**St. John’s Parish Council Meeting Minutes
St. John’s Parish Hall – November 17, 2022
7:30 PM**

**Council Members Present** – Dave Mack, John Conlon, Tripp Stroud, Alex Stanek, Charlie McCall, Lori Wade

**Other’s Present** – Fr. Garrett Kau, Meg Aspinwall, and Barb Ferguson

**Fr. Garrett** opened the meeting with a prayer.

Dave asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 21st meeting. Dave Mack made a motion to approve the minutes. Alex Stanek seconded. Motion carried.

**Religious Ed and Youth Ministry** – Meg

* Meg reported that Family Adoration was November 12th at St. John’s. Many showed up and it was a success. She is hoping to do it again in January.
* Family Faith Formation is going well.
* Retreat in December for 1st Reconciliation.

**Liturgy** – Lori

* Lori reported that Teresa has ordered the poinsettias for Christmas. Decorating will take place on December 18th. Tripp has some fun things planned for kids on this day as well. Perhaps making gingerbread houses.

**Education** – Alex

* Lock down drill took place this past with Officer Andy. All went well and the report then went to the state.
* ½ day of school for kids on Tuesday November 22nd. Teachers will be having inservice in the afternoon that day.
* Thanksgiving break is from Wednesday November 23rd through Friday, November 25th.
* Dec 2nd – St. John’s will have a float in the parade during Country Christmas.
* St. John’s School students will be performing their musical on Dec. 20th
* St. John’s School students will be participating at the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve with a short Christmas program 15 minutes before Mass
* 3K starting in January

**Finance** – John

* John Conlon reported on the finances of the parish and handed out a report.

**Parish Life and Stewardship** – Tripp Stroud

* Tripp reported that there will be activities planned for kids on December 18th when volunteers come to help decorate the church.
* After Mass hospitality Sundays are in the works. Dec. 11th will be the first one.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Charlie McCall

* Charlie reported that he has had negative feedback about money being spent on jobs that previously were done by volunteers. We just don’t have volunteers like we used to.

**Old Business –**

* **Budget Deficit Update** - Lengthy discussion about what we could do to decrease the deficit or to pay off the deficit. According to the latest projections from the Finance Council, the projected deficit for June 2023 is approximately $166,000. Discussed different options available. More fundraising was an avenue to look into. Efforts being made to reach out to parishioners in January. Dave shared that based upon the meeting members of the Parish Council and Finance Council had with Bishop Hying back in July 2022, the Diocesan members who are managing the bookkeeping for St John’s indicated a deficit that large could be covered by using all of St John’s reserved funds as well as ancillary accounts. This would get us through this year but leaving little to no reserves for the following fiscal year. Father Garett reiterated Bishop Hying’s words that no buildings would be closed in the first year of the new pastorates. This means St John’s school would remain open the rest of this academic year as well as through the 2023-2024 academic year. It was made clear in this meeting, however, that if the offertory doesn’t increase soon to cover this budget deficit, then none of the long-term solutions are appealing. We must all do what we can to provide for the material needs of the church otherwise we should expect some drastic measures to reduce expenses.
* **Into the Deep** – Review latest draft of Pastorate Map – The churches linked are **St. John’s** – Spring Green, **St. Luke’s** - Plain, **St. Patrick’s** - Loreto, **Holy Family** – La Valle, **St. Boniface** - Lime Ridge, and **Sacred Heart** – Reedsburg. Discussed what this might possibly look like for us. There was general agreement that this arrangement of our pastorate is very fortunate for us. This is a really sensible approach to meeting the bishop’s strategic goals for the Diocese.
* **Status of the Capital Campaign** – John presented an update from the Finance Council. The Chair for the Capital Campaign is preparing to give all the parishioners an update in January. The main issue is the cost of the remaining projects have increased significantly since the start of the Capital Campaign. They are working closely with the Buildings and Grounds commission to ensure the remaining projects are properly prioritized.
* **Knights of Columbus** – Charlie McCall reported that the pancake breakfast was a success and enough money was collected in the few-will offering to pay for a crucifix for the Parish Hall.

**New Business** – Fr. Garrett will be hosting an Open House at the rectory in Plain on Dec. 16th.

**Next Meeting – January 19th, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

**Adjournment** – 9:04 Lori Wade made a motion to adjourn. John Conlon seconded. Motion carried.