

St. Wenceslaus Church, Wahoo, NE

Parish Council Minutes – October 18, 2025

Attendance – Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Allder, Dianne Turman, Chris Lautenschlager, Tobin Spangler, Mike Weiss, Sally Gerdes, Michael Vech, and Bob Sullivan

Opening Prayer – Fr. Eickhoff

Minutes approved

Pastor Update - Fr.Eickhoff

FALL FESTIVAL REPORT - There were 1,032 meals served. The raffle had about a \$3000 increase. The silent auction did not have a final report yet as some items were still being picked up. Suggestions were made to have the minimum bid be the value of the item and to consider corporate sponsors.

FOCUS TRAINING – Thomas Haberman is teaching 7-8 grade CCD. Father is looking into FOCUS training for Thomas.

LECTOR, READER, ACOLYTE, USHER MEETING – The first new acolyte training for the deanery will be January 10. Installation will be late January or early February. Lector training was last year. Reader and usher training will be done this year also.

STRATEGIC DISCERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEES-

RESCUE PROJECT – Bob Sullivan encouraged all members to read the book, "WHY THEY FOLLOW". He presented a “map” to follow when planning and setting up teams. Our immediate mission is to recruit 10-12 couples to host The Rescue Project after the 1st of the year. The project would conclude prior to Holy Week.

PARISH MISSION- Our Lenten Retreat will be March 7-12, 2026. Fr. Zachary will preach at weekend masses on March 7 and 8.

Committee Reports

Stewardship and Evangelization – Sally – The committee is suggesting an Advent book to coincide with the Rescue Project. It would have readings and reflections. The cost is about \$2.50 per book. About 200 copies are needed. Donors are welcome.

A parishioner had suggested a Children's Mass Book. This is being looked into with the possibility of buying 10-15 copies.

The Stewardship committee is hosting a welcome dinner on Oct.19. Twenty-Six invitations were extended. Seventeen have confirmed attendance.

The committee had a candle fundraiser at the Fall Festival. They are planning to have a card distributed in the pews to identify parishioner skills for Mission Connect. Per a suggestion, Fr. Alder will add prayer request names to Flocknote.

Men's Ministry- (Bob) Men's Morning is Saturday, Oct 18 from 9 AM to noon at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Abbie. Fr. Caleb Hile is the speaker. That Man is You is every Friday morning from 5:30 AM to 6:30AM in the church basement.

Building and Grounds Maintenance and Safety – (Chris) Renovation of the nave flooring, pews, and sacristy is set to begin in 2027. Father is planning to meet with Kevin Clark to discuss this further. Father is meeting with Chris Ostwinkle to get a new sacristy door. There was discussion about the dimness of the streetlight on the north corner of the playground. They will check to see what can be done.

St Wenceslaus School Report – Mike Weiss reported that they are planning a renovation of the gym. The cost is about \$47,000. They have donations of \$30,000. The school sustained damage to the overhang on the north side of the school. This is the second time in three years it has been damaged. They are looking into options to make it safer. Possible ideas include a steel post, a brick column, or a statue. A prayer garden is under construction on the north side. The pavers are installed. The cost is under \$5000. In the spring there will be plants added as well as a Fatima statue and bench.

Bishop Neumann High School - (Tobin) They are preparing to launch a Five-Year Improvement Plan.

Finance - (Mike Vech) The parish has received about \$50,000 in donations to ease the deficit. A suggestion was made to use Flocknote for fundraising,

New Business

Our parish will host a community Christmas Cantata on December 14. It will include readings and music. A children's choir and a parish choir from St Wenceslaus will perform as well as a community choir.

Father is taking an annual census over 2 weekends. There were 833 people at mass the first weekend he counted.

There will be some Estate Planning meetings to explore if this is a possibility to supply financial assistance to families with 3 or more children who attend our schools.

Parish Council elections are at the end of January. Nominations for new members should be submitted at our November meeting.

Next meeting is November 15, 2025.

Father Eickhoff led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Turman