



# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

## Church Council Meeting Minutes March 12, 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, Don Schroeder, Kathryn Whitacre. **Absent:** Tammy Myers & Carrie Touhy **Guest:** Chris Rilling

**Call to Order:** President Kara Yokum called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**Devotions and Prayer:** Pastor Steve urged Council members to ask "Why are we doing this"? Members shared prayerful suggestions.

**Approve Today's Agenda:** *Laurie Dewitz made the motion to accept the agenda, which was seconded by Don Schroeder. Motion approved.*

Chris Rilling reported that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD is almost ready and presented Council with some suggestions to enhance the celebration. Council and Pastor Steve agreed to look further into his suggestions.

### **Pastoral/Staff Reports:**

#### Treasurer's Report: (report attached) Joseph Perkins

- General Fund income exceeded expenses by \$1,133
- Learned our janitorial service had been sending our invoices to the wrong address. Therefore, we were hit with \$5,500 in February expenses.
- Almost all snow removal expenses were for salting.

*Pam Davis moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion seconded by Becky King. Motion approved.*

Secretary's Report: Carol Wiemken February 13, 2024 Council meeting minutes were emailed to Council members for review. *The minutes were approved via email vote.*

#### Pastor's Report (report attached)

- Next steps for nursery care will be to engage the congregation beginning with the April newsletter and personal inquiries with our young families. The planned start date for nursery care would be in the fall, depending on interest.
- We will partner with Hope UMC in Whitehouse for Vacation Bible School on June 10-14, 9:30 – 11:30 am.
- We currently have four people interested in joining our congregation in April and the possibility of more.

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**



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- The question of our interest in the invitation from the Synod to host an Intern/Vicar was discussed and Council has requested more information from the Synod before taking the proposal to the full congregation.
- Pastor has completed the basic paperwork to stand for nomination to the Churchwide Assembly in 2025 as a male clergy voting member from NWO Synod.

## **Committee Reports:**

- Finance – Carrie Touhy/Kara Yokum (report attached)
  - The audit report is completed and the books are in good order.
  - Binders of instruction will be created.
  - *A motion to approve the finance report was made by Becky King, seconded by Laurie Mauro and approved.*
- Education & Youth – Laurie Dewitz (report attached)
- Outreach/Visitation Ministry – Tammy Myers (report attached)
- Property/Prairie Meadow and Risk Mitigation – Don Schroeder (report attached)
- Worship & Music – Laurie Mauro (report attached)
- Social Action – Kathryn Whitacre/Becky King (report attached)
- Fellowship – Pam Davis/Chad Ackerman (report attached)
- Stewardship – Michael Abraham (report attached)

## **Task Force Reports:**

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Pam Davis/Kara Yokum (report attached)

## **Unfinished Business:**

- Copier Proposals: Three copier proposals were submitted to Michelle Gebhart, Office Manager: our current company MT/Xerox, Perry ProTech and OBMO of the three, Council has chosen the quote from Perry Protech.

*Don Schroeder made a motion to accept the contract submitted by Perry ProTech for \$439 per month. Pam Davis seconded the motion and it was approved.*

## **Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

*Becky King made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm, seconded by Laurie Mauro and approved. Adjournment was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.*

**Next meeting:** May 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Carol Wiemken, Council Secretary

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**

**3-12-24**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

1. All asset accounts are reconciled and up to date.
2. BF/GF for February
  - a. Building Fund
    - BF income was \$9,799 and \$2,764 less than expenses
  - b. General Fund
    - GF income was \$49,631 and \$1,133 more than expenses
    - We got hit with 4 months of 2023 expense for janitorial services and 2 months for 2024 in February totaling \$5,500. The vendor was sending our invoices to the wrong address.
    - We also received \$5,500 in snow removal charges for December 2023 and January and February 2024. Almost all was for salting.
    - Fortunately we had a record amount of general fund income.

**Community of Christ Lutheran Church - Whitehouse OH**  
**Balance Sheet as of February 29, 2024**

Friday, March 01, 2024

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Previous Period Balance	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>				
1.100.105	Checking Account - KeyBank	151,543.07	(770.97)	150,772.10
1.100.108	Mission+ Reserve Fund	217,738.77	427.65	218,166.42
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$369,281.84</b>	<b>(\$343.32)</b>	<b>\$368,938.52</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
2.100.100	941 Taxes Payable	2,063.66	105.24	2,168.90
2.100.110	State Taxes Payable	196.40	12.00	208.40
2.100.120	City Taxes Payable	113.74	118.21	231.95
	<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,373.80</b>	<b>\$235.45</b>	<b>\$2,609.25</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,373.80</b>	<b>\$235.45</b>	<b>\$2,609.25</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>				
3.100.100	General Fund	48,024.28	1,133.19	49,157.47
3.105.100	Capital Improvement Fund	7,670.99	100.00	7,770.99
3.110.100	Building Loan Fund	44,077.92	(2,763.66)	41,314.26
3.115.100	Columbarium Fund Balance	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
3.118.100	Concert Fund	309.00	0.00	309.00
3.119.100	Daily Bread Fund Balance	250.00	0.00	250.00
3.120.100	Mission + Endowment Fund	3,415.66	6.71	3,422.37
3.122.100	Mission + Memorial Fund	27,140.51	53.31	27,193.82
3.123.100	Mission + Youth Ministry Fund Reserve	30,094.51	59.11	30,153.62
3.124.100	Mission + General Fund Reserve	116,974.63	229.74	117,204.37
3.125.100	Mission+ Building Fund Reserve	40,113.46	78.78	40,192.24
3.128.100	Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund	684.00	68.00	752.00
3.130.100	Memorial Fund	13,715.46	(1,745.00)	11,970.46
3.131.100	Memorial Fund - Stained Glass	17,405.25	0.00	17,405.25
3.132.100	Memorial Fund - Eagle Scout	700.00	0.00	700.00
3.133.100	Memorial Fund - Landscaping Balance	685.04	1,745.00	2,430.04
3.140.100	Youth Retreat Fund	2,882.06	200.00	3,082.06
3.160.100	Religious Scholarship Fund	560.00	0.00	560.00
3.180.100	Thank You Fund	1,803.97	350.00	2,153.97
3.185.100	Nursery Enhancements Fund	521.77	0.00	521.77
3.190.100	Parking Lot Upgrade Fund	8,033.35	0.00	8,033.35
3.200.100	Prayer Shawl Fund	20.00	0.00	20.00
3.205.100	Worship Enhancements Fund	255.18	0.00	255.18
3.210.000	Worship & Music Fund	571.00	(93.95)	477.05
	<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$366,908.04</b>	<b>(\$578.77)</b>	<b>\$366,329.27</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$369,281.84</b>	<b>(\$343.32)</b>	<b>\$368,938.52</b>



## **Pastor's Report to Council—March 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*

- **Lenten Midweek Suppers and Services**—Our series continues on Wednesdays; the final two evening services will feature Chris Rilling giving a presentation through art, archaeology, and science about what Jesus looked like and how we envision Jesus. We continue having creative projects for congregational participation between the Wednesday suppers and the 7:00pm evening prayer services.
- **Holy Week and Easter**—We will have opportunities for worship in each of these services in Holy Week:

Wednesday, March 27—Jazz Passion

Thursday, March 28—Maundy Thursday (including Foot and Handwashing, Holy Communion)

Friday, March 29—Good Friday evening worship—centered on the Passion according to Saint John

Saturday, March 30—The Vigil of Easter (including the compiled art projects we have been making throughout Lent, as parts of the storytelling)

Easter Sunday—services at 8:00am and 10:00am

- **Funeral Service for Kay Burdo**—We hosted the funeral for Kay Burdo last Monday, Mar. 4.
- **Noisy Offering Back in Lent**—The noisy offering containers are in the sanctuary next to the offering plates, and this seems to be working as we had planned.
- **Nursery Care Questions: Update from Insurance**—Last month as we began to consider whether nursery-care is something to revisit here at CoC, we said the first step would be to check with insurance to see if there were any new changes/requirements from the insurance side if we would resume staffing a nursery. The agent indicated there were no new changes, so we would just need to return to the practices that had been in place before when we had a staffed nursery on Sundays (background checks for volunteers, first-aid/CPR training, etc.) The next question I would bring to council on this is whether we want to inquire with families who have young children and to see if they would want to make use of a nursery option if we were going to offer it (not useful to provide if people don't want to use it, right?). If so, I would propose both a written inquiry in the next newsletter and personal inquiries with those families at the same time.
- **Hosting Workshop Through Synod for New Hymnal Resource—April 20**—We've been asked to host a workshop, which will feature several different musicians across the synod, to introduce people to the new (ish) hymnal resource *All Creation Sings*, from which we've

been drawing a few new-to-us hymns lately. This will be the morning of April 20, and our Eric Dickey is on board as one of the co-presenters.

### *Christian Education and Youth*

- **Adult Class (Sundays)**—The Adult Forum on Sundays is working through Daniel Erlander's *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life* through Lent, and we'll look at new series beyond that in April. We are also looking at Thrivent doing a presentation for those interested in learning about Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Actions Team during the Sunday School hour (probably with a reception hosted by Thrivent, too, in the fellowship hall).
- **Kids' Sunday School**—We have our most recent class session for kids on March 10 and have dates planned through the rest of the school year for this.
- **Joint Confirmation Program**—Confirmation classes continue every two weeks, and our confirmation students are also helping with creating "thinking of you" cards to some of our homebound members and people checked on by the Visitation Ministry.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study**—Our study of the Gospel of Mark continues weekly, and have been averaging 15 people around the table each time. We're also offering video summaries of each session's content through YouTube/Facebook.
- **Women's Bible Study**—The Tuesday group facilitated by Becky King will start a new series on Jesus and Women following the conclusion of their series on prayer.
- **Joint Youth Leader Position With Providence**—Both Providence and Community of Christ approved the job description, with the edits we discussed last time, and Sarah Service at Providence was to begin posting it online and with Synod and other church-affiliated contacts to solicit responses.
- **Vacation Bible School**—With the direction of Christian Education and Council last month, I let Pastor Warren Clifton at Hope UMC, Whitehouse, know that we would be happy to partner with them and their VBS this year. The details are as follows, from Pastor Clifton: *"VBS will be June 10-14 9:30-11:30 a.m. (again, built around our Child Care). We will tell "Egypt" stories. There will a Family Fun Night Friday June 14 at 7 pm for those families who participate."*

### *Member Care*

- **Policy Revisions for Hall/Kitchen Use for Non-Member Funeral Situations**—Kitchen, property, and calendar people are meeting on March 21 to work on the policy revisions, per our February meeting's decision.
- **New Members To Be Received in April**—The following people (at least) are ready to join the congregation on a date upcoming in April, after Easter.
  - *Dave and Jennifer Braun (pronounced "Brown")*—transfer from Providence
  - *Cindy Myerholtz*—transfer from Faith United Lutheran Church, Toledo
  - *Judy Mock*—transfer from St. Luke's Lutheran, Temperance, MI

I share these names with you for formal OK of receiving them all into membership, and if others would arise who are ready to join on the same date, I'll let you all as council know in advance as well.

### *Synod and Wider Church*

- Churchwide Assembly 2025—As I mentioned last month, the Synod approached me about two possible ways of serving the wider/synod-level church. One was to consider nomination to Synod Council, but then the Synod realized we also already had Kevin Swagler currently on Synod Council and they didn't want multiple people from the same congregation at the same time, so they withdrew that request. They did, however, still want to know if I would be willing to stand for nomination to the Churchwide Assembly in 2025 as a male clergy voting member from NWO Synod, and I have completed the basic paperwork to be listed as a nominee—the selection of nominees will be at this year's Synod Assembly in June, but the Churchwide Assembly I would attend (if selected) would be July-August 2025, for about a week). The Synod would cover costs for travel and accommodations during the Assembly if am selected to go.
- Request/Invitation from Synod To Consider Hosting an Intern/Vicar—This is a little bit bigger of a request that just came to me this week (Tuesday of this week, March 5), and after conversation with our council president and vice-president, I believe the appropriate place for conversation is for all of us as a council. We have been asked by Synod Staff Sherry Krieger if we would be open to being an internship site for a student in need of an internship placement for a year beginning *this fall* (Fall 2024 through fall 2025, basically). Her request says the following:

*"We have been asked by the Southeast Michigan Synod (SEMI) if we have any internship placements available in the Toledo area. They have a candidate in need of a fall placement for a one-year internship, but they don't have any parishes or supervisors available for this student/intern. Would you/Community of Christ be ready for an internship placement? We've never talked about that kind of opportunity with you all, but I do think you, Pr. Stephen and the CofC parish, would be an ideal placement that would invest in and help raise up a well-trained pastor. Let me know what you think! The SEMI Asst. to the Bishop and I are in regular contact so if you think this is something you all would be interested in, please let me know and we'll take next steps. I've attached the payment schedule provided by the school, so you have an idea of stipend and expenses. The soon-to-be-intern lives in Bedford and would travel back and forth while living with her family."*

At the end of this report is a supplement with the full listing of expenses associated with hosting an intern under these circumstances, and I would ask council's discussion about whether or not we would feel led to pursue this for this year, with this specific request.

The only other input I would add on the subject is as follows:



Costs The financial obligation for hosting an intern is significant (approaching \$30,000), and we have already taken a leap of faith in our budgeting with preparing to fund a shared Children, Youth, and Family position with Providence, and we have yet to see how the finances for that pan out in real life. And of course, we are also still paying for our building loan (not to mention the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary challenge). All of those are significant and already-made commitments, so I'm cautious about taking on a large amount for such an immediate time (starting this fall, and then through most of 2025). You all as a council will of course have longer history and experience to rely on as far as what you think the congregation can take on, but I will admit to being cautious about additional commitments *at the same time*.

Responsibility to the Wider Church That said, I also understand that a congregation has a connection and commitment to the work of the wider church, and I do think that Community of Christ has a great deal to offer that could be helpful in formation of new leaders and pastors for the church. I would say the right way to frame the question of an intern is not, "What will we GET out of having an intern?" but rather, "What do we have to offer that would be valuable for an intern?" And I do think it would be appropriate for us to be open to hosting an intern in the future, if we would decide not to accept this invitation right now—again, that is entirely your call as a council to decide whether to consider this further at all or not. Of course, we are being asked to help *now*, rather than just hypothetically in the future, and I realize that among the congregations in Northwestern Ohio, even for all of our financial commitments and expenses, we are in a relatively stable place whereas many others are even more precarious. So I also feel the weight of the argument that says, "If not us, who else would be in a position to take on an intern for the year ahead?" And an intern who is able to stay in their current residence and thus not have housing costs added in would be less financial commitment than someone who also needed a housing allowance.

Process—It would seem to me that the council can make one of two choices on this matter: either we decline the invitation to host this intern (leaving it to a future conversation if/when we ever consider applying to be an internship site at another time), or we would have to bring this to the congregation in a special congregational meeting because of the costs associated with it. In other words, we can say a definite no, or we can take it to the congregation for consideration, which could either end in a yes or a no.

- Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Word & Sacrament Internship Financial Worksheet
- 2024-2025

Expenses	Payable to	Amount
Administrative Fee Onetime fee	Wartburg	\$1,000.00
Travel Pool Onetime fee	Wartburg	\$500.00
Stipend* \$2,000 per month, minimum	Intern	\$24,000.00
Housing and Utilities** Varies based on location and household size. \$500 - \$1200+/month		
FICA FICA based on the total value of the stipend plus housing provided	IRS	
Work expenses Based on approved expenses incurred for intern's work	Intern	
Synod Assembly, Theological Conference, Internship Clusters Varies with location and length of assignment. Amount listed is an estimation.		\$1,000.00
Travel Reimbursement*** Automobile expenses incurred in performance of assigned duties. Suggested at IRS Guidelines or an appropriate monthly stipend. Will vary per context.	Intern	
Housing – Moving Expenses Only if unfurnished or under-furnished housing is provided (in addition to the travel pool amount of \$500.00)		

- Optional Expenses

Intern's share of FICA**** Based on the total value of the stipend and the housing provided to the intern	IRS	
Travel and Accommodation expenses If the congregation/agency desires that the intern/vicar visit prior to the start of the internship for purposes of orientation and introduction		
Intern's Technology Fee Approximately \$350 per year. Exact cost for 2023-2024 yet TBD.	Wartburg	
Renter's Insurance		
Estimated Total		

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- **\* For anything less than a full-time internship, the stipend would be adjusted accordingly to reflect part-time status.**
- **\*\* For geographically restricted internships, housing is often not needed.**
- **\*\*\* Travel reimbursement does NOT include travel between the intern's home and the ministry site.**
- **\*\*\*\* So that the intern receives the full value of their stipend, we invite ministry sites to consider paying the intern's share of FICA taxes. Please consult with an accounting professional to determine best practices in your context.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Steve



## COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

### **Annual Financial Audit Report of Calendar Year 2023** *(completed Feb 2024)*

#### **SCOPE**

- Review bank reconciliations
- Review cash receipts and disbursements
- Inspect documentation for disbursement requests and payments
- Review general accounting treatment of select transactions
- Year-end balances verification
- Provide recommendations for improvement
- Hold meeting with Financial Secretary/Treasurer/Money Counter for procedures review

#### **SUMMARY**

As a result of our performance of the above outlined scope, we believe that all record keeping was in order and documented, good practices followed, and checks and balance exist except where noted below. The Finance Audit Committee believes the financial activities and records of the church are in order. There were minor items noted as reflected below, but we do not believe these have any impact on the overall accuracy and completeness of the financial records.

#### **FINDINGS / QUESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS (summarized):**

- For each month, the bank accounts reconciled between Church Windows, teller sheets, excel report sheets, deposit slips, and the bank statements. Random checks were selected to track through the entire process (invoice approval, recording, bank statement inclusion). Cancelled/voided checks verified.
- Tythe.ly
  - This item was noted in the prior year audit where individual donor's names were reflected on Tythe.ly reports maintained with the monthly bank statements. There was one occurrence noted in review of 2023 – all other months had information blacked out.
- Bank Statements
  - During the review of the bank statements from 2023, it was noted that at one point during the year, there is a contribution coming directly into the church bank account from an individual. This is set up as an automatic payment by the individual to the church. Due to this, the individuals name appears on the monthly bank statement in conjunction with this contribution. There were a two incidents where this information was not hidden in 2023. The amount needs to be shown on the bank statement to tie out to the collection forms completed for all deposits, however the confidential information should be hidden. This item was also noted in 2021 and 2022. Improvement has been made, but still a couple incidents noted. Based on limited access to the bank statement, it is not a material weakness, but should be considered for double check to make sure confidential information is protected.

## **OTHER NOTES**

- Recommendation to create binder set of instructions/procedures of counting process and other financial procedures of Financial Secretary. (Josef has binder of weekly/monthly checklist items to do)
- Recommendation to create book of church policies (money management, job duties/expectations, mileage, etc) prior to calling next Pastor.

In your service,

Finance Committee: Jeff, Kara, Dave, Don, and Kari

**Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”**

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# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

## **Activity Report**

### **March 2024**

### **Youth and Education**

**Committee Chairman:** Lainie Davis

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

Meeting held on 03/11/2024 and discussed the following:

- Job posting for the joint youth leader position is being advertised
- Request resent to youth families for assistance hosting remaining Lent Soup Suppers
- Self Defense class was successful, proceeds to be given to Bethany House
- Easter Activities
  - Egg Hunt between services on Easter Sunday
  - You've Been Egged deliveries
- Other upcoming Youth Activities
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School
  - April 13<sup>th</sup> – Family Game Night
  - May 17<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night
- VBS – we will assist Hope United Methodist in Whitehouse this year and possibly host our own next year
- Retreats
  - New retreat offered by the Synod for junior high age youth this summer June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 3rd
  - Existing youth retreat funds will be used as in the past to support youth attending National Youth Gathering and Synod retreat

Next meeting schedule for Monday, April 8 at 6:30pm.

**Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”**



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## Activity Report

March/2024

### Visitation Ministry

**Committee Chairman: Cheryl Fischer/Cinda Pontsler**

**Committee Members:** Greg Aubell, Joan Bierley, Pr. Steve Bond, Carol Borkowski, Cheryl Fischer, Michelle Gebhart, Shelly Hayes, Julie Holliker, Marlene LaChine, Bea Ludwig, Barb Mersing, Fred Ortner, Cinda Pontsler, Irene Rang, Natalie Rilling, Kathryn Whitacre

#### Ministry Description:

Our initial mission was to visit with members and friends of the congregation who were unable to attend worship in person and assist the pastor in sharing communion with those who desired it. Our ministry has expanded to sending cards/notes, making and providing prayer shawls and baptismal blankets, making and distributing meals and cookies, a yearly educational focus, providing rides, and adopting a local nursing home. Through these ways, the Visitation Ministry Team works to "Make Jesus Known".

#### Notable Accomplishments for February:

- 80 freezer meals were made for distribution to members and nonmembers alike who need a hot meal without worry.
- Over 800 Valentine cookies were made and decorated for distribution to our members to share with a loved one, friend, or anyone they knew who could use a little special cheering up! Part of these were also used by our team who visit shut-ins or those who are homebound.
- Approximately 13 visits were made to our shut-ins or those who are homebound.
- On February 13, our monthly "sing-along hymn" was made to Blue Creek Healthcare.
- Lenten communications to our college students and military were made.

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**



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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

### **March 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**

**Kevin Swagler, Advisor**

**Prairie/Meadow Task Force Coordinator: Laurie Mauro**

**Risk Management Task Force Coordinator: Wayne King**

Rob Kohntopp, Dan Sigg and Don Schroeder painted the hallway leading to the Dutch Road entrance.

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A motion sensor has been installed in the restroom to control heat loss by the vent fan.

Routine maintenance and repair of the facility continues.

A meeting has been scheduled to review the Fellowship Hall use guidelines.

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**





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## Worship Committee Activity Report – March 2024

Present: Bev Fischer, Cheryl Fischer, Sharon Miller, Don Schoeder, Michelle Gebhart, Bea Ludwig, Eric Dickey, Pastor Steve Bond, Laurie Mauro

### Review of Worship Services:

#### Holy Week and Easter

1. Pastor presented plans for Holy Week, Jazz Passion and Easter Vigil  
Plans for additional volunteers were discussed. Pastor proposed that a personal absolution and laying on of hands be added to Maundy Thursday, which was approved. Foot/handwashing will also be offered. Good Friday will include display of artwork for each scene.  
Easter Vigil was discussed in detail. The service will start outside with a fire in the fire ring (weather depending) and proceed indoors with candlelight, baptismal renewal and placement of some Easter flowers. Additional helpers will include story tellers and props helpers, along with some new and special music and communion.
2. Easter Sunday services – will include more flowers and artwork.

**Easter Flowers** – Earlier Easter is limiting the options to obtain usual Easter flowers. Church is investigating other local options for the church to order Easter lilies.

### Follow up on Worship Volunteer Workshops:

A letter will be sent to all worship volunteers to help bring more unity to tone and style of worship aspects. Communion Prep/Clean guidelines are also being revised.

### Other Items:

1. All Creation Sings – a workshop to help pastors/lay leaders appreciate new worship resource is being provided for NWO Synod at Community of Christ on Sat, 4/20.
2. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Bishop Daniel Beaudoin will join us for both the Sat dinner and Sun worship on May 4-5.
3. Announcements during Worship – We will continue to emphasize to those making announcements that they need to use the microphone so that announcements can be heard by all present and on Facebook.
4. Bryce Jennings Concert, jazz piano will be offered on 4/28 with free will offering
5. AWHs Jazz Band Concert – Sun, Mar 10, free will offering.

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## **Activity Report Social Action Committee March 2024**

**Committee Chairman: Becky King, Kathryn Whitacre**

**Committee Members: None**

**Blood Drive    Annette Merritt**

- March 8, 2024 Surprise Blood Drive!
- 31 pints were given.

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

- We met several times and continue working on sorting fabrics, ironing, cutting squares, assembling eye pleasing quilt tops and all the other fun items that are part of this fun project!
- We keep getting more people who want to help with this project. It is a fun, social time for all who attend. Sewers needed, but those of us who can iron and cut fabric, as who have an "eye" for creating a quilt top pattern are also very important! We meet from @10-12 on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Any time you can give to the Material Girls is welcome.
- Discussion was had about making some children's quilts to donate to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bed Building project. Everyone is excited to have found a way to participate, so we are concentrating on children's quilt tops to add to this ministry. We plan to make 25 quilts. Two are completed (one is on display) and 17 tops are ready for the next step. We plan to spend March 18<sup>th</sup> working from 9-5 to get more done!

**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**

- LIFT Welcome Baskets introduced to the congregation on Sunday, March 3. Display created to "prime the pump"! Information also given in the March Newsletter.

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**



# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

## **Activity Report**

### **March 2024**

### **Fellowship Committee**

**Committee Chairman: Susan Nofzinger**

**Committee Members: Kara Yokum, Pam Davis & Chad Ackerman - council liaisons**

**Saturday, March 9 – Dinners for 8**

**Monday, April 8 – Eclipse Watch Party on church property. Public welcome. Details TBA.**

**Saturday, April 20 (tentative) – Mystery Dinner, details TBA.**

**Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”**



# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

## **Activity Report**

### **March 2024**

### **Stewardship Committee**

**Committee Co-Chairman:** Tina Baden & Kevin Swagler

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

Met on 3/5/24 and reviewed/discussed the following topics:

- Video Spotlight: March focus will be the renewal of vows. April focus will be the bed build. We want to tie in the monthly videos into the main message/video in the "middle" of our website. Focus on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event as a lead up.
- Church website: Continue to review and improve. Tina Baden will d/w Rose Ackerman to get a photo at Easter for a new, large photo of members during worship. Choir and bell practice to be added to the calendar.
- Pledge cards planning to be prepared for the fall.
- Work with the property committee on a new communication method via a new TV in the gathering space
- Church talent show possibility this fall.
- Noisy offering began this month to help raise funds for different ministries. From now until May, the change will help raise the needle on the thermometer for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Need a camcorder vs. microphone to use for videos, purchase prior to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- Toolbox of thanks given by Urban Holistics. Donate your old tools to help decorate the toolbox!
- Laurie will create a request form to update phone number, email or home address, new pic for directory, and request for giving envelopes

**Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"**



## COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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- Abraham and Dewitz family to deliver left over envelopes with a letter from Pastor Steve to accompany it.
- Plan a labyrinth next year

**Next scheduled meeting:** Thursday April 11, 2024 at 7pm

**Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”**



# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

## Activity Report

March 2024

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

**Committee Co-Chair:** Pam Davis and Kara Yokum

**Committee Members:** Greg Aubell, Pastor Steve Bond, Marsha Cochran, Pam Davis, Shelly Hayes, Kara Yokum

- Concert – March 10@ 3:00
  - The Anthony Wayne Jazz Band will perform with an intermission by Eric Dickey
  - We will collect a freewill offering which will be divided between the band and the Bed Build.
  - We will have a cookie reception following.
- Bed Build – April 6@ 9:00
  - We discussed additional ways to raise funds for the Bed Build – Shelly and Pastor will work on creating slots/envelopes for people to donate blankets, sheets, mattresses, pillows, a complete bed, etc.
  - We will ask The Mirror to come take pictures and write a story.
  - We will bless the quilts and supplies prior to the event.
  - We have enough volunteers signed up.
  - We are going to take pre-orders for T-shirts which can be worn for the Bed Build as well as other church related activities over the next year.
- Timeline
  - We continue to invite people to add to the timeline.
- May 4 Dinner and May 5 Worship Service
  - We discussed the menu and will contact the caterer to get a firmer quote based on the menu and need to staff, linens, etc.
  - Working on getting an invitation designed and ordered to go out in the next 10 days to 2 weeks.
  - A personalized letter will be sent inviting former Pastors, interns, and Pastors ordained through Community of Christ.
  - Bishop Beaudoin is confirmed.
  - A brass ensemble has been secured.
  - We will have one Service at 9:00 am

**Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”**