



Emmanuel Lutheran News

Located at the corner of Laurel & Cottonwood Streets

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March 2026

Preacher's Word for March 2026

What a wonderful and challenging time of the year! Wonderful because Easter and better weather are on the way. Challenging because it is Lent which reminds us to look into our own spiritual lives and seek change and renewal. Change and renewal. To be honest, I believe we all need to accomplish this (including me!) during the final days of Lent.

How can I (we) be a more effective Christian? In what ways do I (we) need to uplift our spiritual selves? Well, one thing is to be present at Sunday worship service. When I was growing up in Dearborn Michigan, my dear mother made sure that we went to church every Sunday unless we were ill or away somewhere. This was instilled in our lives.

As I look over Emmanuel congregation each Sunday, I see very few younger parents and children. What happened? Sunday is a holy day, and if at all possible all members of Emmanuel can be present. I would just like someone to let me know why many members are not in the pews.

I am not judging or giving a lecture. I am just a part time pastor who encourages others to take a look at their spiritual side of life. But as long as I am in this part time position, I want to be candid.

Now can you just imagine Jesus saying to his disciples "Look, you can follow me just part of the time in ministry, if you feel like it." NO WAY!!!

So, can you take the opportunity and do some spiritual undertaking? I will be praying for every member of the congregation by name(s) in my personal daily prayer time between now and Easter Sunday. I guess you probably know what I will be asking God about!

Loving Jesus!
Pastor Rod Vereb
425-876-2241

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***Special Note: The minutes have been previously approved by Council before publication. ***

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 3, 2026

Reardan, WA

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Todd Eckstrom, Barbara Hamilton, Gary Cook, Chris Falk, and Pastor Rod Vereb

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff, with Pastor Phil offering the opening prayer.

Call Committee Discussion

Members of the Call Committee were present to discuss their role in the coming months: Jim Baye, Chris Cook, Ramona Hoff, Emily Zwainz, and Todd Eckstrom.

Pastor Phil will provide orientation for the Call Committee and plans to meet separately with the committee to determine next steps, including options available during the call process and an option to explore partnerships with neighboring congregations, specifically the Presbyterian Church.

Charlotte summarized conversations held since the departure of Pastors Yeager in October. The Council recognizes that the congregation is unable to sustain a full-time pastor independently and remains open to exploring both a new pastoral call and partnership opportunities.

Pastor Phil reviewed the three stages of ministry transition: leave-taking (completed in October), discernment (current stage), and welcoming a new pastor. The Call Committee's primary role is to help the congregation discern God's direction for the future. Effective discernment requires prayerful listening to one another, the congregation, and God's leading.

Pastor Phil noted that approximately 20 congregations are currently in the call process. He emphasized that partnership with the Presbyterian Church and calling a new pastor are not mutually exclusive.

The proposed "friendship" model is intended as a flexible framework rather than a rigid process. Pastor Phil requested feedback as discussions continue and asked the committee to identify leadership if pursuing a partnership.

Election of Council Officers

Barbara Hamilton moved that Charlotte Preuschoff remain President, Chris Falk remain Vice President, and Barbara Hamilton serve as Secretary. Gary Cook seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rod reported no home or hospital visits. Pastor Rod discussed his experiences about pastoring a Lutheran congregation and Episcopal congregation. He is open to sharing his opinions with the call committee. Worship services are going well.

Church Secretary Report

The January financial report was reviewed. Gary Cook moved and Barbara Hamilton seconded to defer approval of the January financials until March, pending explanation and final reconciliation. Motion carried. Pastor Rod's income was missing from the report, there were two January 4 deposits, and reconciliation is complete only through January 21.

Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to continue benevolence designations to Bite2Go and We Care. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: There was no formal report but Pastor Rod raised a question regarding Ash Wednesday and Good Friday service locations. It is believed Ash Wednesday is hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran and Good Friday by the Presbyterian Church; this will be confirmed.

Property & Remodeling: Gary Cook reported that the floodlights in the belfry will remain out until a boom truck can be secured. It was suggested that sticky threads be applied to the ramp for safety as it gets very slick in the winter. This will be evaluated and possibly completed as a summer job.

Outreach & Fellowship: No additional report.

Endowment: Todd Eckstrom reported that the new scholarship application will be available March 1, with a May 1 deadline.

Sunday School: No report.

Old Business

US Bank Closure: No new developments regarding a change in financial institutions. It was noted that the Davenport Branch may also be closing soon so we need to make a decision on how we will proceed.

New Business

Meeting Schedule: Council meetings will continue on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm.

2026 Goals: Deferred due to time constraints.

Congregational Meeting Follow-Up: Wind turbine information discussed at the Annual Meeting was revisited. The representative has not responded; contacting Jim Baye was suggested but Todd Eckstrom will be reaching out again to determine if the representative can meet with the congregation to answer questions and provide further information.

Congregational Survey: The call committee will be reviewing a template provided and make changes to send to the congregation. This will help determine the needs of the membership and how we will move forward through the call process.

VBS: Ramona Hoff will lead VBS this year and will use the church for a meeting this month. The Council emphasized the need for an updated, accessible church calendar.

Monthly Newsletter: Following discussion at the Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the monthly newsletter should be sent the week following Council meetings and posted to the website after approval instead of waiting until the end of the month. Ensuring that the minutes are completed and approved in a timely manner will ensure this is possible. This change could happen as soon as April.

Roundtable

A Children's Sermon is planned for the first Sunday in March.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:47 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 pm

January minutes were approved via email.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary

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Please update your directories with both the new address for Jan and the new officers for the Council!
Thank you!

Holy Week Worship Service

March 29- Palm Sunday

April 3- Good Friday

Worship Service at First Presbyterian, 7 pm

April 5- EASTER

Sunrise worship at the Reardan Cemetery beginning at 7 am, led by the Reardan Presbyterian Church and sponsored by We C.A.R.E.



NEW ADDRESS ALERT!!
JAN GRAHAM HAS MOVED!
HER NEW ADDRESS IS:
5414 NE 81ST AVE.
APT 112T
VANCOUVER, WA
98662
Please update your
directories!!



NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS

Emmanuel Lutheran's Church Council Officers
for the 2026 year

Charlotte Preuschoff, President
Chris Falk, Vice-President
Barbara Hamilton, Secretary

Gary Cook, Facilities
Todd Ekstrom, Endowment/Scholarship



"Reardan Bite2Go is the 2026 winner of the Catherine Klingel Bite2Go service award! Catherine Klingel was a volunteer who committed an enormous amount of time and energy to Bite2Go before she died in 2023. Catherine worked with a spirit of deep care and compassion for her community and was a tireless advocate for children facing hunger. We created the award to honor our adoptive organizations who rise above to serve their community. It's a combination of the beautiful coordination across four different houses of worship and the huge impact you guys have for being such a small town." Steve Durham, Director, 2nd Harvest Bite2Go Program



**WE C.A.R.E. BITE2GO
PROGRAM WINS AWARD
FROM 2ND HARVEST**



L>R: Virginia & Tom Henderson, Cheryl & Bob Volkman. Special hand cut bee lithograph | ink drawing by Paislee Archer, Lewis & Clark HS (Catherine Klingel loved the symbolism of bees)

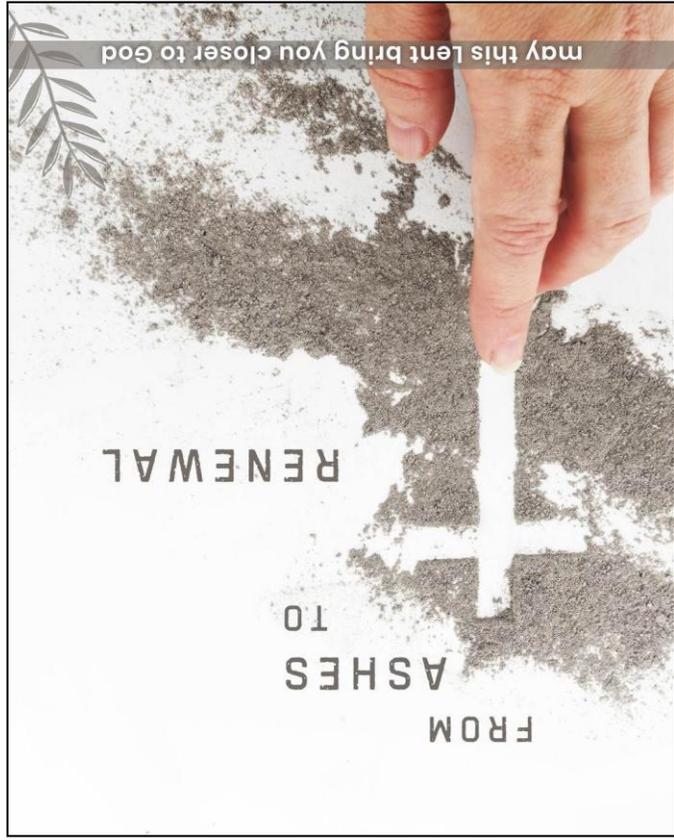
March Celebrations

- March 5: Casey & Michelle Ferderer
- March 5: Paul Williams
- March 5: Chris Falk
- March 5: Jackson Ekstrom
- March 6: Debbie Brockman
- March 9: Emily Zwainz
- March 10: Johanna Ellis
- March 18: Debbie Plummer
- March 22: Jude Falk
- March 31: Wade & Barbara Hamilton



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!!!!



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