

ACC Minutes – October 8, 2024
7:00–8:30 pm at Sacred Heart
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community

A. Welcome & [Prayer](#) (7:00-7:10)

1. Intro of attendees
 - Attended: Dana Howard (ALL), Jackie Popp (ANN), Bonnie Dick (Notetaker SH), Althea Heim (SFX), Lisa Kroll (SS), Kurt Stelton (SFX), Jason Prigge (ALL), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Diane Blonigen (SS), Jeanne Barnaby (SH), Don Burggraff (SFX), Gerry Kittok (SH)
 - Not Present: Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Shelly Pursley (SH)
 - Visitors: Alex Kramer (Young Adult - SS), Aaron Soderholm (Young Adult - SS)

B. [08.13.2024 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

- Kurt Stelton made a motion for approval
- Jackie Popp 1st approval
- Althea Heim 2nd it.

C. Updates of Committee Work (7:15-7:45)

1. Discipleship (Jackie Popp)
 - Fairly good attendance
 - Discussed goals and keeping an eye on what other committees are doing.
 - At some point we would like to gather all of the other committees together and do a “get to know each other” session. Discuss with them what their goals are and share ideas.
 - Lots of events going on and how can they buddy up with the Faith Formation group to help with events and attend.
 - Hospitality is our message.
 - Kurt suggested that maybe we plan a yearly event to get all committees together to talk and socialize. He will bring the idea forward to Shelly Pursley to talk about planning the event and if other committees are interested and how to plan everyone’s schedule.
 - Jackie said they used a template for goals from the past and resurrected it and used it to help them plan. Template example was 1. What do we want to see happen? 2. How will we know when we’ve reached the goal? 3. Is this a goal that we can reach and if so how do we know? 4. Does this goal truly impact the needs of our One in Christ Community? 5. When do we expect we should reach each step towards the goal?
2. Young Adult (Jason Prigge)
 - Alex Kramer commented that they are getting back into gear now that Fall is here.

- Sept. 1st event “Theology on Draft” event was a success. Over 70 people attended at the Beaver Island Brewing Company.
- Bible study attendance was o.k.
- Diving into Pope Francis mission on helping young adults growing with the church. How do we serve young adults?
- They rotate churches for meetings.
- Meeting coming Thursday with Father Tom on the topic of Doom Scrolling and Christian life. Questions about “Is the end near?” This event is being held in the Ultimate bar Basement.
- Friday, October 18th Oktoberfest for young Adults.
- Praise Night was moved to Thursdays and it was a big hit. Nice increase in numbers. Targeted families attended.
- Positive comments on adoration service.
- Next meeting is October 24th at St. Francis
- Trunk or Treats is on October 31st
- One in Christ Confirmation Trivia night on October 13th.
- Struggle to get families to bring kids to Theology on Draft and Praise night.
- Faith Formation confirmation Activities for Oktoberfest such as face painting, social gathering activities, ect...
- Event for Adults and Young Adults is Saturday October 26th. Catholic Music coming to town. P.J. Anderson from Nashville who does a lot with Sara Hart. Morning session will be for Adults and then afternoon session will be at 2:00 for all adults and young adults with children. Then a free concert at 7:00 at Bad Habit Brewing.
- YoungLife update with the Bishop. The Bishop wants to ignite and get started bringing young people to Jesus. They want to plug into the community by reaching out to clubs, schools, and camps to share about the faith.
 - This is an external evangelical goal and is a relationship based program to establish trust and friendship.
 - Bishop meeting about the “WyldLife” program for middle school aged children.
 - Working on publishing Young Life goals and post in each church entryway so everyone at each church sees the same language.
 - Some of the goals are to reach at least 20 kids in other churches.
 - Suggestion to have all 4 Parishes kick in money to pay for a Young Life Area Director. This project would be 2-3 years away. Maybe a fundraiser??
 - Bishop Patrick went to a young adult camp and loved how they preached and wanted to implement that in our Diocese.
 - Bishop Patrick’s mindset was that we need to keep administering ministry to young adults to keep their faith in place.
 - Young Life is a High School program and WildLife is a middle school program.
- Lisa Koll stated that we need to make young adults with children welcome at church. She was at another church out of town and they had cards in the books that said, “Thank you for bringing your child to church. They also gave out small prizes to the children to give them a positive experience.

3. Worship (Diane Blonigen)

- They have not had a meeting yet.

4. Faith Formation (Kurt Stelten)

- Met in September
- Meeting on Fridays at Sacred Heart to watch the movie "The Chosen" from 6-8pm
- November 4th-24th: New materials for the Men's Group on Henry Nouwen
- Focusing on goals for Young Life
- The Faith Formation at Blackberry ridge was a great time. 50 people attended. Trivia night was a success. Many enjoyed it. Micha Johnson was the Guest speaker for the night.
- Speaker Micha Johnson was on fire and gave a great message about her life story as an atheist and turning Christian. She talked about her great transformation to the christian life . She converted her parents and her children. She is now doing pastoral care in the Diocese.
- Micha Johnson's goal is to energize people to speak up about the Lord and share your experience with god.
- Next adult event will be in late February or early March. Kurt and Scott will start planning.
- Jason suggested that they not use a QR code to register and just keep it open to attend.

5. Communications (Dana Howard)

- Working on the next newsletter and Bulletin redesign.

D. Pastoral Council Updates (7:45-8:00): Father Tom & Father Ron were attending a Clergy Conference in Alexandria.

1. Annunciation (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- Annunciation Council met on August 20. We continue to reflect on Bishop Neary's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist as well.
- We welcomed two new members, Katie Lentner and John Koenig. Of note, these were among 38 individuals nominated by their fellow parishioners, with eight in attendance at the Discernment evening. This is a strong witness to the engagement of the members in the life of their community.
- We also discussed the upcoming parish picnic with the return of the parade (see the article in the recent Sauk Rapids Herald), and the annual cleaning of the church and grounds. We discussed the ACC goals and members were asked to select one or two priorities they see as important at Annunciation to align with these goals. We plan to conduct the same kind of calling outreach to parishioners as discussed by Sacred Heart.

2. Sacred Heart (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- Sacred Heart Council met on July 16. We continue reflection on Bishop Neary's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist. We welcomed two members, Gerry Feld and Philip Shefveland. We discussed the beautiful farewell for Sarah Woeste after 20 years of service at Sacred Heart and talked about progress in finding a successor to assist Jill Kiffmeyer in the liturgy area. [post-meeting note: we have hired Laurie Kremer part-time to direct our adult and bell choirs.]
- We renewed the assignment to identify one or two parish goals to align with the ACC goals. One project identified is to make calls this fall/winter to each household to maintain contact from the parish, ask for prayer intentions, and ask if they have any pastoral needs with which we can assist them.

- We heard an update on the Young Life pilot progress and discussed the upcoming Vianney dramatic presentation from Leonardo Defillipis on September

3. St. Francis Xavier (Fr Ron Weyrens)

4. St. Stephen (Fr Ron Weyrens)

- Lisa Koll gave an update
- Looking for 4th and 8th grade Religion Teachers
- Need someone with a boiler license to help with the furnace.
- St. Nick will be arriving after mass on December 1st
- The October 5th military convoy was wonderful. There were 2 buses that brought Vets. Vets commented that it was one of the best welcoming stops they have had yet with a Firetruck escort into town and great food and beverages.

E. Misc. (8:00-8:30)

1. Faith on Tap Event held at Blackberry Ridge on Oct 5th (Kurt Stelten) - Comments noted up above within Faith Formation.
2. Next Meeting Tuesday, December 10th, at St Francis Xavier

H. Closing [Prayer](#) (8:30)

Opening Prayer

O God of Life,
we seek your guidance
as we face the reality
of transition and change.

Transition is a challenge and can be exciting
as we try to move with foresight into the future.

Change is a challenge to let go.

It takes courage and confidence to move toward a new goal.

Loving God,
give us open minds, kind hearts and clear vision
as together we look to a future in which we can still serve You.
Help us to plan with a “big picture” mentality
to seek diligently and generously
what is in the best interest of all.

May Jesus, our Shepherd and Guide,
lead us in ways that are right and good.

May Mary, Mother of our Church,
encourage our efforts
to listen and learn.

In the words of the prophet Micah,
may we “act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with our God.”

Amen.

Closing Prayer

O Spirit of God,
we ask you to help orient all our actions
by your inspirations,
carry them on by your gracious assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may always begin from you
and through you be happily ended.

Amen.