**Lebanon Lutheran Church Council Minutes - Tuesday August 15 @ 6:00 PM** - In person in church lounge

**In Attendance:** President Cheri Crouch, Vice President Wietse Schaafsma, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Al Wheeler, Laura Hollister, Secretary Meg Eaton, Pastor Doug Ogden, Intern Lea Berenivoa

Cheri called meeting to order @ 6:15 PM.

Cheri called for the **Agenda Review.**  Cheri requested we add an item #4 to New/Urgent Business: Ludington Daily. Agenda accepted as amended.

**Opening Devotion**: Meg led a devotion reading from Kathleen Norris’s book, *Amazing Grace*. Doubt is “merely the seed of faith, a sign that faith is alive and ready to grow.” Liturgy is a community habit that can bring us closer to God. Norris writes that conversion may be seeing ourselves and others, even the most difficult, in a new light. We ended with a prayer.

Future devotions: September, Brian. October, Wietse. November, Cheri. December, Terry

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

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

**Pastor’s Report**: VBS was a successful outreach to younger children and Amy was instrumental in leading the program. Swimming Lessons are going well and Pastor thanks the Crouch family for the use of their pool. He emphasized that these programs are meant to help people, not necessarily to attract those people to our church. Rather, the church tends to attract people who want to be part of our mission supporting the community. Scout House/Food Pantry building is progressing and rough estimates have been requested. Tomorrow Pastor will accept $10,000 donation for project from the White Lake Area Women. Flo is working on Color Tour Luncheon ideas. Lea spoke to us about her experience thus far and had praise for the Slovak intern program in general and for her experience living with families from the church, participating in visiting the sick and working with the quilters. Mike is still working on repairing the sound system in the sanctuary. See Pastor’s Report for more details.

**Financial Reports:** Curt reported on church finances. At 59.13% expenses are slightly above the target of 58.33% for the end of July. Income is down by $8040.46 compared to 2022, an improvement over last month. Investment fund has gained 39% this year and endowment has gained approximately 23%. Terry will investigate the value of shifting endowment fund to similar funds as investment fund.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **Re-inventing Summer Programs**

**Smorgasbord:** There will possibly be a meal that involves Swedish and Slovak food. This plan is still under discussion.

**Backpack:** The Backpack Event is planned for Thursday August 17. Volunteers are welcome to help set up at 3:00. This year packs will be left empty and kids can go to tables to collect their own supplies.

1. **Constitution Revision Update:** Al provided a Constitution Committee Report to the Council. After Al incorporated the ELCA mandated changes into our constitution, Al, Meg and Terry reviewed the draft for typos and for any changes that would impact our practice. There were none noted. In addition to the mandated changes, the committee recommends we adopt two optional provisions that 1) allow electronic congregational meetings and 2) define “ex offcio” as having full rights of voice and vote (see Committee Report for exact language). Laura moved and Wiestse seconded to accept the constitution as revised and recommended by the committee. The motion passed unanimously. Al will send the documents to Synod for approval, send the revision to Meg and Margaret for dissemination to the congregation, and speak to the changes in church the first week in October. The goal is to bring the constitution to the Annual Meeting for congregational approval in 2024.
2. **HVAC Update:** Meg provided an overview of what happened with the broken rooftop A/C. After multiple conversations with Carmichael’s resulted in no change in the bid to repair the 4-year-old unit for over $5,000 or replace for over $10,000, Glenn called Boardwell’s for another estimate. They came in under $1,000 for repairs and had the unit running within a week. Boardwell’s then proposed a contract to oversee maintenance on the two ground A/C units, the rooftop A/C unit, the two furnaces, the air cleaner, the boiler, the water heater, and the dehumidifier. The Finance Committee authorized the switch to the new HVAC contractor for one year at a cost of $1400 per year to maintain all the above.
3. **Ludington Daily:** A discussion regarding advertising the church in the Beacon. A donor has privately contributed to continuing the advertisement, and Cheri needs to know how to bill that expense in the budget. After discussion it will go under “Advertising” even though that line item has no money in it this year.

**Emphases of the Month -**   August – Backpack: September – Faith Formation; October - Samaritas

 **Unfinished Business:**

1. **Thrivent Action Cards:** No cards needed in the immediate future. Cheri requested that we move this item up on the agenda into New/Urgent Business so it can be discussed more fully in the future.
2. **Outdoor Sign:** Pastor has planned messages about road repair after Backpack is complete

**Adjournment**

At 8:45 PM Cheri asked for a motion to adjourn. Meg moved, Wietse seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*