



# Emmanuel Lutheran News

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January 2026

## Preacher's Word for January 2026

Greetings to you and blessed New Year 2026!

Well, we all know about New Years resolutions! Many people make them and some follow through; others fail only a few weeks into the new year.

Ok...I wonder if anyone reading this will make a faith-based resolution for this new year?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Read scripture and pray on a regular basis (daily) to help your spiritual life.
2. Resolve to attend worship on Sundays (because Jesus resurrected on Sunday)
3. Help someone in need in the community in some way. (Jesus - "love your neighbor)
4. Finally - this is where the rubber hits the roads - increase your giving to your church in some manner.

Every one of the above is certainly Biblical. Your faith in God through Christ is the more important than anything else for this new year. In your work, in your home, in your relationship to your family and your church. I can recall the experiences Jane and I had in raising our children (we have 3, now older adults) and some of the mistakes we made and of course the successes as well. When we were challenged with something, we prayed and gave them lots of love (which included at times tough love.)

We did discover that the more precious time we spent with them, the more we became closer as a family. Oh yes, we were tested many times, but came through it nevertheless.

So, what shall your resolution(s) be this new year? Praying more with family? Self?

Being a better listener? Making your faith/church a big priority? Understanding and accepting individual differences?

Many times, I have tried resolutions and failed miserably. Yet for this year, I can resolve to be at my best in faith and leadership with Emmanuel in my role as a part time "in between" pastor until the congregation decides the next venture with a full-time pastor or other ministry leadership.

May God Bless you in your faith voyage for 2026. I will be praying for you!

Pastor Rod Vereb





## Winter Weather and Worship

With the winter weather coming, worship service and other related church activities may be cancelled at a moment's notice.

There will be a text message, a Facebook post, and an update on the church website about the change as soon as it is known.

Pastor and the church leaders take these decisions very seriously and do not want people out in dangerous situations.

If you feel uncomfortable traveling, please stay where you are. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor or a council member



Annual Congregational Meeting

**January 25, 2025**

Following a short worship service

Potluck breakfast to enjoy while learning about everything that has gone on in **YOUR** church!

Please plan to attend.

Questions-contact a Council member or Pastor Rod

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 2, 2025  
Reardan, WA

## Opening Prayer and Devotions

Pastor Rod opened the meeting with prayer at 6:03pm.

## Pastor's Report

- Pastor Rod expressed his appreciation for the supportive congregation. He reported no current requests for home or hospital visits. He met with Pastor Katie and Pastor Phil regarding ongoing discussions between the two congregations. He hopes that Sunday sermons continue to be meaningful and connected to daily life.
- Pastor Rod offered to send a letter highlighting the December 21 Christmas service and to reach out to members who do not attend regularly. He also provided a list of suggestions to help improve Sunday attendance, which the Council will review moving forward.

## Church Secretary Report

- The church internet service was upgraded in November at no cost and is working well.
- A new copier was purchased for \$100 after the office printer failed in October. A new drum and toner were also purchased for another \$68.02. The new printer is functioning well.
- Accounts are current. Several double payments were identified and resolved. The Town of Reardan bill will continue to be paid by check due to added online payment fees.
- Cintas installed the AED. Barbara Hamilton will work with Doug Bonstrom to schedule training for congregation members.

## Financial Reports – November

- The financial report for November was reviewed. Several line items were discussed including the decreased rent for November. A new dishwasher was purchased by the tenants and, with approval from the council, the amount was subtracted from the monthly rent. Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports

- Stewardship – No report
- Worship & Music and Outreach & Fellowship – Report by Buddi Williams  
Thank you to all who donated potatoes or contributed funds for the Thanksgiving boxes. A total of 51 boxes were distributed, with a similar number expected for Christmas.  
Thank you to everyone who selected a name tag or donated funds for the Tree of Sharing. The congregation continues to be generous.  
Nancy will be contacting volunteers to bring food for the Annual Meeting Brunch.
- Property & Remodeling – Report by Gary Cook  
All annual air filters have been replaced.

Gary noted concerns about a window allowing air into the building. Charlotte believes the issue is likely with the office window frame. Gary will continue investigating.

- Endowment – Report by Barbara Hamilton

The following scholarships were awarded for the Spring (postmarked by October 31, 2025). These will be sent to the colleges in January.

- Jackson Ekstrom – \$1600 (final award)
- Christian Ekstrom – \$1600
- Lydia Wicks – \$1600
- EJ Preuschoff – \$1600
- Erika Preuschoff – \$1600 (final award)
- Colby Clouse – \$800
- Tyler Vandeventer – \$800

The next scholarship cycle is due May 1, 2026.

- Sunday School – No report

### **Old Business**

- Review of Budget Recommendations from Stewardship Committee

The Council recommends that each committee be permitted to spend a portion of its annual budget without prior Council approval. For example, the Property Committee may spend up to \$500 (one-third of its annual budget) independently, with receipts submitted to the church.

- US Bank Closing in Reardan

With the Reardan US Bank branch closing, the Council is researching options for transferring church accounts. Charlotte presented information regarding STCU's fees and account options. Discussion included how any changes could impact the Endowment Committee and whether congregational input will be required. Exploration and consultation will continue.

- Prayers for Other Congregations

Earlier this year, a church in Idaho informed us that they had prayed for our congregation. The Council expressed appreciation and agreed that Emmanuel should offer similar prayers for other congregations. Barbara Hamilton contacted the Synod and received a list of 86 congregations. Barbara Hamilton moved to begin praying for all Synod congregations starting in January and continuing until the list is complete. Gary Cook seconded. Motion carried.

- Call Committee Membership

Emily Zwainz and Jim Baye have offered to serve on the call committee. The council also suggested several other congregants that would be assets and we will discuss with those people to determine their interest. Council would like to be able to introduce the committee at the Annual meeting in January,

### **New Business**

- Congregational Survey in Preparation for Call Process

Several members of the congregation suggested gathering feedback through an anonymous survey regarding the needs of the church as we begin the pastoral call process. The Council recommends that the Call Committee begin its work with the creation and distribution of this survey.

- Open Council Position in 2026

The council discussed options for Tessa's open position beginning in January 2026.

### Closing

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:29pm.



**If you are the Chairperson of a committee** for the church, please get your reports ready for the annual report! You can submit them via email (reardanlutheran@gmail.com) or leave them on the desk in the office.

Reports will need to be submitted before **January 4, 2026!**

Any questions, please contact Buddi Williams

## Notes from the Congregation

Thank you to everyone who brought/donated/helped with the food drive for the Thanksgiving means for the Reardan Food bank, We Care, and Bite 2 Go! We were able to fulfill our obligation with some leftover for later!!! Thanks also for everyone who took a tag for the Tree of Sharing! It is nice to have our congregation give so freely! -Buddi W.

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for the holiday season! It truly looks so festive and pleasant! Also thank you to the "kids" who continue to say yes when I ask them to help with the Christmas Eve service. You make the service so much more!-Nancy J.

Dear Friends- We appreciate the notes and bulletins you send us. But we are doing well, still managing well in our own home and routinely attend church services in Post Falls. We do miss all of our good friends at Emmanuel and extend our very best wishes to all and Christmas blessings.- Mina and Arnold Mittelsteadt





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