

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**12650 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD, APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124**  
**Minutes of Church Council Meeting**  
**Date: 12/18/2025**  
**On-Site Community Room**

**Attendees:**

Paul Moyer, President (absent)  
Merilu Narum, Vice President  
Dick Rank, Treasurer  
Carleen Melin, Secretary  
Melissa Taphorn  
Jennifer Davidson\*  
\*denotes non-voting member

Pastor Corey Fuhrman  
Robin Robinson  
Brendan Henry (absent)  
Bill Wilken  
Anne Hemmerlin  
Kelsey Young\*

Centered in the love of God in Jesus;

**Call to Order:** Vice President Merilu Narum called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Kelsey Young shared an opening reading and prayer.

**Ministry and Leadership Teams Reports:** Jennifer Davidson shared Properties will be focusing on safety and security in the New Year. HR meets in January. Stewardship also meets in January. The second half of the year, Stewardship is focusing on Planned Giving. Trainings will be attended through SAS and will be part of a cohort. Pastor Corey will be part of a pastors' training with SAS as well. Kelsey Young shared CYF is looking for a Camp Wapo delegate. Wapo is fairing well, but they are not without their challenges. SOTV has been an affiliated church for 25+ years. CYF conversations to come about supporting congregation in faith development. Christmas program was very well attended. Endowment report was sent to Council prior to meeting.

**Nominations:** Melissa Taphorn presented Lori Bullock for Nominations. Anne Hemmerlin moved to approve Lori Bullock for Nominations. Dick Rank seconded the motion and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve Lori's application. In the New Year, will search for candidates for Council positions that will become vacant including VP.

**Secretary's Report:** The council reviewed the minutes to the November 20, 2025 Council Meeting. Melissa Taphorn moved to approve the secretary's report of the Church Council meeting of November 20, 2025. Dick Rank seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 Church Council meeting.

**Finance Report:** Dick Rank provided an overview of the November financials. -\$17K for the month, planned to be at \$95K. -\$184K year-to-date. Pastor Corey Fuhrman shared the uncertainty with the government shutdown may have impacted giving this fall. Hopeful that December will be better. December is the biggest planned offering month for the year. January team will be fully staffed, budgeted at 95% staffing. Wifi system is being replaced, 2 terminals have failed (in the sanctuary and narthex). Melissa Taphorn moved to approve the November finance reports. Anne Hemmerlin seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the November finance reports.

### **Housing Allowance Resolution**

Jennifer Davidson presented the Housing Allowance Resolution for rostered / called leaders to allocate their 2026 Housing Allowance.

Approved leaders include

- Lindsey MB Bina
- Mark J. Ertl
- Corey P. Fuhrman
- Peter J. Harrits
- Julie J. Wright

Dick Rank moved to approve the 2026 Housing Allowance Resolution. Melissa Taphorn seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the resolution.

**Vision Time:** Pastor Corey asked two questions of council for discussion: What changes have been made at SOTV over the years, that are value-add? Where are our weak points? Council discussed.

**New Business:** Heritage Committee is coming to an end to their assigned project of archiving materials. Looking to leadership to define tasks going forward and identify responsibilities for archive expectations going forward keeping SOTV current.

The Library will disassemble effective April 1, 2026. The volunteers for this ministry have been leading for over 30 years and there are no identified leaders to succeed the current lead(s). The team has given great consideration including a utilization review and it has been decided to sunset the library after much careful consideration. Software renews in February annually and this will not be renewed for 2026. Materials will be available until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Communication with the congregation will begin in January 2026 with a larger story to highlight this ministry in February / March 2026.

February 14<sup>th</sup> 9AM-noon Conference Assembly will be taking place. This is the venue to nominate Bishop candidates. Robin Robinson will attend New Member class in February.

**Adjourn:** Dick Rank moved to adjourn the meeting, Melissa Taphorn seconded the motion. Council meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carleen Melin, Church Council Secretary

### **Next Council Meetings:**

**January 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM, Council Meeting; Community Room**

**January 24, 2026 at 9AM, Council Retreat; on-site at SOTV**

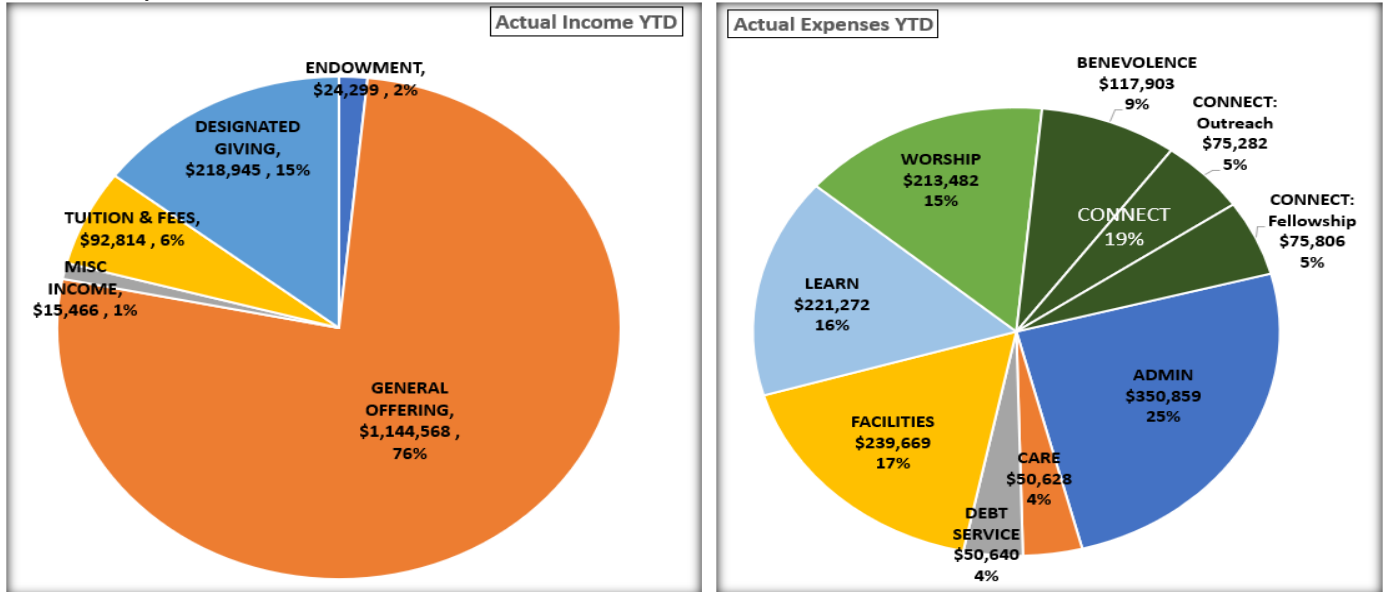
**February 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM, Council Meeting; Community Room**

# Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Financial Summary for Church Council  
For the 5 months ending December 31, 2025

This Month					General Fund					Year to Date				
Actual	Prior Year	Variance	Budget	Variance		Actual	Prior Year	Variance	Budget	Variance		Actual	Prior Year	Variance
\$399,743	\$357,682	\$42,061	\$379,836	\$19,907	Income (includes Misc Inc)	\$1,160,034	\$1,154,583	\$5,451	\$1,308,583	(\$148,549)		\$1,160,034	\$1,154,583	\$5,451
\$11,085	\$12,500	(\$1,415)	\$12,215	(\$1,130)	Tuition/Fees	\$92,814	\$89,881	\$2,933	\$98,235	(\$5,422)		\$92,814	\$89,881	\$2,933
\$235,726	\$224,340	(\$11,386)	\$241,943	\$6,216	Expenses	\$1,262,359	\$1,203,496	(\$58,862)	\$1,306,206	\$43,847		\$1,262,359	\$1,203,496	(\$58,862)
\$175,102	\$145,842	\$29,260	\$150,109	\$24,993	Net	(\$9,511)	\$40,967	(\$50,478)	\$100,612	(\$110,123)		(\$9,511)	\$40,967	(\$50,478)

## Income & Expenses (all funds) - actual YTD



## Key Metrics

Total Fund Balances	Close of 7/31/2025	Close of 12/31/2025	YTD Increase (Decrease)	Minimum Balance	Above/(Below) Minimum
Designated	\$159,757	\$245,521	\$85,764	N/A	
Endowment	\$325,358	\$349,658	\$24,299	N/A	
General	\$690,569	\$657,356	(\$33,213)	\$472,000	\$185,356
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,175,684</b>	<b>\$1,252,535</b>	<b>\$76,851</b>	<b>\$472,000</b>	<b>\$185,356</b>
Months of Cash (general fund)		2.60			
Key Assets & Liabilities	Balance on 7/31/2025	Balance end of Prior Month	Current Balance 12/31/2025	Monthly Incr/(Decr)	YTD Incr/(Decr)
Cash (incl. Endowment)	\$1,175,684	\$1,048,979	\$1,252,535	\$203,555	\$76,851
Investments (Vanguard)	\$325,358	\$348,637	\$349,658	\$1,021	\$24,299
Current Liabilities	\$23,229	\$85	(\$473)	(\$558)	(\$23,702)
Mortgage Balance	\$536,716	\$508,446	\$499,680	(\$8,766)	(\$37,036)
-Mortgage to be paid off fall of 2030-					
<b>Current Liabilities Detail</b>					
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FSA/VLI/Vision/Cobra	\$9	\$85	(\$473)	(\$558)	
Prepaid Income	\$23,220	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,229</b>	<b>\$85</b>	<b>(\$473)</b>		