

**St Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church**  
**Parish Council – Tuesday, October 3, 2023**

The meeting was called to order, 7:00 pm, by Council Chair, Rusty Ray.

**Members Present:** Mollie Tobias, Don Hohn, Cheri Brausen, Rusty Ray, George Burr, Fr. Mike Anderson, LeAnn Zogg

**Guests:** Andrew Larkin (Faith Formation), Elaine Coature (Social Justice)

**Excused:** Joshua Bohl, Keith Sjostrom, Clarissa Howe

**1) Opening Prayer**

**2) The September minutes** were reviewed and approved.

**3) Father Mike Anderson Updates:**

- a. The Universal Church – Rome will be emphasizing Synodal conversation involving laity. The church, as directed by Vatican II, recognizes the need for consultation with lay members of the Catholic Church and to hear their voices of concern, discussion, and dialogue. Starts October 4, 2023.

**4) Old Business:**

a. Festival Committee Nominations:

- i. The council is asked to consider individuals that might serve as festival chair(s) or other leadership positions for the upcoming Festival 2024 and submit names. Father Mike will contact individuals. There is a strong festival committee of dedicated volunteers to support future chairs.
- ii. Goal: Positive, profitable festival.
- iii. Discussion regarding numerous aspects of the festival was shared with multiple ideas, approaches, concerns. It is an opportunity to review current offerings and create new venues.

b. Report from Apostles:

- i. Fr Mike shared that the Diocesan synod timeline for parishes has been pushed back to fall 2024. This will allow training more group leaders and small group development. More information and suggestions from the Diocese will be coming in the near future.

**5) New Business:**

- a. Review guidelines/ policies from Communication, Faith Formation and Liturgy Commissions: Council members reviewed draft copies of policy guidelines for use of space and materials from Commissions. Feedback was given for each of the drafts. Commissions will take the feedback back to their individual groups and update drafts which will be brought to the next Council meeting for review and submitted to Fr Mike for approval. When completed, policies guidelines and forms will be available to the Parish, utilizing the web site and electronic submission.

**6) Commission Updates:**

- a. Liturgy: Looking into Christmas Tree vendor and purchase for the holiday season.
- b. Faith Formation:

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- i. Numbers are up this year compared to the previous year.
- ii. Younger grades participant numbers are up.
- iii. New Staff - Director of Faith Formation, Sarah Ray. She is a great support person, a strong leader with a positive, creative influence on the program.
- iv. October 28, 2023 – Halloween event planned.

c. **Social Justice:**

- i. Busy calendar with scheduled events to support community:
  - 1. Halloween Hoopla with activities to teach the children about hunger and poverty. Food Drive. Fair Trade Breakfast. Oct. 28/29.
  - 2. Mission and cultural trip with Believe Guatemala/ Belize is planned for Feb/March 2024. Family friendly mission trip in July to Guatemala.
  - 3. Loaves and Fishes needs additional help: cook turkeys once a month, extra hands for first part of preparations at St. Matthews.
  - 4. Stepping Stones – discussed ways to continue to help and support as the number of people served continues to grow.
  - 5. Donations to Alexandra House. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

d. **Communications:**

- i. Parish Pictorial Directory: Additional signups are available in October.
- ii. Policy draft and guidelines discussion
- iii. Recording Announcements: Always need people to help with video of weekend announcements.

e. **Building:**

- i. Group is informally soliciting information from the Parish at large looking at future growth of the parish.
  - 1. What we need.
  - 2. What programs and offerings we want.

**7) Next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7:00 pm.**