



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Church Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2024

In Attendance: Kara Yokum (President), 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 Touhy, Kathryn Whitacre. Guest: Michelle Gebhart

Call to Order & Opening Devotions: President Kara Yokum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Steve shared words from the late spiritual theologian Henri Nouwen from *The Life of the Beloved* about claiming our identity as beloved children of God – no matter what anybody says about us. Pastor will lead devotions at our next meeting as well.

Agenda: Kara noted the agenda will be printed for each meeting, but reports will be printed only if requested from Michelle. Don Schroeder made a motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Tammy Myers, and approved

Treasurer's Report – (reports attached) Joseph noted that the Church ended the year \$9,800 in the black. Also noted, the Thank You Fund did not have enough to cover the Allen Printing invoice for \$3,664, as approved by council. The Memorial Fund was charged for that amount to avoid an end-of-year deficit in the Thank You Fund.

Don Schroeder moved to charge the Allen Printing invoice of \$3,664 against the Outreach Assimilation budget of 2023. Motion was seconded by Laurie Dewitz and, after discussion, approved.

- All asset accounts are reconciled and up-to-date.
- Building fund income for December was \$33,035 and \$20,472 more than expenses and \$8,984 more than expenses year-to-date. Reserves total \$84,673. \$20,000 from Key Bank BF will be transferred to Thrivent Mission + for better return.
- General fund income was \$62,226 and \$27,075 more than expenses, and \$9,840 more than expenses year-to-date. Reserves total \$160,061, of which \$116,730 is in the Thrivent Mission + money market account.

Tammy Myers moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion seconded by Pam Davis and approved.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Church Council Orientation was led by Kara Yokum. Council members introduced themselves with a brief history of their association with the church.

- Going around the table, *The Code of Conduct for Church Council* and *Statement of Purpose* was read aloud by individual members.
- The current *Church Constitution* was briefly discussed.
- Election of Officers & Appointments to Committees: (The election of Council Officers was completed after the Congregational Meeting on December 3, 2023.) The following slate was presented to Council for final approval:
 - President (Kara Yokum) – one-year term, chairs Church Council and congregational meetings, represents the Church, can sign checks, serves on Executive Committee.
 - Vice President (Michael Abraham) – one-year term, stands in for president, can sign checks, serves on Executive Committee
 - Secretary (Carol Wiemken) – one-year term, records minutes at all official meetings, computer and email literate, minutes to church office copy ready, serves on Executive Committee.
 - Treasurer (Joseph Perkins) – appointed term of one year, renewable.
 - Financial Secretary (Michelle Gebhart) appointed term of one year, renewable.

Laurie Dewitz moved to approve the above slate of Officers of Council. Motion seconded by Laurie Mauro. Motion carried.

- *Committee Explanations and Reporting* was reviewed and Committee Liaisons were chosen for a one-year renewable term. Liaisons will bring information and action desired to Church Council. A committee may have an extra liaison to be determined by Council.

Education & Youth – Laurie Dewitz

Finance – Carrie Touhy

Fellowship – Pam Davis & Chad Ackerman

Outreach/Assimilation/Toolbox/Visitation Ministries – Tammy Myers

Property – Don Schroeder

Social Action – Kathryn Whitacre & Becky King

Stewardship – Michael Abraham

Worship & Music – Laurie Mauro

Pastor's Report (attached)

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Pastor Steve reviewed highlights from his monthly Report to Council:

- Joint Confirmation Program – Next session is Sunday, January 14. Four students affiliated with CofC attended the December class session, and our partners at Waterville-Haskins are still working on getting potential students.
- Joint Youth Leader Position with Providence – In-house brainstorming and meeting with representatives from CofC and Providence is scheduled for next week.
- Rostered Ministers Gathering – Pastor will attend January 23-25.
- New Members to be Received – Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, will be proposed. A “Lutheran Essentials” class will be scheduled for Adult Sunday School later this winter.
- Staff Annual Review – The postponed reviews will be scheduled as soon as possible.
- Council Retreat – This retreat, previously discussed, has been set for Saturday, January 27, from 9 am to 11:30 am at the church.
- Council Photos – Will be taken immediately following the meeting.

Committee Reports

- Finance – (Kara) Kevin Swagler’s name has been removed from the Key Bank signature card. President Kara Yokum, Vice President Michael Abraham and Treasurer Joseph Perkins has been added.
- Education & Youth – (Laurie Dewitz) Nothing new to report at this time.
- Fellowship – (Pam & Chad) Nothing new to report at this time.
- Outreach/Assimilation (Visitation Ministry & Community Toolbox)
Tammy highlighted the attached report:
 - Coordinating a new member spreadsheet to identify visitors and creating a new member gift.
 - Researching possible 2025 event for food trucks in our parking lot.
 - Scheduled events:
 - Walk Cherry Fest parade
 - Potential August ice cream social
 - Roche deBoeuf booth
 - AW Homecoming parade
 - Waterville and Whitehouse Trick or Treating
 - Christmas caroling
 - Continuing Blue Jean Sunday under discussion
 - Next meeting February 7 at 7 pm

Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

- Property – (Don) Laurie Mauro reported that there is enough seed to cover the entire prairie area.
- Social Action – Kathryn & Becky noted that all are invited to participate in the “Material Girls” quilting group regardless of quilting abilities. (report attached)
- Stewardship – (Michael) There is nothing new to report at this time.
- Worship & Music – (Laurie Mauro) Previous liaison Carol Wiemken highlighted the volunteer training scheduled for January 16, 17 & 18 as outlined in the attached report.
- 50th Anniversary – Pam reported that the committee will meet again January 10th and reminded us that the next event, the Spaghetti Dinner, is February 10th.

New Business

- A. Update Key Bank signature cards: See Finance report.
- B. Council Retreat: See Pastor’s report.
- C. New member dinner: table
- D. Council Photos: See Pastor’s report

Adjournment and Prayer

Becky King moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by Laurie Dewitz and approved, and followed by the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting: February 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Carol Wiemken, Council Secretary

Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”

1-9-24

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. All asset accounts are reconciled and up to date.
2. BF/GF for December
 - a. Building Fund
 - BF income was \$33,035 and \$20,472 more than expenses
 - BF YTD income is \$8,984 more than expenses
 - BF reserves total \$84,673
 - \$40,029 of the total is in our Thrivent Mission + money market acct.
 - I will transfer \$20,000 from KeyBank BF to Thrivent Mission + for better return
 - b. General Fund
 - GF income was \$62,226 and \$27,075 more than expenses
 - GF YTD income is \$9,840 more than expenses
 - GF reserves total \$160,061
 - \$116,730 of the total is in our Thrivent Mission + money market acct.
3. I included a 10 year BY GF analysis for your review in the reports sent you.
4. The Allen Printing invoice for \$3,664 was approved by council to be paid from Thank You funds. Unfortunately the Thank You fund did not have enough to cover the total amount and was short \$2,064. I charged the Memorial Fund that amount to avoid and end of year Thank You fund deficit, until council can approve a solution.

Pastor's Report to Council—January 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

- Naan-Style Bread for Communion—Since our last meeting, we have returned to using naan as our bread at communion; I'd invite any feedback, whether from you as council or from others you have heard share input in the congregation.

- Baptism Updates

Henry Powers—We did have the baptism of Henry Powers on Dec. 10 as discussed previously.

Malkuian family—This family, previously moved to inactive member status before my time, has had several attempts at setting a time for their little one (now three years old) to be baptized, Benjamin, and they have since also postponed our most recent planned date in January to now after Easter in April sometime.

- Feedback on Advent/Christmas—I would invite your feedback on what worked, what didn't, and what to remember for next year from our Advent and Christmastide, including the Holden Evening Prayer services, the artwork, the candle-lighting in Sunday services, the glow-sticks for Christmas Eve, and anything else you observed throughout the season.
- Feedback on "Astonish Us Again" Advent Devotions and Prayers—I would also invite your input on whether the prayer compilation and short video and scripture readings we provided to the congregation (and social media) were helpful, and whether that sort of thing is a helpful model for the future, or any other input.
- Worship Volunteer Training Workshops—Next week, we'll be hosting three different workshops for people in worship leadership roles, and we're inviting people to come to see how our different worship roles work together. Hopefully, this will be a chance for us to see new volunteers join our ranks and also to resume more uniformity of practice as we come back to a "new normal" post-COVID in a number of our practices.

Christian Education and Youth

- Adult Class (Sundays)—The Adult Sunday School class is back at the 9:00 am hour on Sundays, and later this winter we'll have a series co-led by our Laurie Mauro on Spiritual Gifts in that class.
- Kids' Sunday School—We had our most recent class session for kids this past Sunday, Jan. 7, and we had probably around 8 kids.
- Joint Confirmation Program—Our next session will be this Sunday, Jan. 14. We had four students affiliated with CoC at our December class session, and our partners at Waterville-Haskins are still working on getting their potential students in line. Pastor Boger and the other Waterville leaders asked to still keep the door open for partnership this year to see if they get any students, and if they don't, we'll see how we revamp the program from there

(that is, if we end up having only CoC participants and if that means that all of our class sessions will be here, rather than rotating locations/leaders).

- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study—Resumes Jan. 11 with a new study of Mark's Gospel, at 1:00 pm, with additional resources to be shared for those who can't be with us in person.
- Joint Youth Leader Position with Providence—Our in-house brainstorming session for this youth-leader position will be this Wednesday, with a component for our youth to add input and a parallel conversation for our parents and adults. Next week, on Thursday, Jan. 18, we'll have a meeting with representatives from CoC and Providence to work on details for a job description for the shared youth-ministry position we are hoping to create (and that both have now committed budget resources for 2024), based on the input we bring from our in-house conversation this week.

Synod and Wider Church

- Rostered Ministers Gathering—The annual gathering of pastors and rostered ministers for our synod will be held Jan. 23-25 (a Tuesday through Thursday), and I'll be attending; it's held up at Sawmill Creek (Huron), but I would imagine I will be reachable in case of pastoral care emergencies.

Member Care

- New Members to Be Received—We have several folks who have generically indicated interest in joining the congregation as new members; I'd like to propose a date of Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 11, for that to happen, and I'll check with our possible new members about making sure that date works for them. We'll also be having a series in the Adult Sunday School class later this winter on "Lutheran Essentials" that will hopefully be a way to welcome new folks who don't have a background in Lutheran Christianity already, and to deepen understanding for folks who are lifelong Lutherans.
- Idea for 2024: A "New Member Dinner"—I wanted to toss out the idea of an annual event at which all those who have joined the congregation in the past year could be invited, along with council members, to a shared dinner (maybe council members bring meal components and the new members are our guests) where they can get to know faces and names better, and where we can share some of our stories as members—how we got here, what has drawn us here to CoC, how we serve on council, etc. If that's something you think would be helpful, I'd suggest maybe we look at a fall 2024 date for something like that (to get us clear of 50th-anniversary festivities and to allow time for new members to be received over the course of the year).

Administrative Matters

- Staff Annual Review (Getting Scheduled)—We had postponed the annual reviews that are traditionally done in the fall each year because of my arrival in the fall, but we had said we would pick up with those reviews (and the compensation increases that would traditionally be considered with them) in early 2024. I don't want to stand in the way of getting those things attended to, so I'd suggest we get that piece scheduled and resolved as soon as possible so that Eric and Michelle are not in limbo for an unnecessarily long time.

- Council Retreat—We had discussed briefly in December having a date for a bigger-picture council retreat to do some long-range planning, some leadership development, and some relationship building. If that is still a worthwhile idea, I'd propose we set a date at our January council meeting so that we can prepare for that time.
- Council Photos—We had also planned on having council members get their photos taken at our January meeting so that we can make a display in the gathering space for people to see who our leaders for 2024 are.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Steve



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Activity Report January 2024 Outreach

Committee Chairman: Greg Myers

Committee Members: Shelly Hayes, Robin Fritz, Kristen Schuchman, Tammy Myers, Pastor Steve, Kathy Heckler

- **New Member coordination**
 - **Create a online spreadsheet to identify visitors and coordinate with Pastor and the committee. Work with Michelle to help set this up.**
- **New Member gift**
 - **Pastor Steve to work with Susan Raymond on ideas and present at next meeting (Mugs, notebooks, etc)**
- **Look at coordinating food trucks in our parking lot (Possibly a 2025 event). Shelly H is researching the possibility.**
- **Scheduled events for Outreach**
 - **Parade for Cherry Fest**
 - **Ice Cream social (August potential)**
 - **Roche De Boeuf booth**
 - **AW Homecoming parade**
 - **Waterville Trick or Treating**
 - **Whitehouse Trick or Treating**
 - **Christmas Caroling**

Next meeting is February 7 at 7:00pm

Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Activity Report December 7, 2023 Worship & Music Committee

Committee Members: Bev Fischer, Cheryl Fischer, Bea Ludwig, Don Schroeder, Laurie Mauro, Eric Dickey, Michelle Gebhart, Pastor Steve Bond
Council Liaison: Carol Wiemken

Opening prayer led by Pastor Steve

Flowers:

- Bulletin board is updated for altar flowers for 2024. Poinsettias have been ordered and will be delivered in time for decorating church for Christmas.

Review of Worship Services:

- Pastor Mike Henck from Salem Lutheran will preach on December 17th when the Angel Tree gifts will be prepared for delivery. Also on the 17th, Blue Christmas service, with Communion, will be at 4 pm.
- Christmas Eve services begin at 9 am (Sunday service), and three evening services at 4, 7 and 11 pm with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight at all three services. Also discussed,
 - Pascal candle being moved to the Advent wreath,
 - dimming sanctuary lights during the candlelight singing,
 - the role of the ushers,
 - possibility of using glo-sticks instead of candles for youngsters.
- New Year's Eve Day will be one service at 9 am.

Communion Bread:

- Using naan seems to be going well.
- Communion distribution at all Christmas Eve services will be continuous. Additional Worship Assistants will be needed.
- Brown rice crackers were sampled as an alternative to the gluten-free wafers.

Volunteer Training:

- A workshop program will be set by Pastor and repeated three times on different days and times. The roles will be discussed at the January meeting.
- Discussed the need for a "verger": a person who acts as a caretaker and attendant.

Other Items:

- A Baptism is scheduled for December 10th and one possibly in January.
- At the conclusion of the meeting Wayne King and Dick Burdo will join the team in arranging the sanctuary pews for a better flow.
- A date will be set for welcoming new members before Lent begins (2/14/24). A new members dinner will be discussed for the future.
- Next meeting will be January 11th to plan for Lent.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"