

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Reardan, WA

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Charlotte Preuschoff. Pastor Rod opened with devotions and prayer based on Romans 8:18–30.

Church Secretary Report:

Johanna's written report stated that the US Bank accounts have been closed and the funds officially transferred to STCU. Johanna has also been asked to serve on the ELCA NWIM Synod Hunger Committee beginning October 1. A grant opportunity may be available to the church, and Johanna will provide additional information as it becomes available.

An adapter for the sound system has failed, but a replacement part has been ordered. Once received, the sound system and videos should function correctly. A new camera for streaming services and remote microphones have also been added, improving online viewing. Shirley Garber has offered to operate PowerPoint when Johanna is unavailable and will cover September 13.

The Council thanked Chris Falk for removing the old printer from the pastor's office. Funding for the electrical upgrades will also need to be determined. Funds remaining from the basement flood repairs may be an option.

Johanna will be out of the office until September 23.

Financial Report:

Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the August financial report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Rod reported completing five services, attending one Council meeting, counseling one member and one non-member, making several phone calls, and providing mentoring to Rhonda.

He recommended continuing to look for chairs and a new desk for the pastor's office. Pastor Rod shared that he is blessed to continue serving Emmanuel until a new pastor or lay minister is hired. He reminded the Council and congregation to let him know if members are in need of prayer or counseling.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music and Outreach & Fellowship, by Buddi Williams:

First, I want to thank everyone that brought goodies and participated/helped with our "In-The-Park" the 1st of August. The Lutheran Church has always had a reputation for going above and beyond when

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e-mail

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it comes to doing anything with food. And we did it AGAIN! And then another big Thank You to those that helped with the Stuhlmiller Reception for the family and friends, after the internment of Bob and Willy's ashes in the 15th. We think there were about 80 people that were here.

Property & Remodeling:

Gary Cook reported that the electrician is scheduled to complete the lighting and electrical work on September 11. Gary and Chris have spent several days organizing and preparing the basement for use by the Options Program and expect to complete the work later this week.

Brad Eyler, safety officer at the school, completed a walkthrough of the building and identified several additional safety items that need attention, including battery replacements, updates to first aid kits, and servicing fire extinguishers.

Chris Falk completed installation of the air conditioner but needed to order a sleeve and frame the wall to ensure proper installation.

Endowment:

Todd Eckstrom reported that scholarship checks were mailed at the beginning of August and students should have received the funds in their school accounts. Recipients include Lydia Wicks (\$1,600) Kira Hoff (\$800), EJ Preuschoff (\$1,600), Colby Clouse (\$800), Gretchen Schmitt (\$1,600), Tyler Vandeventer (\$800), and Naomi Rainwater (\$400).

Applications for the spring semester will be released in mid-September with a deadline of October 31.

Old Business:

Options Use of the Basement Classrooms:

Charlotte reported that she has been in contact with the school and the Facility Use Agreement has been completed. Eric Sobotta is currently reviewing the agreement and it will be signed prior to their first use on September 8.

New Business:

Call Committee Recommendation:

Chris Cook reported that the Call Committee unanimously recommends Rhonda Kalous as the Lay Minister for Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The committee was impressed with her interest in and dedication to the church and community and is excited about the opportunity for her to serve the congregation and work with students in the community.

The Council discussed moving forward with Rhonda as a Lay Minister and pausing the current pastoral call process. Before a final decision is made, the Council will meet with Rhonda to discuss expectations, responsibilities, and compensation. A written agreement will be developed to ensure that expectations of the Council, congregation, and Lay Minister are clearly understood.

The Council will meet with Rhonda on September 8 at 6:00 pm to continue these discussions.

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Congregational and Community Engagement:

Student Prayer Breakfast:

The Student Prayer Breakfast is tentatively scheduled for the last Friday of each month at 7:00 am. Students have expressed interest in gathering once a month for breakfast and devotions. The first event will take place on September 25, members interested in helping will be asked to contact a Council member.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:

Todd is investigating the availability of a shredding truck for the community. A short worship service will be held on September 13, followed by cleanup and service projects around the church.

Roundtable:

With the number of grant opportunities currently being explored, the Council discussed the possibility of considering a grant writer in the future.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:52 pm.

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