

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

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

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Wietse called for the **Agenda Review**. Meg suggested that we consider next year's Fund of the Month list. With the addition of that item, the agenda was accepted as written.

Opening Devotion: Cheri provided copies and then read from the November 2024 newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church that featured a writing entitled *Pastor Megan's Peaceful Ponderings*. Pastor Megan describes how we might say "yes" to matters of faith and well being during the month of "No-vember".

Future Devotions: December - Meg

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

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

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council November 19, 2024): Pastor Doug explained how the Scouts' leadership situation has improved over the past month. Our arrangement with Alexys Nevitt music lessons and choir will be discontinued after their concert December 14. They will be using a facility in Muskegon.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council November 19, 2024): Curt indicated that giving was good in October, but that expenses ran a little over. Income thus far in November lags, but is still better than last year. We continue to show good earnings on Investment and Endowment accounts (balance total in excess of \$233,200). He does not foresee the need to make another withdraw before the end of the year. Curt mentioned that beginning in November, his reporting to the congregation of the status of our giving is updated on a weekly basis.

New or Urgent Business:

- 1) **2025 Budget:** Curt previewed some information from Terry who is at deer camp this week. He said that we can expect to see a decrease in the budget, from \$214,000 in 2024 to \$206,953 in 2025. This includes our three year plan to bring Pastor Doug's salary to Synod guidelines but considers Medigap payments as part of his salary. The proposed budget will also take into consideration changing Margaret's schedule from five to four days per week.
- 2) **Investment Fund Goal:** This was discussed last week by the Finance Committee and they recommended a guideline of \$75,000 per account (total of \$150,000) to be held in reserve for emergency funds. We will likely be more dependent in the future on earnings from these accounts for day-to-day operating expenses.

- 3) **New Building Status:** Plans are proceeding on the Scout House/Food Pantry. Tim is working on the plot plan. When he is finished, we will apply to the zoning board for a permit.
- 4) **Nominating Committee:** Council discussed prospective candidates for positions to be filled in 2025. Contact with those individuals for their acceptance will be made before the December meeting when the nominees will be placed on the ballot.
- 5) **Event Planning :** A sleigh ride in February, a pot luck for Vespers, a game night and a possible movie night were discussed.
- 6) **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** We will need one card next year for the sleigh ride. Pastor Doug suggested that we consider assembling water filters for overseas use with the help of several Thrivent cards.

Emphasis of the Month:

The 2025 Fund of the Month list will be unchanged from 2024 except for July in which Vacation Bible School will be replaced with Paint Maintenance.

November - Worship: Michele did a talk.

December - Music (no speaker was determined)

January - Quilting

February - Kids Klub

Unfinished Business:

Outdoor Sign for November/December: Toys for Advent, Vespers, Christmas Eve

Calendar and Adjournment: Meg has a volunteer to conduct training for the AED, but has yet to arrange a date and time. Finance and Exec meeting will be rescheduled to 6:00pm, December 17. Council will follow immediately at 6:30pm. At 8:08 Cheri moved to adjourn and Meg seconded, The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler