

# Shepherd of the Valley Council Minutes

August 19, 2025 met in person

Present: Steve Larsen, Phil Smalley, Pastor Leslie, Carolyn Ciaccio, Janette Erickson, Kevin Nitz, LaVon Downing, and Barbara Pearson.

Absent: Shelley Pierson, Pearl Fortman

The meeting was called to order by Steve at 7:00 pm.

- Pastor Leslie opened the meeting with a reading from a paper she co-wrote with seminary friends called The Wise Women of the City of Abel. It was very interesting. Some women from the Bible are not talked about as often.
- Reviewed the July council meeting minutes. Motion by Janette to approve them, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil. Motion carried.
- Reviewed the agenda for August. Motion to approve Janette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn. Motion carried.
- Pastor report – A copy of her report is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. Pastor expressed her gratitude to all that attended and/or participated in the Ordination for her on August 10th.
- Old business:
  1. Reminder that the next council meeting with First Lutheran Church is September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm, here at SOTV. A joint agenda is being created by Steve, Dan and Pastor Leslie.
  2. Reminder that the First Joint Congregation Sunday Service is September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am at SOTV. We will provide a light breakfast for social time.
  3. Motion made by Janette and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb to change the SOTV council meetings, NOT joint ones, from 7pm to 6:30pm starting in October. Motion carried.
- New business: Important dates to remember:
  1. “Finding Vitality in Scrappy, Small Congregations Workshop”: share thoughts of the workshop.
  2. There will be no services held for Thanksgiving at either church.
  3. A joint service on Christmas Eve will be held at First Lutheran Church. The time has yet been decided.
  4. Executive committee agreed to interview Danny Summers for the position as Minister of Music. The interview with Danny is scheduled for 8/25/25 at 11:00am
- Committee reports:

**Outreach: a.)** Ruthie’s kitchen on 8/30/25. Check with Carolyn if wishing to be of service. Three more persons are needed to help.

**b.)** Northern Illinois Synod WELCA, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are having their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on Saturday, 9/20/25. The theme is Rescue, Redeem, Restore. Topic being Anti-Human Trafficking. The

speaker is Heidi Provo-Remedies from Rockford. Location is First Lutheran Church, 225 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Rockford.

**Finance:** The Financial report was reviewed and is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

**Property:** a.) Harvest Time Academy will be back in session starting September 8<sup>th</sup>. b.) Lawn care is winding down.

**Worship and Music:** a.) Preparing for the Seasons of Creation, beginning in September.

b.) They are looking for volunteers to sing or read the Kyrie, be an assistant to the minister, readers, and other things to help make a meaningful service. Training for these services will be provided.

c.) Discussions being made, internally, about having a joint choir with First Lutheran at some of the joint services once a month.

d.) Full copy of the minutes will be posted on the kiosk.

**Fellowship:** a donation of \$75.00 will be given to WELCA from SOTV on 9/20/25 to help offset costs for morning treats at the convention.

Motion to adjourn by Janette, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phil. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be a joint one, in person, at SOTV on the 22nd of September at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Pearson