



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse, Ohio 43571

Church Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2024

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

Absent: Carrie Tuohy

Guests: Michelle Gebhart, Cheryl Fischer, Cinda Pontsler,

Call to Order: President KaraYokum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, guests were introduced, and Pastor Steve lead with prayer and devotions.

The first order of business was to hear from our guests, Cheryl and Cinda. The ladies presented a 2025 pilot program for an afternoon social time at the church twice a month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on February 11 and 27. This social time would include games, puzzles, card games, decorating Valentine's Day cookies, conversation and mingling, and perhaps include time to walk the church for safe exercise in inclement weather. Rides could be arranged. Non-members would be welcome.

Council expressed concern for possible liability with the exercise portion. Kara and Michael will confer with our insurance company.

Approve Today's Agenda

A motion was made by Becky King to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Laurie Mauro and approved.

Pastoral/Staff Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Joseph Perkins (report attached)

A motion was made by Michael Abraham to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Laurie Dewitz and approved.

A motion was made by Becky King to approve the 2025 draft budget as presented, seconded by Tammy Myers and approved.

Secretary's Report: Carol Wiemken October 8, 2024 council meeting minutes were emailed to council members for review. *The minutes were approved via email vote on October 14th.*

Pastor's Report (report attached)

Committee Reports:

- Finance – Carrie Tuohy/Kara Yokum (no report)
- Youth & Education – Laurie Dewitz (report attached)
- Outreach/Visitation Ministry – Tammy Myers (report attached)

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



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- Property/Prairie Meadow and Risk Mitigation – Don Schroeder (report attached)
- Worship & Music – Laurie Mauro (report attached).
- Social Action – Kathryn Whitacre/Becky King (no report)
- Fellowship – Pam Davis/Chad Ackerman (report attached)
- Stewardship – Michael Abraham (report attached))
- Lay Internship – Pam Davis (report attached)

Unfinished Business:

- Nominating Committee
The names of church members selected by the nominating committee for a three-year term on church council are as follows:
 - Matt Britsch
 - Fred Doering
 - Dean Nofzinger
 - Marlene LaChine

Becky King made a motion to accept the slate of names from the nominating committee, seconded by Kathryn Whitacre, and approved.

- Personnel Committee

Tammy Myers made a motion to move to executive session, seconded by Laurie Dewitz and approved.

Don Schroeder made the motion to accept the personnel committee's report, seconded by Pam Davis and approved.

Becky King made the motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Laurie Mauro and approved.

New Business:

- Draft Budget
See Treasurer's Report above.
- Visitation Ministry – new idea
See first order of business above.
- Prairie Meadow Expansion
The expansion was approved. See Property Committee report attached.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: *A motion was made by Michael Abraham to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Pam Davis and approved. Adjournment was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.*

Next meeting: The new council will meet to elect officers following the Annual Meeting December 8, 2024.

Carol Wiemken, Council Secretary

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"

11-12-24

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. All asset accounts are reconciled to date.
2. We received a stock contribution offering in October of \$35,268
 - a. \$20,000 was designated for the BF and the balance went to the GF
3. BF/GF for October
 - a. Building Fund
 - BF income was \$35,450 and \$22,887 more than expenses
 - KeyBank BF balance is \$58,835
 - Mission + BF Reserve balance is \$40,864
 - b. General Fund
 - GF income was \$46,350 and \$14,465 more than expenses
 - KeyBank GF balance is \$29,838
 - Mission + GF Reserve balance is \$119,163
4. 2025 draft budget is complete and awaiting council approval



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Church Council Meeting Minutes October 8, 2024

In Attendance: Michael Abraham (Vice President), Pam Davis, Laurie Dewitz, Becky King, Laurie Mauro, Don Schroeder, Kathryn Whitacre, Pastor Stephen Bond, Joseph Perkins (Treasurer)

(Absent): Kara Yokum (President), Carol Wiemken (Secretary), Chad Ackerman, Tammy Myers, Carrie Tuohy

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

Agenda: *Motion made by Becky to approve the agenda, seconded by Laurie D and approved.*

Pastoral/Staff Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Joseph Perkins (report attached)

- All asset accounts are reconciled to date
- Building Fund Sept income was \$12,061 (\$502 less than expenses)
- General Fund Sept income was \$32,065 (\$1,355 less than expenses)
- Building Fund YTD income is \$103,201 (\$9,866 less than expenses)
- General Fund YTD income is \$278,491 (\$23,642 less than expenses)
- Looking for Committee input on 2025 budget. Need before next council meeting 11/12

Motion made by Pam to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Laurie M and approved.

Secretary's Report: Carol Wiemken (report attached)

- Sept 10th minutes were approved via email vote on 10/6/2024.

Pastor's Report (report attached)

- MANY great things happening!

Committee Reports:

- Finance: Carrie Tuohy/Kara Yokum (report attached)
- Education & Youth: Laurie Dewitz (no report)
- Outreach/Visitation Ministry: Tammy Myers (visitation report attached)
- Property/Prairie Meadow & Risk Mitigation: Don Schroeder (report attached)
- Worship & Music – Laurie Mauro (report attached)
- Social Action – Becky King & Kathryn Whitacre (no report)
- Fellowship – Chad Ackerman & Pam Davis (report attached)
- Stewardship – Michael Abraham (no report)
- Lay Internship – Pam Davis (report attached)

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



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Unfinished Business:

- Nominating Task Force:
 - Continue seeking candidate for 2025 council
- Personnel Committee:
 - Staff review are being done this month

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: *A motion was made by Becky to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm, seconded by Don and approved.* Adjournment was followed by the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: November 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Michael Abraham (for Carol Wiemken – Council Secretary)

Council Vice President

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"

Pastor's Report to Council—November 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

- Reception of New Members—We did receive four households into membership between the October 27 and November 3 weekends: Theresa Loga, Larry and Amy Mustafaga, Karen and Bruce Meyer, and Jami Williamson.
- Sunday Worship Settings—We are using Setting Ten from ELW for the month of November (the setting using familiar hymn tunes), and will use Setting Four again in Advent.
- Vicar Natalie's Worship Roles—Vicar Natalie continues to have a variety of rotating roles in worship, including the chance to preach at the Community Thanksgiving Service at Hope UMC on Nov. 24th in the evening.
- Blessing of the Animals (Oct. 5)—We probably had around 15 animals and their humans come to participate in this event. Given how easy and relatively simple this event was to put together, it seems like an event to offer again in 2025.
- Advent and Christmas Season Worship—We will offer three midweek Advent services with Holden Evening Prayer on the Wednesdays in Advent (Dec. 4, 11, and 18), and we'll keep our same schedule of services as usual on Christmas Eve. On the Sunday after Christmas we'll have two services as usual, 8:00 and 10:00am.

2025 Theme for Worship, Education, Spiritual Resources, and Discipleship:

Life on the Edge: Christianity Beyond Our Comfort Zones

Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary is primarily rooted in Luke's Gospel and will be the primary scaffolding for our worship texts and readings and therefore our preaching and musical choices. Luke's gospel in particular (as well as its companion book, Acts, which we will hear from throughout the year as well, especially in Eastertide) portrays Jesus as someone always on the margins of society, also leading his disciples beyond the familiar places of their comfort zones and into new adventures. Jesus is deliberately among the poor, the outcast, foreigners/Gentiles, the least, the lost, and the left-out in Luke's Gospel, and he calls his disciples to be among them as well. In our day and time it can be tempting to see our Christian faith simply as a comfortable thing that never pushes us beyond the familiar or the routine. So I would propose the theme of Life on the Edge (Christianity Beyond Our Comfort Zones) as the framework for worship, seasonal planning, devotions and educational resources, and preaching emphasis. As with the "Meeting Jesus" theme in 2024, this is meant to fit within the existing structure of the church year and seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc.), and it is meant to have enough flexibility to adapt to arising needs or other changes. More details to come, but that's the broad brushstroke picture.

Christian Education and Youth

- Adult Class (Sundays)—We have been averaging 15-20 on Sundays in the Adult class and have found the fellowship hall location manageable for our class gatherings there. Our current series, “On the Other Hand,” will run through November and will offer a chance for Vicar Natalie to co-lead a session with me as well.
- Sunday School for Children and Youth—We continue to offer Sunday School for kids weekly, with varying numbers in our classes each week, but with the plan to continue with our model of weekly rotating teachers for the rest of this school year.
- Collaboration with UMC/ELCA Neighboring Congregations for Anthony Wayne Youth Group—We had a meeting recently with representatives of CoC, Hope UMC, and Zion (Waterville), and we plan to offer the Christmas Youth Scavenger Hunt as a joint community youth event, and that will be held on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 15, beginning at Hope and ending here at Community of Christ.
- Confirmation Program—We had our first field trip event since our last council meeting, going to St Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church and a bonus invitation to a hayride/bonfire at the Fifers’ home, and we continue our partnership with Zion, Waterville for shared classes and rotation of class locations.
- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study—Our series on Galatians will finish the Thursday before Thanksgiving, and then in December, Vicar Natalie and I will co-lead a series called “Things Seen and Unseen” on angels and other celestial beings in the Bible.
- Welcome Table Wednesdays—This experimental six-week series ran through early October, and might be a model we come back to in the future, but we had limited participation this fall, especially in the activity time in the second hour for kids. I still think it is worth us looking for creative ways to engage children, youth, and families beyond Sunday mornings, though.

Membership

- Transfer Requests IN for New Members—Pam Mead has also requested formally to join our congregation, and after meeting with her in this past week, we are preparing for that to happen on Christ the King Sunday in worship (November 24 at 8:00am service). As our usual practice is for council to be informed about those wishing to be received into membership, I am sharing this information with you. Rev. Holli Burkhard has also expressed interest as well, and I will be meeting with her to begin that conversation soon, too.

Stewardship

- Time and Talent Forms and Financial Commitment Cards for 2024—Michelle did a fantastic job of compiling all of the responses from the Time and Talent forms and breaking them down by committee area for the distribution and use with the various committees in the congregation, and those summaries have been shared with committee heads or committee members already this week. I would again ask that we make sure our committees are following up with those who indicated an interest in being a part of the ministry of Community of Christ early so that no one feels like they are lost in the cracks. We had approximately 50 (and counting) responses to the Time and Talent forms.

- Charter Signing in December—Once again we'll be soon having the Sundays when the congregation will be invited to re-sign the charter covenant as a way of saying YES to continuing to be a part of Community of Christ. Look for that in the month of December.
- New Monitor in Gathering Space—I continue to invite all committees to let me know if there are other events, activities, or news items you would want shared on our large monitor slide shows each Sunday.

Social Action Ministry

- Luther Home of Mercy Collection and Tree—Because we are going to continue with the Angel Tree collection of items for neighbors in the North End through Salem, as well as renewing our participation in Adopt-A-Resident at Luther Home of Mercy, we have a second tree for the church as a collection point for the Luther Home of Mercy gifts, and this one will be in the gathering space. We're inviting people to bring ornaments from home to represent their families as well, so that this tree can be a representation of the households of our congregation.
- New Possible Mission Partners—We are gathering information for future projects with Genacross and with a new organization in Lucas County, Isaiah 1:17 House, which is intended to create support and temporary housing for kids entering foster care.

Concert Committee

- Organ Recital—Our first event with the Concert Committee is this month, with an organ recital on Nov 24 at 3:00pm to benefit both hurricane relief through Lutheran Disaster Relief and our building loan fund. We are working on a schedule of concert events for 2025.

Administrative Matters

- Annual Meeting and Report Reminders—Just a reminder that we set our annual meeting for Dec. 8 after the 10:00am service, and that we are asking for committee reports for the annual report to be into Michelle by our November Council meeting so that the report packets can be ready before Thanksgiving and people can have the chance to peruse them before the meeting (and Michelle will be on vacation from Dec. 4-11, so we need to have several large publishing projects done in advance of her being away). If I recall correctly, our practice has also been to have the newly elected and continuing council members gather following the annual meeting to elect officers and any essential items, and then we can forgo an additional December council meeting.
- Feedback from New Member Lunch—We had nearly 50 people at our new members lunch, between council members and their families and the new members. My sense is that it was helpful and a good chance for people to get to know one another, but I would invite your input and feedback about whether this is a valuable practice to continue in the future.

Wider Church and Synod

- Community Thanksgiving Service—We are collaborating with neighbors at Hope United Methodist Church on Nov 24 for a Thanksgiving service held at Hope with multiple leaders. We have also invited Zion UMC to attend and made the invitation to their pastor as well.

- Blue Christmas Service—We will hold a Blue Christmas service on the afternoon of Dec. 22 for any and all dealing with grief and loss in the Christmas season, and we'll also make this an open invitation to neighboring congregations and the community.
- Teaching Class for NWO Synod Diakonia Series—I concluded my teaching role in the Worship Matters class for Diakonia earlier this October.
- Conference Pastors Meeting at CoC—We will host the monthly meeting of the Toledo Conference of other ELCA pastors this Nov. 21, as part of the practice of monthly gatherings of these clergy across rotating locations.
- December Synod Council at CoC—Community of Christ will also be the host location for the December Synod Council meeting on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 14.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Steve



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Activity Report

November 2024

Youth and Education

Committee Chairman: Lainie Davis

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

- Meeting held on 10/14/2024
- Reviewed Sunday School classes
 - needs for the rest of this year
 - continuing in winter/spring 2025
- Planning for Christmas Scavenger Hunt as joint event with AW Area Youth Group
- Updates on Adult Education
 - Tuesday Women's Study
 - Thursday afternoon Bible Study
- Next meeting scheduled for November 11th at 6:30pm.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"



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November Activity Report

2024

Property Committee

Committee Chairman: Dan Sigg

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

Don Schroeder, Liaison

Prairie/Meadow Task Force Coordinator: Laurie Mauro

Property Budget for 2025 total of \$60,564 has been submitted as an estimate including concrete leveling and refrigerator replacement at \$3,000 each.

