

Worship & Music Committee meeting (online: via Zoom) July 8, 2025

Present: Pastor (Elect) Leslie Aska, Sherry Scheider, LaVon Downing, Carolyn Ciaccio, and Susie Smalley

Sherry Scheider opened the meeting by reading a devotion.

Old Business:

† **setting:** We continue with Setting Three (3).

† **altar flowers:** Two Sundays are filled for July; none yet for August. LaVon said that Sue Francis wrote a check for any three spots that are open and that she (LaVon) signed up for one of the Sundays in August.

† **accompanist:** For all but a couple dates, Danny Summers has been our substitute accompanist since Richard quit. He is very interested in becoming the Music Coordinator and we (the Worship & Music Committee) want to take that information to Council. We all agree Danny is doing a good job and recommend him for the job.

† **Deacon Cheryl:** Deacon Cheryl's last Sunday with us was June 29, 2025. She was our Interim Minister for almost two years, did much to hold our congregation together after Pastor Scott left, and was a great help to the Worship and Music Committee. Sherry thinks Cheryl is already in Tanzania and will be continuing to Egypt afterwards. We all wish her God speed and safe travels.

New Business:

† **Season of Creation:** For the past several years, we have done a special series called Season of Creation during the month of September. Pastor-Elect Leslie is unfamiliar with this; Susie is going to look for the readings and information and email it to her.

† **Bible Study:** Pastor-Elect Leslie was asked if she would continue doing a weekly Bible study at Shepherd (short answer: yes). There was a discussion about the history of the Bible study (days, time, subject matter) here at Shepherd and a bit of discussion about what Bible study might look like going forward. Nothing, of course, was decided as schedules are still not set!

† **approval of minutes:** Instead of "approving" the minutes of the *previous* month's meeting at the beginning of each meeting, we decided we'd rather make changes to the minutes soon after Susie emails them, while everything's fresher in everyone's minds. Susie consistently asks everyone to please let her know if anything needs to be changed or added, and there have been a few times that has happened. When it does, she will amend the minutes then re-send them to everyone.

We agreed it makes more sense to do it this way, rather than during the next meeting, especially since the minutes from our meeting are presented to the Council *between* our two meetings.

† **cantors during worship:** In our liturgy, there are parts that are sung, or chanted, by a leader. While Pastor-Elect Leslie would, of course, be able to sing the parts of the liturgy, she would like to involve other people who are able and willing to share their talents as well. In fact, she does *not* want to do it every week! When there is an assistant minister who would like to chant, they will be encouraged to do so; when the assistant minister would not want to, then other singers in the congregation could volunteer to chant. Perhaps a sign-up sheet could be created, like the sign-up sheets we have for the readers and assistant ministers.

† **worship services:** The Councils for each church [Shepherd of the Valley (SV) and First Lutheran (1st, or First)], have decided our new worship times will be Sundays at **9am** here at SV and 11am at First.

Starting in the month of September, the **last Sunday of each month** will be a **combined** service at *one* of the churches, starting at **SV on 9/28/25**, then alternating between the two churches. This service will begin at **10am**.

Pastor-Elect Leslie mentioned the possibility of perhaps having a combined choir during that once-a-month combined service. Of course, details and logistics will still need to be ironed out, however we believe it'll be a very nice addition to our service and enhance our relationship with the other church!

† **Pastor-Elect Leslie's Ordination (Sunday, August 10, 3pm at First Lutheran)**: There will be a song sung by the choir; Pastor-Elect Leslie welcomes any people who would like to sing with the combined choir and will get music to anyone who is interested.

Pr. Leslie closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025 @ 10:00am, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Smalley