

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church (SSLC)
Council Meeting | July 19, 2026 at 12:30 PM

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Youth Rep
Neil Brown	Lucy Austin	Gail Felton	Sophie Taylor
Sarah Kolb	Kerri Brittingham	Christy Hooker	Margaret McCurdy
Stephen Lunsford	Bill Galardi	Nick Kean	
Matt Martin	Roy Windham	Bobby Martin	
Betsy McCall	Lance Young	Richard Shealy	

Executive Committee:

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Matt Martin	Stephen Lunsford	Sarah Kolb	Mary Keisler

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

Staff: Tonya Reynolds, Susan Wilson, Shannon Burnett

Absent: Neil Brown, Betsy McCall, Kerri Brittingham, Christy Hooker, Sophie Taylor, Margaret McCurdy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Matt Martin. The council met in the conference room of SSLC.

Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Ralph

Consent Agenda: May Meeting Minutes (No meeting in June)

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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- no report
- f. Tonya Reynolds – Parish Administrator
- g. Mary Keisler– Treasurer/Finance

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

1. **Organ Task Force - Susan Wilson** – Every organ builder that the task force has met with has suggested working with an Acoustician. Dana Kirkegaard has been highly recommended. Dr. Fishell has worked with him as well as other southeastern churches; two of which the task force will be visiting this summer. Dana will be flying into to Charlotte on August 21 to meet with the

task force and visit St. Peter's in Charlotte and Emmanuel Episcopal in Southern Pines. Dana will also spend Aug. 22 and 23 at SSLC taking measurements, listening to the current organ and assessing the current organ needs of SSLC. The initial cost for the visit will range \$6,500-\$9,000. Mary has suggested that this phase of work be paid from the organ fund. Matt Martin requested a contract with specifics from Mr. Kirkegaard this week to be reviewed by Executive council. The Organ task force made the motion to earmark the money in the organ fund and to preliminarily approve the funding pending the contract being issue free. Stephen Lunsford seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the council.

2. **Cemetery Damage Update – Tonya Reynolds** – All repairs have been made to the cemetery and paid in full by Progressive Insurance. The at fault party paid for the repairs.
3. **Parking Lot Update- Matt Martin** – Over \$400 was collected through the Park Mobile app during the month of July. There are two more events scheduled at the Ice House Amphitheater, so more funds should be coming in. At this point, SSLC is very close to breaking even with the expenses paid out to institute Park Mobile.
4. **Columbarium Update – Pastor Jason** - Jason spoke with Robert and expressed that SSLC has been a little disappointed with the lack of communication from his company regarding the SSLC Columbarium project. It was a good conversation and he confirmed that all permits with the town of Lexington are complete and ready. The delay has been in finding the right granite for the build. The original quarry used for SSLC granite has closed so they have been searching the nation for the right granite. It was found in Canada and it matches SSLC's granite. The cost difference will be \$60,000 which they are covering, not SSLC. If the new granite sample is approved by council, it will be a 20 week turn around. There will be initial work completed while waiting for the granite to be delivered. Lance Young motioned that we accept the new granite based on the samples shared and move forward. Bobby Martin seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to move forward with the new granite. A statement letter will be going out to the congregation.

New Business

1. **Crosswalk Update – Lance Young** - Lance met with SCDOT. There is a small amount of funding available for a new beacon and flashing lights for the crosswalk. He also asked for new curbing and sidewalks that tie into the crosswalk. SCDOT cannot do sidewalks and curbing so he will go back to the city of Lexington to make that request. The city did cover the cost of the new crosswalk striping.
2. **Synod Assembly Update – Pastor Jason** – The Synod Assembly went well. Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph were able to reconnect with other Pastors. The Synod was able to hear from all of the candidates for Bishop and cast their ballots; the selection was a very fluid process. Pastor (Bishop Elect) Wade Roof was elected as the new Bishop. The *Mission Endowment Fund Committee* of the Synod provides a place for churches to apply for grants for new ministries. They read and vote on the grant submissions. Bobby Martin was voted in at the assembly as a member of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. This was a Synod wide vote. Congratulations to Bobby!

3. **Bishop Installation – Pastor Jason** – On October 24, 2026 at 10:30, the installation of the new Bishop will take place at SSLC. Tonya Reynolds will be on the reception committee, and Craig Wheatley will be on the worship committee helping to plan for the Bishop installation. Pastor Ralph was asked to be the worship coordinator for the installation service. Overflow preparation will also be needed in the social hall and Agape classroom. Volunteers will also be needed to support the Installation service. The synod will have a budget to help cover expenses. SSLC may incur a small expense. Pastor Roof and his family will be moving their membership to SSLC.
4. **Preschool Teacher New Hires – Pastor Jason** – The resumes of the candidates for new preschool teachers were shared for the council's review. All candidates have been interviewed and are highly qualified. Bobby Martin made a motion to move forward with the hiring of the candidates. Lance Young seconded the motion. The Council unanimously voted to hire the candidates for the preschool positions.
5. **Welcome Chamber Ad – Pastor Jason** – Last year the council voted to purchase an advertising spot in the Lexington Chamber of Commerce's welcome magazine. After the council discussed this further, Matt Martin made the motion to decline purchasing this ad space again. Gail Felton seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved to decline purchasing ad space again.
6. **Paige Johnson's Request – Matt Martin / Pastor Jason** – Paige Johnson as requested that SSLC and/or small groups within SSLC potentially partner with a non-profit organization, Lily Pads. The council decided that at this time the monthly love offerings have been voted on and set for 2026/2027. It was suggested by council that Lily Pads apply for an endowment through the Synod's Mission Endowment Fund.
7. **Formation of Bicentennial Committee – Matt Martin** – SSLC will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2030. It is time to form a committee to give direction to the celebration. The committee needs to be 5-10 people who can brainstorm and funnel down potential ideas to what is achievable and attainable. There will be an announcement requesting volunteers. Matt Martin made a motion to form a bicentennial committee. Richard Shealy seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to form a Bicentennial Committee.

Next meeting: Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 12:30.

Richard Shealy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt Martin seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Kolb on August 12, 2026