The main kitchen refrigerator has been serviced to replace lost coolant. There is a slow leak as this was performed about 12 months ago. The service tech estimated a life of 6-8 months on the recharge. It has been suggested that when we replace the large unit we purchase 2 separate with an equal total cubic foot capacity.

We are looking into the cost to replace the foggy windows in the Fellowship Hall.

We are currently scheduling the use of John Spilker's lift in order to replace a ballast in one chandelier in the sanctuary.

A meeting was held with Laurie Mauro and Cynda Pontsler representing the Prairie/Meadow Task Force. It was agreed that we increase the size of the meadow to one half acre from one quarter acre presently. A few concerns of the meadow shape do not interfere with the current pattern of mowing the lawn. Also that removal of 'Woody' and invasive seedlings are kept up to date. In the event that the meadow is not maintained it can be reseeded to a grass lawn.

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Activity Report Worship and Music Committee November 2024

Committee Chairman: Bev Fischer

Committee Members Present: Bev Fischer, Michelle Gebhart, Pastor Steve Bond, Vicar Natalie Downs, Eric Dickey, Cheryl Fischer, Don Schroeder, Bea Ludwig, Carol Wiemken, Sharon Miller

Review of Worship Services:

- Christ the King Sunday – Lots of Music, Vicar Natalie will be preaching on the Psalm.
- Blessing of Prayer Shawls – Sun, Nov 17
- Receive new Member – Sun, Nov 24 – Pam Mead at 8 am
- All Saints Sunday – 2025 – idea from Vicar Natalie – include pictures of newly baptized as well as those in Memory, possibly have another lunch for new members

Discussion Topics

- Poinsettia order for Christmas – 25 orders in so far, 25 more needed for free delivery
- Christmas Tree for Gathering space – for adopt-a-resident gifts – Filling Home of Mercy. Members can bring ornaments from home to decorate
- Art Display in Sanctuary for Advent – this Sat is first Art Workshop for Advent. Banners will be made which will be hung in front of Sanctuary
- Committee Annual Report draft – reviewed, edits will be made by Michelle
- 2025 Year Theme Concepts – Life on the Edge – Christianity beyond our comfort zones – this theme will be continued from Advent through Lent, Pentecost and the entire church year.
- Choir Report from Lisa Alleman – Choir is going well, and making progress with 15-18 members.
- Time and Talent Results – Excel sheet from Michelle was reviewed. A number of new volunteers have been identified.
- Advent 2024 concepts shared – readings, new banners, Advent Prayer compilation, “Live on the Edge” button and possible proceeds, Blue Christmas Service (Dec 22, 3:00 PM)

Other items:

- Feedback was provided to Vicar Natalie on her second sermon and children’s sermon. Her next sermon date is Nov 24.

Next Meeting - Thurs, Dec 5th, 10 am

Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”



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Activity Report **November/2024** **Fellowship Committee**

Committee Chairman: Susan Nofzinger

Committee Members: Pam Davis, Chad Ackerman

Committee Liaisons: Pam Davis, Chad Ackerman

Looking for 1 more event to close out the year. Mystery dinner does not seem feasible.

Looking into:

Holiday Lights at the zoo – Cost for non-members is a factor

Trivia night

Cookie exchange

Our Purpose – “Making Jesus Known”



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Stewardship Committee October 15, 2024 Meeting minutes

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

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

Pastor Steve led the meeting with prayer.

- Time and Talents. There were 46 talent forms received, and 23 financial commitment cards returned. In the future, we will have an online version available and add it to our website and newsletter. We will add Fellowship to the form.
- The small TV in the gathering space will post who served at church for the day and display the schedule of events.
- We will continue to do CofC In Focus in November. Next up: Visitation Ministry.
- Website: the wedding portion needs updated. There will be a new email address created for parishioners to send photos.
- Community of Christ Festival of Talents was held on September 28th and 29th which included a talent show and some committee displays. It was very nice yet had a small number in attendance. Next year we will hope to have more committee table displays and provide more announcements and encouragement.

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 19th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Tina Baden

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Activity Report

October 16, 2024 Lay Internship Committee

Committee Chair: Pam Davis

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

- Pam Davis opened the meeting with devotions.
- Vicar Natalie shared the activities she is currently involved with, both CofC and Synod related, as well as her upcoming preaching schedule.
- We discussed her 12 learning goals required by her seminary program. We will discuss a few of these at each meeting:
 - Leadership
 - Theological Articulation
 - Leading Worship
 - Preaching
 - Teaching Adults
 - Teaching Youth and Children
 - Evangelism
 - Pastoral Care
 - Administration
 - Stewardship Leader
 - Leadership of Social Ministry
 - Raising up Leaders for the Church
- The committee's next meeting with Vicar Natalie will be Thursday, November 14 at 6:30pm.

Our Purpose – "Making Jesus Known"