

Lebanon Lutheran Church Congregation Council
Minutes of December 17, 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, Brian Jaekel, Sarah Schmalz, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

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

Opening Devotion: Meg discussed the book, *Less is More* by Richard Rohr. One passage deals with taking time for the “how” of our lives and discusses time saving devices. With our time, wisdom and friendships in short supply we may turn to Matthew VI for guidance.

Future Devotions: December - Wietse

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

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

Pastor’s report: (See Pastor’s Report to the Church Council December 17, 2024): Pastor Doug also noted that *The Living Lutheran* magazine has returned to publication. Cost per member subscription is \$17 (about \$1,300 total). He would like for us to consider funding this with Thrivent Choice Dollars or by Fund of the Month. Also, Pastor’s mother will have a knee replacement and he will be in Ohio to assist her before and after her surgery, probably to be scheduled in March. We need a plan in place for those Sunday services.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council December 17, 2024): Income was down in November, but expenses remained below budget. December giving, thanks to end-of-the-year contributions, is well above average, and as a result, we will exceed our 2024 budget. The Financial Compliance review has been completed with no recommendations for any changes. The 2025 giving envelope boxes have been distributed. A transfer from the Thrivent account has been made to cover Pastor’s professional fees.

New or Urgent Business:

- 1) **Latest proposed 2025 Budget:** Terry will add \$1,300 for the *Living Lutheran*. An adjustment will be made to change the Medicare Advantage Plan payments to direct rather than being included in Pastor’s salary.
- 2) **Nominating Committee/2025 Ballot:** Nominees were discussed and a ballot for the 2025 Annual Congregation Meeting was adopted.
- 3) **Flat Roof Concerns:** Due to leaks and the worsening condition of the flat roof area, the decision was made to get bids from two or three contractors to make the necessary repairs. In addition, these contractors will be asked for proposals for adding some pitch to the roof.
- 4) **Annual Congregation Meeting Schedule and Notifications:** Scheduled for January 26, the meeting will be announced at the Worship Services on the proceeding two Sundays. In addition, notification will be emailed in the weekly newsletter. The meeting will be available on Zoom.

5) Event Planning :

- A sleigh ride in February. Wietse will call Lisa Clark to schedule.
- Assembly event for water filters and light kits which are available from Thrivent.

6) Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar: We will need one card next year for the sleigh ride, and possibly one for baskets for the college students and military.

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 *The Living Lutheran*.

December - Music Diane gave a great talk.

January - Quilting (no speaker named)

February - Kids Klub Amy and Charlie will be asked.

Unfinished Business:

Outdoor Sign for December/January: Remembering MLK

Calendar and Adjournment: At 8:23 Cheri moved to adjourn and Brian seconded, The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler