



Emmanuel Lutheran News

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July 2025

Dear Friends,

Recently I have been reflecting on what makes a congregation vibrant, full of life and energy. How do we measure the life of a church? Is it the number of programs or events going on each week? Is it reflected in Sunday School attendance or worship numbers? Is it reflected financially; how much is given to support the ministries of the congregation and how much does the congregation share with others outside its walls? These measurements or numbers are what often drive our view of the church's health. We base decisions on the numbers of "bodies & bucks" but is this really the best determination of what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst? We like the numbers because they seem like facts, like hard data and we are used to businesses being evaluated this way but is there a better approach? The problem with relying too heavily on numbers like these is that while we can compare them year to year or week to week, they don't reflect what is really going on in the daily lives of God's people or what is happening in the spiritual life of a congregation.

So how do we measure whether people are growing in faith? Ideally worship and Sunday school or bible study attendance is a reflection that people are growing spiritually but without further information it is difficult to determine how deep the growth is or if it is even there at all. Because the reality is that some people attend or give out of a sense of obligation-to look good or because its what they were taught they need to do to fit in. How different it is when attendance and giving flows from a heart on fire for Jesus, a desire to grow spiritually within oneself and to share in God's mission in the world! Now that is something to measure! That reflects a church's health and vitality!

It is easy to fall into the trap of counting numbers without thinking deeper about what is really going on in the spiritual lives of people. It's easier than engaging in conversation with someone about ways they are living out their faith daily and ways they are growing closer to the Lord. But I think it's more important that people become more faithful disciples through a church's ministry than the raw data of "bodies and bucks".

Sometimes we miss seeing what God is up to because we aren't looking closely enough but more often it's because we aren't looking in the right place. The right place to look is in the hearts of the people who make up our congregation. When I look at those hearts I am encouraged. I am excited. Because what I see is God's love and grace and the Spirit of God dwelling there. I see it in how you care about each other and the community around you. I see it when I hear about prayer needs, not only among our members but others as well. I see it in the faithfulness of those who attend service in person or online. I see it in the little things like donations that help our community and those in need. All of this is good news!

My challenge to you this month is to think about all the ways the Spirit is moving in your personal life, in the lives of others around you, and in this church. And then tell someone what you see! Share the ways God is at work and together we will proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God! Let's move beyond simple number crunching to a more profound and deeper evaluation. If you want to talk more about this, let me know. I would love to hear your stories and see what God is up to in your life. And who knows, maybe we can start telling those stories regularly in worship to encourage and challenge one another even more!

Be blessed, be loved, be restored by the Holy Spirit this summer season of Pentecost.

Pastor Carol

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

June 3, 2025

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Chris Falk, Tessa Wicks, Gary Cook, Barbara Hamilton, Pastor Carol Yeager and Pastor Greg Yeager.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff, with Pastor Carol delivering an opening prayer.

April 8th minutes were approved prior to the meeting via email by the council.

Pastors' report:

Pastor Carol reported that they had a great vacation and have a busy month coming up.

Upcoming events:

June 4: Preplan memorials/funerals meeting at the church

Bible Study

Baccalaureate at the Reardan Park

June 8: Worship in the Park – Presbyterians hosting

June 22: Senior Sunday for EJ Preuschoff

Pastor Greg will be changing his office hours from Thursday to Tuesday 10am-2pm.

Pastor Carol reported that St. John's is not doing well financially and may want to revisit the percentage agreement between the congregations. Tessa will set-up a meeting with the Stewardship/Budget committee this summer to discuss options.

Financial report:

The financial report for the month of April was presented, with accompanying notes from the Church Secretary. Discussion followed. Tessa Wicks moved, and Barbara Hamilton seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Endowment Committee: Barbara reported that the confirmed members: Jackson Ekstrom, EJ & Erika Preuschoff and Lydia Wicks will be receiving \$1600 scholarships for the fall and Logan and Colby Clouse and Kira Hoff will receive \$800 scholarships.

Property & Remodeling: Gary reported that the church sidewalk was vandalized on Sunday and damage was reported to law enforcement. He and Chris cleaned up the paint. A congregation member noted that the ramp is sloping – Gary put a block in to help stabilize in one spot and will enlist further help for the remainder. He also spoke with contractors regarding the roof. One refused the job due to labor shortage. Jeff Stevens of Absolute Custom Construction (licensed and bonded contractor) looked at the roof and recommended that replacement isn't necessary at this time. He did recommend a spray-on application to extend the life span of the existing roof.

The parsonage door replacement estimate is \$3200. Chris suggested putting that project on hold for now and seal it for the time being, until we have an idea of what the insurance company may suggest/require of the properties. Gary will be in touch with Chartwell Homes to see if they are able to reseal the door instead. Gary also replaced the light bulb in the front of the church and is checking on the downspouts.

Worship & Music/Outreach & Fellowship: The congregation is enjoying Paul Lillengreen's personal music choices when he plays during services. Worship in the Park will be hosted by the Lutheran Church in August. Senior Sunday Celebration for EJ Preuschoff will be held on June 22nd.

Council Minutes Continued

Old Business:

Goals for 2025-2026: Council members took their turns to respond to the Rostered Minister & Lay Leadership review. History and loyalty, fellowship and connection, abundance of volunteers and location topped the list of the church's strengths. Ideas were again floated for increased community and congregational engagement such as: 5th quarter post-football game hang-out; after-school program; and evening bible studies. Additional exposure of the pastors to the community and school was also discussed.

New Business:

The Church Mutual insurance letter from April was read and discussed. No action required or necessary.

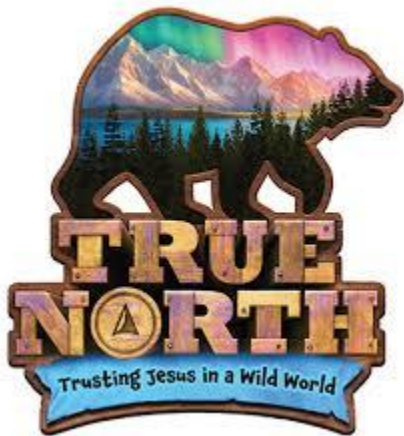
Charlotte asked to borrow tables and chairs for the upcoming graduation party. Permission was granted.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 1st at 6pm.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Wicks, Council Secretary



Mark Your Calendars!!
VBS is coming!!!
July 28-August 1, 2025
Keep watch for registration information!

Bible Study with Pastor Carol
Every Wednesday in July except July 30
Fellowship Area, 1 pm
We will be studying Revelations

Coffee with Pastor Carol

July 5, 2025

10 am

Starbucks in Airway
Heights



Did you miss the pre-planning workshop with Pastor Carol on June 4?
Never fear! You still have time!!! Here are the forms she handed out in a space-saving design.
If you want to schedule a time to discuss it with either Pastor Greg or Pastor Carol, please contact
them directly!

Pre-Planning Form

Full Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Contact information:

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Obituary details to include

Deposition (What do you want done with your physical body?)

Cremation, burial, scattered ashes, other?

Location of final rest

Service details

Wake or visitation beforehand and location?

Reception afterwards (Details and who is invited?)

Traditional funeral, contemporary memorial service, something else

Private or Public

Body present or not

Open or closed casket (if applicable)

Slide show

Scripture readings

Hymns/songs

Other details

Pall Bearers

Speakers

Facebook live or recorded

Flowers

Pre-Planning Form continued

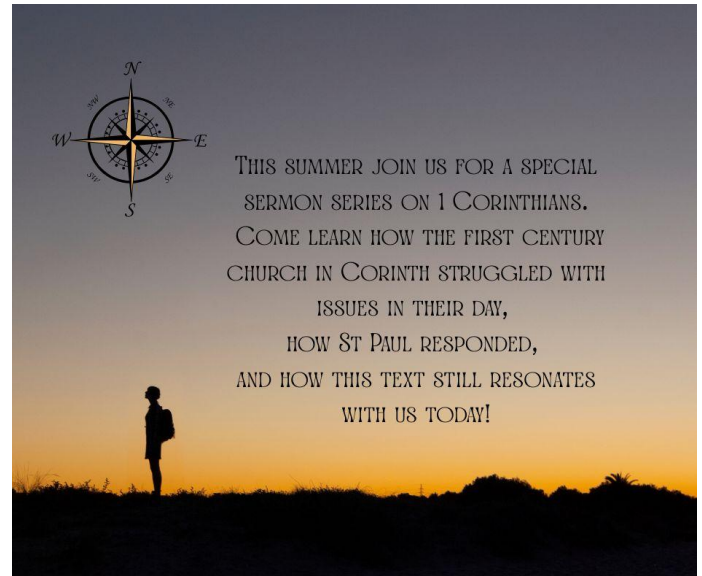
After the Service details

Grave marker details (as appropriate)

Memorial donations to charities

Other things to consider: Creating a folder with details such as passwords, banking information, prepaid arrangements, lawyer's name, copy of your will, DD214 for veterans, social security number, next of kin with contact information, etc.

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Did you miss the Pre-planning workshop?

- Pastor Carol had an informative pre-planning workshop on June 4.
- If you missed it and want to schedule a time to discuss plans with her, please contact her at 509-768-5719
- If you want the forms, the office has a copy. Please email or call the office and a copy will be sent to you! A condensed form is in this newsletter

**PLAN NOW! SO
YOU CAN HAVE
A SAY IN YOUR
FINAL WISHES**



*Party Girls
will not meet in July*

A red arrow pointing right with a blue starburst above it.

**new
office
hours**

Pastor Greg: Tuesday 10 am – 2 pm
Pastor Carol: Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm



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