

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes of April 15, 2025 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge**

In Attendance: President Wietse Schaafsma, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Laura Hollister, David Dusenberry, Amy Swope, Secretary Al Wheeler

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Wietse then called for the **Agenda Review**. David moved to accept the agenda as written, seconded by Amy. Motion passed.

Opening Devotion: Laura discussed the chapter, Prayer in Action, from the book *The Breath of the Soul* by Joan Chittister. When we sometimes feel that a prayer is not being answered, we must get out and do what we can by ourselves. God does not “twist” natural law. We must pray for strength to do what must be done.

Future Devotions: May - Cheri June - Wietse

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

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the March minutes. Amy moved, David seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council April 15, 2025): Pastor Doug was not in attendance at this meeting. He was in Ohio caring for his Mother after her knee replacement, but did submit a written report. Council read and discussed his report.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council April 15, 2025): Curt said that this was not a terrific first quarter. We fell short of last year's first quarter income. Income shortfall compared to our 2025 budget was nearly \$13,000 at the end of March, but we have received some nice gifts since. April income should show some improvement, but not enough to erase the shortfall. Expenses for the quarter were slightly ahead of budget at 25.39%.

New or Urgent Business:

1. **Exterior Door Locks:** Work is continuing on the doors facing the parking lot. Parts are on order, and the total cost of the repair is estimated at near \$1,000.
2. **Building Exterior Spider Spray:** Wietse reported that last fall, when many spider webs were removed, actual damage to the exterior of the church was noted. The property Committee has obtained a bid of \$650 to spray.
3. **Mowing Contract:** In addition to a slight increase over last year's contract, a once-every-three-year service charge is due for edging at a cost of \$300.
4. **Event Planning:** Meijer Gardens “Butterflies are Blooming” was thought to no longer be a consideration since so little time remains for the event. Council will be responsible for providing ice cream following the first service of Pentecost on June 8.
5. **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Ice cream following the June 8 Sunday service.

Emphasis of the Month:

April - Good Gifts: Wietse did a wonderful job in last Sunday's service of explaining why it is so important that we designate a second month for Good Gifts.

May - Synod Benevolence: Frank Hollister

June - Samaritas: This is a change from "Slovak" since our receiving an intern this year is no longer an option. Possible speakers were discussed, but none chosen.

Unfinished Business:

1. **Flat Roof Concerns:** No new information.

2. **Outdoor Sign for February/March:** Pastor Doug will address this when he returns.

3. **Balcony Project:** On Mike's schedule.

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:19 Cheri moved to adjourn and Amy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler