

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

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

President Wietse Schaafsma called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Wietse then called for the **Agenda Review**. The agenda was approved as written.

Opening Devotion: Sarah discussed some of her own thoughts concerning how we might approach situations where we could be of help to the poor, the sick or vulnerable. She suggested that before we do anything else, we pause and listen and then, using the example of the Good Samaritan, determine if we can be of help. To not ask yourself how you might be of help is not an option. We are called to be examples of humility and charity. Sarah said, "We can't outsource compassion." She offered a prayer that God will guide us to respond to those in need.

Future Devotions: January - David

Recent Signs of God's Grace were shared by participants.

Secretary's Minutes: Council reviewed the November Council Meeting minutes. Two spelling errors were corrected. Cheri moved that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Wietse. The motion passed.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council December 16, 2025):

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council for December 16, 2025):
Curt indicated that our income has met the 2025 budget requirement. Year-to-date expenses are about 1% above budget. Food pantry income continues to be strong. Our Financial Compliance Committee has completed its review of this year's financial reports and had no recommendations. Terry will submit the 2026 proposed budget by email to Council this coming week.

New or Urgent Business:

- 1. End-of-year Contribution Allocation:** Following discussion, Sarah moved and Laura seconded that 10% of the gains from the Endowment Fund be allocated as follows: \$2500 to Living Water Ministries and the balance of approximately \$1234 to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Property Committee Notes and Concerns:** We have received a letter stating that under our new contract with Summit Fire Protection, the fire extinguishers need maintenance at a cost of \$1143. It was agreed that a review should be done comparing the previous year's expense for this service.
- 3. Event Planning:** The sleigh ride date was set to be January 24th. Wietse will make the reservation.
- 4. Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Sleigh ride is covered by Wietse's action card.

Emphasis of the Month:

- December - Music:** Amy and the Kids' Klub Kazoo Band on the third Sunday
- January - Quilting:** Ruth or Carol?
- February - Kids' Klub:** Amy

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Emergency Plans In Place:** Pastor Doug indicated that there was an upcoming event that will address this topic. Council may want to attend - more information to come.
- 2. Outdoor Sign for December/January:** Christmas Eve Service
- 3. Balcony Project:** On hold until Mike determines the schedule

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:37 Cheri moved to adjourn and Amy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler