

# **Worship & Music Committee meeting (online: via Zoom) Jan. 13, 2026**

Present: Pastor Leslie, Sherry Scheider, LaVon Downing, Steve Larsen, and Susie Smalley

Pr. Leslie opened the meeting by reading a devotional from Augsburg Press including a reading from Ecclesiastes. We talked about our favorite season (both in the church year & weather-wise) and the things at church about which we're most proud.

## **Old Business:**

† **Nov. combined service & Pastor Leslie's Installation (Nov. 30, 2025):** It was also the first Sunday of Advent. We had a combined choir. Pastor Josh Ebener led the installation. We had gotten almost 10" of snow the previous day, so attendance was a bit low.

***Advent candle note:** this year, we used 10" blue candles with glass candle protectors. The person extinguishing the candles was asked to just blow them out rather than use the snuffer. This worked well, however next year we should get 12" candles because by week 4, the first candle was very close to the bow and greenery.*

**Advent wreath:** Pastor Leslie also brought up the issue of the wreath being in the way. Could we instead put it on a table/stand and place it somewhere else on the altar area? We will discuss this more in the upcoming meetings. We asked Steve if he could ask Mary if she'd be interested in coming up with ideas.

† **taking down tree & decorations (Jan. 10, 2026, 9am):** We talked briefly about leaving the ornaments on when putting the Christmas tree away next year but decided against it. We concluded that for many, decorating it is enjoyable.

† **Christmas Eve:** We had a combined service this year at First Lutheran at 3pm. The combined choir sang, there was a brass ensemble, and it was a lovely service.

† **Dec. combined service:** December's combined service was at First Lutheran at our typical 10am time. We did a service of Lessons and Carols: there was neither communion nor a sermon. Pastor was on vacation.

## **New Business:**

† **altar flowers:** Flower chart for 2026 has been hung and it's still pretty empty. Steve suggested we add it to the announcements and Pastor asked Sherry to email Nathi about that.

† **setting changes:** This past Sunday (Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> - the Baptism of Our Lord) we switched back to setting 3 and will remain with that through Transfiguration (Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>). Tentatively, beginning Ash Wednesday, we will switch to setting 2.

† **Bible Study (at Shepherd):** Bible study at Shepherd of the Valley is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 9:30am and is held in Shepherd Hall. [The date this month is Jan. 27 @ 9:30am]

† **February combined service (Feb. 22, 2026):** 10am at First Lutheran

† **piano tuning:** Danny asked how often the piano is tuned. Typically (at least in the past several years) it is done twice a year. Pastor Leslie brought up the point that she believes our instrument doesn't hold tuning very well. We will recommend Danny ask the tuner what could be done to help hold the tuning better. (Dampp-Chaser?)

## † **Services during Lent:**

**Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18, 2026):** Separate services at each church.

- 7:00 pm at Shepherd of the Valley
- 4:30 pm at First Lutheran
- There will be no sermon; it'll be more of a prayerful service, with imposition of ashes and communion

**midweek Lenten services:** Separate services at each church.

- First Lutheran: noon at one of five midtown churches
  - (Calvary, Salem, Zion, Emmanuel, and First)
- Shepherd of the Valley:
  - 6pm simple supper
  - 7pm Holden Evening Prayer service

**Palm Sunday (Mar. 29, 2026):** (last Sun. of the month): combined service at 10am at Shepherd

**Maundy Thursday (Apr. 2, 2026):** Separate services at each church.

- 7pm at Shepherd of the Valley
- 4:30pm at First Lutheran

**Good Friday (Apr. 3, 2026): 6:00 pm** combined service at Shepherd

† **Easter Sunday (Apr. 5, 2026):** combined service at 10am at Shepherd

† **bulletins:** Some people have approached Steve and informed him that lately, the bulletins seem to be harder to read: the font seems smaller and music is difficult to read sometimes.

After much discussion, we decided to ask Nathi to increase the size of the font immediately, and hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we will move towards doing just **one** bulletin with larger print (instead of four (!) bulletins: regular, large print, Zoom, and presider's bulletin - *that was Susie's fault...sorry!!*).

Assuming the cost remains reasonable, our end goal is to model our bulletins more like the ones at First: one bulletin for everyone, using 11x17" paper, stapled together, with larger print.

[As far as the music being hard to read, Susie will show Nathi which pictures to use so they aren't blurry.]

† **events/announcements:** Steve also reminded us to email Nathi directly with any announcements or events we want included in the bulletins.

Pr. Leslie closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 @ 10:00am, via Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susie Smalley