



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

April 21, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Trent Metcalf, Marlin Troyer, Michael Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Kelly Raines, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Lisa Zuercher, Ed Taylor and Conrad Neuenschwander

Opening: Jeremy Patterson shared about what the Pastoral Team considers our congregation to be about, both positive and negative as well as who we have been. What fresh language can we use to retell who we are in a new way? We follow Jesus together, we value those chances we can serve together and one another. Jeremy quoted Andy Fuqua about the value of church. "If someone were to ask me what to tell a 14 year old what the most important aspect of adult Christian life is I would say to an unbeliever - faith; to a believer - be plugged into a good church." He stressed, don't just attend but belong and connect. It will change your life. Not that there are not other good things but that this would be the best thing. We are not intended to follow Jesus alone. Jeremy shared from Acts 2:44-47 stressing the portion where the believers gathered together every day. While hurt may happen in church that is where healing should happen also.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- My week of vacation out West traveling Route 66 was really meaningful and profound, taking in the grandeur and beauty of the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest and Joshua Tree National Parks.
- Ever since I returned, life and ministry has seemed quite full and intense. God is good.
- I can't begin to express how meaningful it has been taking in the The Chosen "The Last Supper" during this season of Lent.
- I have been grateful for the wonderful preachers helping to fill the pulpit. Looking forward to the next two months as well as we welcome Rollin Mukanza and Russ Thomas!
- It has been challenging planning and coordinating all the different worship/praise teams with everyone's schedules. Grateful for all our song leaders and for the Worship Team offering to lead music monthly.
- It has been full and good with hosting the members from the choir festival for Palm Sunday, planning Maundy Thursday with the stations and Alternative Foot Washing and Easter Sunday morning activities and worship. Thank you to everyone who participated.
- Really looking forward to a much needed time of silence and solitude retreat at The Hermitage a few days in mid May.
- ✚ Glenn survived Easter. He appreciated Jeremy's opening devotion and on the heels of Easter doing the things we do each year and what we do together. Glenn mentioned the affect the Chosen series showing the Last Supper has had on his experience during Lent.
- ✚ Baptisms will likely happen June 1 with a carry in afterwards.
- ✚ Summer sermon series - James Bryan Smith's book the Good and Beautiful You. Glenn described this book as soul training exercises rather than a normal spiritual disciplines approach.

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

- Pastoral Team met Wednesday, April 7, 2025. Jeremy shared a devotional and reflections on his aunt who recently passed away. There's really nothing else but to know Jesus and to make him known. Jesus is the answer—what are we doing to help people know Him?
- Glenn shared details about the upcoming preaching schedule and a personal retreat in May. We discussed

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congregational care needs and prayer concerns.

- We continued our discussion about congregational mission and vision, and feel like some direction is beginning to emerge.
- Glenn and Michelle shared their experience at the Ohio Conference Annual Conference Assembly, which had good speakers, workshops, and vision for the future.
- The remaining time was spent planning for the Maundy Thursday service. We will be moving through several stations including footwashing, communion, music, and prayer.
- ✦ Jeremy described how the Pastoral Team uses the question of what gives life to the congregation. Pastoral Team seeks to support, suggest and share resources that bring life.

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

- Adult Ministry will purchase flowers to honor all the females in church on Mother's Day, May 11.
- We discussed dates for the summer carry-in breakfasts. Tentatively we plan for breakfasts on Father's Day, June 15 and August 10. July dates are pending.
- Sunday, July 6, will be IVEPer Erik's last Sunday with us, so we tentatively have a carry-in planned to celebrate his year with us.
- Participation in our annual Bike/walk in July has been waning over the past few years. We brainstormed for some other possibilities for an all church summer activity in July.
- ✦ Nothing to add

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Two of the Sunday School rooms were painted by MYF on March 26! Will talk to MYF about having 1 more paint night in April to paint the lower part of the walls in the hallway yet.
- Reminder to everyone to sign up for the Bake Sale for the Maple Syrup Festival- it will benefit Lighthouse Ministries.
- VBS is officially on the calendar for June 26-29! Hannah Amstutz in charge. Sunday night finale will include a program.
- ✦ Kelly shared that having all the kids downstairs has been working out really well.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Facilities met Feb 8. Roy Steiner and Marlin Troyer helped Todd Zuercher bleach and scrub the reservoir tank.
- ✦ EPA inspection was passed with a little help from Ken on the plumbing.
- ✦ Facilities plans to go full steam ahead on the sound booth after we go outside for Summer services.
- ✦ Roy will make a mock up of a cemetery urn wall idea.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Met on Wednesday March 19th. We identified positions that were ending and discussed filling positions and contacts to be made to fill positions with prayerful thought.
- ✦ Nothing added but glad to have started this year's process.

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Ken, April 6: MSF – c/o Dave Ross, May 4: MCC kit work night on May 14 - c/o Vince
- **Pregnancy Center** – We are exploring options for supporting the PC this year with Donna J.



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- **MCC Kit Work Night:** Will be in May 14. There will be two shifts, 4:30-6:00 and 6:30-8:00 with pizza between. Look for sign-up sheet at the welcome center on April 27. We finalized food assignments.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan:** The courtyard roof and land purchase projects were presented on March 2nd. As of April 13 we reached our goal of \$13,000 including the \$6,000 match pledge. Thanks to everyone for the great response for this project!
- **Maple Syrup Missions Festival:** Will be April 26th. Continued plans for the event. Volunteer sign-up table in the lobby started March 30. Signs are up for the various work stations. A lot of participation is needed. Children's Ministry will have a bake sale again.
- **Freedom House:** The banquet program was inspiring with personal stories of deliverance and transformation. Ron Geiser is working on some spring work projects SMC might do.
- **Open Arms Banquet:** March 27 at Kidron Community Building. Great program and well attended, approximately 225 people, SMC had good representation.
- **Lighthouse Banquet:** Thursday April 24th at Hartville Kitchen. This a very good evening for information and inspiration as you learn about the Lighthouse's ministries.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Will be September 13th
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 3/31/2025 - \$21,785.33, Restricted - \$17068.62: Unrestricted Bal. - \$4,716.71** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$10,598.62, Lighthouse - \$175, My Coins Count - \$845 MCC Ukraine - \$500, Oyanguren/Sayatan Project-\$4,950
- + Ken is excited that the Oyanguren project came together quickly and smoothly.
- + The Pregnancy Care Center fundraiser will be a little different than the bottles this year, likely we will be buying supplies.
- + Aid was sent to Haiti to help the school we have supported as they have had to relocate after trouble with gangs.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Salem choir will sing at Sonnenberg on 4/27
- Reviewed preaching schedule and some spots to fill. A suggestion was made to do a Q and A with Eldon King if he is willing and able. Glenn will check into this. Positive feedback given for the Sunday Elvis preached.
- Spent time looking at the song leader rotation and plugging in an additional worship team, led by Hannah Amstutz, once a month. A lot of positive affirmation has been given for this. Will ask them about doing the first Sunday of every month.
- Erik would like the choir and possibly some from Salem's choir to sing on his last Sunday at Sonnenberg. Looking at June 29 for this since he is song leader that Sunday. Still need to have more communication about this with Erik and Salem.
- Glenn is leaning towards using a book by James Smith on soul training for the summer sermon series.
- + Nothing added

Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- + Details are being finalized for a Sunday April 27th mentor outing at the Wilderness Center.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the seventh month of the current fiscal year, 58.33% of budget. Budget giving is at 49.5% of the budget and at 59.2% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 61.5% of the budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$5,633.42. The budget shortfall is about half of what it was at the end of February.
- 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 February 28 balance in the account is \$30,363.01.
- ✚ The gap in the budget deficit was made up somewhat in the last month. We may add bulletin reminders of where we are at in the yearly budget to track progress.

Action Items:

- ✚ Aug 7 & 8 is the Global Leadership Summit. There are local satellite hosting sites so you don't have to go to Chicago. Glenn invited anyone from CLT who had interest. If there is enough interest there may be a group registration set up.

Next Meetings: May 19 and June 16, 2025

- ✚ Glenn closed in prayer