

Shepherd of the Valley Council Minutes

December 16, 2025 met in person

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

Absent: Pearl Fortman,

The meeting was called to order by Steve at 6:30 pm.

- Pastor Leslie opened the meeting with a reading (1 Corinthians 15:18)
- We reviewed the November council meeting minutes; the last meeting held at SOTV. Motion by Janette to approve them, 2nd by Carolyn. Motion carried.
- Reviewed the agenda for December. Motion to approve by Janette, and 2nd by Kevin. Motion carried.
- Pastor report – A copy of her report is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. Along with all the services Pastor provides for both churches, she has been working on the Annual reports for both congregations, minister's to bishop, and the ELCA. She expressed the need for administrative help for office tasks at the SOTV, i.e. labeling, typing/finding already created documents to edit. Phil is to look for these documents in a form that can be edited.
- Old business:
 1. Small Scrappy Congregations group has met and have a project planned. The next meeting is planned for January.
 2. Review of the last joint council meeting: Discussed providing a shorter form for finances. It was felt that these meetings are useful and supportive for both councils.
 3. Review of installation service for Pastor Leslie on Nov. 30: was a great day in spite of the bad weather.
 4. Outdoor sign banners and entrance door signs to be further discussed at next meeting.
- New business and important dates to remember:
 1. Synod news: Pastor Jen Beamsley will be taking a call at a church in Washington, IL.
 2. Housing Declaration for Pastor Leslie discussed for approval by Council. Motion by Phil to approve as presented, 2nd by Janette. Motion carried.
 3. The nominating committee submitted and council approved the following names to be on the ballot for election to council at the Regular (annual) meeting: Don Wiese, Susie Smalley, Brian Carpenter, Terry Sittman, and Mary Larsen,
 4. Annual reports are due January 5th for the Annual Meeting booklet.

5. Dec 24th Joint Christmas Eve Service 3:00 pm at First. Dec 28th Joint Church Service 10:00 am at First, no sermon or communion, Jan 19th Finance 5:00 pm via zoom, Jan 20th Council in person and zoom at 6:30 pm and Annual Meeting Jan 25th 11:00 am.

- Committee reports:

Outreach: a.) Cornucopia Food Pantry 12/21/25 until 1/11/26.

b.) Planning to do something in January for Rock-house Kids.

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

Property: Bathrooms have been completed.

Worship and Music: No meeting in December.

Fellowship: Advent potluck, Living Vine met at Benson Stone Cafe in December for breakfast. Lots of joy and great fellowship together.

Kris Tukker is the chairman for a 1-year term.

Motion to adjourn by LaVon and 2nd by Janette. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be in person, at SOTV on the 20th of January at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pearson