



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

February 17, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Ken Neuenschwander, Rhoda Holton, Phil Raber, Conrad Neuenschwander, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, and Jeremy Patterson

Opening: Lisa Zuercher shared a “confession” about an angry world that also makes her angry. She shared that when she thinks on the Biblical world compared to ours it has always been a hurting world. Lisa shared some verses that bring her peace in times where chaos seems to reign. 1 Corinthians 14:32-34, Romans 15:12-14, Philippians 4:6-8. Lisa then prayed to begin our time of reporting.

Pastor’s Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Lord Jesus heal us all from our infirmities! There have been so many dealing with sickness. Prayers for everyone to feel better in Jesus’ Name!
- Prayers also for everyone having medical procedures and recovering from various surgeries and dealing with various illnesses!
- I am grateful for our Winter Wednesday gatherings of eating and sharing together. The *Radicals*, commemorating our early Anabaptist beginnings, and our first Pastoral Team session; discussing our call to faith, what is sustaining our faith, and what we are thankful for and how we do church have been especially meaningful for those able to enter in and participate. I strongly encourage further engagement as everyone is able!
- Looking forward to Lent beginning next month. I believe The Chosen will be especially meaningful this season as it will focus on the Last Supper.
- I will be available in my office on Friday mornings to meet with anyone who would like to visit. Wild Fox was nice but the coffee is more affordable in my office :)
- ✚ Glenn has 6 in the baptism class. 5 are baptism candidates.
- ✚ Glenn highlighted an opening at Maple Terrace that will be shared with the congregation.
- ✚ We reviewed the procedure for who decides church cancellation. Pastor, CLT chair and PT chair are responsible for making that decision.
- ✚ Wednesday February 26 Lent worship leaders will have a meeting discussing the theme for Lent, Christ Collides.

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

- Glenn shared a few pastoral care items and an update on the baptism class.
- Planning for Lent and Easter are well underway.
- We spent the bulk of our time reviewing last week’s Winter Wednesday discussion and planning for the next one. We appreciate the congregation’s participation!
- ✚ PT is prepping for Winter Wednesday this week,
- ✚ PT is discerning what if any refresh should happen with the Mission and Vision statements.

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

- Tickets for The Chosen movie on March 29th will be purchased by Glenn and funneled through Adult ministry.
- The ministry approved the purchase of trays to be used during church meals. The goal is to have them in

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stock before the final Winter Wednesday meal.

- Another Senior Saints meal is tentatively planned for April.
- Plans for the last Winter Wednesday (Talent Night) were organized.
- We took a walk through the space vacated by the school since one of our members had never been to the basement. We also had a nooks and crannies tour of the church reminiscing about all the spaces that were used as classrooms years ago. Changes are inevitable and often very good
- ✚ Theme for coming Chosen season is the Last Supper so it will be a good lead in to Easter.
- ✚ The cupboard project for the East room is still in process.

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Did not meet in February. We continued to gather items to decorate and rearrange children's rooms downstairs.
- ✚ Children's Ministry is still gathering furniture, some has been donated and some purchased from Connections. The plan is to paint before too much else is done.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- We installed a camera on the east wall of the sanctuary with a line running back to the office.
- We also improved the stability of the women's bathroom stalls.
- ✚ Nothing added

