

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes of May 19, 2026 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge**

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President David Dusenberry, Vice President Al Wheeler, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Financial Secretary Curt Crouch, Cheri Crouch, Kim Nelson, Toni Schillaci, Stephen Troy

President David Dusenberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Devotion: Stephen read from the book *Strength For Each Day* by Joyce Meyer. God chooses ordinary people to do his work here on earth. His choice is based more on availability than ability and so, when called, we must believe that we will be given the ability.

Future Devotions: June - Curt

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

Secretary's Minutes: The minutes of the Special Meeting of April 28 were reviewed. Cheri moved and Stephen seconded that they be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes of the meeting of April 21 were reviewed. Pastor Doug suggested that we specify that \$1,100 was contributed to each Hope Squad at both Whitehall and Montague schools. Cheri moved and Al seconded that the minutes be approved with that change.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council for May 19, 2026): Pastor Doug confirmed that he will be going to Ireland in place of Pastor Bill Uetracht in June. He also said that Fletcher Wernholm has agreed to be our organist on a schedule of every 5th Sunday.

Pastor Doug reported that he and Al had met with Visscher Construction and had received their final bid on the proposed Food Pantry/Scout building. He then explained that the Scout leaders had requested that their portion of the building be heated and that this bid included the additional cost of that change. Council discussed how we might pay for the additional cost if this proposal was approved. There was general agreement that additional funds would need to be withdrawn from the accounts of the Food Pantry, Investments and Endowments. Pastor Doug noted that since construction could not be completed until about March, we may have some additional funds available from Wesco.

Terry led a discussion concerning the accounts that might fund the increase in cost but assured Council that the funds are available. Cheri voiced concern the over future added heating costs that must be added to next year's budget. It was generally agreed that the heating costs must be closely monitored so that it could be controlled.

Pastor Doug distributed copies of the bid from Visscher Construction & Restoration Inc. for the proposed 48'x90' wood frame building and details of the bid were discussed. Pastor Doug noted that two items could be subtracted; the tree removal and the roof gutters. We have already contracted the removal of the trees and moving a power line

on the site and it was decided in the meeting with Visscher that the gutters were optional. With these changes, the total cost would be \$367,000.

Pastor Doug then drew council's attention to his Pastor's Report showing a competitive bid for the building from Christian Concrete. He noted that this bid was for a pole barn structure and would be a 42'x90'. He said that the City of Whitehall had suggested that this type of construction might be a problem in our residential area.

Council discussed the differences in the two bids and determined that we would not want a pole barn. Pastor Doug advised Council that, if we approve either of these bids, a Special Congregation Meeting must be held.

Cheri made the motion that the Council accept the bid from Visscher Construction, seconded by Kim. The motion passed unanimously. Stephen made the motion that the Council recommend the Visscher bid to the Congregation and that a Special Meeting of the Congregation be held on June 7 for the purpose of a vote of the Congregation. A second to the motion was made by Kim and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council for May 19, 2026):

Curt reported that, for the fourth month in a row, we have outpaced the income of the previous year. Expenses have been slightly above budget.

New or Urgent Business:

1. **Property Committee Notes & Concerns:** There are still some fire marshal requirements to be done.
2. **Event Planning:** Covered in Pastor's report
3. **Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** Ice cream June 7 by Kim
4. **Margaret's sister's service May 31st:** Noted
5. **Scout House:** Covered in discussion of Pastor's Report above
6. **Added Note:** Pastor Doug announced that Brian Jaekel's mother, Marilyn has requested membership.

Emphasis of the Month:

May - Synod Benevolence: Kim will speak to Barb

June - Swim Lessons: Cheri

July - Backpacks: Jenna 2d week of July

August: Living Lutheran: Al will ask Michele

Unfinished Business:

1. **Emergency/Evacuation Plans:** Pete McCarthy has agreed to meet with the Congregation in July or August. Dave is making arrangements.
2. **Outdoor Sign:** Lisa Tallarico
3. **Balcony Project:** Wiring to the balcony is underway
4. **Pastor Ogden back-up for Pastor Bill Uetricht:** Travel to Ireland June 17-27, will miss 6/21 and 6/28 sermons

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:48 Cheri moved to adjourn and Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Al Wheeler