**Minutes – Lebanon Lutheran Church Council - Tuesday February 20, 2024 @ 6:00 PM - In person in church lounge**

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

In Cheri’s absence, Vice President Wietse called meeting to order @ 6:03 PM.

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

**Opening Devotion**: Al spoke to how he values two ministries in our church, the Adult Forum on Sundays and the Lenten Midweek Service. He described the peace and beauty of evening prayer and the interesting new book the Adult Forum is studying, and encouraged us to explore either or both. Al then read a passage about Ash Wednesday from the new book, *The Lost Art of Dying: Reviving Forgotten Wisdom* by Lydia Dugdale, MD. She describes receiving ashes and being reminded that we came from dust and to dust we will return, and how Lent becomes an annual reminder to Christians of our own deaths.

**Future devotions**: March, Laura

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

**Election of Officers:** Current officers are all term limited and must be replaced.Both Meg and Brian are going off Council next January.Al nominated Wietse for President, Wietse accepted, Laura seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meg nominated Laura for Secretary, Laura declined. Meg nominated Al for Secretary, Al accepted, Laura seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meg nominated Sarah for Vice President, Sarah accepted, Brian seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**Secretary’s Minutes:** Council reviewed the January minutes. Al moved, Brian seconded, and minutes were approved as written.

**Pastor’s Report**: In Pastor’s absence, Wietse reviewed his report with Council. In the report there was a request for a vote on changing membership categories. Meg moved and Wietse seconded that an individual be moved from Addresses to Member. The motion passed unanimously. Council discussed Pastor Ogden’s idea of an AED for the church and all present agreed it was a good idea. Council expressed appreciation for the Wesco Round Up initiative that raised money for the Food Pantry this winter. Council members will be installed this Sunday. See Pastor’s Report for more details.

**Financial Reports:** In Curt’s absence, Brian reported on church finances. There were no issues raised with the January reports at the Finance Meeting, and the accountant and financial secretary’s reports matched. We came in under budget in January, at 7.3% spending vs. budget of 8.3%. Income is up over last year. Brian commented on the diligence of financial secretary Curt, treasurer Terry, our accountant Terri, and check writer Cheri in their work, communication, and meetings about church finances.

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **Scout Bank Account Changes -** all members present signed a form unanimously approving several signatory changes to the Scout bank accounts (see Pastor’s Report for specific changes).
2. **Thank you card for Sandy –** Meg will bring a card to church on Sunday for Council signatures to thank Sandy R. for managing ordering and inventory of Food Pantry.
3. **Vote on membership roll changes -** see Pastor’s Report section above
4. **2024 Counter Signup Sheet –** was passed around and signed
5. **Thrivent Cards/ Calendar –** The only upcoming event that might require a card is the health kits. Meg will talk to Pastor about applying for a card to fill in missing pieces for 100 health kits for Samaritas.

**Emphases of the Month: February – Kids Klub; March – Good Gifts; April – Good Gifts:** Meg will write blurb on Good Gifts for the April Light and Weekly email. Wietse will speak in church about Good Gifts program.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Outdoor Sign** **for February/March –** suggestion was made that the sign reflect Wednesday night Potluck and Evening Prayer

**Adjournment**

At 7:13 PM Wietse asked for a motion to adjourn. Meg moved, Al seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*