**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council - Tuesday November 15, 2022 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge

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

Cheri called meeting to order @ 6:01 PM.

Cheri called for the **Agenda Review.** One item was added to the agenda under New Business: Website Update. Agenda accepted as amended.

**Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Laura read selections from Pope Francis’s recent speech about living with joy despite pain from making mistakes. Scott will lead in December.

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

**Secretary’s Minutes: Council reviewed the October minutes.** Scott moved to accept, Wietse seconded, the motion passed and minutes were accepted as written.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ogden shared highlights from his report, including the success of the October hayride and the new Kid’s Club led by Amy Swope. Advent Wednesday potlucks will start November 30 at 6:00 PM followed by vespers. For Christmas Eve we will have one service at 6:30. Pastor received a request to transfer Roger and Joanne Silk’s membership to St. James Lutheran in Montague. Wiestse moved to approve the transfer, Meg seconded, and the request to transfer was approved.

**Financial Reports:** Curt presented the Financial Reports. 2022 Budget: 196,575.00. Budgeted Giving through 11/13/22:  176,598.55. Amount needed:19,976.45.

Investments have recovered slightly in the last month but still far below the end of 2021. Expenses are running on target for the budget.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. Proposed 2023 Budget: Council again reviewed and discussed the low and high budgets prepared by the Treasurer, Terry Beekman. Pastor Ogden explained that current synod guidelines limit the most experienced pastors to large churches, and he prefers not to force LLC to make that choice. Meg moved to accept the low budget as written but add an 8% cost of living raise for the Church Secretary, and ask the Treasurer to adjust the low budget to reflect the raise. Wiestse seconded and the motion passed.
2. Annual Meeting Date – after some discussion the Council agreed to set the Annual Meeting date for Sunday, January 22nd and to return to the potluck format.
3. Nominations: A call for nominations was announced in the Weekly and no Council members report receiving any. Cheri reviewed the ballot and members split up the duties for contacting current nominees to see if they will continue, and brainstormed other names for unfilled positions.
4. Council agreed to move the next Council meeting ~~to December 6~~~~th~~ ~~at 6:30 PM~~, following Finance. (Note: This date is in error – corrected to December 13th at 6:30 PM).
5. 2023 Funds of the Month were reviewed and the following changes made: January, Quilting; February, Living Lutheran; March, Good Gifts; April, Kid’s Club; May, Synod Benevolence; June, Slovak; July, Backpacks; August, Camp Endowment Fund; September, Stewardship; October, Samaritas; November, Faith Formation; December, Worship and Music
6. Website Update: Meg read an email from Rob describing some of the challenges with the website and how he has resolved the problems. Margaret and Meg agree that the website calendar upgrade has worked out well. Margaret recently solved a formatting issue and greatly improved the appearance of the calendar. The goal is to keep the information updated and relevant on the website since it is an important resource for visitors.

**Emphases of the Month:** reviewed above

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Cheri informed Council that the South door has been installed and is keyed to match the rest of the building.
2. No immediate need for Thrivent Action Cards

**Adjournment**

At 8:10 PM Cheri asked for a motion to adjourn. Meg moved, Scott seconded, motion passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*