

St. Athanasius Pastoral Council Minutes September 8, 2022

Pastoral Members Present: Father Ben, Kelli Even, Netty Rohlfson, Joe Thoma, Shawn Federspeil, Ann Tempus and Ben Monat (via phone). Kate Even (Finance council) and Jennifer Sornson, St. A's school principal.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Opening prayer by Fr. Ben
3. Shawn Federspeil made a motion to approve August meeting minutes, Ann Tempus seconded. Motion carried.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. St. A's school report by Jennifer Sornson, Principal.
 - i. Enrollment is up 15 students this year (21 new families). 14 in preschool, which is up from 6 last year. 18 in Pre-K. 8 in kindergarten. 14 in first grade.
 - ii. 4 yr old Pre-K now receives state funding through a partnership with Jesup public school.
 - iii. St. A's received a grant from the state of Iowa for Covid. They have used around \$80 thousand of it so far and have another \$35k left to use. They mostly used it on upgrading technology, computers, tablets as well as air purifiers for the lunchroom area.
 - iv. Grandparents Day festivities were held on Friday, Sept 9th at St. A's school. A representative from the school or school board was requested to come to at least 2 parish council meetings per year to give updates on the school.
 - v. Stonework will be completed promptly by Walztoni Masonry as soon as the stones come in.
 - vi. May do a fundraiser to help pay for the school updates after the Archdiocesan One fundraiser is over.
 - b. Father Ben:
 - i. Father feels that the singers have been doing better at masses since they have been practicing more.
 - ii. Masses at Winding Creek have resumed.
 - iii. Adoration has been moved to the last Saturday and Sunday of each month. For September it will be the 24th and 25th. Father said it should take no more than 10 minutes and hopes for better attendance.
 - iv. Father will be resuming Theology on Tap again soon. This will take place at Denali's in Independence (formerly Okoboji Grill).
 - v. Father also talked about wanting to do a fundraiser for his 15th anniversary next year to raise funds to purchase computers for the school in Ghana that he helps through his charity. There are about 900 students that attend this school and only 3 computers for them to use. Father said that he would possibly choose 1 or 2 parishioners to go with him to open this new

“computer lab” sometime around his anniversary, which is July 12th. He would name it after St. Athanasius and St. Francis parishes. Kelli said that she would add this to the agenda for January 2023 to announce to the parish.

- c. Building and Grounds:
 - i. Will be discussing how to handle the needed repairs on the stained glass window project. It is likely going to cost upwards of \$110k to do this repair properly. This is something that must be done and discussion of how to pay for has started.
- d. Finance Council: Report from Kate Even.
 - i. Through an initiative from the State of Iowa, every school in Iowa has to have a vulnerability study done to determine the need for better security at the schools. St. A's study will be done in December. This study would award schools who qualify 50k to upgrade security.
 - ii. A proxy will need to be filled out for an additional 50k for windows and trim issues that have come up during the update on the school siding. This is in addition to what was originally budgeted.
 - iii. We will have a finance council member address the congregation sometime around Oct 8 & 9 about new projects that we have coming up and what projects are already completed/paid for.

Items for Discussion:

- a. The parishioner concerns regarding putting a yield sign by the alley exit on 6th St. has been brought up to Jesup City Council. They said they would check into it and see if they feel it is necessary to put something up or not.
- b. Through the Power For Good initiative with John Deere, JD employees can donate funds to St. A's school or church and have them matched by Deere's.
- c. Scrip card balances are getting high again. Kate Even will write guidelines for Scrip purchases to try and keep the balance down. This will help Donna Delagardelle be able to enforce when payment is due for these cards if there were guidelines from the parish council.
- d. Sign ups for the parish directory are going very well, per Netty.
- e. ***ALL CHURCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS** are expected to be present for group pictures for the directory on Wed, Sept 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the parish center. Please be on time.