



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Church Council Meeting Minutes August 13, 2024

In Attendance: Michael Abraham (Vice President), Carol Wiemken (Secretary), Pastor Stephen Bond, Joseph Perkins (Treasurer), Chad Ackerman, Pam Davis, Laurie Dewitz, Becky King, Laurie Mauro, Tammy Myers, Don Schroeder, Carrie Tuohy, Kathryn Whitacre.

Absent: Kara Yokum

Call to Order: Vice President Michael Abraham called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and Pastor Steve lead devotions.

Approve Agenda: *A motion was made by Laurie Mauro to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Becky King and approved.*

Pastoral/Staff Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Joseph Perkins (report attached)

Laurie Dewitz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Tammy Myers and approved.

Secretary's Report: Carol Wiemken June 11, 2024 (no July meeting) Council meeting minutes were emailed to Council members for review. *The minutes were approved via email vote.*

Pastor's Report (report attached)

- Adult Sunday School will be cancelled on Sunday, August 25th, so all may attend the Back to School Breakfast.
- Committees will be asked to work on ways to encourage people to sign up for events and worship assistance and get new members involved.

Committee Reports:

- Finance – Carrie Tuohy/Kara Yokum – (nothing new to report)
- Education & Youth – Laurie Dewitz (report attached)
- Outreach/Visitation Ministry – Tammy Myers (report attached)
- Property/Prairie Meadow and Risk Mitigation – Don Schroeder (report attached)

A motion was made by Don Schroeder to approve emergency roof repair by Masin Roofing (not to exceed \$4,850), seconded by Kathryn Whitacre and approved.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



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A motion was made by Don Schroeder to transfer \$7,500 from the undesignated Memorial Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Kathryn Whitacre and was approved.

- Don has agreed to make an announcement to the congregation on Sunday concerning replenishment of the Capital Improvement Fund.

- Worship & Music – Laurie Mauro (report attached)
 - The pros and cons of reinstating a Saturday service were discussed. No changes will be made at this time.
- Social Action – Kathryn Whitacre/Becky King (no report)
- Fellowship – Pam Davis/Chad Ackerman (see attached)
- Stewardship – Michael Abraham (report attached)
- Lay Internship – Pam Davis (report attached)

Unfinished Business:

- Internship Update
 - Vicar Natalie and family will be with us in worship for the first time on August 25. This will also allow for the congregation to meet her at the breakfast that morning. Her first Sunday with an up-front worship role will be September 8.
- Children, Youth and Family Ministry Position
 - The candidate has declined the position. All planned activities will continue without filling the position.

New Business:

- Electronic Sign-up Options
 - We currently send out a Sign-Up Genius link via the newsletter to sign up for anything other than worship. The option of some type of electronic kiosk to sign up will be investigated.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: *A motion was made by Michael Abraham to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by Becky King and approved.* Adjournment was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: September 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Carol Wiemken, Council Secretary

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"

8-13-24

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. All asset accounts are reconciled to date.
2. BF/GF for July
 - a. Building Fund
 - BF income was \$9,357 and \$3,206 less than expenses
 - KeyBank BF balance is \$38,757
 - Mission + BF Reserve balance is \$40,610
 - b. General Fund
 - GF income was \$22,628 and \$6,609 less than expenses
 - KeyBank GF balance is \$22,926
 - Mission + GF Reserve balance is \$118,424
3. Capital Improvement Fund is running a deficit due to the air conditioning bill just paid.

Pastor's Report to Council—August 2024

As always, please feel free to let me know if you need additional or different material shared in the Pastor's Report.

Worship and Music

- Any Feedback from Vacation Sunday (July 28)—I wanted to invite any feedback or input from how things went on the Sunday I was away on vacation, for future reference at other times when I have other pastors or worship leaders filling in for me on a Sunday. Any notes or suggestions?
- Baptism for Clara Bucher and Reception of Kyle, Janessa, and Children (Aug. 11)—Clara is being baptized on Aug. 11, and her parents and siblings are being received into membership at the same time. Kyle, son of Ken and Sharon, grew up at Community of Christ and they are returning to membership here at this time. (See below.) This household is comprised of Kevin (husband), Janessa (wife), and children Evelyn (3), Nolan (2), and Clara (3 months).
- Reception of Additional New Members (Proposing August 18)—Ken and Sharon Bucher were previous members (Ken was a charter member) and are transferring their membership back to Community of Christ; we are also welcoming Amy Fifer (daughter of Eunice Kronberg) who grew up here and is now coming back as an adult with children, along with her daughter Stella and son James, who will be a part of our new year of confirmation class. This would also be a Sunday to receive Ron Atkins formally into membership, whose name I had already brought to you earlier in the spring summer as someone seeking to be received into membership here.
- Soft-Start for Vicar Natalie (Intern) with Presence in Worship on Aug. 25—Vicar Natalie and family will be with us in worship for the first time, simply as congregational worshipers, on August 25 (which will allow us to use the breakfast that morning after worship as a chance for the congregation to meet her and her family in person and over food!). Her first Sunday with an up-front worship role will be at Blue Jean Sunday, Sept. 8, as part of our outdoor service on the lawn (see below)
- Blue Jean Sunday Picnic Service (Sep. 8)—Eric has arranged musicians to help play the hymns, songs, and liturgy for this service; this will be Vicar Natalie's first Sunday in an "up front" role in worship as assisting minister, and the 50th Anniversary Committee is working on the details for the meal and activities following.
- Blessing of the Animals (Oct. 5)—I've offered to Worship and Music Committee that we have a "Blessing of the Animals" event this fall (traditionally, this has been done in conjunction with the celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, whose festival date is Oct. 4). I would envision this as a window of time where people are welcome to bring pets outside for a time for prayer, a gift (I got blessing tags that can go on their collars or harnesses), and maybe a chance for a photo. We are tentatively looking at a time on Saturday morning or afternoon on October 5, where people can come with pets to the outside of the church for this time.

Christian Education and Youth

- Adult Class (Sundays)—Has continued through the summer; following our series on How to Read the Bible Wisely and Well, we've begun a series this August on Women's Leadership in the New Testament and Early Church. New series to continue in the fall.
- Sunday School for Children and Youth—We continue to build our roster of teachers who will take turns in teams to lead Sunday School weekly in the school year, starting Sep. 15.
- Collaboration with UMC/ELCA Neighboring Congregations for Anthony Wayne Youth Group—Our Back to School Fall Kick-Off event with food trucks, inflatable games, and more is coming up on the evening of Sunday, Aug. 25; we'll be hosting it here at Community of Christ, with help and support from Home UMC (Whitehouse), Zion Lutheran (Waterville) and Waterville UMC. We are being asked to make a contribution along with each of the participating congregations to absorb the costs of the food trucks and inflatables. I'll have a firm number to share with you all at council that we would like to ask approval for.
- Confirmation Program—We look to have eight students just from Community of Christ this fall, in addition to a plan once again to collaborate with Zion (Waterville)-St. Paul (Haskins) and their students (they tell me that they will in fact have some students this year). We will have our four returning from last year, plus Jillian Dewitz, Anna Bond, Evan Ackerman, and soon-to-be-member James Fifer. Our plan is again to meet twice a month, with both regular class sessions (these would be held on Sundays after worship in the lunch-early afternoon timeframe), and also supplemental activity sessions (service project, off-site learning, etc.).
- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study—We'll finish our study of Mark's Gospel at the end of August, and then we will begin a new series in the fall, at 1:00pm on Thursdays.
- Joint Youth Leader Position With Providence—Since our previous candidate withdrew from consideration we have been back at Square One over the summer, with a renewed posting for the job and publicity of the posting on Indeed, through the Synod, and with a Youth Ministry Institute that Pastor Milner was familiar with. No new action to report at this time.
- Summer Spirituality Saturdays—We've not had large numbers of people participating at these so far, but we'll have our final session on artwork coming up on Saturday, Aug. 17.
- Welcome Table Wednesdays—This is a new idea we are piloting for at least a six-week run this fall, that would follow the pattern we have used in Lent for our Wednesdays: we would offer/host dinner from 6:00-7:00pm, and then have kid-friendly, intergenerational activities from 7:00pm-8:00pm for those who want to join us, and simultaneously allow families with children who wanted to be a part of choir rehearsals to participate (at least potentially building some synergy between those two groups). I'll invite feedback once we've begun to see if this is something we want to see continue.

Internship

- Start Date Details—Vicar Natalie's first week in the office for on-boarding will be Aug. 26-Aug. 30, and then she'll have a week of in-person classes at Wartburg Seminary, before returning to a regular schedule after Labor Day week. Our plan will be that she will be on site on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, typically, with Wednesday as a work-from-home day since she also has an online class that meets on Wednesdays.

- Internship Committee—Committee Chair Pam Davis and I recruited members for this committee, which has eight members from the congregation, and we have had an initial meeting to introduce everyone to each other and to the work. Committee members are: Pam Davis (chair), Debbie Warner, Chris Rilling, Pat Roth, Andrea Donley, Lisa Alleman, Cammie Abraham, and Rebecca Jaessing.
- Office Space Allocation—We'll slightly rearrange the desks in the space Eric uses for his office to get two work spaces out of the room, and the one addition we've been asked to add is a book case for some of Vicar Natalie's books. I'll gladly take care of getting this and putting it in the office before her onboarding week.

Stewardship

- Time and Talent Forms in Fall 2024—Once again, we would ask committees to share with Stewardship the different ways people can serve in their areas of ministry to add to our 2024-2025 Time and Talent Forms that we'll be sending out in September. So ideally, if committees can be getting that information to us by the first week in September, that would be great.
- Preparing for "Festival of Talents" Sep. 28-29—As we've discussed, this event is open for people to sign up to share a performed or displayed talent, and we'll use this same event weekend to have committees share what they do in order for congregation members to learn more about how to be involved.
- New Monitor in Gathering Space—We are beginning to play with using the new larger monitor in the Gathering Space to have an additional tool for sharing information and promotions for upcoming information, in the hopes that a larger size and less-data-per-slide/screen will make it easier for people to read and use. We are also planning on including short video pieces that can be played as part of the pre-service gathering time.

Outreach

- Feedback from Congregation Members on Toledo Pride Participation—Since Outreach decided to join with the 27 other congregations and faith groups walking at the Toledo Pride Festival back in June and our discussion of it at the June Council meeting, I have had personal input from folks in the congregation, some very positive and appreciative of this opportunity, and some with concerns about the participation. And of course, there are surely plenty of folks in the congregation who have not voiced any opinion to me one way or another but have feelings of different sorts. It feels important for transparency's sake for me to share with you all as council that I have had both kinds of feedback voiced to me, and also that I did have the opportunity to meet with at least three members of the congregation who were particularly concerned about what it meant or what message would be communicated by our shared participation at the event. In the course of our conversation, I was able to walk them through how arrived at the choice to let people participate, what was and was not being publicly said by our participation, and to walk through at least some of the ways that people of deep, sincere, and committed faith come to different conclusions on questions of LGBTQ participation in the church. I think it is a fair representation to say that by the end of our conversation, the three members who came to me felt that they had been heard and also felt more understanding of why some will choose to walk in the parade, even if it is not their own

choice. And we were able to frame things in the context of all of us striving to love people like Jesus does, which means risking that others watching or overhearing at a distance may misunderstand or accuse us of not being tough enough on sin (as Jesus gets that reputation for being a “friend of sinners” for the people he hangs out with as well). I invited those who met with me to feel free to come back for further conversation if they felt more things needed to be addressed, or to invite anyone else they knew with concerns to meet with me so that we could talk and listen about what was on their minds and how we navigate these questions together. So far no one else has approached me since then, but I would invite any other feedback, concerns, or insights you have as council, especially if you hear people with strong concerns about participation. As I shared with the members who came to meet with me, I have great respect for those who are willing to voice concerns directly with me, and I want to encourage and model that kind of honest and authentic conversation. Part of how we do that as leaders of a congregation is to foster honest and open conversation ourselves, so I would also invite any concerns you have, and that we can discuss them either at council or in one on one conversations, whether about this or any other matter, as a standing policy.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Steve



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Activity Report

August 2024 Youth and Education

Committee Chairman: Lainie Davis

Committee Members: Lorri Britsch, Laurie Dewitz, Kristen Schuchmann, Makayla Stewart

Meeting held on 07/08/2024, the following items were discussed:

- Plans for return to weekly Sunday School in the fall
 - Still looking for additional volunteer teachers to share the responsibility and teach once per month
 - Would like to have 2 groups each Sunday, will determine age groupings as we know which students plan to attend
- Anthony Wayne Area Youth Group
 - Planning continues with Hope Methodist and other congregations
 - First event scheduled for August 25th at CoC
- Annual Campout scheduled for August 9th
- Confirmation will resume in the fall partnering with Zion in Waterville, expect to have a few additional students from both churches

Next meeting scheduled for August 19th at 6:30pm.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



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Activity Report

August 2024 Outreach

Committee Chairman: Greg Myers

Committee Members in Attendance: Kari Swagler, Greg Myers, Tammy Myers, Pastor Steve, Cammie Abraham, Shelly Hayes

Topics discussed:

- Summer Recap –
 - o Good participation in Cherry Fest Parade
 - o Eats & Beats in July was a rain out
 - o Food For Thought well received and will continue next summer

- Upcoming Items-
 - o Walkers signing up to participate in Toledo Pride parade with other area faith communities – parade is August 24.
 - o Back to School / Welcome Natalie Brunch on Sunday August 25 after the 9:00 service.
 - o First AW school we're going to give back to is Whitehouse Primary in early September. Waterville Primary will be in October and then Monclova in November. We will give back to the 'Finzel campus' schools the 2nd half of the school year.

Upcoming activities:

- Back to School Brunch (August 25)
- Roche de Bouf (September 28)
- Boo-to-do / Halloween in Whitehouse (October)
- Christmas Caroling (December)

Next Meeting September 4th @ 7pm

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July Activity Report

2024

Property Committee

Committee Chairmen: Dan Sigg, Wayne King Co-chairs

Committee Members: Matt Dewitz, Jerry Jones, Rob Kohntop, Dave Prueter

Don Schroeder, Liaison

Prairie/Meadow Task Force Coordinator: Laurie Mauro

Risk Management Task Force Coordinator: Wayne King

The Fellowship Hall Air conditioner has been replaced. (This unit was the Heat Pump for the original worship space) AW Heating and Cooling performed the installation, and the work was completed on July 12th

It was determined that appropriate pads should be installed to protect our rubber roof beneath the new AC units on the roof. The foundation for the old heat pump was not suitable.

We requested that Masin Roofing investigate an existing leak in the roof along with installation of the support pads mentioned above. The proposal for the work is \$4,850.00 which includes \$1,500.00 for replacement of 40 feet of wall flashing, if necessary.

The trees near the Dutch Rd (aka East) entrance have been trimmed to open up the space and make the building more inviting.

The casters on the rolling bulletin boards have been repaired in anticipation of Sunday School's need for more classroom space this Fall.

There is a projected deficit of \$13,169.51 in the Capital Improvement Fund based on the July Financial Reports. Upon discussion with the Finance Committee, we recommend the transfer of the current undesignated Memorial Funds to the Capital Improvement Fund.

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Activity Report Worship and Music Committee August 2024

Committee Chairman: Bev Fischer

Committee Members Present: Cheryl Fischer, Michelle Gebhart, Eric Dickey, Pastor Steve Bond, Laurie Mauro, Don Schroeder, Bev Fischer, Lisa Alleman, Carol Wiemken

Review of Worship Services:

Summer Services –

- Blessing of the backpacks will occur on August 18, 9 am service during the children's sermon.
- New Members will also be welcomed on Aug 18.
- Blessing of the animals will be offered on Sat Oct 5.
- Livestream of Blue Jeans Sunday – will be offered via a personal device
- Bulletin printing in 150 per Sun seems to be an adequate number

Worship Volunteers –

- Greeters and Bulletin Assts will be asked to arrive 30 min prior to service rather than 15 min, since more members are arriving early
- Saturday Service – discussion is requested by Church Council
- Vergers – few volunteers have been involved, More members will be encouraged to be involved.
- Communion Volunteers will be scheduled by Bev Fischer as there are more members interested in helping.

Vicar Natalie:

- Initial dates are 8/25 and 9/8
- She will fulfill roles of lector and worship assistant, and will be involved with both services
- Worship and Music Committee agreed to provide feedback on her contributions to worship and preaching.

Choir Update – Lisa Alleman

- Lisa is encouraging more members to join the choir and is offering sessions to help encourage folks to be involved if even for a few weeks at a time.

Other Items

- Banners – the idea of additional banners to be used seasonally in the sanctuary was discussed and encouraged.

Next Meeting – Thurs Sept 5, 10:00 AM

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Activity Report Social Action Committee AUGUST 2024

Committee Chairman: Becky King, Kathryn Whitacre

Committee Members: None

Blood Drive Annette Merritt

- Nothing new to report

Material Girls LSCA Quilting Ministry Rose Ackerman, Joan Bierley, Co-Chairs

- The Material Girls have continued working on quilts for both Bed-builds and LWR. We are looking forward to September when vacations are over and surgeries healed to have some of our regulars back working with us.

Salem Meals Wayne King

- Wayne continues to help out once a month at Salem's Tuesday meals. He is always looking for a friend to take along with him!

Migrant Laundry Baskets Kathryn Whitacre

- I dropped off a load of items on my way to Cleveland in early July. I plan at least one more trip to drop off donations before the end of September
- This is an ongoing project though the LIFT program in Fremont. There is a box to continue collecting items for the migrant's needs in the Church.

LWR School Kits Carrie Tuohy

- We have begun collecting items for the LWR School Kits. Carrie has created a wonderful display in the gathering space.

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Activity Report

August/2024 Fellowship Committee

Committee Chairman: Susan Nofzinger

Committee Members: Pam Davis, Chad Ackerman

Committee Liaisons: Pam Davis, Chad Ackerman

Successful Mudhens Game Outing on July 21st.

Talking about doing a Mystery Dinner or some event for October.

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Stewardship Committee July 16, 2024 Meeting minutes

Committee Co-Chairman/Chairwoman: Kevin Swagler & Tina Baden

**Committee Members: Michael Abraham, Dave Alleman, Kathy Chamberlain,
Matt Dewitz, Laurie Mouro**

Pastor Steve led the meeting with prayer.

- We are still updating the church directory. The ability to make changes on-line ended, yet individuals can still complete hard copies and return them to the office. As of July 5, there were a total of 219 families on the directory. Information again be collected and downloaded the first weekend of the month at the 9:00 service in August.
- The new TV in the gathering space was bought and hung up. Slides and still videos will be shown.
- There is a sign up for those representing CofC at the Pride Parade. Zoar is coordinating the efforts and there are 27 churches taking part.
- Community of Christ Festival of Talents will be on September 28th which will include a talent show and committee displays. Information about the event is in the newsletter and will be in the bulletin the end of July.
- CofC In Focus in July is the Prairie Meadow.

Next scheduled meeting is August 20th 7:00 p.m.

Tina Baden

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Activity Report

August 6, 2024

Lay Intern Committee

Committee Chair: Pam Davis

Committee Members: Cammie Abraham, Lisa Alleman, Andrea Donley, Debbie Warner, Rebecca Jaessing, Pat Roth, Chris Rilling

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer.

- After member introductions Pastor Steve gave the committee an overview of seminary internship and what it means to be an intern and an intern committee.
- There was discussion on how to best serve Vicar Natalie, conduct committee meetings and mid-term and final evaluations, and how to facilitate evaluations from the congregation.
- Vicar Natalie and her family will worship with us on Sunday, August 25, and she will do her onboarding that week. Her 1st full week at C of C will begin Sunday, September 8, and she expects to be in the office Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with an option for online work on Wednesdays.
- The committee's 1st meeting with Vicar Natalie will be Thursday, September 19 at 6:30pm.

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