

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting -- February 10, 2022

Attendance:

Josh and Jason Richards were not in attendance. Mirka, Randy and David attended virtually. All other members attended in person in the Conference Room.

1. Opening Prayer: Father Ken

2. AED Training Session

Julie Shannon provided a fact sheet and completed a demonstration of the AED unit that is provided by St. Luke's. It is located on the wall of the Narthex. The unit is very easy to use, with electronic voice commands provided. The kit includes patches, scissors, and a mask for the user. Current procedures for emergency heart attack victims no longer include giving breathes but does include the chest compressions. The AED unit is used if no heartbeat is detected. A second AED unit will be installed in the new addition in the near future.

3. January Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were briefly reviewed. Motion by Paul to approve as presented. Seconded by Brian. Motion passed.

4. Parish Directory

This business item has been on the agenda for a number of previous meetings and is now established and fully set up. So it was decided that it will not be included on future agendas pending additional changes being needed. At this time, less than 10% of the parish has completed the on-line registration. Since the response has been slow, Father recommended that we do another notification blast to the parish to drum up interest.

5. Capital Campaign Update

Father Ken reported that the balance of the Phase 2 campaign is below the budgeted level, but it is not a concern as that project's budget is balanced. He and the Finance Committee have targeted a fall start date for the Wave 3 Diocesan Appeal Campaign. Our assigned goal amount is \$625,000. There is no penalty if that goal is not achieved. The church will get some funding back from the appeal if the goal is met. If so, that funding will be assigned to the building fund. Father recommended that the Parish Council, Finance Committee, School Board and other committees reach out and make contacts to drum up interest in the campaign. A campaign committee will need to be organized.

6. **Oxtoberfest**

Jennifer and Meg previously volunteered to co-chair the effort to put on this event. It is scheduled to be held from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on October 22nd. These are new hours based on input from the previous events. Additional changes to the event will be considered, so Jennifer and Meg are looking for input. They also will be reaching out to folks to ask for event assistance in the near future.

7. **Faith Formation Update**

David reported that 6 couples attended his last faith formation session. He is hoping for more next month, when the Bishop will be speaking. Previously about 10 couples were attending.

Vacation Bible School will not be led by Shani Wall this year as in previous years. Volunteers are difficult to get for VBS, most likely partially due to Covid concerns. David will push out a request in April or May for adult volunteers to assist with running this summer program. Last year there were only four adult volunteers for approximately 120 kids. If a similar turnout occurs this year, David will probably forgo the school and have our kids attend VBS at OLIH.

The women's bible study that meets on Tuesday nights is going well, with attendance generally in the 20's. The Thirsty Thursday sessions are also well attended. Deacon Fred has been getting around 15 participants for his faith classes. Fr. James reported that the Made This Way attendance is not constant, but they will be starting a new book at the next session, which should spark interest. He is happy with the attendee's general acceptance of the program.

ChristLife is scheduled to begin yet this month, with the sessions set for just after the 10:30 masses with a meal included. Travis Funseth will make presentations after the masses this weekend to drum up interest, which up to now has been light. If there is not a significant number of sign-ups by February 20th the program will probably be called off. OLIH is doing the Bible Timeline series, which is comparable to ChristLife.

Fr. James will be doing a 6-week study program during lent based on the book "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist". Signups for this program will begin shortly and it will be offered to both parishes.

In summary, attendance for all faith formation activities has been lighter than expected recently, as Covid has most likely affected people's desire to meet in person. Fr. Ken expects that signups in the fall will increase as we continue to move out of the Covid situation (hopefully).

8. Church Registration

In December there were 757 families registered in the parish. There were 10 new family registrations during January, which yielded a current tally of 761 families with withdrawals included.

9. Social Concerns Committee - Tithe of the Tithes

The Social Concerns Committee reported that they distributed \$6,369.65 recently. \$1,592 was allocated to each of the following four organizations:

- St. Thomas More Youth Center
- MOSAIC of Central Iowa
- Refugee Services of Catholic Charities
- IMPACT Energy Assistance Program

David reported that rice bowls for Lent will be distributed to all school students and all RE students.

St. Luke's will host the meal and overnight stay for Family Promise on March 27th.

10. Liturgy Committee

There are three new eucharistic ministers coming on-board.

Kyle Currin has updated the speakers in the church because there was a hardware failure with the previous speakers.

All dates for Lent are set. The Stations of the Cross ceremonies will use the books we currently have. There will be adoration on Fridays.

Father has 13 weddings scheduled starting in June. He will be very busy with weddings throughout the summer and fall.

11. Finance Committee

The budget for the school is now set, including a \$50,000 cushion. The parish budget is nearly balanced as well.

The school attendance goal for 2022 per Fr. Ken is 310 students, with budgeting plans for at least 300. 249 students are currently signed up.

Tithing is going well so far this year to-date, as it is tracking about 10% over what was previously budgeted. 75% of the tithing is now done by auto-withdrawal which amounts to about \$30,000 per month. The balance of tithing is by mass drops.

12. Tri-Council Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, with only the executive members of each committee attending. If all members of each committee attend, there would be 50 people in the meeting which is viewed as too many for the meeting to be productive. The meeting will include discussions on outreach, parish activities, etc. A meeting with all committee members will be planned annually.

13. Fr. Ken's Updates on the School, Building Project, and Budget

Donations for the next expansion phase are being accepted starting now, and Father has already received a single donation of \$5,000.

Besides the previously mentioned speakers, there is additional new audio equipment in the church, including mikes and mike stands. There is also a new sound system in the conference room.

The Green Gala will be next Saturday.

The new school budget includes adding an assistant principal position.

Parish Dynamics: Fr. Ken compiled some interesting statistics on the current parish membership-

- 2,760 registered members
- 1,075 members under age 18
- 563 members under age 10
- 40 members under age 1
- 218 members over age 60

- The average age of the membership is in the 20's. This is shockingly low, as the typical average age of a Catholic parish in Iowa is probably in the 50's.

14. Next Meeting of the Parish Council

March 10, 2022. Jennifer will be unable to attend that night so Meg will run that meeting.