

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes of March 18, 2025 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge**

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President Wietse Schaafsma, Vice President Sarah Schmaltz, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Laura Hollister, David Dusenberry, Amy Swope, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Wietse then called for the **Agenda Review**. Amy moved to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.

Opening Devotion: Al read the poem, *Mercy Is*, by Mary Wickham. The author is a Sister of Mercy and writes from Melbourne, Australia.

Future Devotions: April - Laura May - Cheri

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

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the February minutes. Cheri moved, Sarah seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written. Pastor Doug reminded Council that we still need to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting. Curt made and distributed paper copies of the minutes. David moved to accept them as written, seconded by Cheri and the motion passed.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council March 18, 2025): Pastor Doug discussed the details of the duties required for us to conduct services while he will be in Ohio attending to his Mother during her knee replacement. He also said that, due to cuts in USDA, our Feeding America purchases of food will be affected. We may consider a grant application to the White Lake Fund of the Muskegon County Community Foundation. Pastor Doug said that Samaritas has started laying off people and will be needing funds to complete work in process. We will discuss this next month.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council March 18, 2025): Curt indicated that even though the numbers are not great, we need not be alarmed since we are still in the first quarter of the year. Some expenses are one time items, and will not recur this year. Some giving that is received once a month had not yet been received at the time of this report. The March end statement will give a clearer picture, but it seems to be a normal month.

New or Urgent Business:

1. **Sunday services/planning for Pastor Doug's absence:** (See Pastor's Report)
2. **Estimate 1592 & 1593 from Dubois Tree and Land Management, LLC:** Quotes are for removal of trees and clean up. Terry Beekman recommended acting on #1592 that considers the trees nearest the property shed. Council had previously approved using Thrivent Choice account for this purpose. Laura moved and Dave seconded that we accept bid #1592. The motion passed.
3. **Event Planning:** Laura suggested a trip to Meijer Gardens on April 13.
4. **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Nothing noted.

Emphasis of the Month:

March - Good Gifts: Curt made a great presentation on the first Sunday of March.

April - Good Gifts: Wietse volunteered.

May - Synod Benevolence: Wietse will ask Frank

Unfinished Business:

1. Flat Roof Concerns: Wietse said that we have requested bids from three local contractors. Only one has responded to date.

2. Outdoor Sign for February/March: Constitution USA

3. Balcony Project: Mike will advise us what his hourly rate will be.

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:57 Cheri moved to adjourn and Sarah seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler