

Worship & Music Committee meeting (online: via Zoom) Aug. 12, 2025

Present: Pastor Leslie, Sherry Scheider, LaVon Downing, Carolyn Ciaccio, and Susie Smalley

Pr. Leslie opened the meeting by reading a devotion from Matthew ch. 5 re: sharing of the peace and sharing a little bit of an explanation/history of the act of the "kiss of peace"

Old Business:

- † **setting:** We continue with Setting Three (3), however Susie & Pr. Leslie are going to get together to discuss what settings are familiar here and what/when to switch to a new setting.
- † **altar flowers:** All Sundays are filled for July; two spots are open for August.
- † **accompanist position:** Last month, our committee recommended Danny Summers to become our new accompanist, and it was presented at Council. Carolyn reported today that there was all positive feedback and that the next step is to revamp the job description and compensation package to present to him. Pastor Leslie worked on the job description (see below), and Phil will be working on the compensation part. Pastor Leslie would like to meet with Danny (and possibly Council President Steve) to talk through everything that is involved with the position.
- † **cantors during worship:** Pr. Leslie is going to create a chart/sign-up sheet listing **all** the different positions (lector/lay reader, assistant minister, cantor (Kyrie), cantor (psalm)) available each Sunday. That will be displayed in the narthex.
- † **Pastor Leslie's Ordination (Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025):** It was a *beautiful* service! The "Pentecost" banner from SVLC was displayed as well as banners from First. The combined choir was great, and members are looking forward to having more combined choir opportunities. The reception afterwards was also very, very nice.
- † **attendance:** Every Sunday, instead of people signing a friendship register, we check people off on a list, so we know how many/who attend service. Susie has been providing these lists (and has records of attendance for the years since COVID), and asked if there was a list of 'regular attendees' that she could incorporate into ours for those once-a-month combined services. Pastor Leslie is going to ask the secretary over at First (Betty) for a list.
Susie also asked about name tags; Pr. Leslie said it has been discussed!
[From what I understood]: Kris Tukker mentioned it the other week. First Lutheran has name tags but are missing the lanyards; Kris offered to order the pin-on (or magnet?) badges for any who would like that style.

New Business:

- † **time after Pentecost (June 22 - Oct. 19, 2025):** (except for the Season of Creation during Sept.)
 - green paraments
 - stained glass with Bible banner
 - brown swags with assorted words
- † **Season of Creation (September 7, 14, 21, and 28):** There is a different "theme" every week, having to do with God's creation. Sherry will put up the small banners that will say "SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM"
- † **1st combined service (Sept. 28, 2025 @ 10am):** at Shepherd of the Valley. Sherry suggested we announce the time of service repeatedly!! Pastor Leslie mentioned the offertory - how that will work (i.e., which goes to which church) - and said that was discussed during another meeting as well. One idea that was voiced during our meeting was to have two different colored envelopes in

the pews for the “loose cash” offerings, each designating a different church. If not designated, loose offerings will go to the church where the service is being held.

- † **2nd combined service (Oct. 26, 2025 - Reformation Sunday):** at First Lutheran - three Reformation banners will be used (one each from SV, First, and Tabor)
- † **All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2, 2025):** Sherry needs to get more tea lights for people to light. Pr. Leslie told us about their practice at First, which sounds very nice. Perhaps we can incorporate those practices into our service at Shepherd.
- † **“prayer ventures”:** Sherry asked if she would still be able to get the “prayer ventures” that Deacon Cheryl used to print, most likely from ELCA website. Pastor Leslie will ask Nathi to copy, paste, and print those so we can have some available either on the welcome table or on the table where the devotionals are kept.
- † **sharing of the peace:** People have different levels of comfort when it comes to sharing the peace during our worship service. Sherry wonders if we could use the same wording that was in the bulletin from Pastor Leslie’s ordination: “People are encouraged to share and receive the peace in any manner they feel comfortable. That could include seated, standing, moving around, a wave, a handshake, a hug.” Perhaps we could insert that little ‘blurb’ into the sharing of the peace section of our bulletin then have a lengthier description in the back of the bulletin for a few weeks (what Pastor Leslie opened our meeting with today).
- † **Minister of Music job description:** Pastor Leslie looked through the previous years’ job descriptions of the organist/accompanist position here at Shepherd of the Valley and created an updated version, reflecting the new circumstances (no organ anymore, possibility of a monthly combined choir, etc.), so we reviewed and discussed it, and she made some minor changes.

Pr. Leslie closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 @ 10:00am, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Smalley