



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

May 19, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Trent Metcalf, Michael Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Lisa Zuercher, Ed Taylor and Rhoda Holton

Opening: Trent Metcalf led with a devotional centered on loving Christ in ALL things we do, even the dishes and mowing. Trent shared from a devotion by Greg Boyd challenging us to avoid compartmentalizing our lives between that which is ordinary and that which is holy. One suggestion to bridge this gap is the practice of blessing. Bless those that cut you off at the intersection, the friendly cashier and the slightly confused older gentleman talking to himself on the park bench. Acknowledge the way God sees these people and the gap between holy and ordinary shrinks.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- I am writing this report the day before I leave for my few days of retreat at the Hermitage in Three Rivers Michigan. Anticipating rest, silence and solitude. I have been dealing with a cold the last week or so and hear it may take a few weeks to kick!
- This past month we had our 27th Annual Maple Syrup, breakfast for Missions festival! Way to go everyone to pull together as a church to help make that a success!
- I also helped the crew cook BBQ chicken for the Youth trips fundraiser.
- Lead an educational trip to Behalt with most of the Baptism Class. Elaine Miller gave the tour. And enjoyed Dairy Queen in Berlin afterwards, only to discover that us Nofzigers lived in the same house as Jeremy Patterson in Berlin!
- Looking forward to baptisms on June 1 and June 8. Those being baptized are Lukas Zuercher, Nathan Petite, Luke Nofziger, Cora Patterson, Kerrilyn and Brayden Neuenschwander.
- Also planning on sharing Communion on June 8, Pentecost Sunday.
- Looking forward to worship outside during the months of June and July.
- I am planning to help lead worship for youth at Little Eden Camp again this mid June.
- Looking forward to our Summer sermon series based on the book *The Good and Beautiful You* by James Bryan Smith. Discovering the person Jesus created you to be. Inviting the Spirit to help you become more like Jesus is better than simply trying to “be the best version of yourself.”
- ✚ Glenn noted he is still recovering from a cold.
- ✚ Glenn valued his time at the Hermitage, meeting with David Wenger who was his first spiritual director. David emphasized the need to be still as opposed to Glenn's natural instinct to be on the go. While there Glenn finished the Spiritual Formation Bible. Now he is reading the extra canonical texts not found in Protestant Bibles.

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

- Lisa shared a reflection on the song God of the Bible.
- Glenn updated us on the upcoming preaching schedule and plans for the two baptism Sundays.
- We continued processing our vision/mission statement as well as next steps in this process.
- We also discussed some ways to help visitors feel welcome when they enter the building.
- ✚ See added action items below

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

- Arrangements for Mother's Day flowers were finalized. Homespun Flowers have provided carnations in the past and we will buy from them again.
- Lots of discussion included whether or not to organize summer breakfasts and how many carry in meals are possible for this summer. A carry in for baptism on June 1 needs to be confirmed and a carry in as a farewell to IVEPer Erik is scheduled on July 6.
- A July activity is still in the works as well as looking ahead to a September Fall Fest option.
- ✦ The June 1 carry-in was confirmed and added to the June church calendar

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- No Report
- ✦ Rhoda shared Summer Sunday School plans are to share around between lots of volunteers including parents instead of a regular teacher.
- ✦ Vacation Bible School sign ups are underway.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- We confirmed plans for the sound & video booth. Plans are tentative to begin construction sometime the week of the 19th.
- Discussed the possibility of using wood baseboards instead of vinyl after new carpet is installed. The general consensus was that we preferred wood, but that we need to explore what the costs are.
- To cut costs, we would like to move the pews for the carpet installers with a little help. This would need to be done carefully as each bench is cut specifically for the spot that it is in.
- Roy Steiner displayed a new design for the urn wall memorial. He will report back to Trent Metcalf.
- Possibly painting the sanctuary and some other rooms was discussed.
- ✦ Facilities plans to framing the addition to the sound booth this week to allow wiring to go forward.
- ✦ There is a possibility of wood trim instead of vinyl striping after the carpet is replaced depending on costs. It also may just be in high visibility areas.
- ✦ It may be that the congregation moves pews instead of the carpet guys.
- ✦ It is likely the Sanctuary and maybe other spots will be painted along with the carpet change.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Met on April 23rd; opened with a devotion. Discussion on openings to be filled and evaluation process on how we look for people to fill positions.
- Discussed contacts made and contacts to be made yet. Pray as we continue to reach out to members.
- ✦ Nothing added

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Moment for Mission – May 4: MCC kit work night on May 14 - c/o Vince, May 11: Pregnancy Center baby supplies drive – c/o Donna J, June 1: Freedom House – c/o Ron Geiser.
- Pregnancy Center – Donna J. did a MFM to kick off a baby supplies drive from Mother's Day to Father's Day with a bassinet in the lobby for the collection.
- MCC Kit Work Night: May 14 with two shifts, 4:30-6:00 and 6:30-8:00 with pizza between. There were a total of 62 people, a few worked both shifts. We put together or repackage and boxed 1702 hygiene plus taped a couple containers, pens and pencils and packages a bunch of pads and Band-Aids. Great job, everyone! Thank you!
- Oyanguren/Sayatan: The courtyard roof and land purchase projects were presented on March 2nd . We reached our \$13,000 goal by April 13th which is amazing! I received many comments in support of this



CLT COMMUNICATOR



(Outreach & Service con't...)

project. Last week, I instructed Ed to send the check to MMN. There seems to be some relaxing of regulations on the part of Argentina banking so MMN thinks they will be able to get the money to Sayatan more easily at a lower exchange rate.. Linda Shelly extended her trip to Bluffton to thank us for this support as well as all the ways we support the Oyangurens. Most Sundays, they watch our service live on YouTube and Linda said, "they consider SMC their home church. Jose is taking an English class, so that helps him with his class. While Linda was here, we had a long video call with Alfonsina & Jose. That was fun and they are so thankful! Let's continue to find ways to strength that relationship

- Maple Syrup Missions Festival: April 26th review. We had an extensive discussion and are expanding our note for the MSF event and always looking for suggestions for improvement. The event went very smoothly. The number of meals served was down a bit, but the atmosphere was good. We served 680 meals, 453 dine-in, 227 drive-thru and as of 5/13, \$22,169.69 has been raised. There is sausage to sell so we will have some additional income. Expenses to date \$2,838.02 and gift-in-kind receipts \$1,367.61. There were many more gift-in-kind donations without receipt requests plus the central focus, the maple syrup. Thanks to Dave Ross, thank you! Thanks to EVERYONE, as a church body, we did it again! THANK YOU!
- Freedom House: Ron Geiser is working with Steve Steiner and will be announcing a work project at the June 1 st MFM.
- Lighthouse Banquet: April 24th was a great event. They have reach the \$100,000 match challenge which is just an amazing blessing in these uncertain times.
- CAMO has furnished a tote for our recycled items. The tote is on the shelf at the NE lobby door. They can use printer ink cartridges, glasses and cell phones.
- Mississippi Catfish Fry: Will be September 13th
- 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 4/30/2025 - \$43,507.69, Restricted - \$20,277.62: Unrestricted Bal. - \$23,230.07. Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, Camp Luz special event - \$1,000, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, Lighthouse - \$50, My Coins Count - \$929, MCC Ukraine - \$600, Oyanguren/Sayatan Project-\$13,000
- ✚ Ken is excited. The organizations and ministries we support are in good places. Sonnenberg projects have gone well culminating with a wonderful breakfast among many other blessings. Camp Luz is the next organization to start a new project.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- A lot of positive affirmation given for the worship service with Salem's choir joining us and Rollin Mukanza preaching. Talked about the preaching schedule and upcoming guest preachers. Waiting to confirm a July date with Eldon King.
- Baptism will take place on two Sundays (June 1 and June 8) to accommodate schedules. Planning to have a carry-in lunch on June 1. We are borrowing a Baptismal from KMC.

(Worship Ministry con't...)

- Still working on plans for the last Sunday in June when Erik's choir will sing.
- Still talking about the possibility of having a joint service with Salem. Erik's choir is going well and he continues to encourage more participation. Will be purchasing music with worship ministry funds.
- Prayerfully considering how to reassign some responsibilities within our ministry.
- We want to revisit the worship surveys we had people fill out last year. There is a lot of good content there that we want to pay attention to.
- Our seminar focused on how to identify motivational gaps and gave us a lot of good food for thought.
- Glenn challenged us to each think about what we should be focusing on as a worship ministry.
- ✦ Phil highlighted that outdoor worship is coming up and hopes that we continue to make that a special worship experience. Congregation is encouraged to sit in a close semi-circle for outdoor worship rather than spread out. This helps everyone hear better.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- ✦ Michael shared that Ellen is connecting with potential people to work with MYF next year as sponsors.

Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the eighth month of the current fiscal year, 67.67% of budget. Budget giving is at 53.3% of budget and at 65.2% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 67.9% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$6,667.93.
- 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 April 28 balance in the account is \$28,967.76.
- ✦ No Report

Action Items:

- ✦ Greeters - A bulletin blurb and sign up sheet for a revamped greeter service may be in the works. The idea is for ushers and greeters to work in tandem. Pastoral Team will discuss further.
- ✦ Glenn asked that a designated slot for **9:00 Fellowship and Coffee** be added in the bulletin for Sunday mornings.
- ✦ CLT affirmed groups/subcommittees to push forward projects coming up like carpet replacement and the use of freed up space from the school vacating and the columbarium. The hope is that these incorporate the varied opinions and help share the load of the legwork.
- ✦ Jeremy shared about Pastoral Team revamping the purpose statement of the church. The vision statement will likely stay the same but the purpose statement changed to, "Following Jesus Together." It is short and clear. It focuses us and is easy to remember. It can act as a guiding question as in "How does this help us follow Jesus ?".
- ✦ CLT plans to share minutes via email in June as Chip will be in Florida with MYF the week leading up to the June meeting.

Next Meetings: June 23 and July 21, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer