**Minutes – Lebanon Lutheran Church Council - Tuesday June 18, 2024 @ 6:30 PM**

**In Attendance:** President Wietse Schaafsma, Brian Jaekel, Laura Hollister, Cheri Crouch, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Meg Eaton

Wietse called meeting to order @ 6:34 PM.

Wietse called for the **Agenda Review**. Meg proposed and all agreed that we add Margaret’s proposed semi-retirement process letter dated today to New or Urgent Business.

**Opening Devotion**: Meg shared a reflection on Humility from Sr. Joan Chittister (*Breath of the Soul*). “But then, somewhere in life, we find ourselves facing walls that will not move,” Sr. Joan writes. As we age and encounter more health problems over which we are powerless, the grace to accept them comes from our own humility.

**Future devotions**: August, Laura

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

**Secretary’s Minutes:** Council reviewed the May minutes submitted by Al. Cheri moved, Meg seconded, and May minutes were approved as written.

**Pastor’s Report**: In Pastor’s absence, Wietse reviewed his report with Council.

Swim lessons in Whitehall were canceled by the instructor, lessons in North Muskegon are on and sign ups have been good. Jenna has been working on Backpacks for August 14. VBS is canceled due to lack of help. Pastor included a breakdown of financing for a Scout House/Food Pantry building. Pastor is seeking input on lightening protection due to recent strikes on two local churches. New members will be received July 14 and AED training will also be that day. See Pastor’s Report for more details.

**Financial Reports:** Curt reviewed the reports. May income was up $2000 over last year. The checkbook is at $23,000, down from January. Endowment accounts are up $27,000 this year. Giving patterns are changing due to more annual givers, so monthly totals are not as meaningful. Spending is slightly below at 40.07% vs. max. of 41.66%. Curt also addressed the recommendations from Finance for the upcoming paint repairs (see first item on New/Urgent Business).

**New or Urgent Business:**

1. **July Fund of the Month Proposal:** There will be no VBS this summer due to a lack of helpers. In place of VBS as the July Fund of the Month, Council discussed substituting Paint Maintenance due to the upcoming $7500 repair to the paint job on the outside of the sanctuary. The Property Committee sought bids on this job and Paul Potter’s bid was the lowest. The balance can be covered by the Paint Maintenance Fund and the Endowment Fund designated for the historical building. Meg moved, Laura seconded, and the motion to make Paint Maintenance the July Fund of the Month passed unanimously.
2. **Summer Event Planning –** We are tentatively planning to meet up at North Grove to listen to the Oat Bran Boys on Wednesday night, August 7, time tbd. Frank has also offered to host another church potluck at The Water’s Edge. We agreed that was a fun, well attended event last year. Wietse will ask him to get back to us with a selection of dates.
3. **Thrivent Cards/ Calendar** – Cheri has received a Thrivent card for Smorgasbord. Laura will apply for a Thrivent card for Swim Lessons. Curt will apply for a Thrivent card for Backpacks (shirts). Wiestse will talk to Melanie about a Thrivent card for Backpacks (backpacks).

It was proposed that we cancel July’s Council meeting due to a lack of business and member vacations in midsummer, same as last year. Finance will still meet. Meg moved, Wietse seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **Margaret’s Proposed Semi-Retirement Letter:** Council discussed Margaret’s proposal and all present agreed it sounded like a good idea. We appreciate her work very much and would like to accommodate her wish to cut back her hours. We tabled the vote and further discussion until Pastor can weigh in during next meeting.

**Emphases of the Month**

**June:** Slovak – thank you to Irene and John for talking and writing about this ministry

**July:** Paint Maintenance (Curt will address the congregation, Meg will write something for the Weekly)

**August:** Backpacks

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Outdoor Sign** **for July/August –** suggestion was made to emphasize Backpacks throughout July

**Adjournment:**

At 8:01 PM Wietse asked for a motion to adjourn. Cheri moved, Meg seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

*Submitted by Meg Eaton*