



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; † = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

February 16, 2026

**Present:** Glenn Nofziger II, Michael Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Jeremy Patterson and Conrad Neuenschwander.

**Opening:** Trent led a devotional based on Matthew 4:15 - 16 talking about light and Jesus using that imagery not just in terms of light coming to the Gentiles but also to bring hope to all in anguish. Trent also spoke about the tragedy of the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and how the malfunction of an important lighthouse kept the ship in the dark as they navigated through the storm that ultimately sank them.

## **Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II**

- January 16 we met as Worship Ministry to finalize plans, theme and materials for Lent. We hosted Dr. John Byron from Ashland Theological Seminary for the Adult Enrichment Weekend. Thank you Adult Ministry for your work in organization and planning. I was really impressed with John's knowledge and presentations. Glad his wife Lori could come too. At John's invitation we should plan a field trip to Ashland to see the collection and display of ancient scripture documents they have in display in their museum!
- There is a good number of people going through the Bible Recap with Tara-Leigh Cobble! Thank you to everyone committed to learning more about God and his story through His written Word and the recaps Tara shares. There are a number of groups meeting for weekly discussions. I lead one Wednesday evenings.
- Church was canceled January 25 due to the major snow that weekend. So Wednesday, the 28th I invited everyone to come Wednesday night and I shared about Jesus and Nicodemus as well as Joseph from our Bible Recap reading in Genesis.
- I left on the 29th to help take my Mom to Florida. I had one nice day at the beach and got a sunburn. Returned Sunday evening. Thank you Jeremy for preaching Feb 1st!
- Communion got pushed back to February 8th and we had young adults help serve.
- Bible quiz is going well, Erin runs most practices, I enjoy helping at the meets, we host Saturday practices at our home and usually share the noon meal. We all really enjoy the time together. We are about tied with another team for first place and Mattea, Isaac and Luke are all in the top ten individually. It is great camaraderie and sportsmanship.
- Looking forward to having Paula Snyder Balousek, our Ohio Mennonite Conference Minister, come and share a message this Sunday, February 15.
- February 18 is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. I will have ashes at the church throughout that day for anyone that would like marked for repentance and belief. Please look up the significance of this practice! Winter Wednesday gathering this evening to watch part one of The Forge.
- February 22, we will have two MCC workers share about their work in Chad and Bangladesh. They will share during SS and Ken N. and I decided to give them the sermon block as well.
- And please be in prayer for me this next month as I am writing my proposal for my sabbatical leave planned for the summer of 2027. I am applying for the Lilly grant for Clergy Renewal needing to answer the writing prompt of "What makes your heart sing?"
- † Glenn highlighted that Virgene donated a pitcher and basin for footwashing from her family.
- † There is a discussion about Evan Zuercher's painting about whether we'd rent or buy it as a worship tool for Lent.
- † Glenn mentioned Rich Horst needed medical attention over the weekend
- † Glenn updated his attempts to apply for a Lilly grant for his Sabbatical. The process may not get done in time, so there is a possibility that it gets pushed back.

**Pastoral Team–Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- Pastoral Team met Feb. 2. Glenn shared a devotional related to themes in the movie Groundhog Day of transformation and sanctification. Small, consistent actions matter.
- We spent some time on the question of affiliation. It feels like after several years of discussion and listening meetings, we are coming to a point where we could make some decisions.
- Glenn shared about the upcoming preaching schedule, and we spent time planning for the upcoming communion and Winter Wednesday discussion.
- We continue to look at the possibility of adding a second pastor and will be bringing a proposal to CLT.
- Glenn is proposing a sabbatical in Summer of 2027 and will be applying for a grant.
- ✦ Jeremy highlighted the upcoming sabbatical for Glenn and the need for pastors to refresh and renew. PT encourages this and asks that we as a congregation pray for Glenn’s exploration of this process.

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**Adult Ministry–Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders**

- Winter Wednesday #3 will be February 18 and BBQ Sandwiches will be served enough for 80. At 6:45 we’ll meet in the Sanctuary for a short course on how to use an AED device and plan to stay for the first half of the movie, “The Forge”.
- Winter Wednesday #4 will be March 4 and Taco Bake will be the supper. We will complete the movie “The Forge”
- Winter Wednesday #5 will be on March 18 with Pizza as the meal courtesy of Venture Clubs. The Pinewood derby will follow. The first Winter Wednesday we served 55 people for supper and for the second we served 64.
- ✦ Pinewood Derby weigh in will be held on March 11.

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**Children’s & Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Michael Amstutz Ministry Leader**

- **Youth/Young Adults:** MYF has finalized dates for summer trip to Goshen area.
- **Children:** The VBS committee will be Hannah Amstutz, Barb Ressler, and Kathy Troyer.
- ✦ Barb shared that the VBS committee met Monday February 13. Salem MC has asked whether we want to combine. Do we join even though we built some momentum last year? The committee will continue to explore this.

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**Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader**

- No report.
- ✦ Ed updated everyone about the church's boiler issues. Ed has suggested that the original boilers to the building need replaced so that the “new” boiler can be the backup.
- ✦ Ed also shared about gutter issues with the carport. Facilities will likely need to use snow cleats and go back to heat tape to help alleviate ice buildup.
- ✦ Ed also mentioned that a cabinet project is in the works for the East room.

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**Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader**

- Gifts met February 4th opened with devotions Psalms 19:7-14 The Sweetness of Scripture We reviewed survey forms discussed and made some changes. We decided to put surveys in mailboxes Sunday February 15th with Sunday March 1st as the final day to complete. The next meeting is March 11th.
- ✦ Gifts is looking at the possibility of a cemetery committee to help around burial days so responsibilities can be shared with more than just the Sexton and his assistant. One question is whether that is an independent committee or facilities responsibility to find appointments with no term limit. That conversation will continue.



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



CLT Reports

Monday February 16, 2026

Page 3

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## Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No report.
- + No report.

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## Worship Ministry—Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- No report. Meeting February 18
- + No report

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## Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We have completed the fifth month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 41.37% of the budget. Budget giving is at 36.5% of budget and 37.7% including designated income. Expenses are at 38.8% of budget. Weekly budget giving needs to average \$4,990.
- CCS Tuition: We continue to maintain a balance cushion in the upper \$20k in the account. Tuition for the 2025/2026 school year is \$34,806 or \$2,900 per month plus an additional \$6 for the first payment. We added an additional monthly gift of \$1,433.00 for a total of \$4,333. The total tuition and additional giving for the 2025-2026 school year is \$52,000. The January 31<sup>st</sup> balance in the account is \$29,305.29.
- + CLT discussed church matching grants for colleges and that traditionally Sonnenberg has maintained only 3 Mennonite colleges are eligible partners. We discussed the potential of a new pass through fund with different school parameters and how that would be set up. How do you define a church school, should it be an Anabaptist school?

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## Action Items:

- + **PT -Affiliation** - We discussed what Ohio Conference does well and provides to us as a congregation, including worship resources, Sunday School materials, and leadership development and credentialing. Evana was highlighted for training leaders in practical terms but also through the Spirit. Local resources were also discussed along with whether a dual affiliation setup could work well for Sonnenberg. PT has discussed different frameworks for viewing the conversation of affiliation - does our affiliation provide authority, identity, a boundary, or equip us with resources? We are looking for avenues that are life-giving and supportive of our ministries here at Sonnenberg.
- + **PT - Staffing** - Jeremy shared a document from PT about a family life pastor position. We are looking for leadership with vision and enthusiasm to care for the younger members of the congregation. We discussed whether the next step would be for CLT to pray over this. We discussed people's individual feedback. Glenn shared another helpful title; faith formation pastor. The document brought to CLT is an overview rather than a comprehensive job description. We discussed the budget constraints as well as how many potential candidates there would likely be.

(Action Items con't...)

- ✦ Church Secretary - Chip discussed needing to move to full time daylight hours at Choice books and will resign as church secretary. An official blurb will come out in the March 1 bulletin announcing the seeking of candidates.

**Next Meetings:** March 16 & April 20, 2026

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer.