

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church (SSLC)
Council Meeting| May 18, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Youth Reps
Christie Addy	Neil Brown	Lucy Austin	Elizabeth Kolb
Lisa Catalanotto	Sarah Kolb	Kerri Brittingham	Andrew Tworzyanski
Deon Fink	Stephen Lunsford	Bill Galardi	
Chad Geary	Matt Martin	Roy Windham	
Myra Strock	Betsy McCall	Lance Young	

Executive Committee:

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Chad Geary	Matt Martin	Sarah Kolb	Mary Keisler

Pastor: The Rev. Jason Antley, The Rev. Ralph Hill

Staff: Tonya Reynolds, Susan Wilson, Shannon Burnett

Absent: Neil Brown, Matt Martin

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by Chad Geary. The council met in the social hall at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Ralph Hill

Consent Agenda: March Meeting Minutes

Reports:

- a. Pastor Jason Antley
- b. Pastor Ralph Hill
- c. Shannon Burnett – Director of Family Life
- d. Julie Tworzyanski – Preschool Director
- e. Susan Wilson – Director of Music/Organist
- f. Tonya Reynolds – Parish Administrator
- g. Ivan Black – No Invoice or Report
- h. Mary Keisler– Treasurer/Finance

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Stephen Lunsford to approve the consent agenda. Lance Young seconded the motion. The council members unanimously approved the consent agenda.

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

1. **Quorum Change- No Updates**
2. **Summer Intern Update – Shannon-** Bryce Windham and Carlee Tworzyanski, both members of SSLC, are serving as summer interns. Their main focus of service will be in preparation and

during VBS and when Shannon is serving on the mission trip. While Shannon is serving on the mission trip, Ms. Windham and Ms. Tworzyanski will fall under Tonya's guidance.

3. **195th Anniversary Celebration- Homecoming Oct. 26th – No update**
4. **Updated Office Hours for summer** - The council voted via email on May 7, 2025 to have the church office close early on Thursdays during the Summer months (June-August) with the closing hour being at 12pm. This will allow all of the staff a little extra time. It's important to note that if there are scheduled events at the church they will stay.

New Business

1. **Update on Pastor Jason – Pastor Ralph-** The staff continues to check on Jason multiple times a day. The church continues to offer support, time off and continued communication with Jason. The girls' birthday is May 28 so keep them in your thoughts and prayers on this very special day. Jason plans to return half days on June 2. Pastor Jason and his family express their deep thanks for the food and gift cards offered by the church members of SSLC.
2. **Update on Ben Bernstein- Pastor Ralph-** Ben served this past year as our part time youth leader. He will be graduating this spring and we wish him well as he moves forward with his next steps. We are very thankful for his time at SSLC. At this time, Shannon Burnett will be stepping back into the role of youth leader along with other members of the church. SSLC is currently at a point where we are deciding which direction we will take as a church with our youth group. The Youth task force has met and will continue to meet to decide how to proceed with the youth leader position moving forward.
3. **Sunday School concerns-** Concerns were voiced at the council meeting about Sunday School attendance and how to build the children and youth programming at SSLC. It was decided that based on the size and scale, the topic would be tabled to be appropriately planned and discussed at another council meeting. Pastor Ralph shared that he would send out the minutes of the youth task force to the council for review.
4. **Approval of New Members- Pastor Ralph-** We currently have 20 new members representing 11 families from the 8:30 and 11:00 services. The list of new members was emailed out to council by Pastor Ralph. Christie Addy motioned that we vote on the new members. Bill Galardi seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to approve the new members of the church.
5. **Next Council Meeting-** Dr. Mary motioned to move the June council meeting to July so that it would not fall on Father's Day. Lisa Catalanotto seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to move the date of the next council meeting.
6. **Special Presentation to Staff- Chad Geary-** On behalf of the congregation of SSLC, a special presentation was made to the staff of the church for thanks for pulling a lot of extra time and efforts over the past few weeks. They are so very loved and the church wanted to show their appreciation for all of the extra work. A special thanks to Dr. Mary and Matt Martin for the idea and making it happen.

7. **Crosswalk Safety- Lance Young-** The crosswalk for the church and preschool needs to be painted and updated. Mr. Young offered to speak to SC DOT about the safety of the crosswalk and possible updates that can be made.

Next meeting: Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 12:30

Deon Fink motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lance Young seconded the motion. The council members unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28pm with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Kolb on July 15, 2025