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- ✚ Nothing added

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Feb. 9: Winter Warm-up - c/o Kathy T., March 2: Sayatan roof and land project c/o Ken, April 6: MSF – c/o Dave Ross.
- **Fall/Winter Mission Weekend**: Review – January 19th David and Liz Driver, country representatives for Ukraine stationed in Poland were with us virtually. Liz's presentation in the SS hour informed us on the programs and organization MCC is partnering throughout Ukraine addressing physical, mental and spiritual need and crisis. The relief kits and buckets, some of which are supplied and packed by SMC, are much needed and appreciated. SS ended with a Q&A time. David had the sermon time. He reported on the resilience of the church in Ukraine and how valued the fellowship and support are to believers as well as many people who haven't made that commitment yet. Thanks to our tech savvy Michael Amstutz, the morning went very smoothly, a professional production!
- **Zuercher/Bolivia Trip**: Todd and Angala family going to Bolivia for the 50-year celebration of the Mennonite church in Bolivia and to visit Misael and family. As of 2/3/2025 \$4,295 of the \$6,799 needed has been raised.
- **MCC Kit Work Night**: Will be in May.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan**: A roof over the courtyard at Sayatan would be a great asset as they expand their education programs. They have an estimate of \$8,500 for the roof. There is a small parcel of land adjacent to the Sayatan property they would like to purchase for protection and possible expansion. The purchase price is \$4,000. We would like to assist with these two projects. MMN has approved these project and is also looking for additional funding.
- **Maple Syrup Missions Festival**: Will be April 26th. We discussed some alteration needed to accommodate some personal schedules. We think this is still the best date.



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- **Really Recovered** - Ron reported about his work with Really Recovered over the last three or so years and the many lives who have been changed as a result of the ministry. There will be some spring projects Ron will be bringing for our assistance. Tim Tester the director is available for Sunday sermons or other occasions.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Will be September 13th
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 1/31/2025 - \$17,608.89: Restricted - \$15,143.62: Unrestricted Bal. - \$2,465.27** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$10,598.62, Lighthouse - \$175, My Coins Count - \$650, MCC Ukraine - \$500, Zuercher/Bolivia - & 3,220. **Distributions:** MCC Alternative Christmas - \$6,865, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, People to People - \$600
- + Ken shared \$ 5,595.00 has come in so far for the Zuerchers trip to Bolivia. Outreach plans to cover the remainder.
- + There will be a kit night in May at new MCC Resource building.
- + The Sayaten project through MMN will be supported by only Sonnenberg. Outreach will likely make it a special project through the Maple Syrup for Missions festival.
- + Really Recovered project opportunities will be announced this Spring,
- + Ken is hoping for good Sonnenberg representation at the Open Arms banquet on 3/27 and Lighthouse banquet on 4/24.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Erin opened the meeting with devotions centered on Isaiah 33:6 and also shared the prayer for peace by St. Francis of Assisi. These passages remind us to look to God for peace during these troubled times we're living in.
- Talked about the worship Leader resource folder and discovered where it is located. Will spend more time looking at this at our next meeting to determine what updates need to be made.
- Talked more about the offering table for the sanctuary. Dan Gault will go ahead with getting the table made. Looked at some examples for a secured box for offering. Will likely look for someone to make one of good quality.
- Talked through plans for Salem's choir coming to sing at Sonnenberg, which our IVEPer, Erik, is involved with. Still trying to find a suitable date that works for both us and Salem. Erik would like to lead music at Sonnenberg, so he is being added to the rotation, his first date being March 30.
- Looked over the preaching schedule and some suggestions for guest speakers
- Looking ahead to Lent, which begins March 9. Need to order more copies of the Leader to use as a resource. Would like to get worship leaders together who are scheduled over that time for a planning session for Lent. Talked about planning "stations of the cross" for the Maundy Thursday service.
- Glenn gave some suggestions for his summer sermon series. Looking at focusing on spiritual disciplines.
- It's confirmed that outdoor services will be held again during the months of June-July.
- Looked over list of church members/regular attenders and attendance numbers. It's good to be aware of all who are part of our flock.
- + Worship Ministry spent time gathering old docs and other things to help worship leaders prep.
- + Phil mentioned we are looking for a custom box to place on the new offering table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- YYA met with youth leaders to learn more about goals and purpose. This is helpful in considering mentoring

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relationships and how YYA can support their areas.

- We currently need to find additional female support for the youth group.
- ✦ Nothing added

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the fifth month of the current fiscal year, 41.67% of budget. Budget giving is at 32.1% of budget and at 41.2% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 44% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$6,891.50.
- 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 January 31 balance in the account is \$31,249.84.
- ✦ We still need to make up some ground with the average weekly budget offering.

Action Items:

- ✦ Discussion on whether to change the mtg date for CLT resulted in keeping it at 3rd Monday of each month

Next Meetings: March 17 and April 21, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer.