**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council - Tuesday September 20, 2022 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge

**Present:** President Cheri Crouch, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Pastor Doug Ogden, Scott Keller, Sarah Schmalz, Vice President Wietse Schaafsma, Laura Hollister, Secretary Meg Eaton

**The meeting was called to order** by Cheri Crouch at 6:08 PM.

Cheri called for the **Agenda Review.** Two items were added to the agenda under New Business: Nativity toy for youth and Hay Ride. Agenda accepted as amended.

**Opening Prayer/Devotion:**Wietse led a reflection on the writings of Henri Nouwen. He asked us to think about “being in the church and not of it,” the concept of being consumed by the nuts and bolts of church life instead of the message of Jesus Christ. A Nouwen quote Wietse shared for us think about: “The church blinds us to what we came to see and deafens us to what we came to hear.” Nouwen challenges us to be dissatisfied with the world, to question society, and to witness to Christ. Wietse commented that he thinks our Welcome Statement speaks to this: “Welcome to you who have no church home, or who want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not know for sure what you believe.”

Cheri asked for volunteers for future devotions and the new schedule is Scott – October; November – Laura; December – Cheri.

Participants shared **recent signs of God’s grace**

**Secretary’s Minutes**

Council reviewed the July minutes. Scott moved to accept, Laura seconded, the motion passed and minutes were accepted as written.

**Pastor’s Report**

Pastor Ogden shared some program updates: no answer yet from the Slovak Program about future seminarians; progress has been made on Christian education for our youngest members including a volunteer teacher and materials; and the Scouts have asked to keep their canoes (legally our canoes) off-site at a Scout’s home where they are more secure than in our parking lot. All agreed that was fine. The Executive Board decided that our future contributions to Family Promise will come from asking members to use their Thrivent Action Cards to fund food donations. Notes on recent weddings/funerals and other updates are in Pastor’s written report. Finally, Pastor is working on a significant matching grant for the Scout House project and continuing to speak to stakeholders about a vision for a Scout/Food Pantry shared storage building. All agreed that this idea was more cost effective and useful for both programs.

**Financial Reports**

Curt presented the financial reports.  Accountant Terri Vanderleest's Profit and Loss statement matches Curt's income numbers. August was a very slow month but September is going well. If we take past patterns of annual giving into account he believes we are on track. The carpet bill came in and so we can close the books on the Capitol Campaign. By raising $2810, we more than met our goal of raising $2000 to help send kids to Living Waters camp for free

Expenses through August are at 66.55% of budget; goal is 67%.

The Backpack Account owes the General Fund and the Finance Committee recommends that Thrivent Choice dollars from 2020 be used to cover the gap.

**New or Urgent Business**

1. Council agreed to transfer $2,338.22 from 2020 Thrivent Choice dollars to Backpack Account
2. Discussion of how to best re-affirm our status as a chartering organization with the White Lake Scouts. Tentatively planning on a signing ceremony with a few Scouts and leaders on February 5th during church.

1. Council reviewed the proposed Use of Space agreement prepared by Margaret and we thank her for her efforts. After a few minor changes a motion was made and seconded (Meg/Wietse) and the Use of Space agreement was adopted as amended.
2. Council discussed several member recommendations, some of which have already been resolved.
3. The website is in the process of being updated and a calendar upgrade has been ordered.
4. The Property Committee has updated the sign on front of building so the text is accurate.
5. Council decided to update Council pictures in Lounge with photos of all voting and non-voting members.
6. Council agreed to improve communication of Council activity with the congregation by posting the Agenda on the lounge bulletin board and in the Weekly, and by publishing the minutes (once approved) on the website and in the Weekly.
7. After discussion about the use of doors on Sunday vs. during the week and the challenges of signage, Council decided to ask members to communicate with their visitors about the best entrances to use on Sunday morning. In addition, members will be asked in the Weekly to send in their best advice and tips for visitors to be added to a Visitor section on the website.
8. Laura proposed that we purchase a Fisher Price Little People Nativity Set (approx. $40) for children’s Christian Education and all agreed it was a great idea. A Thrivent Action card will be applied to the purchase.
9. Pastor Ogden has contacted Scholl’s regarding a 150th Anniversary Hay Ride on 10/23 from 4:30 pm – dark. Sarah volunteered to bring pulled pork and we will ask others to bring a side or dessert. Donations from the hay ride will go toward the 150th Anniversary Fund.

**Emphases of the Month**

September - Stewardship; October - Samaritas; November - Faith Formation

Members will be asked to give temple talks on the emphases of the month. September has been done.

**Unfinished Business**

           1) 150th Anniversary – discussed under New Business

           2) Thrivent Action Cards – no immediate need for cards

**Adjournment**

At 8:34 pm Cheri asked for a motion to adjourn. Wietse moved, Scott seconded, motion passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by Meg Eaton