

**Lebanon Lutheran Church  
Congregation Council  
Minutes of January 20, 2026 Meeting  
In Person - In Church Lounge**

**In Attendance:** 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**. Wietse directed Council's attention to a letter from Barb Aardema requesting that some Historical Committee suggestions be considered at this meeting. It was agreed to add that item to New and Urgent Business. The agenda was approved as revised.

**Opening Devotion:** David said that being a Dad is his greatest blessing. He described some of the many accomplishments of his five children and stated that it is his responsibility to protect them by all means. David referenced a book, *Men's Devotional for Dads* by Chris and Jamie Bailey, indicating that love is the greatest protector of all.

**Future Devotions:** February - Al

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

**Secretary's Minutes:** Council reviewed the December Council Meeting minutes. Cheri moved that the minutes be approved as written, seconded by Laura. The motion passed.

**Pastor's report: (No January Pastor's report available)** Wietse said that the Pastor had forwarded an email from the Cooperating Churches meeting January 26. We have sent a delegate in years past. Al remembered that Frank Hollister had attended at least one of those meetings. Wietse agreed to ask Frank if he might be interested in attending this meeting on such short notice.

**Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council for January 20, 2026):**

Curt reviewed the final numbers for the year 2025. Our actual expenses for the year ran slightly above budget while income was well above budget. Terry gave a detailed description of changes made for the 2026 budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25.

**New or Urgent Business:**

- 1. Cross Connection Contact Program:** A recent inspection of plumbing back-flow indicates the need for some repairs. It is not known if this work must be done by a licensed plumber. David has information that he will forward to Wietse and the matter will be addressed at the February Council meeting.
- 2. Property Committee Notes and Concerns:** The exact comparison of cost between the new Summit Fire Protection contract and our old contract is still pending. The elevator inspections and repairs have been completed. Plans are being made for replacement of toilets and installation of raised grab bars in the ladies restroom.

3. **Event Planning:** The sleigh ride date is still set for January 24th, but extreme weather conditions may be a concern. Wietse will take action if it is determined that we need to postpone.
4. **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Sleigh ride is covered by Wietse's action card.
5. **Historical Committee Suggestions:** Barb Aardema's letter was read and discussed. It was decided that we should invite Barb to our February meeting to further discuss how we might accomplish the Committee's goals. This item will be included under Unfinished Business in the February Council Agenda.

**Emphasis of the Month:**

**January - Quilting:** Monica gave an excellent presentation.

**February - Kids' Klub:** Amy

**March - Good Gifts**

**Unfinished Business:**

1. **Emergency Plans In Place - Form a Committee:** Dave will address this issue at our annual meeting.
2. **Outdoor Sign for January/February:**
3. **Balcony Project:** On hold until Mike determines the schedule

**Calendar and Adjournment:** At 7:17 Cheri moved to adjourn and Amy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler