



Emmanuel Lutheran News

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September 2026

News from Pastor Rod for September

Grace and Peace to you! I am the product of the 50s and 60s. Graduated from high school in the early 60s, eventually joined the U.S. Air Force, and after discharge, attended college and Seminary. So here I am some 50 plus years later. My daughters, son and grandkids say that I am stuck in the 60s. I am and I love it! I sometimes wish that one could go back to the "good ole days." But of course, it is impossible.

We have so many wonderful life-giving experiences right now. Our education in the U.S. is second to none, our internet abilities allow us to gain access to more than we can imagine. Cars, houses, communities have changed, and almost everything else.

Yet there is one unchangeable in life-that is that God in Christ has never changed. The Word is the same (Bible) and much of the history of the Bible keeps coming true as archaeology continues to uncover biblical truths. I subscribe to the Biblical Archaeology magazine and every issue bring truth to this mandate. And did you know that the best selling book EVER is-well, you guessed it-the Bible in all different languages across the world.

Think about it-you can read the Bible-basically same words that people have read for centuries. Words that challenge, comfort, and bring peace to our souls! Yes, this is a changing world, but our Savior never changes.

In Hebrews 12:8, the New Testament, it reads Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! I absolutely love this!

We never have then, now or in the future, been concerned about our lives as long as we have faith and trust in God through Christ. He is our savior, a friend who is always there for us as He comforts and loves us.

May God bless you as we live out the rest of the summer weeks!

Pastor Rod

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There is a new section on the website (www.emmanuelreardan.org) that will feature the minutes of the Council meetings. The minutes will be uploaded once they are approved and then provided to the Church Secretary. The minutes will be PDF format and should be able to be opened on any computer/phone/device. The Council felt it was important to publish the "goings-on" of the business side of the church as soon as possible. The website will allow almost instant access in addition to them being published in the newsletter at the end of the month.

If anyone in the congregation is having difficulties accessing the online portions offered from Emmanuel Lutheran, please contact the church office to set up a time to have Johanna walk you through it! She is happy to help and is only a phone call away!!! Don't suffer in silence! Ask!!!!



September Party Gals

September 16

1 pm

Fellowship area

We will honor
Barb Z. and Sandy L.



The Call Committee
has recommended
Rhonda Kalous
to the Church Council
as a Lay Minister for
Emmanuel Lutheran.
Rhonda will be giving
the sermon on
August 30.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Reardan, WA

Members Present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Gary Cook, Chris Falk, Barbara Hamilton, Pastor Rod Vereb – Todd Ekstrom was absent

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff and devotions were provided by Pastor Rod.

Church Secretary Report

Johanna Ellis reported that the transfer from US Bank to STCU will be completed on August 4, 2026, and all US Bank accounts will be closed. She will also participate in a Zoom meeting with Synod representatives regarding W.E. Care.

Johanna reported that the church sound system is functioning well and does not require replacement at this time. She also purchased a wireless streaming system that will improve the quality of future livestream services.

Financial Report

The July financial report was presented. Gary Cook moved and Chris Falk seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rod was away for two Sundays during July but led two worship services, completed one home visit, and made several phone calls.

Pastor Rod suggested purchasing an air conditioning unit for the church office so the pastor's office door can remain closed during the summer months. He also reiterated the need to update the office furniture before calling a new pastor.

Pastor Rod expressed appreciation to everyone from Emmanuel who assisted with the Church in the Park service.

Chris Falk moved and Gary Cook seconded to purchase an air conditioning unit for the church office, depending on the most appropriate unit for the space. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: There was no official report but we thank the congregation for the help with the fellowship in the park at the beginning of August.

Property & Remodeling: Gary Cook reported that LED lighting will be installed in the back classroom. Ten four-foot fixtures will be replaced, and an electrician will be consulted to ensure proper installation. The illuminated exit signs will also be updated, and the electrician will evaluate several additional electrical items throughout the building. A school safety officer will complete a building evaluation in the coming weeks. The Council also discussed the need to ensure smoke detectors are installed where required.

Outreach & Fellowship: No report.

Endowment: No report.

Call Committee: No report.

Sunday School: No report.

Old Business

Follow-up Meeting with Bishop Manlove

Barbara Hamilton read the summary of the meeting with Bishop Manlove. The minutes from that meeting will be included in the church newsletter.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss Rhonda Kahlous as a potential lay minister. The Council agreed to recommend to the Call Committee that Rhonda be invited to serve as a guest minister before a final decision is made. Charlotte will contact Chris Cook with the recommendation and ask whether Rhonda could preside at the Fifth Sunday Potluck service on August 30.

Pastor Rod expressed his willingness to assist with the transition and continue serving as a resource for the congregation.

Bishop Manlove also suggested, and Council members agreed, that changing the worship start time may be beneficial as the congregation transitions to a new minister. This discussion will be ongoing and continue once the church leadership is more settled in the future. This time change would allow opportunities for activities such as Bible study, Sunday School, or breakfast before worship.

Options Program Facility Use Agreement

The classroom has been cleaned in preparation for the Options Program beginning at the end of August. Several questions were raised regarding the draft Facility Use Agreement. Those concerns will be addressed, and the agreement will be finalized for signatures this month.

Congregational and Community Engagement

August 30 Fifth Sunday Potluck: The congregation will gather for a potluck meal following worship.

Student Prayer Breakfast: Barbara Hamilton will meet with students after school begins and report back to the Council regarding the most appropriate day and time.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday – September 13, 2026: Charlotte will contact Todd regarding the possibility of hosting a community shredding event. A brief devotional service will be held before members participate in community beautification projects.

New Business

Liturgy and Life

Bishop Manlove contacted Pastor Paul Palumbo regarding Life and Liturgy. Pastor Palumbo would like to meet with the congregation by Zoom. Charlotte will contact him to obtain additional information.

Increasing Community Visibility

The Council discussed several opportunities to improve Emmanuel's visibility within the community. Ideas included replacing the welcome banner on the accessibility ramp, purchasing a sign in the Reardan High School gym following football season, updating the church website with current information and photographs, and creating a visitor brochure containing information about Emmanuel Lutheran Church, worship opportunities, confirmation, baptism, and suggested donations for special services.

The Council also discussed having members walk through the church as first-time visitors and identify opportunities to improve the overall visitor experience.

Roundtable

The Council watched Bishop Manlove's YouTube message on the Spokane fires which can be found <https://youtube.com/watch?v=4-JIyt6P0RQ&feature=shared>.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 7:41 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

July minutes were approved via email

September Celebrations

September 2: Del & Bobbie Williams

September 6: Gunnar McCain

September 12: Shannon Hoff

September 12: Tessa Wicks

September 21: Gary & Chris Cook

September 24: Nathan & Farren Reinhold

September 25: Barb Zier

September 25: Ed Preuschoff

September 27: Sandy Lillengreen

September 30: Melissa Falk

September 30: Bryson Phillips



Special Meeting Summary

Friday July 31, 2026

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Gary Cook, Todd Ekstrom, Barbara Hamilton, Chris Falk, Pastor Rod Vereb and Bishop Meggan Manlove.

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm by Charlotte Preuschoff, opening prayers were offered by Bishop Meggan Manlove.

The Council met with Bishop Meggan Manlove to discuss the future ministry and mission of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Following introductions, the primary discussion centered on the possibility of utilizing a Synod Authorized Minister (Lay Minister) to serve the

congregation. The use of the church basement for the Options program was also discussed as an important community partnership.

Bishop Manlove expressed interest in the congregation's current outreach efforts and encouraged expanding opportunities for community involvement. She suggested opening the Wednesday prayer meetings to members of the community and recognized both the Options program and the Prayer Breakfast as valuable ministries. She recommended incorporating portions of the Prayers of Intercession into the Prayer Breakfast so students can learn to pray for the needs of a broader community, as well as sharing church celebrations and seasons throughout the year with the students.

The Council acknowledged that the congregation is aging and discussed the importance of intentional growth in the coming years while reflecting on the Lutheran theology and traditions that are most meaningful to the congregation.

Pastor Paul Pumbo of Lake Chelan Lutheran Church was discussed as a resource. He teaches Liturgy in Life and would be invited to lead a session demonstrating how the liturgy can be incorporated into daily life throughout the week rather than experienced only during Sunday worship.

The Council noted additional resources for future planning, including the ELCA Church Property Resource Hub and the publication *Gone for Good? The Coming Wave of Church Property Transitions*, both of which provide guidance for long-term stewardship of church property while encouraging facilities to remain active community spaces. The importance of continuing the church's partnership with the Presbyterian Church was also affirmed.

Regarding the possibility of Rhonda Kalous serving as a Synod Authorized Minister, Bishop Manlove shared that she is comfortable supporting Rhonda in this role, describing her as curious, caring, and well-suited for ministry. She indicated that Pastor Ty from Davenport could mentor Rhonda during her service. The ELCA Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program was also discussed as an option that would allow someone to serve while completing seminary through distance learning. A Synod Authorized Pastor will be allowed to perform baptisms, communion, and funeral services but we are unsure about a wedding service.

The conversation then shifted to future ideas for congregational growth and outreach. Suggestions included improving the church's website to better reflect the life of the congregation, displaying more information within the church about weekly ministries, encouraging members to personally invite others to worship, and speaking more openly about their faith. Additional outreach ideas included hosting community events such as "Pizza and Prayer" or "Bible and Brews."

The Council also discussed intentionally incorporating the church calendar into worship through meaningful observances such as lighting candles on All Saints Sunday, participating in God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, and inviting a retired veteran to share a faith story in recognition of Veterans Day.

Bishop Manlove reviewed the process for requesting a Synod Authorized Minister, explaining that the Call Committee would make a recommendation, the Council would submit the request to the Bishop, and while a congregational meeting could be held, it is not required. The Council expressed a desire to have Rhonda Kalous preside over a

worship service before moving forward with a formal request. Bishop Manlove explained that Synod Authorized Ministry appointments typically begin with a one-year agreement, followed by annual reviews, with Rhonda reporting to the Bishop each year. Finally, Riverview Community Chaplain Evett was identified as a valuable ministry resource and potential support for Rhonda.

The meeting was adjourned after the Lord's Prayer at 7:35pm.

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Dear Members of Emmanuel Lutheran,
Thank you so much for the graduation
party, it was very thoughtful. Thank
you also for all the support you
all have given me over the years.

Love,
Gretchen

Thank you to
Paul and Lorri Williams
who washed the exterior
of the church and have
been vigilant weed
eliminators!

The church looks fantastic
and the grounds always
look so nice!



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