

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes of September 16, 2025 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge**

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

Vice President Sara Schmalz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Sara then called for the **Agenda Review**. Al noted that since President Wietse Schaafsma had an excused absence, Sara should be noted on the agenda as conducting this meeting.

Opening Devotion: Al read from the book, *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul by John Philip Newell*, concerning the teachings of Alexander John Scott (1805-66). Scott refused to sign the Westminster Confession of Faith which states that we are “wholly defiled”. Scott believed that the divine and the human are one.

Future Devotions: October - Cheri

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

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the August Council Meeting minutes. Amy moved, Cheri seconded, and the minutes were accepted as written.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council September 14, 2025): Pastor Doug reviewed his report with Council and updated Council on his mother's battle with cancer. Pastor Doug also talked about the need to get new signatures for the Venture account with Harbor Light Credit Union. He brought a form which will be signed by the designated persons and returned to Harbor Light with the permission of the Council.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council for September 16, 2025): Curt stated that we have had a good August - ahead of last year's pace. We will match last September's giving and are on track to meet this year's budget. Total expenses are slightly below budget and food pantry expenses are right on target at 66% of budget.

New or Urgent Business:

1. **Hayride - October 26:** Plans have been made and confirmed. There is concern that all who attend need to be aware that no plastics are allowed this event. Curt will supply a Thrivent card to help cover costs.
2. **Venture Account:** Per his earlier discussion during the Pastor's Report, Pastor Doug requested that Council authorize new signatures for this account. The resolution states that Douglas Ogden, Rob Markiewicz and Cheri Crouch be authorized to sign. This resolution, was moved by Laura and seconded by Sara. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Property Committee Notes & Concerns:** Terry reported that the painting projects are nearly done. The possibility of air conditioning being installed in the fellowship areas is still being considered but no bids have been received. Roof repairs are scheduled to begin within two weeks.

- 4. Event Planning:** Pastor Doug has proposed having our youth join in a costume party being held at Hoffmaster State Park before Halloween. He also said that the "Breakfast With Santa" event may possible again this year.
- 5. Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Breakfast With Santa?

Emphasis of the Month:

October - Backpacks: Jenna
November - Worship: a new member?
December - Music: Kids' Klub Kazoo Band?

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Kids' Klub Equipment Needs:** Amy said that they need a DVD player and TV by Sunday. Sara said that she could loan that equipment for this Sunday. Pastor Doug advised that we determine what might be useful of the equipment that we already have.
- 2. Outdoor Sign for May/June:** Welcome new members
- 3. Balcony Project:** On hold until Mike determines the schedule.

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:41 Cheri moved to adjourn and Amy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler