

**Church of St Patrick
Parish Council
MINUTES: March 9, 2023**

Members Present: Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Mike Weibel, Roseanne Strand, Zach Neuman, Lisa Romain, Liesel Gutierrez, Bill Schnorbrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hansen

Members Absent: Allison Schmidt

7:00 pm Call to Order, with prayer: Liz Gerlach

February 9 Meeting's Minutes Approved

Updates from Bill

- He has an interview this week with a potential Faith Formation leader.
- A senior from St. Thomas has also reached out to him.

Women's Group- Roseanne

- The by-laws were updated.
- Carrie Miller is now the staff liaison.
- On May 21, the Annual Women's Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held.
- Members are volunteering at many church events.
- VEAP is in great need. The Women's Group is considering extending our collections throughout the year, emphasizing different areas of need each month.
- The Pregnancy Resource Center could be another good cause with which St Patrick's could get involved.

Men's Group- John Ratelle via Liz

- John shared an article with Liz about listening to youth.
 - The past generation had leaned more towards loosening restrictions. The new generation is going back the other way.
 - The article emphasized that you need conviction in your Christian/Catholic beliefs, as today's society is much harder on Christians.
 - The youth are finding meaning and comfort in traditions and structure.

Strategic Planning Process/Timeline Update- Terry and Liz

- One of our goals is to have the structure laid out so that upon Fr Kuss' return from the Sabbatical, he can take a good look at it and add his input.
- Terry presented several current steps to be taken on a Timeline Update form. Different approaches were laid out in gathering feedback from parishioners, staff and those in leadership positions.
- Liz suggested that another task to be added would be to call individual parishioners. We had success with that during COVID. Roseanne also has in calling new parishioners.
- We would also like to conduct external interviews with area Parishes, other churches, and charitable organizations by mid to late May. We could do this with their council members.

- We would welcome feedback from the Parish Staff, the Finance Committee, and parishioners.
- Council Member Assignments
 - Internal Listening Team
 - Zach, Allison, Lisa
 - Weekly Tabulation of Results
 - Jim Swanke, Jim Wagner
 - External Interviews
 - Mike and Liesel (Parishes), Roseanne (area churches), Grace (charitable organizations)
- Parish Feedback Survey
 - Terry presented a draft with several questions to send out to parishioners.
 - We fine-tuned the wording and structure of the questions.
 - We hope to send out the questionnaire by April or May. There will also be an online version. One-on-one phone calls could come into play here as well.

8:00 pm Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain