

***Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 5, 2026***

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Chris Falk, Tessa Wicks, Barbara Hamilton, Gary Cook, Pastor Rod Vereb.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff, with Pastor Rod delivering an opening prayer.

December 2nd minutes were approved prior to the meeting by the Council via email.

Pastor's report:

- Pastor Rod gave a summary of the past month, including reaching out to Pastor Katie at the Reardan Presbyterian Church, Christmas Eve service and appreciation for the planners and performers, as well as weekly volunteers.
- Pastor Rod is planning mini children's sermons this month and recommends considering a part-time youth director for the congregation for the future.

Financial report:

- The financial report for December was presented. Charlotte will talk to Johanna regarding account clarification. Barbara Hamilton moved and Tessa Wicks seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

- Stewardship: Tessa presented a draft of the 2026 budget as approved by the Stewardship Committee. It was noted that there are several unknowns as the congregation proceeds with the call process. There are also a few line items that the Council feels could be cut or re-examined to help control expenses in the future.
- Property & Remodeling: Gary would like to move forward getting bids to find the cause of the leak in the back room and proceed with repairs this year. Chris will also be purchasing ice melt for the parsonage and church to help with sidewalk and stair maintenance during the winter months.

Old Business:

- US Bank closure in Reardan will impact weekly deposits. Chris will set up a meeting with STCU to see if they can accommodate our banking and account needs. In the meantime, deposits will be made at the Davenport US Bank branch.
- Call Committee: There are currently four members of the congregation willing to serve on the call committee, with a couple more considering. Six members are needed to fulfill the committee requirements.
- Open Council Position: One member has agreed to fill the open council position, but there's still room for more council members if anyone is interested.

New Business:

- There was discussion about agenda items to be included at the Annual Meeting on January 25th.
- We will begin praying for other congregations both locally and throughout the Synod beginning Sunday, January 11th. As a congregation, we will pray for the three other Reardan churches and send a card to the churches relaying our thoughts and prayers for them. Barbara will maintain a spreadsheet of those congregations, as we work through the list.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6pm.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Wicks, Council Secretary