

Lebanon Lutheran Church Congregation Council
Minutes of October 15, 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, Laura Hollister, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

Opening Devotion: Wietse discussed a few passages from the book *The Monastic Heart* by Joan Chittister that described how we might cope and adapt during times of turmoil. A “Monastic Life” was described as an ordinary life without changing core values.

Future Devotions: November - Cheri

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

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

Pastor’s report: (See Pastor’s Report to the Church Council October 15, 2024): Pastor expressed concern about the things that we have stopped doing and encouraged Council to consider how this might open up new possibilities. He said that he could use some help with shut-in visits and with setting up the computer for Sunday worship services. (Laura offered to help with visiting people who were shut in.)

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council October 15, 2024): Curt indicated that we had a good level of giving in September, and that expenses to date were about 4% under budget. Recently however, we have had a \$1500 elevator repair and will likely need to either repair or replace one of our freezers. The bill for storm damage is still an unknown.

New or Urgent Business:

- 1) 2025 Budget:** Terry advised Council to use the profit and loss portion of the Financial Reports to prepare questions for next month’s review of the 2025 Proposed Budget. He said that next year’s budget should be about the same as 2024 (approx. \$214,000) Pastor Doug’s compensation package is complicated by the fact that he will be eligible for Medicare and also that we are attempting to bring him up to Synod Salary Guidelines within the next three years. Pastor Doug requested that, when details are known, Council write down the plan in contract form. He also suggested that we consider setting a goal for the Investment Fund.
- 2) Meal Train/Evangelism/Stewardship:** (discussed during Pastor’s Report) The Meal Train is functioning fine without leadership. No new ideas were given for Evangelism/Stewardship.
- 3) Choir/Music Lessons (discuss):** After reviewing the contract that is normally used for short-term rental of church facilities, Council decided that a range of from \$50 to \$100 per month would be reasonable. We agreed to wait to hear from Alexys Nevitt who will discuss this with Council in January.

- 4) **New Building Discussion (Food Pantry & Scouts):** The question of whether or not a power line will need to be moved remains unresolved. The leadership of the Scouts is now in question and must be determined in order to know what space, if any, will be required for them in the new building. It was agreed that the bylaw in our Church Constitution concerning the property will need to be rescinded by vote of the Congregation. This should occur at the Congregational Meeting required to authorize the expenditure of funds necessary to begin construction.
- 5) **Event Planning :** Meg will try to find a person who is qualified and willing to conduct training for the use of the AED. November is Advent Season - we will need to find a tree.
- 6) **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** No new projects were named that would need a card.

Emphasis of the Month:

October - Samaritas: All funds raised will be sent directly to Samaritas. Meg will run another blurb in the newsletter.

November - Worship: Al will ask Michele to do a talk. Also Curt would like to speak on the subject of Stewardship.

December - Music

January - Quilting

Unfinished Business:

Outdoor Sign for August/September: Honor Donna Will

Calendar and Adjournment:

At 8:33 Laura moved to adjourn and Cheri seconded, The motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler