

Council Meeting: September 10, 2025

In Attendance: Pastor Shaw (via zoom), Joan Simons, Austin Becker, and Kim Mury via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

The meeting opened with prayer led by Pastor Shaw.

Minutes from the July meeting accepted with corrections.

Financial Treasurer Report—Ken

No report this month due to Ken being on vacation.

Financial Secretary Report—Monica

Please see attached.

Elder's Report—Austin

Please see attached.

Average attendance has is trending up. This month had the highest average attendance since September 2024.

Communicants are holding steady.

Austin has been reaching out to guest/visitors who we haven't seen in a while to include Craig Becker and Jessie Bancroft.

Pastor's Report—Pastor Shaw

Pastor Shaw had three home communions and visits this month: Sharon Morgan (12th), Bill and Dot King (15th) and Floyd (17th).

Baptisms/Confirmation/Sunday School/Bible Study: Small Catechisms have been ordered to have 8 of each (spiral and hardbound). Pastor Shaw is working to shape the studies so they will suffice as new communion or new baptism discussions.

Upcoming Plans:

Pastor Ricky Adams will lead services on the weeks that Pastor Shaw is in Cary. Pastor Adams is requesting one night hotel reimbursement as he lives in Southern Pines. His first Sunday will be Sept. 21, 2025. Pastor Ricky has requested to use Divine Service 3.

Pastor Shaw will be participating in the SED Congregational Wellness Team. He will be recommending Goldsboro for the new SIMPLE assessment for some time after the new year. Pastor Shaw will be writing congregational wellness blogs on the 2nd Wednesday and church worker wellness of the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Pastor Shaw will have a short workday on October 5th due to having to drive to Ridgeway, NC after lunch for the installation of St. Paul's new pastor and then to Virginia Beach for the Church Worker Wellness Conference from October 6 until October 8.

Pastor Ricky will be leading service with us again on October 19, 2025, as Pastor Shaw will be in Cary and then will have to travel to Maryland on October 20-24 for Interim Training. November 2 will also be a Cary, NC weekend.

Upcoming Liturgical Dates:

Council discussed feedback regarding Divine Service 1 change. Most feedback has been positive.

Reformation is observed on October 26, 2025. Discussions were held regarding church traditions and ways to involve the community. Pastor Shaw suggested making German food and having beer in the parking lot and invite the community to attend. Council in agreement with this idea and shared that this idea is similar to what was done last year.

Advent schedule discussed by the council. Evening services will be added to the schedule for midweek and will start at 7:00pm. The idea was proposed that soup and sandwiches be served at 6:00pm with 7:00pm services to follow. Services will be held every Thursday in December: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, and 12/24.

Pastor Shaw shared that the Circuit meeting on 9/9/25 went well. The next Circuit Forum will be hosted by Peace on 9/27/25 and will elect convention attendees. The meeting will be at 10:00am. Pastor Shaw asked once again for volunteers.

Pastor Shaw inquired about the number of portals of prayer are typically ordered and asked if they could be included in visitor gift bags.

Pastor Shaw has updated the LCMS located with the current worship and Bible Study times as well as our website.

Pastor Shaw will be reminding the congregation of the transitional survey that needs to be completed.

Transition Report:

The first series of the Bible Study, started on September 7, 2025

Outreach to Community

The tutoring group is forming and is in its planning phase. Volunteers include Miranda, Brenda and Kris. Audrey has the lead in planning and coordinating this team.

Pastor Shaw has met with the Chaplains and staff on base. They are excited to partner with our church but have not offered any events or opportunities. Pastor Shaw feels a Reformation Open House may attract some Military families.

The "Bring a visitor" challenge brought a few new faces to service. Pastor Shaw wants to ensure the overall message that all people are welcome to our church. Membership and communion can always be discussed with interested individuals.

Points of Focus

The transition team will have its first meeting on September 14, 2025. The agenda for the first meeting is going to cover the transition surveys and the “post-it history” to get a feel of the history of the church. Pastor Shaw has also asked the team to be prepared to discuss “What does a healthy church look like?”

Pastor Shaw shared the congregation has made comments regarding outreach and serving the community. Pastor Shaw will be encouraging the transition team and the Council to assist with the planning of these events.

Pastor Shaw discussed further the need to over communicate. Pastor Shaw feels it will be helpful to outline the informal leadership positions of the church to include altar care, cleaning/filling the candles, bulletins, a youth leader, etc. He would like to see church members empowered to take the lead.

The Transition Team currently includes Wanda, Audrey, Miranda and Mike.

Pastor Shaw is hoping to connect with outside pastors who may want to partner with our church.

Trustee's Report—Bill

Refer to attached document.

Old Business: The Windows have been completed.

No New Business discussed.

Fellowship/Outreach Coordinator Report:

August 31, 2025, was the last 5th Sunday Celebration. It was an Invite a friend to church Sunday. Gift bags were given to visitors. There are gift bags left that Joan will continue to give to visitors until they run out.

A Time and Talent Survey was given out as a bulletin insert as well as an online survey. Joan will be collecting the data and will make the database available to the Council.

November 29, 2025, will be the Hanging of the Greens pizza party to prepare for the Advent Season.

November 30, 2025, will be the next 5th Sunday Celebration. Proposed idea for the celebration is a Pie and Hymn fest.

The Council will be asking members to sign up for Soup and Sandwich supper for the mid-week Advent services.

Outreach opportunities:

Wreaths Across America will be December 13, 2025, and will be a Thrivent Action Team project.

Joan discussed possibly being involved in a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce.

Joan would like the church to assist with Blessing Bags for the United Way to use at the winter shelter for the homeless. This could also be a Thrivent Action Team project.

Joan also shared that the American Red Cross and LIFT team with the Chamber of Commerce are requesting spiritual caregivers to assist with the recent fire victims in Goldsboro.

Discussion held regarding security for our church given recent events involving church shootings.

September Outreach project will be Help the Hungry, a partnership with the YMCA food bank. The church will collect canned goods and other non-perishables.

Other possible outreach opportunities include the Single Airman program; Sharing our space with homeschool co-ops; sharing our space with start-ups, campus ministries.

Joan also suggested possible collaboration with other congregations in our Circuit with any outreach and ministry opportunities.

Old Business:

Discussion held regarding reviewing the Constitution and the By-laws. Please make any notations on the documents so that there is time to review and then present any changes for the Congregational meeting in December.

Joan also presented the policy for the Pastor Discretionary Fund.

New Business:

No new business

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00pm will be the next meeting date.

Kim will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 7:54pm