to accommodate the baptismal font. A new steel frame would cost approximately \$1000.

-Paul received additional comments about people not being able to hear during services. Paul, Tom and Matt have been working with David N, taking the speakers that we have versus smaller speakers with a wood base. The smaller speakers have minimalistic stands and would be placed in the corners. The estimated cost for the professional equipment with the mic on a stand would be \$3,500. Paul made a motion to go forward with this sound system, not to exceed \$3,500. Paul and David N would install the sound system and test it. Approved by all. The sound system would be used for sermons and announcements currently. It would be small and modular and could be moved to Founders Hall if needed. Concerns about the noise level during liturgy were brought up. Father suggested finding ways to address the noise. Additionally, the sound system would help parishioners to be able to hear better during the service.

Vice-president's report: Matt Tomac

-Matt received our deposit back from Allouez for \$250, for the picnic. The park suggested booking right away for next year to secure our reservation. Matt will reach out to the city of Allouez about available dates for our 2026 picnic. Father suggested one of the last two Sundays in August. Matt reported that the location was very nice, roomy inside for 150 people, with a lot of space to spread out, and a lot of parking.

-Matt exited the meeting.

Treasure report: Tom Julian

-The August revenue was \$17,580. We had more than \$20,500 outflow (in August). It has not been unusual for July and August to have diminished revenue in. Expenses that were included this month: HVAC work, the parking lot, Pedro's vestments, down payment on the closet work, mowing (peak season). These came to more than \$9,000. We are starting to lower the P42 Fund again. We are trying to get it down so that we will only have to refinance \$125,000 or \$130,000 for the mortgage next year. We received \$4,000 in donations on Sunday, which were wabove and beyond normal. One was an annual gift, and one was a special gift. \$4,000 will cover over half of the closet expense. Before bills were paid this morning, we had \$12,000 in the building fund which was decreased to about \$8,000. We should still ask people for special donations to cover anticipated costs. The P42 Fund is getting a little low. We will have to liquidate almost everything from the ministry fund in October if we don't pick up some donations.

- Tom spent some time mentoring Danny P. on the weekly processing, this past Sunday. They will get into changing over the passwords. Tom suggested creating a new user (Danny) and then deleting Tom after the transition.



-Danny had no questions regarding treasure's duties, etc.

-new business

- The candlestand in front of the Iconostasis Theotokos is cracked and leaning. It was brought up in the past about possibly replacing some items (via earmarked gifts). Also, the toilet seat in that narthex bathroom does not fit the toilet, it's wobbly.

- We need to rethink where we're storing the reader's stand that gets moved for the sermon. It's getting congested over there and the speakers will be taking up some space there also. We also have a large reader's stand with books in it in the corner. We now have a place to put those books. We could rethink that large reader's stand (which came with the church). Paul noted that big trash pick up is coming up also, if we need it downsized. Paul and Noah agreed that we just need a basic surface/stand for the reader to read from, and the books can be kept in the cabinet. Father and Paul will reassess the space and the items to find a solution.

-*We talked about parish council terms. We'll talk more over the weekend if members are interested in staying on. *Painting of the North side probably won't happen (this season). * Noah is still working on researching AEDs for the church.

-Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by all.

Father John gave the closing prayer.

Adjourned at 6:46.



St. Matthew Orthodox Church



Green Bay, WI



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