

Faith Formation Ministry  
Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2017

Present: Lori, Bobbie, Chris, Jan, Patty, and Bill

We opened with a brief prayer.

St. Charles Lwanga update: Worship Committee next meets Sunday, 12/10, at 12:30 pm at the Corpus Christi location. This church is at 1550 Lincoln Avenue. The committee meets after the noon Mass.

St. Bede update: Faith Formation meets tomorrow, November 14, at 7:30 pm.

*St. James Business*

CCD: We are still looking for office volunteers for CCD. Lori will email CCD parents to recruit and if this is unsuccessful, consider running a "want ad" in the bulletin. Otherwise, things are going well, we have 1 new student!

We also briefly discussed Children's Liturgy (CL). There is a minor issue with older children going downstairs for CL and being somewhat disruptive. Lori did remind parents in this year's CCD "welcome letter" that children who have made their first communion really should remain upstairs. We discussed a few options for making this message clearer. Lori and Patty will bring the issue to Pastoral Council. Lori will also send email to CL leaders to get their input.

Next, we discussed our meeting time and place briefly. Several committee members have some trouble driving in the dark. **We are planning to remedy this by moving our meeting to 11:30 am on the fourth Sunday of the month, pending checking the church calendar and with Faith Formation Ministry members.** We could meet in the chapel, or if there is another event taking place, we could possibly meet in the religious education office. As stated above, we will want to check in with members not present tonight to be sure this would work with their usual schedules. We will still meet on the second Monday of December, 12/11/2017, as the fourth Sunday is Christmas Eve. We will have our December 11 meeting at

10:00 am at Panera Bread to accommodate those who aren't easily able to drive at night.

***Upcoming events to plan:***

“Forty Minutes With Jesus” once or twice during Advent — Lori will bring up at Pastoral Council to see if there are any issues with some quiet times before or after a Advent Masses.

*Advent Day of Reflection, December 2*

We have fallen behind on the planning of this event due to several members' schedules, but made good progress tonight.

We discussed two ideas — either a repeat of last year's “Finding the Light: Looking at Images of the Nativity” or a day based on “Our Faith Stories.”

After some discussion, we decided to make the Advent Day of Reflection's theme “Our Faith Stories: What Are We Waiting For?”. A subcommittee will plan the day fully, but here is a brief outline.

Morning: Begin with a prayer and then a short icebreaker. We will then focus on the stories of three or four people from the Old Testament and the New Testament who are a part of the Advent/Christmas story. We will use the Jesse Tree for some inspiration of who to study. We will provide readings on each person, and questions for small group discussion. We will then provide some quiet meditation time.

Lunch will be provided — sandwiches and potato salad from Giant Eagle's deli, Faith Formation members will provide snacks and desserts.

In the afternoon, we will ask two people from St. James and two from St. Charles Lwanga to present a five minute talk on part of their faith story. We'd be happy to include someone from St. Bede also, but we believe their Christmas party is this day, and it may be too great of a schedule conflict.

This faith story could be a story of a time of crisis, or maybe a story of how your own faith grew or deepened through some experience. We will then

provide time for all participants to tell a faith story of their own (limiting each person to about 3 minutes). This sharing might be done in a small group and might be done with the large group, depending on attendance. We will close with a prayer service with music.

We next briefly discussed the Stephen Ministry. We feel that to have a good discussion of the program, we'll need to get all who attended a workshop together. Cathy Raffaele, Bill Guy, Patty Manila, and Chris Forbes attended the Pittsburgh workshop. Lori Melton attended the same workshop in Akron, OH.

Next meeting: Monday, December 11, 2017

*At that meeting, we'll discuss the following — please start thinking about ideas!*

- ✱ Ideas for other possible events:
- ✱ Has anyone talked to their contacts about speaker ideas?
- ✱ What topics would we be interested in presenting?
- ✱ Any ideas for our Spring theology niteclub?
- ✱ Any thoughts on other events to plan through the end of the Christmas season and beyond?