**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council - Tuesday February 21, 2023 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge

**In Attendance:** Vice President Wietse Schaafsma, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, President Cheri Crouch, Al Wheeler, Sarah Schmalz, Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Meg Eaton

Cheri called meeting to order @ 6:01 PM.

Cheri called for the **Agenda Review.**  Cheri added Congregational Report to New/Urgent Business. Agenda approved as amended.

**Election of Officers:** The current officers have served one year and are eligible and agreed to serve one more. Laura moved and Al seconded that Cheri be nominated for President, Wietse for Vice President, and Meg for Secretary. No further nominations were made, a vote was taken and the nominees won. Non-voting members, the Financial Secretary and Treasurer have both agreed to serve another year. Meg moved and Wietse seconded that Curt Crouch for Financial Secretary and Terry Beekman for Treasurer be nominated. No further nominations were made, a vote was taken and the nominees won.

**Opening Devotion**: Wiestse led the opening devotion with a selection from *The Wisdom Project* by David Allan. The article is based on the Taoist principle that we don’t necessarily know what is good or bad because bad things can lead to good and vice versa. “When you experience a “bad” event, try to imagine what possible good could come out of it, even if it’s many years from now or several cause-and-effects later, or even if it just makes you more empathetic or prepared next time.” Laura will lead opening devotions in March, Meg in April.

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

**Secretary’s Minutes: Council reviewed the January minutes.** Two errors were noted.Wiestse moved to accept, Sarah seconded, the motion passed and minutes were accepted as amended.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor Ogden was absent to lead Youth Luge. His report was reviewed and there were no questions/concerns for him. Council discussed the cancellation of the Ash Wednesday service and potluck since Pastor asked for feedback on FB. We all agreed it was a good idea given the forecasted ice storm.

**Financial Reports:** Curt summarized the Financial Reports. His numbers and the accountant’s numbers match. Food Pantry is doing very well, and overall expenses are running as anticipated. However, January giving fell short of budget targets. Budgeted giving needed through January: 17,825.63. Actual giving through January: 10,471.00. Shortfall: 7,354.63. This may not be a problem since more givers are moving to annual or semi-annual giving closer to the middle/end of the year.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **Land Contract Extension:** extension through May was discussed with list of contingencies. Al suggested a wording change that was agreed upon by the Council. Meg and Cheri will schedule with Buyers for signing before the end of the month. Al moved to accept the Land Contract Extension as amended, Wietse seconded, motion approved.
2. **Counters Calendar:** calendar was passed around to fill as many counting months as possible with Council volunteers.
3. **Congregational Report:** Council discussed and completed a survey requested by the Synod and came to consensus on answers.

**Emphases of the Month -**   - Living Lutheran, March/April – Good Gifts, May – Synod Benevolence. Curt will do Temple Talk on Good Gifts. New focus on Funds of the Month has appeared to increase contributions to the funds. Quilting Ministry made almost $500 in January, Al spoke on Living Lutheran in February and fund is doing well.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Kids Club Physical Space Update:** Sarah reported on the work and progress made renovating the old library space. Many volunteers have been working on it. The library has been moved upstairs where it can be more visible. A plaque honoring Helen Bartlett’s years of work and devotion to the library is planned and the Council thanks her.
2. **Thrivent Action Cards:** Meg will work with Sarah and apply for a card to add activities to the Kids’ Corner in the Sanctuary. Laura will work with Wietse and apply for a card to repair and replace the tile in the side doorway used by the AA group for anonymity. Cheri will investigate using a card for a Scrapbook Committee project. Al mentioned that a close relationship between Thrivent applicant and the project is ideal for recordkeeping and accountability.
3. **Outdoor Sign**: Pastor is planning some activities in March and will need to weigh in on the exact dates. The Council extends a big thanks to Marsha Hulce for her work updating the sign and keeping Lebanon in the public eye.

**Adjournment**

At 7:37 PM Cheri asked for a motion to adjourn. Meg moved, Wietse seconded, motion passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*