



Emmanuel Lutheran News

Located at the corner of Laurel & Cottonwood Streets

PO Box 207, Reardan WA 99029

Telephone: 509-796-2531 Email: Reardanlutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.emmanuelreardan.org

August 2026

Pastor's thoughts for August 2026

Grace and Peace to you and your family!

For some reason, I have been thinking about the very first Commandment that our Lord made evident for us- I am the Lord your God, you shall not have other gods before me. Martin Luther said that this commandment means that we are to fear, love, and trust God above all things. The best part of that explanation is "trust God above all things." So...what are "things" in your life that may be keeping you from trusting God? Yes we are human, and I am sure that like me, you can come up with a list of things that keep you from trusting God completely!

Yes, it is a tall order to follow this commandment! Like the other nine, we certainly are challenged to do so. My late father in-law who also was a Lutheran Pastor, felt strongly about this commandment (as well as the others) and worked hard to follow it in his life. When everything else in life, according to Luther's explanation, comes secondary to God, it can be a struggle!

Think of the things in life that you enjoy. Do any of them become contrary to the following of commandment # 1?

Anything that takes us away from making God first in our lives, is breaking this commandment.

And the uniqueness of this is that the other 9 commandments are latched on to this first one. For example, the 8th commandment says that we are not to bear false witness against our neighbors.(slander, gossip, lie), but to speak well of them in all that they may do. So if one does not follow this 8th commandment, he or she is putting poor behavior above what God desires.

Or what about the 7th one- thou shall not steal. If you fear, love and honor God above anything else, then we are to be helpful to others and not steal (unfair attitudes and behavior against others). If you break this one, you are not honoring God and not placing him above anything that can destroy your relationship with the Almighty.

One can go to the other commandments and see how they hook on to the first one!

Yes the commandments have been around for 1000's of years but never change.

There are many temptations that can take us away from loving, honoring and keeping God in the #1 place in our lives.

Thus, respecting the commandments and their meaning cannot go to the wayside.

So when God said, I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me - don't you think he meant it?

Pastor Rod

August Celebrations



August 2 Todd Ekstrom
August 5 Christian Ekstrom
August 7 Wade Hamilton
August 9 Farren Reinbold
August 11 Ramona Hoff
August 13 Mike & Jenny McCain
August 13 Lorri Williams
August 18 Clara Zwainz
August 20 Tom Page
August 22 Tom & Peggy Page
August 24 Dorette Merriott
August 30 Kort Schmitt



Party Gals

Will be August 19.

We will honor

Lorri W.

Dorrette M.

Ramona H.



Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Reardan, WA

Members Present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Gary Cook, Todd Eckstrom, Barbara Hamilton
The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Charlotte Preuschoff. Opening prayer was provided by Charlotte. June Minutes approved via email

Church Secretary Report:

Johanna reported that she is working on completing the transfer to STCU. She has applied for a grant to help support We C.A.R.E.; the decision regarding the grant will not be available until later in the year.

Financial Report:

The June financial report was presented. Annual insurance policies have been paid, and there was an increase to the policy cost for the year. Kysar was paid for the installation of the dishwasher at the parsonage; however, Chartwell Homes has not been paid because an invoice has not yet been provided. Chartwell Homes completed work to seal the basement during the month of June.

Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the June financial statement.

Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: No report

Property & Remodeling, by Gary Cook:

Other than Chartwell Homes needing to send an invoice, the other big item to be addressed in the completion of the flooring in the basement. Currently, the plan is to store the majority of items in the nursery and the current storeroom.

Outreach & Fellowship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Call Committee:

Todd Eckstrom reported that the congregational meeting was held on June 23 and went well. The Call Committee will meet with a prospective lay minister on July 15 to discuss this option. Bishop Megan Manlove has contacted Charlotte and Pastor Rod and has discussed the possibility of a lay minister and she is supportive of this direction given the current shortage of ordained ministers and has offered to meet with the Council and Call Committee.

The Council expressed a desire that any hired minister, temporary or permanent, be able to perform the sacraments of baptism and communion. A tentative meeting with Bishop Manlove was scheduled for July 30 at 6:00 pm.

Sunday School: No report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Rod was unable to attend due to vacation but submitted his report via email. He completed one home visit and made several phone calls during the month.

Pastor Rod shared the following reminders:

- Emmanuel is responsible for Church in the Park on August 2. Confirmation is needed regarding the availability of a portable sound system, and someone will need to take the lead in securing equipment for that Sunday.
- Pastor Rod will be on vacation July 12 and July 19. A supply pastor has been arranged through Barbara's assistance.
- Pastor Rod offered prayers for the Call Committee's work and for a successful VBS week.

Old Business:

Congregational and Community Engagement:

Student Prayer Breakfast:

Discussion was deferred until August. The Council would like Barbara to serve as liaison with students to determine mutually agreeable dates and times. Todd and Charlotte previously volunteered to monitor the facilities; additional volunteers may be needed.

Options Use of Basement Classrooms:

The Options program completed a walkthrough prior to the meeting to discuss facility needs. School representatives were interested in continuing discussions, as they felt the space appears usable for their needs. The Council discussed the need to clean out the large room, and possibly epoxy the concrete floor, and reviewed requirements from the school. A Facility Use Agreement will need to be developed including custodial responsibilities, weather related maintenance, and issues regarding congregational conflicts. The proposed use would be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am–3:00 pm. Students would enter and exit through the back stairway, and certain areas of the church would remain unavailable during school use (the school will provide barricades for designated areas). The Council will discuss liability concerns with the insurance company and the school district. The school will be asked to provide a temporary divider for the large back room. The proposed rental rate will be \$2,000 per quarter for use two days per week, with additional days available

at a rate of \$75 per hour. The Council agreed that rental fees must cover electricity and potential custodial costs. The Council determined that congregational concerns had been adequately addressed and agreed to continue discussions with the school district. A Facility Use Agreement will be drafted for review and approval at the August meeting.

5th Sunday Potluck – August 30:

Charlotte recommended beginning preparations for the upcoming potluck. The Council will handle setup and cleanup. Charlotte will contact Nancy to request that she send text reminders to the congregation as the date approaches.

New Business:

Parsonage Rental Agreement:

Some changes were made to the rental agreement with the tenants. The updated lease was provided and discussed. The lease renews on August 1, and time will be provided for tenants to review the agreement before signing by July 30.

Request to Use Emmanuel Lutheran as a Red Cross Evacuation Center:

Chris reported a request to designate the church as a Red Cross evacuation center. The school is currently the only approved evacuation site in Reardan. The Council agreed that this aligns with Emmanuel's mission to support the community during times of need.

Chris Falk moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded to list Emmanuel Lutheran Church as a potential Red Cross evacuation center. Motion carried unanimously.

A volunteer list will be needed to ensure the church can be opened for Red Cross or Emergency Management personnel during an emergency.

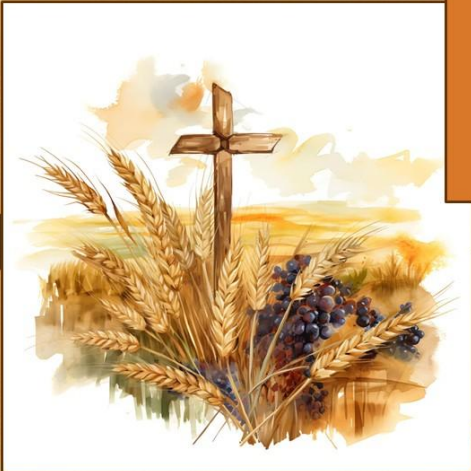
Roundtable:

The Council discussed ways to increase Emmanuel's visibility in the community as a means of encouraging congregational growth. Chris noted that several initiatives, including leasing space to the school district, congregational potlucks, and the upcoming student prayer breakfast, will help strengthen community engagement.

The Council revisited the idea of purchasing an advertisement sign in the Reardan High School gym, which would be visible to many community members during events. Todd will contact the Reardan Boosters for current pricing.

The meeting concluded at 7:40 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Hamilton, Secretary Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 6:00 pm



Church in the Park
Sunday Aug 2nd 10am
Reardan City Park

Everyone is invited to join us in casual community worship at the Reardan City Park, sponsored by the congregations of We C.A.R.E. August service will be hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Pastor Rod Vereb speaking.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket, enjoy worshipping together under the trees! Refreshments and fellowship following. Offering collected will be donated to support the ongoing missions of We C.A.R.E., including the food pantry.

Over the past several months, the Property Management committee, in conjunction with the Council, has been considering the opportunity to partner with the Reardan-Edwall School District Options Program. Due to the increased growth experienced by the alternative learning program, Options has reached a point where more space is required to effectively offer the educational experiences students count on.

As a Council, we have spent many hours discussing our desire to increase visibility in the community, specifically among the student population. The opportunity to partner with the school aligns with that goal.

We understand that many members had concerns and want to assure you we have investigated each of them and feel confident the school has addressed them. After in-depth discussions, the Council has decided that it is in our best interest to partner with the school by providing a space for the Options program. We would like to assure everyone that the students will be using only designated spaces while in the building, specifically the large classroom and bathrooms downstairs, all other areas of the church would be off-limits. Students would access the space through the back entrance, so there would be no need to be in the fellowship hall. The school is aware that the needs of the church and its members do have priority if a conflict arises. We will be preparing a Facility Use Agreement to propose to the school district in the coming weeks and will update the congregation as we move forward. Please feel free to contact any of the Property Management Committee or Council members if you have questions or concerns.

This **November**, Emmanuel would like to honor our **veterans**-either in the congregation or in the community.

If you have a **family** member that served in the military, please let Johanna know the name, branch, and when did they serve. If they were a member of Emmanuel, please let her know that as well!

Also, if you know of anyone else in the congregation that has passed and had served, please let her know as well! We want to honor EVERYONE who served!



High School Prayer Breakfast
hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran
is coming soon!

The Council is very excited to offer this to the high-school students again after a long pause!

Any questions, please contact
Barbara Hamilton or
Charlotte Preuschoff

In Loving Memory of Willy & Bob

Following a private family graveside interment, the family would love for the extended family and friends to join them for a time of fellowship, remembrance and visiting.

Please join them:
Saturday, August 14, 2026
1:30 pm
Basement fellowship area

Light refreshments and cookies will be served along with ample time to share stories, memories, and laughter as we celebrate the lives of Willy and Bob and they many ways they touched our hearts.



The donated cupcakes were used to make super cute frogs!
So much fun to decorate! They were a “jumping” success!

VBS was a HUGE success this year! We had over 100 kids between the four churches for the week! It was so awesome seeing the community kids come out and learn about God!

Thank you to everyone who worked as church host; donated blank cupcakes for decoration; and helped whenever needed!



Dad Jokes 
@Dadsaysjokes

People in the Bible struggled with the same challenges we face today. Here we see Samson trying to give his cat a pill...



August 30 will be the next congregational potluck! Please plan to bring a potluck dish to share with the church community! The potluck will be directly after worship in the fellowship area



Emmanuel Lutheran
wishes everyone working
harvest this year to have a
safe and bountiful season!
Here's to many bushels in
your grain tank!

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