



Emmanuel Lutheran News

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Website: www.emmanuelreardan.org

May 2026

May greetings from Pastor Rod's desk:

There is something that I believe in and I want to share it with you. It is this: Can people change? My answer to this is a big YES! It is because I have seen it in people, even members of my own family. A father after many years of no church affiliation, decides at age 80 that there is something more in life - thus joined a Lutheran congregation! A daughter who was a rebel, turned her life around and has become a wonderful Christian mother, wife and encourager. These and many more - I could expound for pages of real life stories from my ministry as I have experienced people of all ages change. How does this happen?

Well, my only answer is Jesus! He promised in scripture that he would give us an abundant life, a life in Him! Yes, with the help of our Savior, people do change, even when it may seem hopeless. How many times I have we heard (or even said) well don't waste your time on that person because ofthis or that. Do you give up on people? Why? Everyone makes mistakes, and we cannot expect others to live like us (as if we are perfect!) or be like us, or make decisions like us. God Created you and I out of love and care. We were created differently. Scripture teaches us to respect and love others, not to judge or condemn.

Some people have shared with me that they would like to change but just could not do it. I asked if they have spent hours in prayer. The usual answer I get is no.

If you want and expect a change in your life, you must go to the one who makes it happen, Jesus Christ. Some want it to happen in a day or two. Well, it does take much time and prayer. Our Lord wants to hear from you! On his time, not ours!

Did not Jesus say that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life? Yes...in his time!

I hope that you who are reading this have prayed and spoken to Jesus about your life and its needs. Is there change needed, an attitude change, and forgiveness for someone?

Pastor Rod



SENIOR SUNDAY 2026

We will be honoring our
high-school graduate, Gretchen Schmitt,
with a quilt during worship on
May 31, 2026.

Please come and wish her well on her way!!

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 7, 2026 Reardan, WA

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff. Pastor Rod opened with prayer and devotions.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rod shared that he appreciated serving during Holy Week and felt services went well. He noted special appreciation for the music provided by Nancy's band. He has not received requests for visits or calls and has been focusing on children's sermons when relevant. Pastor Rod also asked questions regarding the friendship process with First Presbyterian, including its purpose and potential benefits to both congregations.

Church Secretary Report

EJ will be present for the next two Sundays to run PowerPoint in the absence of Johanna and Colleen.

Financial Report

January financials were updated. Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the January financials as amended. Motion approved.

The March financial report was presented, Barbara Hamilton moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded to approve the report. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music, by Buddi Williams

During Holy Week, we held Maundy Thursday services and 26 community members were in attendance and participated in Jesus' Last Supper. On Friday, the Presbyterian Church held a very spiritual Good Friday Service. Both services were intended to get us ready for Easter. I truly believe they did. Thank you also to Nancy and the musicians who provided special music for Easter - it was beautiful! We also had 46 people in attendance on Easter Sunday.

Property & Remodeling: Gary Cook reported that he contacted Waylen regarding the back wall project but has not received a response. Chris Falk also spoke with Waylen, who indicated he is currently busy. Gary will reach out to another contractor. The thermostat was turned off after not regulating properly and is currently holding at 72 degrees. Chris paid for a plumber to inspect the parsonage toilet, which is now functioning properly.

Outreach & Fellowship, by Buddi Williams

Thank you to everyone that continues to supply treats for fellowship hour. It is most appreciated.

Endowment: Scholarship applications are due May 1, 2026, for fall semester awards.

Call Committee: Todd Eckstrom reported that the committee has slowed its work pending further discussion with First Presbyterian. Chris Cook will serve as secretary, and Todd will report to the Council. The committee plans to develop a congregational survey after exploring local partnership opportunities. The Ministry Site Profile will be completed following survey results if needed.

Sunday School: No report.

Old Business

Bank Account Transition to STCU: Johanna is currently unavailable due to travel. A special meeting may be scheduled to discuss the transition. Council members expressed interest in a pre-planning meeting, which Chris Falk will coordinate. Discussion deferred to May or later in April.

Congregational Engagement Potluck: Plans for 5th Sunday potlucks were discussed and, as the next month with five Sundays is May, this would be planned for May 31, 2026. Barbara Hamilton will coordinate with the Outreach & Fellowship Committee.

New Business

Synod Meeting: The church has received tickets for the Synod meeting at the end of April. Each voting delegate may bring a guest. The Council will discuss participation with the congregation on Sunday, April 12, including attendance at the April 23 dinner and meeting.

Stained Glass Consultant: A consultant has contacted the church. Charlotte has additional information.

Annual Reports: The annual congregational report and pastor's report must be submitted to the Synod.

Facility Request: Ramona Hoff requested use of the church for a VBS Planning Committee meeting on Monday, April 13 at 3:30 pm.

VBS Planning: Building hosts are needed during VBS (July 6–10, 2026) from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm. This need may be shared during Sunday ministry moments so hosts can be scheduled.

2026 Goals: Discussion included developing a vision and mission statement. Pastor Rod will draft a proposal in collaboration with Charlotte and Chris for the May meeting. Charlotte will also provide the council with the notes from Pastor Carol and Greg's exit interview and the goal setting documents to revisit as we move forward.

Congregational Engagement Activities: In addition to the May potluck, ideas discussed included Bible studies such as "Bibles and Brews" and joint studies with other community churches.

Friendship Process with First Presbyterian Reardan: Representatives from First Presbyterian, including Pastor Katie T. and Session elders Diane Lubbers and Craig Madsen, shared information about the purpose of their visit. Chris Falk and Ramona Hoff will attend the Presbyterian Session meeting on April 21 from 7:00–9:00 pm. This process is in the beginning stages to determine what a relationship with other congregations could look like in the future.

Roundtable

No additional updates.

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm

March minutes were approved via email.

Pending Items: 2026 goals and engagement activities; Zelle electronic transfer directions; September 13, 2026 "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hamilton, Secretary



May Celebrations

May 8 Ann Everett

May 15 Jay Garber

May 15 Charlotte Preuschoff

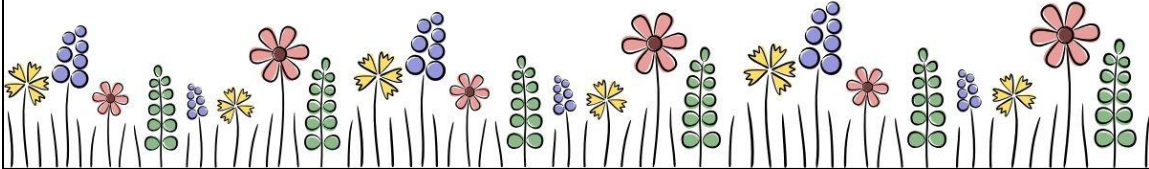
May 16 Nancy Johnson

May 18 Nathan Reinbold

May 21 Lucy Falk

May 23 Diane Brommer

May 26 Tucker McCain



Call Committee Communications

April 7, 2023 5:30pm

Monthly Emmanuel Council Meeting

Emmanuel's full council was present, Call Committee included, Todd Ekstrom, Ramona Hoff, Emily Zwainz, Chris Cook; Jim Baye was absent.

The council conducted their monthly meeting completing their agenda prior to our meeting with the Presbyterian church representatives.

Charlotte organized a meeting with Pastor Katie and Diane Lubers, and Craig Madsen, members of their Sessions (similar to our Church Council), along with our call Committee. We discussed our idea with Pastor Katie and her members regarding a possible partnership with their congregation to share their minister. Pastor Rod shared his thoughts regarding our meeting; define the purpose of this meeting and what are the results. Charlotte thought it should fit in with the 2026 goals, the mission and vision Charlotte, and Chris Falk are working on the goals which would be good as we go forward in our call search. Pr. Katie was asked if this was something she would be interested in since she has young twins and is the main pastor at the Presbyterian church. How would it be to deliver our Liturgy. She is $\frac{3}{4}$ time. Her duties included, youth ministry group, funerals, weddings and pastoral visits. At this time she couldn't fill all the needs that we would have. But she is open to other options. It is important to visit their Sessions meeting too. Their next meeting is April 21 from 7pm-9pm. Charlotte will go and Chris Falk from the council will attend and Ramona from the call committee. We should attend each other's services to find out what each congregation is like. Pr. Katie has been to our service and liked our liturgy and singing of the hymns and message. Diane would not want us to lose our Lutheran Identity.

Ramona asked if this might be too much. Todd thought at the very least maybe just at Sunday service would be all that would be required to begin with. Diane would not want us to lose our Lutheran Identity. Other options were possibly we hire a minister with youth ministry background he or she could benefit both congregations. Regardless of what we come up with both congregations need to be on board. Other items discussed were attending events and community involvement, coming together with other local churches for common programs and activities that benefit the community. Pr. Katie has a very active youth group program. Both congregations have a common goal to get people in our churches and provide activities to generate interest for all age groups.

In the mean time, Todd will contact the former Methodist council and find out if they would be interested in sharing a Pastor since their current Pastor wants to retire.

Respectfully Submitted, Chris Cook Emmanuel Call Committee

May Party Gals

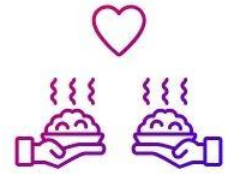
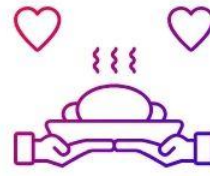
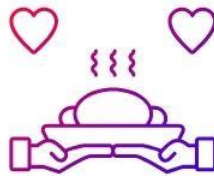
May 20th

1 pm, Church Fellowship area

Honoring Nancy Joy

Questions-509-280-0827





5th Sunday Fellowship Potluck

**Emmanuel will be having a
Fellowship Potluck every 5th Sunday!**

Our first one is **May 31 following the Senior Sunday worship honoring
Gretchen Schmitt!**

Please bring a dish to share with your family and friends at Emmanuel!

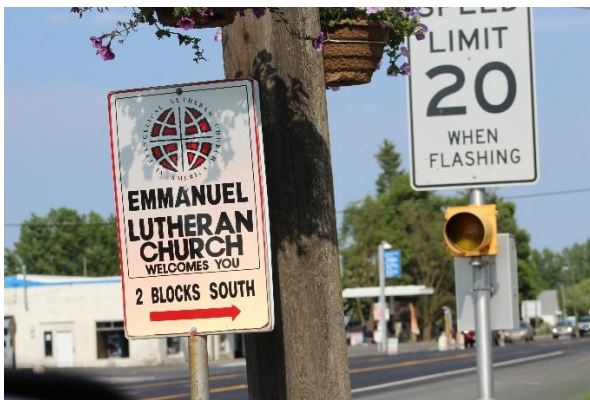
There is a new section on the website (www.emmanuelreardan.org) that will feature the minutes of the Council meetings. The minutes will be uploaded once they are approved and then provided to the Church Secretary. The minutes will be PDF format and should be able to be opened on any computer/phone/device. 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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Emmanuel Lutheran is thankful for all the members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives so that we could live in the “Home of the Free because of the Brave!”

We remember all those who have gone before and say a prayer of thanks for their sacrifice.



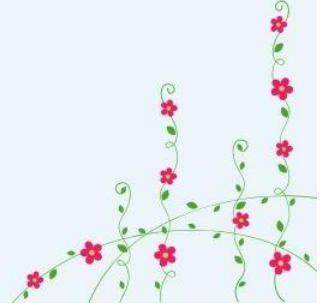
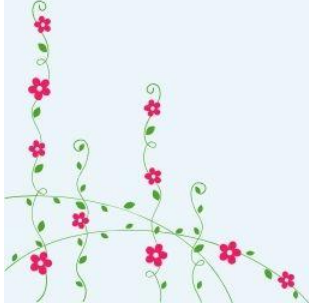
Be sure and turn right/left and go 2 blocks South to join us for worship every Sunday beginning at 9 am! And if you happen to miss the sign and drive on by, we do stream the service live on our Facebook page. The worship is also loaded every week on our YouTube channel as well!

It's simple to find us! Turn and look for the tall white church on the hill! We would LOVE to see you!!!



May 10th

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 207
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May 2026