



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

12500 Canal Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313 | www.christsterling.org

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 13, 2023

God is changing the world through you. Love your neighbor.

Attendance: **Onsite** -- Pastor Luther Martell, Lisa Stoen, Susan Haracz, Carmela LaRosa, Diane McIntyre, Katy Modrak, Sharon Moss, June Riggs, Tom Tenant, Geoff Wiers.
Online -- Kim Ostin, Kim Quigley

Welcome & Call to Order – Lisa Stoen

Devotion and Visioning – Pastor Luther

What do you imagine the future of CLC looks like? Are we Trench builders or Bridge builders.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Secretary's Minutes (January 9, 2023 and January 23, 2023)

- Board Reports

Question about Property Management report on quotes for blinds. Response – this was approved in 2022 with funds coming from Memorial funds, but never completed. Progressing now.

- **Motion:** Sharon Moss made a motion to approve the minutes and reports.
 - **Seconded:** Geoff Wiers.
 - **Vote: Abstained-0, Opposed-0**
 - **Motion Carried.**

- Pastor Staff Report

Discussion about recommendation for a hospitality group or board.

- **Motion:** Diane McIntyre made a motion to approve Pastor's report.
 - **Seconded:** June Riggs.
 - **Vote: Abstained-0, Opposed-0**

- o ***Motion Carried.***
- Building Requests – All approved through new Building Use Requests system.
- 02/28/23 – Macomb County Prosecutor’s Office running a class on Senior On-Line Scam Prevention – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 03/06/23 – Black Balloon Event – Drug Free Coalition event – our 4th year hosting it.
- 03/11/23 – Birthday Party - Dopples

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Old Business

- Financial and Treasurer’s Report – January report has been tabled.
Motion to January report was voted by email on 02/27/23.
 - o ***Motion:*** Katy Modrak made a motion to approve the report.
 - o ***Seconded:*** Tom Tennant.
 - o ***Vote:*** **Abstained-0, Opposed-0**
 - o ***Motion Carried.***
- Office Administrator – Applicant – One application was received. Interview group established: Lisa Stoen, Susan Haracz, Carmela LaRosa, with Sharon Moss available, if needed.
- Effective Council Meeting Workshop – Some did the first meeting from home and some as a group. Small group discussion was better as individuals. So, all attending this zoom will do it from home for remaining meetings.

New Business

- Vote to Receive New Members
Membership Changes – 26 -- Added by Transfer: Karen and Paul Allmacher; Betty Clara; Jeff and Marilyn Cox; Jan, Ed, and Casey Danner; Jim Erikson; Nick, Isabel, and Nicholas Felice; Fred and Diana Gregg; Lois Hjelle; Nan Howells; Jerry and Lynn Huff; Dennis and Jeanie McDowell; Chuck and Frances Mills; Carol Reinhart; Phyllis Rolf; Judith Urbin; and Gayle Wallace.
 - o ***Motion:*** Katy Modrak made a motion to accept new members.
 - o ***Seconded:*** Tom Tennant.
 - o ***Vote:*** **Abstained-0, Opposed-0**
 - o ***Motion Carried with Welcome from the CLC Council.***

- Property Management
 - Board investigating new locks and keys for water shut off – missing keys from current set and the locks are too old to re-core or get replacements. Will provide price quotes at a future meeting.
 - Cleaning Quotes – Lutz School will provide cleaning services one day a week as a training for their student clients. They do not clean toilets. We will continue looking for a paid service to clean one day a week, which would include the full restroom cleaning. Still collecting quotes. Are there members who would be interested in this position?

- Evangelism

Evangelism Board is looking for a service like Bressler's to get contact information for local residents. Tom Tennant suggests there are other resources that may be more effective, including Post Office services. Discussion is tabled while more information is gathered.

- Parish Education

Educational material was purchased – approved by email.

- ***Motion:*** *Katy Modrak made a motion to accept.*
 - ***Seconded:*** *Tom Tennant.*
 - ***Vote: Abstained-0, Opposed-0***
 - ***Motion Carried.***

Question from Pastor on cost of ELCA subscription service previously used.

Parish Education board is actively working starting some form of youth education. Discussion on what that should look like today, not blindly following "how it's always been done".

- Church Letterhead/Envelope Quote

The cost of color copies on the office copy machine is high. Discussion from previous meeting had us asking for quote on pre-printed CLC logo return address on envelopes. Quote was \$425 for 2,500 envelopes and \$220 for 500 pieces of letterhead. Discussion of way colored return address envelopes, used mostly to mail things to members, was needed.

- ***Motion:*** *Kim Quigley made a motion to approve the purchase.*
 - ***Seconded:*** *Kim Ostin.*
 - ***Motion Failed.***

(Note to be made to office that envelopes should be printed in black and new quote is requested for black only pre-printed envelopes and letterhead to compare prices to office printer.)

- Old Treasurer's Records (1980's) Disposal

Request from those cleaning out storage spaces to dispose of records from 1980 to 1989.

- o Motion: Katy Modrak made a motion to approve disposal of any records up to 2000.*
 - o Seconded: Sharon Moss.*
 - o Vote: Abstained-0, Opposed-0*
 - o Motion Carried.*
- Staff Vacation Time

Request by Treasurer to have staff vacation time renew on January 1 each year, rather than staff start date, for ease in payroll tracking. Discussion tabled while options are explored on handling changed procedures.

Added Topics

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits collection has video vignettes the Outreach Board would like to add to the beginning of Service.

Lent Wednesdays' Soup and Bread supper host list:

February 22	-	was Board of Worship
March 1	-	Board of Outreach
March 8	-	Music and Finance
March 15	-	Parish Ed, Youth, and Evangelism
March 22	-	No Committee Assigned
March 29	-	Stewardship and Property Management

We need at least five (5) soups each week, and we would like one (1) to be vegetarian, if possible. More people from the congregation are signing up to bring bread than soup. I will keep each committee updated, when we have volunteers bringing soup. We need to have soup available for Kataluma as well as Noon. We need the soups to be at the church by Noon on Wednesdays.

Annual Report question: What happened to the suggestion box? Answer: It can be put out again.

Motion to Adjourn

- o Motion: Susan Haracz made a motion to adjourn.*
- o Seconded: Diane McIntyre.*
- o Vote: Abstained-0, Opposed-0*
- o Motion Carried.*

Board of Finance -- No report received.

February, 2023 council report: Stewardship board

The stewardship board met twice on February 06 and on the 27, 2023.

A letter was sent to the congregation and new members thanking them for all the work that has been done by them through and to encourage the continued use of their gifts and talents during the coming year. Lisa Stoen is in the process of collating the time and talent sheets.

An individual short, hand written, note will be included in the thank you letter to those new members from St Thomas for the gifts given to our church.

A pledge letter will be sent out separately. The price of Bulk mailing verses the cost of regular postage was discussed. Lisa Stoen will look into the process and how to initiate this type of mailing.

Elenore Stolzenfeld gave a generosity talk the first Sunday of February. Two additional persons have volunteered to speak regarding their generosity experience.

2023 Board of Outreach Ministry Minutes

Wednesday, February 8th 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.

Attending: Susan Haracz, Paul Chancey, Eleanor Stolzenfeld, Diane McIntyre, Dan Palmer, Mona Palmer, June Riggs, Lisa Stoen (chairperson)

Regrets: Cathy Huhn, Kathy Anderson, Kim Ostin, Barb Klein, Lorraine Blevins

Food Pantry - Perishable and non-perishable food items were dropped off mid-January. Assorted items were delivered on 1/18 - 12 boxes and 1/25 - 16 boxes to St. Paul of Tarsus. Signage was replaced on front window with contact number available. Receiving multiple calls about food pantry assistance. Food was given out 1/9. *Discuss Food Pantry procedures.*

Good Shepherd Coalition - No assistance requested in January.

Outreach Ministry - Request form submitted 1/10 (per board decision) for \$81.62 to purchase microwave for CLC member in need. Amount will be reflected in line item #6015/Outreach in January YTD figures. Received thank you letter from Fisher House Michigan for \$200.00 donation and how our support helps military and veteran families.

Thinking-Of-You/Shut-in members - Lorraine continues to minister to those on the prayer list.

Homebound Communing Teams - Advised teams if unable to schedule visits due to whatever circumstances arise to please make contact via phone to assure these members they are being thought of and remembered in prayers.

Quilting Ministry - Ladies continue to meet weekly, on Thursdays, to arrange color schemed squares, assemble and sew together. Will discuss meeting during Lent, on Wednesdays to be available for Lenten Chapel services at noon and assist with Soup & Bread lunch. Save the Date: March 18th - National Quilting Day 2023. lwr.org/nqd for information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Yarn will continue to be available in the Narthex for those wanting to partake and share their crocheting or knitting talents. Unblessed prayer shawls will be readied for their blessing during an upcoming worship service in the new year.

Adopt-A-Family - Request submitted for purchased Christmas plush and gift bags on sale for 2023 gift giving in the amount of \$26.79. Amount will be reflected in line item #6017/Adopt-A-Family in January YTD figures.

Old Business -

Thank you letter from FedUp ministries for our support and listing their accomplishments during the past year. Working on bringing a mobile shower and laundry facility to the folks they are serving. Still no followup on logo.

New Business - Discussion at February meeting

Direct Cookie Walk funds to designated line items. \$1500.00 will go to Good Shephard Coalition fund. The remaining \$1501.00 will remain undesignated at this time.

"A Healing Journey" - All Things Possible Wellness Center - Sessions on empowering women who are survivors of domestic violence. Starting Friday, February 10th 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for 10 consecutive weeks. Cost = FREE. Register -<https://ATPWCAHEALINGJOURNEY.eventrite.com>. Contact Rachel Young at RachelY@atpwc.org or Alex Treat at AlexT@atpwc.org. Will post flyer on Narthex bulletin board. Address is 16645 15 Mile Rd Clinton Township.

Meeting of the Minds - Tuesday, March 14th at St. Paul of Tarsus, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.. RSVP by March 6th. Several people expressed an interest in attending.

2023 Goals - Additional quilters, Cookie Walk sign, Mission Moments, current Outreach updates on bulletin boards to build "awareness" of neighbors in need, C.A.R.E. (Concerned About Reaching Everyone), etc.

A new Cookie walk sign is needed.

Members would like to see Mission Moments return to Sunday Service. We would like to highlight the Teddy Bear ministry.

Other new business

We will be making Personal Care Kits to be donated. This will be a project for the entire congregation to participate in for Lent.

There is a need for a Hospitality committee . Some of functions would include Greeters, helping at Welcome center, letters to visitors and being responsible for luncheons or receptions.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 1st @ 1:00 p.m. at CLC.

Board of Worship Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13th, 2023 – ZOOM at 3:00 p.m.

Attending: Pastor Luther, Evan Caldron, Lisa Stoen, Barb Klein, Dave Anderson, Kim Ostin, Sharon Moss, and Diane McIntyre.

The meeting was brought to order by Pastor with a devotion of the longest Psalm, Psalm 119, only verses 1-8: 1Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the L ORD. 2Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—3they do no wrong but follow his ways. 4You have laid down precepts that are

to be fully obeyed. 5Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! 6Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. 7I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. 8I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

Evan informed us that the *Amazing Grace* resources for Lent have been purchased and are ready to go.

Lisa brought up that people are not familiar with the term *Kataluma* and that there needs to be some education to peak people's interest. Pastor agreed to fit the education into the next sermon. The Greek translation for the term *Kataluma* is *Inn or Lodging Place and* is created to provide a different experience for those not interested in a traditional setting and service and are looking for another way to get God into their lives.

The Board of Worship is handling hospitality and soup for Ash Wednesday. June Riggs is to coordinate the soup donations so that we are sure to have enough soup for each Wednesday in Lent. Evan and Kim Ostin to set up display table for Lent.

Discussion was held whether to do a holiday mailer or just provide the season's events and information electronically and in the Lobby. It was decided to do the mailing so as to include the part of our flock that doesn't have online access and for the convenience of sticking it on the fridge as a reminder and quick access. Lisa is to email Evan Board of Outreach events so they can be included.

Throughout Lent, a new St. Thomas member will sing a Southern rendition of Amazing Grace and the Threshold Singers will also do a rendition.

Per Evan, A/V training went well thanks to Lisa for providing music while he was with the trainees. There is a copy of the A/V Operations Guide available for viewing by volunteers and Evan is to email a copy to Lisa.

Eleanor Stolzenfeld did the *Generosity Presentation* on Sunday, February 12th and it was received well.

Black History Month Devotionals will be available online and printed in the Lobby. On February 26th, there will be a visit to the Charles Wright Museum of African American History and Table Talk with a Potluck. Kitchen helpers are needed.

Pastor informed us of a Baptism of an adult and infant on March 5th.

Barb Klein is to organize a light Easter morning breakfast from 8:00 – 9:15 am.

Per Sharon, Worship Assistants are all recruited for the month of March. Pastor requested Sharon to provide the names for Palm Sunday and Easter. Also, quilted *Prayer Squares* are ready to distribute and available for distribution.

Starting Sunday, February 26th, *Confessional Reed Trees* will be set up in front of the altar and pieces of purple yarn will be distributed all upon entering the Lobby to tie their confessions onto them, with Absolution on Maundy Thursday. Two volunteers will be needed to assist those who cannot tie their own.

Holy Week and discussion on the possibility of a Tenebrae Service on Good Friday evening was tabled until the next meeting on Monday, March 6th.

Lisa is to do research on *Flags* for education and a one-on-one conversation to take place in summer, maybe July 4th, as it is a patriotic holiday.

Next meeting – Monday, March 6th at 3:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane McIntyre

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We thank God for you and for all of God's work that has been done through you! We pray that you continue to use your gifts with us in witnessing, leading, volunteering and helping us provide for our neighbors.

All we have and all we are, are gifts from God. His spirit stirs us to work to help others. God's Work! Our Hands!

We are all God's children. God is changing the World through you. We at CLC give thanks to God for you and your continuing support to help us serve his world.

Blessings,

Christ Lutheran Church Stewardship Committee

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew, 5:16

February 2023 Property Management Board Report

AT&T cut down tree limbs on tree that is adjacent to garage to prevent limbs from falling on power lines.

The branches and limbs were cut and stacked. Geoff Weirs will haul away.

Replaced florescent bulbs and ballast in office and kitchen.

Attached wooden shelf in computer lab.

Removed one row of seating in chapel area and added one row of pews in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Weirs

Pastor's Report

Monday, February 12, 2023

Report of the Senior Pastor

Rev. Luther J. Martell

Christ Lutheran Church @ Sterling Heights, MI

Report Period @ January 6 — February 9, 2023

Special Emphases of Call

Special Attention to Ministry by Pastor for Congregation

- Stewardship Development*
- Getting to know congregation and members*
- Getting to know community needs*
- Development and implementation of education and leadership programs*

Support and Encouragement for Pastor by Congregation

- Robust discipline of prayer*
- Establish and practice Mutual Ministry*
- Commitment to ministry expressions that are effective in today's world*
- Permission to experiment with ministries designed to serve neighborhood*

Ideas | Proposals | Developments

- **Adult Baptisms.** Another sign of an on-point, healthy, growing, dynamic, Spirit-infused congregation is adult baptisms. Across the North American Protestant Church, most membership gains are simply a matter of 'shuffling sheep,' whereby people switch churches for any number of reasons— moving, dissatisfaction, closure, etc. Adult baptisms are different—and from infant baptisms, too—in that people are being **added into the kingdom**. For certain, we are thankful for all people the Spirit is sending to participate in faith activities for any reason, but adult baptisms are special. Adult baptisms are a sign that peoples' hearts are being cut (covenantal language) by the gospel as it is being proclaimed in the public assembly:

Now when they heard [the Gospel], they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-38).

We have two adult baptisms scheduled in the next few weeks—Cassie Drost (daughter of CLC's Sharon Brown) in a pastorally-appropriate private event, and Roseanne Powell, one of two moms who have begun worshipping here with their three children.

- **Black History Celebration.** Cece Lesner, Tom Macdonald, Zak and Rachel Gray, Patricia Collier and Ardella Jones have been working on CLC's Black History celebration events which include daily devotions, theme videos during worship, a movie presentation, a trip to Detroit's Wright Museum, and a Potluck and Conversation event. Powerful stuff and another new frontier for this congregation! Make plans to participate.
- **Wet Crosses.** Lots of smiles and glad hearts! As part of our weekly Sunday morning worship liturgy, children now participate by communicating and sharing Jesus' love throughout the assembly by marking 'wet crosses,' retrieved from the baptismal font, onto the foreheads of worshippers. Incidentally, I began this practice as a new pastor in California almost 20 years ago—an innovation that was reported in an issue of The Lutheran magazine (before it became Living Lutheran) and subsequently celebrated throughout several SW California Synod congregations.
- **Serene Gardens.** At the request of this nursing care facility, Evan and I will be conducting weekly chapel worship with holy communion at 2 pm at Serene Gardens (M-59 & Mound-ish) beginning, Tuesday, February 14. The same material we prepare for this new worship event will be used for the other chapel events (CLC, Lakeside, Kataluma) on Wednesday.
- **Hospitality Group?** After the latest 'good and messy' new member brunch event, I convened principal players for a conversation to review the event, asking what was good-and-productive and what was less-than good-and productive? While identifying several small changes, one major idea bubbled up. What if we established a Hospitality Group to lead new member brunches (more on the way!) in addition to assuming responsibility for potlucks, coffee time after worship, and the Welcome Center greeting station—all ministries of hospitality. All of these events are happening but are being taken on by individuals. A Hospitality Group would help formalize the ministry, get more people involved, and clarify who is responsible for any number of hospitality events. We could consider some other re=organizing of our our groups, too.
- **[Update]. Community Cultivator of Young Life (CCYL).** At one point we had discussed as the Council to include a visioning session as part of our Annual Report meeting, February 12, proposing to the congregation the CCYL position as part of a plan to address financial challenges. After a conversation with President Lisa, she and I agreed to postpone the visioning to a separate event, tying it to a Stewardship plan which is also in the works. Moreover, the Reports themselves were enough for one meeting.
- **[UPDATE] Computer Lab/After School Tutoring Ministry.** As the CCYL position continues to hang in the proverbial balance, and after a conversation with President Lisa, we will now refocus priorities from establishing the computer lab for serving the community through a tutoring program to helping CLC people with instruction aimed at computer/technology/online literacy. This literacy will help make possible things such as tele-medicine appointments, accessing online church events, and technologically-mediated communication such as FaceTime, Zoom meetings, and social media

- Cell: 586.606.1688
- Church email: prluther@christsterling.org
- Personal email: luther.martell@gmail.com
- Address: 3730 24 Mile Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316

- Worship Board 1/17
- Finance Board (DNA: Schedule conflict)
- Education/Youth Board (DNM)
- Stewardship (DNA: Schedule conflict)
- Outreach (DNA)
- Prayer Ministry w/ Diane M.— Ad hoc check-ins.

Youth Ministry

- Conversations with Pr. Dave at King of Kings surrounding joint ventures with all conference churches
- Participation in Conference Confirmation classes at King of Kings

Education Ministry

- Baptism catechesis with Jones family
- WELCA Bible Study 1/17
- Weekly Wednesday Zoom Adult Bible Study (Refresh) Currently discussing lectionary scriptures for upcoming Sunday Wednesdays at 10 am
- Weekly “The Chosen” video Bible study Thursdays at 1:00 pm
- ‘Pastor Pressers’ after Sunday worship

Mutual Ministry

- Mutual Ministry Team: Kim Ostin, Eric Briskey, Lenore Barshaw, Sharon Moss, Susan Haracz, Dennis Foss (DNM)

Conference, Synod & Churchwide

- Serving on Synod’s Discipline Committee
- Quarterly ZOOM meetings with Bp. Kreiss and Synod pastors and staff
- Weekly breakfast meetings with conference pastors

Professional Reading

- “The Skin of Christ: The church is a body, scarred and punctured but feeling its way through the world.” The Christian Century magazine, February 6, 2023.
- “The scandal of the anti-intellectual mind: Why are so many Christians opposed to science and captivated by conspiracy theories?” The Christian Century magazine, February 6, 2023.
- “The Friction of Faith.” Living Lutheran magazine, January/February 2023.
- “Beyond All Logic and Reason.” Living Lutheran magazine, January/February 2023.

Vacation / Continuing Education

- Granted 8/1/2022 4 weeks’ vacation / 2 weeks’ Continuing Education
- Vacation (4 weeks=20 days, 4 Sundays): Used—5 days, 1 Sunday; Balance—14/4
- Continuing Education— 2 weeks: (10 days, 2 Sundays) Used—None; Balance—40/8

Personal Notes

- I don’t have a “day off” per se, instead, alternating a day off across Thursday, Friday, and Saturday each week, depending on ministry demands.
- Contact information: