**Minutes**:St. Mary Parish Council, Sept. 28, 2026; 6:30pm, Parish Center; **subject to approval next mtg)**

1) Opening Prayer was said
2) Roll Call: Present: Beth Sadewasser, Jim Schlueter, Jessie Young, Lisa Kies Absent: Larry Wille, Lois Bries, Erin Schmelzer; Guests: Katey Simon, Becky Shaffer and Quilting Ladies Group (Phoebe Johnson, Elaine Bries, Louise Loeffelholz, Brenda Burr, Jeanie Eilers, Bonnie Clinton, Joyce Voss, Rosalie Kickbush)
3) Agenda was approved.
4) Minutes of previous meeting: motion by Jessie/2nd by Jim; all were in favor; motion carried
5) Communications/Guests
   a) Katey Simon – voiced her concern that the council was moving too fast on the Kids Kampus issue. Beth/Jessie explained that Kids Kampus needs to figure out if the Parish Center would be a good fit for them as additional costs would be needed to turn it into a day care facility; If Kids Kampus comes back and says yes they think it would be a good fit; the next step would be to put information together on what an arrangement might look like for the parish and then poll the parishioners.
   b) Quilting Ladies expressed their concern with the old school building—has steps; there is a smell; concern on parking issues that may arise when there is a funeral or other church group gatherings during the day.
   c) Letter from Sue Bahls indicating 1) financial concern over possibly selling the building for $1; 2)parish center is used by many groups and faith formation provides easy access; bright and welcoming space; 3)should ask the parishioners.
6) Executive report
7) Liturgy report—Becky Shaffer indicated there is an upcoming Pastorate Liturgy Mtg on Oct 6 at 9:30am at Elkader.
8) Stewardship report – Raffle drawing will be at noon on the 18th; silent auction bidding ends at noon on the 18th; Raffle ticket money can be put in the collection basket through Oct 11th—after that they will need to be purchased in person from the parish office or on the 18th before noon.
9) Parish Life report –no report
10) Social Concerns report – Because we can no longer do a 2nd collection, Gerald Bormann is concerned about support of the Food Pantry. Christmas Giving Tree will be set up after Thanksgiving.
11) Faith Formation report – 38 families registered; set to start classes on Oct 7. YM has 4 students; on 30th will have an informal gathering with St. John's youth.
12) Finance Committee
   a) Discussed making the church basement more accessible: contractors have indicated existing doorways will not accommodate an incline platform lift because there is not enough head space; installing an enclosed platform lift in the north entrance would entail demolishing all the steps in that location; and building a shaft; Cost for the lift itself would be $45,000; removing the steps and building the shaft would be extra and done by a different contractor. Also thinking about purchasing an aluminum roll-a-ramp that could be placed in the south entrance – that would be portable and easier to setup than current steel ramp – cost would be approx. $1700.
   b) Rectory heating/cooling: one of the steam radiators is cracked; asked Moser Mechanical for quote to replace; council would like Moser Mechanical to also quote installing mini split.
   c) Soccer field money – council would like the balance put into a short term CD to earn some interest until further plans are developed. Finance group to look into.
13) Old Business--Kids Kampus and Fall Fundraiser discussed above.
14) New Business—
   a) Items in Old School – Council decided Jessie can put on the auction any items she feels would be of interest.
15) Closing prayer was said
16) Next meeting October 26, 2026 @ 6:30pm in the parish center
17) Motion to adjourn made by Jessie/2nd Jim; all in favor; motion carried; adjourned 7:50pm