



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

June 23, 2025

**Present:** Glenn Nofziger II, Michael Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Jeremy Patterson, Hannah Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Conrad Neuenschwander, Lisa Zuercher, Ed Taylor and Steve Zuercher

**Opening:** Jeremy Paterson led an opening on Ephesians 2:10. We read through the verse in various editions and meditated on those words. Jeremy closed in prayer.

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

- This past month had some great big things to celebrate: Sunday, May 25 was a Senior Showcase for Silas Coleman. T-shirt quilt, interview and blessing thanks to Marilyn S, Jeremy P. and Nate H.
- Sunday's June 2 and 8: Baptized and received into membership 6 youth/young adults: Lukas Zuercher, Luke Nofziger, Nathan Petite, Cora Patterson, Kerrilyn and Brayden Neuenschwander. They each received a cross with their name and baptized date engraved on them along with their Certificate of Baptism. Borrowed the baptistry pool from Kidron Mennonite.
- June 2 introduced the Summer Sermon Series on the book *The Good and Beautiful You* by James Bryan Smith.
- June 8 Pentecost and Communion
- I spent almost two weeks at Little Eden. One week of vacation. Then worked and helped lead worship for the youth camps the second week.
- June 15th Father's Day Henry B. shared the message and presented Chapter 2: You have a sacred Body.
- June 22nd had just our second worship outdoors, switched the order of worship and SS to help with the heat.
- I am preparing to lead the Wild Bible Adventures for VBS June 26-29
- ✚ Shared that after 6 baptisms we are up to 200 official members
- ✚ highlighted brochures about an informational trip in January to Semilla in Guatemala with Terry & Charlie Geiser.
- ✚ Glenn had visited both Marjean who was still sore and Bernice at Westview who was doing well.

## **Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- PT met in the pavilion on June 2, accompanied by some nuthatches and a pileated woodpecker! As a devotional, we shared reflections on the baptism service. What a wonderful day!
- We spent time planning for the second baptism/Communion service. Glenn updated us on the upcoming preaching schedule as well as some pastoral care needs.
- With the summer sermon series underway, we would like to offer a discussion time on Wednesday evenings for anyone who would like to read along.
- We are looking at next steps for the vision/mission process in the coming year.
- ✚ There will be an ad hoc hospitality group to look at fresh ideas on how to welcome guests and connect with people on Sunday mornings.

## **Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders**

- For the summer, Adult Ministry is not hosting breakfasts this year but will instead organize a snack to coordinate with the coffee/fellowship time. A sign up sheet will be posted at the Welcome Center for dates

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that are still available.

- A July 6 carry in lunch is scheduled in honor of Erik's last Sunday with us before he returns to Brazil.
- Other agenda items included discussion for a summer activity to replace the bike ride, how to bolster the number of helpers on our kitchen committee, an August carry in lunch and ideas for our annual fall fest in September.
- A post meeting notice includes information from SMW (Sonnenberg Mennonite Women). The food trailer has been the main SMW fundraiser to help fund sewing materials and mission donations as well as other benevolent projects. In 2008 the current food trailer was built by donations and volunteers from Sonnenberg. The main fundraising venue was the Kidron Machinery sales (3 times a year). As these sales dwindled and are now non-existent, the food trailer was used for only one fundraising event a year. The funds raised from this event barely covered the cost of insurance on the trailer. The Executive Committee of SMW decided it will consider putting the food trailer up for sale at the end of the summer.
- + Adult Ministry is looking at a date for an event and will talk to Y&YA so they don't overlap.
- + There will be an August carry-in, date to be determined.

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#### **Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate**

- No Report
- + VBS started Thursday, June 26. 20 total kids are registered so far with half being from Sonnenberg and the rest from the community.

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#### **Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader**

- We met briefly with Ron Taylor and continue to work through countertop options and other solutions for sound/ vision team booth renovation.
- After some discussion we awarded the painting and drywall repairs of the sanctuary to Julio Mendez for \$5,237.
- Roy Steiner partnered with Dave and Juanita Ross to clean the pavilion roof and add stone in place of flowers and mulch in some carefully considered areas.  
We have noted the time and effort Dave and Juanita have spent on the landscaping.
- + The Columbarium ad hoc group met this Wednesday, June 25

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

- Met on June 17th opened with a devotional. Discussed contacts made and results.
- Discussed openings to be filled. Prayers for Discernment
- + Gifts decided to forego an annual survey and work off of previous year's feedback. They plan to do surveys again in the future.

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#### **Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader**

- Present – Kathy, Ron, Vince, Levi and Ken
- Moment for Mission – June 1: Freedom House – c/o Ron Geiser; Steve Steiner. June 15: Conclusion of the Pregnancy Center baby supplies drive – c/o Donna J, July 6: Relief Sale – c/o Chip Coleman.
- Sammy Squad: At Gordon A. suggestion we are discussing ways it might be reinvigorated and find someone who would help Gordon. It was also suggested that it might be renamed.
- Pregnancy Center – Concluding baby supplies drive on Father's Day, June 15 th . Hopefully the bassinet will be full.
- MCC Kit Work Night: May 14 - Very good evening! There were 62 people, a few worked both shifts, the 1st shift packed new kits and the 2 nd shift check and repacked kits. We boxed a total of 1,702 kits on pallets



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ready to ship. In addition, several people worked on taping pencils, packaged band aids and hygiene pads. Thank you!

- Oyanguren/Sayatan: The \$13,000 was sent, waiting for a report on the progress on the land and roof projects. In discussions with Linda, we had suggested that since we had had the land and roof projects for Sayatan the money from MSF would probably go for something for the family. It turns out Juan's college, primarily his room and board are costing more than they had anticipated and they wondered if that might be the project for these funds. We approved. This may come up again until he is through school.
- Maple Syrup Missions Festival: Total income \$23,709.69 (new record) Total expenses paid \$2,794.23, Net income to date \$20,915.46 with quite a bit of sausage to sell
- Freedom House: Mulching project recap. We are also working having Lukas Gaffey ED and others come for a Sunday morning and/or the men's breakfast
- Special Camp Luz Event for Latino Families: First one of these events happened in May and was well attended and much appreciated.
- Mississippi Catfish Fry: Will be September 13th. We started our planning for the MCF.
- O&S 2025-2026 Appointments: We worked on our list of appointments for next year.
- Distribution of funds: We approved the following, \$750 to Hope's House - \$1,000 ea. to Bangladesh Water, Semilla, MDS, MCC kits, Love INC, CAMO, and Bridge of Hope - \$1,500 to Jubilee Orphanage - \$2,000 ea. to Lighthouse and Austin & Giselda Zuercher - \$2,500 ea. to Camp Luz, MMN/Oyanguren projects and Open Arms. Total \$20,750.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 5/31/2025 - \$11,161.29, Restricted - \$8,242.12: Unrestricted Bal. - \$2,919.17. Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, Camp Luz special event - \$2,000, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, My Coins Count - \$1,043.50, Pregnancy Center - \$500. Distributed \$34,900 to missions this month.
- + Help will be needed for the Fish fry on September 13. The Lighthouse Open House is that day as well.
- + Ken emphasized that Open Arms needs help for grocery shopping, transport etc. Contact Open Arms to be placed on a calling list.

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## **Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader**

- Reviewed the preaching schedule and the guest preachers for the summer, including Henry, Eldon King, and Nate Holton.
- Services planned for outdoors in June and July, except for June 29, when Erik's choir will sing. Salem choir members were invited to join that Sunday.
- Baptism planned for June 8. What to do if it rains? Baptism outside at the end of the service even if the service moves indoors? When to have communion?
- Summer sermon series will run through 8/31. Using the book "Good and Beautiful You" by James Bryan Smith. Should we invite the congregation to read this together and meet on Wednesdays to discuss in discipleship groups? Will check with Adult ministry on this. Talked about inviting people to share experiences with soul training exercises during the worship services.
- Reassigning responsibilities: Phil will lead meetings and help create an agenda at least through August. Erin will coordinate song leaders. Will reevaluate when a new member joins in the fall.
- + Phil talked about being thankful for people's flexibility regarding services.

### **Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader**

- A 4th mentoring activity will take place in July
- We're working on adding sponsors, asking for a 2 year commitment. Individuals can decide to continue for another term if interested.
- ✚ Nothing added

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### **Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer**

- Budget: We have finished the ninth month of the current fiscal year, 75% of budget. Budget giving is at 65.4% of budget and at 75.3% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 77.3% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$ 4,988.12.
- CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance continues to remain consistent. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school year is \$26,271. This will be \$2,189.25 per month. We will be also be contributing an additional monthly gift \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.25. The total for the 2024-2025 school year is \$52,551. The May 25 balance in the account is \$29,655.85. The June payment will be the final one for the school year. The total and monthly payment for next school year will start in July.
- Ministries need to start working on budgets for the next fiscal year. We will also be working on the pastor's salary that needs to be presented in July and confirmed by CLT in August.
- ✚ Ed noted spending is a little above budget and giving is below budget amount for this time of fiscal year.

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### **Next Meetings: July 21 and August 18, 2025**

- ✚ Glenn prayed, we had silence and Jeremy prayed us out.