**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council Minutes - Tuesday May 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge and via Zoom

**In Attendance:** Vice President Wietse Schaafsma, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Pastor Doug Ogden, Al Wheeler, Sarah Schmalz, Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Meg Eaton

Wietse called meeting to order @ 6:04 PM.

Wietse called for the **Agenda Review.**  Agenda accepted as written.

**Opening Devotion**: Laura led the opening devotion with thoughts from Richard Rohr on evil. Systems are not evil in themselves but can be used for evil purposes. Laura shared that Kent Krueger’s book *Ordinary Grace* is about the journey through tragedy and sin and how a family survived darkness through “the awful grace of God.” She ended with the prayer that Larry Foster used to begin his sermons.

Future devotions: June, Al. July/August, Meg. September, Brian. December, Terry

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

**Secretary’s Minutes:** Council reviewed the April minutes. Meg moved to accept, Laura seconded, the motion passed and minutes were accepted as written.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor Ogden shared his May report. Highlights: He will be meeting with the Food Pantry and Scouts this week to continue the conversation on a new building. There will possibly be a Smorgasbord or summer community meal at the end of summer or early September. There is a new Slovak intern, Lea, her arrival date is uncertain. Summer programming is still up in the air. Pastor is meeting with the principal of Shoreline to get input on what kind of program could replace the Backpack program, since there is less need for backpacks. A tree planting in honor of Larry Foster will be held June 4th after worship. See Pastor’s Report for more information.

**Financial Reports:** Terry reported on church finances. Expenses are mostly on target with the exception of Property/Maintenance, which is at 90% in part because of elevator maintenance costs. Income is down, although some members have switched to annual giving toward the end of the year, which keeps the monthly receipts artificially low. Investments are slowly recovering.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **Re-inventing Summer Programs:** Pastor covered this in his report but asked for more input. Council suggested he meet with Kids’ Klub families to get their ideas for a VBS/Swim lesson program – next Klub is this Sunday morning, 5/21. Council agreed that his meeting with the Whitehall principal will help determine the direction for whatever the Backpack program will become.
2. **Policy Statement Regarding Food Pantry Charge for Elevator Maintenance:** After much discussion it was decided that Doug and Terry will bring this question to the Food Pantry leadership at their meeting on 5/17 and get their input on contributing to elevator maintenance. A new building for the FP would solve the problem permanently. It is also possible the Food Pantry could modify their current program to reduce wear and tear on the elevator. A final decision regarding any fund transfer for elevator maintenance will be left to the Finance Committee.
3. **Land Contract Update:** The sale was finalized on Thursday April 27 and Lebanon cleared $47,704.73. Proposal for the proceeds: 45% to Investment Reserve Fund, 45% to Endowment Reserve Fund, and 10% to the Synod.
4. **Volunteer to Add Synod-required additions to our Constitution:** Al volunteered since he led the last effort to re-write the constitution.
5. **Combine July and August Finance/Exec/Council Meetings:** Meg moved and Al seconded that we combine the July and August meetings. Motion passed. Finance/Exec for July/August meet on August 8, Council for July/August on August 15.

**Emphases of the Month -**   May – Synod Benevolence. Wietse and Melanie will speak about Synod Assembly. June – Slovak. Pastor will ask John Parks to speak about Slovak in June. July – VBS/Day Camp (tbd)

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Thrivent Action Cards:** Pastor used his card for National History Day programming. Students will present at Lebanon on May 18 at 7:00 PM. No current need for cards. Once summer programming is decided this will change.
2. **Outdoor Sign:** Sign is updated with the tree planting for Larry. Pastor will add a welcome for the new Slovak intern when the time comes.

**Adjournment**

At 7:56 PM Wietse asked for a motion to adjourn. Laura moved, Sarah seconded, motion passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*