

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Reardan, WA

6:00pm

Members Present:

Charlotte Preuschoff, Todd Ekstrom, Chris Falk, Gary Cook, Rhonda Kalous, and Barbara Hamilton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Charlotte Preuschoff. Opening prayers and devotions were led by Rhonda Kalous.

Church Secretary Report

Johanna Ellis reported that Thrivent Choice Dollars were recently deposited. Rhonda has begun her ministry and is getting settled in the church and office. Shirley Garber has been providing excellent assistance as a PowerPoint substitute but will soon be traveling to Arizona for the winter. PowerPoint substitutes will be needed for several dates, including October 25, November 1, and during the months of January through March. Anyone interested in helping should contact Johanna or Rhonda for details.

Financial Report

Diamondback Electric and Gary Cook were paid from the Capital Improvements Fund, as these funds remain from the insurance payment received following the flooding several years ago.

Barbara Hamilton moved to approve the September financial report. Todd Ekstrom seconded. Motion carried.

Minister's Report

Rhonda spent time with Johanna on October 6 and will begin official office hours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesdays beginning October 7, 2026. She will also lead the Wednesday Bible Study moving forward.

Rhonda has asked Johanna to prepare invitation cards for people who are invited to attend church. The cards will be available for anyone to use when inviting community members to worship. Rhonda will also obtain a travel communion set for use during home visits.

Rhonda will be out of the office October 12–14 for the Bishop's Conclave.

Committee Reports

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

On September 27, 2026 we had a cake and ice cream reception for Pastor Rod after church. This was his last day of being with us, and we truly want to thank him for

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leading us this past year. We also enjoyed having him and his family as part of our congregation.

- **Property & Remodeling, by Gary Cook**

Gary Cook reported that everything is updated with the school. The first aid kit, fire extinguishers, lighting, and electrical work have all been addressed. A school custodian will now be cleaning the classrooms at 5:45 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A hotspot has been installed in the kitchen outlet near the kitchen window so the school can have internet access without interrupting the church's ability to use its Wi-Fi each month.

- **Endowment by Todd Ekstrom**

Scholarship applications are available and must be postmarked by October 31, 2026. Since October 31 falls on a Saturday, applicants are encouraged to mail applications early.

Old Business

- **Options Use of the Basement Classrooms – Internet Update**

As previously discussed, a hotspot has been installed so the Options Program is no longer using the church's Wi-Fi.

- **Congregational and Community Engagement**

- **Student Prayer Breakfast:** The next Student Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for October 30. Although only two students attended the September breakfast, the students enjoyed their time together and are looking forward to the next breakfast. They plan to make signs to help other students know the dates. Barbara also informed the middle school students that they are welcome to attend.
- **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:** A date is being considered for this project. The Council would like to wait until the leaves have fallen so members can work together to clean up the church yard. November 8, 2026, is being considered, unless the trees are still full. The Council is also continuing to investigate the possibility of a community shredding day.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Rhonda suggested preparing either a trunk or canopy at the church for Halloween night as an opportunity to interact with the community. The event will be held October 31 from 4:00–8:00 pm. Anyone interested in helping should contact a Council member or Rhonda.
- **Advertising Opportunities:** Todd Ekstrom contacted the Booster Club regarding purchasing a sign for the gym. Newspaper advertising opportunities with the Lincoln County Times, Lincoln Advertiser, and Huckleberry Press were also

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discussed. Rhonda will investigate pricing for special event advertisements and the possibility of adding church services to the listing in the Lincoln County Times.

- **Allocation of Funds for Parsonage Updates:** The Council previously determined that updates are needed at the parsonage and agreed that 20% of the rental income should be designated for these improvements. Based on the current rental agreement, this amounts to \$3,600. The first item the renters would like to address is the carpeting, which has not been updated or replaced since Pastor Hall served the church, approximately 35 years ago. The Stewardship Committee will be informed.

New Business

- **Installation for Rhonda Kalous**

The signed agreement for the Lay Minister position has been completed and will be sent to Johanna for the church records. Possible dates for the installation are Sunday, November 1, Sunday, November 8, or the Saturday prior. The installation will be scheduled for the afternoon to allow other pastors and Synod members to attend.

- **Constitution Update**

The current church Constitution was updated in 2019, and the ELCA Constitution has been updated twice since then. The church Constitution will need to be updated to reflect the current ELCA Constitution and submitted to the Synod for approval. A committee will be formed to complete this process. Anyone interested in participating should contact a Council member.

- **Mini-Grant**

The church was provided an opportunity to apply for a mini-grant. The Council plans to apply for \$1,450 to support the monthly prayer breakfast and a community shredding day as part of efforts to increase community involvement. Rhonda has also applied for a \$500 Hunger Grant for the community.

- **Email for Rhonda**

With Johanna being out of town at times, the Council discussed providing Rhonda with access to the church email account.

Roundtable

The Council discussed changing the church phone from a landline to a cell phone. The phone would remain in the church office and serve as an onsite phone. This would also allow people to text the church rather than only call.

The Council was asked to keep Rhonda and her husband in prayer as he will be having medical procedures in the coming months.

The Whitworth Wind Symphony will perform at St. Luke's in Spokane on October 18.

Services are scheduled for 8:30 am and 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 pm.

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