

Lebanon Lutheran Church Congregation Council
Minutes of May 21, 2024 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President Wietse Schaafsma, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Meg Eaton, Brian Jaekel, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

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

Opening Devotion: Cheri stated that she does not like to attend meetings and therefore, when asked to serve on Council and then as Council President, she had to dig deep. When asked to do these things she reflected on the word, "acceptance". She read a passage from the book *The Breath of the Soul* by Joan Chittister that equates acceptance with trust in God for both answered and unanswered prayers. She referred to "*The Big Book*" of AA which states that acceptance is the source of all changes in attitudes.

Future Devotions: June - Meg

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

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

Pastor's report: Pastor Doug commented on the excellent demonstration at the worship service May 12 of assembling water kits and asked if it might be possible to do many more (maybe 50 or 60 kits?) for a Thrivent project in the future. He discussed recent efforts made to replace a swimming instructor, the upcoming backpack event, progress in decision making on the purposed Scout House/Food Pantry building and also the sign refurbishing project. (See Pastor's Report)

Financial Reports: Curt indicated that even though we are showing our first shortfall this year, giving still remains relatively strong. Total expenses are also slightly behind the expected pace. He noted the Good Gifts contributions at \$1458. The Generosity Committee is in the process of determining how to distribute those funds. He suggested that we have an event to celebrate our success. The Finance Committee recommends that the Church Sign restoration be paid for by available Thrivent Choice Dollars.

New or Urgent Business

Scout House/Food Pantry Fund Raising: (See Pastor's Report) Food received from Mid Michigan Community Action is free and is reducing our dependence on food from Feeding America. This will put our Food Pantry back into the black. Storage in the Food Pantry has been rebuilt to accommodate the changes. We need to acknowledge our volunteers. Wietse will detail plans by next Council meeting. Meg will coordinate.

AED Status: We have the AED, Cabinet and Sign. Frame for mounting the cabinet is being built. Meg is in the process of ordering smaller, youth sized pads.

Fun Event Planning - June: It was decided that our best bet is the Northgrove gathering after they complete clean-up from their fire damage.

Summer Event Planning: Good Gifts presentation and pig roast in September.

Thrivent Cards/Calendar: Not discussed

Emphasis of the Month

May - Synod Benevolence: Frank Hollister made an excellent presentation May 19.

June - Slovak: Meg will ask Irene and John Parks. Our having an intern is still undetermined

July - Vacation Bible School or Food Pantry and Appreciation: Undetermined

Unfinished Business

Outdoor Sign for April/May: Congrats Steve and Ariel, Swim Lessons, Thanks to Post Office

Calendar and Adjournment: June meetings were changed to the 18th. Finance and Exec at 6:00 and Council at 6:30.

At 7:56 Wietse asked, if no further business, for a motion to adjourn. Cheri moved and Meg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler