

Lebanon Lutheran Church Congregation Council
Minutes of March 19, 2024 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President Wietse Schaafsma, Vice President Sarah Schmaltz, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Meg Eaton, Laura Hollister, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

Wietse called for the **Agenda Review**. The agenda was accepted as written.

Opening Devotion: Laura read from the writings of Nadia Bolz-Weber concerning dealing with suffering and personal loss, the strength of the human soul, and thankfulness for God's help in times of trouble.

Future Devotions: April - Wietse

Participants shared **Recent Signs of God's Grace**.

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the February minutes. Cheri moved, Laura seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written.

Pastor's report: Pastor Doug drew attention to items in his written report. He commented on his method of organizing ideas for future actions. He then led a discussion about the possibility of the use of the church building for private voice lessons and the opportunity to hire a choir director. Council was open to providing space for voice lessons, but agreed that even though it would be desirable, there was no room in the budget for the cost of a choir director. The council voiced appreciation for Diane Eastman's accomplishments as a volunteer in that capacity.

Pastor Doug skipped to the agenda item #2 under the **New or Urgent Business**, and shared the complexities of keeping track of all members and nonmembers associated with our church. This was information required in order for Council to fully understand the need for the added category of the "**Address List**". There was general agreement by Council of this need.

Pastor Doug then discussed the need of an AED. Curt suggested use of a Thrivent card for this purpose. Pastor Doug asked for a volunteer to research the purchase of a defibrillator and training for its use. Meg accepted.

The outdoor Lebanon Lutheran Church oval sign is in need of repair. Pastor Doug has people working on resolving this.

Financial Reports: Curt thanked Brian for making the February report. Curt then presented the figures for March. Total expenses for the year are at 15.3%, a little less than budgeted expenses. Income is also slightly behind budget, which is typical of the first quarter. He thanked Council for signing up for Sunday counting responsibilities and said that at our April meeting he would include a short "refresher course" on that subject.

New or Urgent Business

Fun Event Planning: Suggestions included a murder mystery event, a movie outing or showing a movie at the church, a museum visit and dinner. It was agreed that we need a Social Committee or volunteer to get started. No further action was taken.

The Address List: See Pastor's Report above.

Pastor's Vacation Schedule: Pastor Doug will be off June 13 and will be back on June 26, but this may change.

Thrivent Cards/Calendar: Meg has used her card to supplement our collection of towels for Samaritas. She will use the remainder of the card for whatever else is required for the project or to get a head start on next year's donation. Frank Hollister has supported a Step-Up Muskegon workday April 27 to replace carpet in a home being restored. Wietse will donate his card to postage for Sunday School mailings.

Emphasis of the Month

March - Good Gifts: Wietse made an excellent presentation on Sunday, March 17.

April - Good Gifts: Discussed need to emphasize a particular type of gift and the possibility of a group effort to supply something. No volunteer was named.

May - Synod Benevolence: Frank will do a blurb.

Unfinished Business

Outdoor Sign for March/April: Announce Murder Mystery or whatever event that we decide upon.

Adjournment: At 8:08 Wietse asked, if there was no further business, for a motion to adjourn. Cheri moved and Brian seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler