

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

June 1, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff, with Pastor Rod offering opening devotions and prayer. As part of the devotions, Pastor Rod recommended the book "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

Church Secretary Report:

Johanna Ellis reported that the Thrivent Choice Dollars have been received and will be distributed as the annual payment to the Endowment Fund. Several memorial gifts were received in memory of Bob and Willy Stuhmiller, and Virginia Plummer will be notifying the families. Kysar was paid for the water tank valve and furnace valve replacements. The transition to STCU will be completed soon using the signers approved in previous minutes. STCU does not accept Zelle payments, so other online payment options will be researched.

Financial Report:

The May financial report was presented. Barbara Hamilton moved and Chris Falk seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music:

We had our first official 5th Sunday potluck and it went well. We also had the congregation choose hymns during the service which was a good addition to the service.

Property & Remodeling:

Waylen Anderson evaluated the back wall in the basement and believes the issue is related to a seal. He also inspected the sprinkler system and found no additional water damage. He plans to seal and replace the base trim where the concrete roof meets the exterior wall. The Council will continue monitoring the area throughout the summer as the sprinklers are used. Installation of the dishwasher at the parsonage is expected soon.

Outreach & Fellowship:

Enchilada meals for approximately 25 people were delivered to Crosswalk by the Johnson family on May 30. Church in the Park is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 10:00 am.

Endowment:

Todd Eckstrom reported that seven applicants received scholarships. Recipients include Lydia Wicks, Kira Hoff, EJ Preuschoff, Colby Clouse, Gretchen Schmitt, Tyler Vandeventer, and Naomi Rainwater.

Call Committee:

Todd Eckstrom reported that the congregational survey will be distributed this month. After responses are received, a congregational meeting will be held to discuss the results and the next steps in the process. The committee is seeking clarification regarding expectations moving forward and continues exploring partnership opportunities with other congregations. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm to discuss the survey.

Sunday School: No report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Rod reported completing one home visit and numerous phone calls during the past month. No hospital visits were requested. He shared plans for a special worship service surrounding the July 4 celebration with the theme "250 Years of Freedom for America, Freedom in Christ." Pastor Rod also suggested exploring opportunities through other synods and lay ministry programs. Additionally, he recommended updating the pastor's office before calling a new minister to ensure the space is welcoming.

Old Business:

Bank Account Transition to STCU:

The account transition process is underway. Required signatures will be completed remotely, and the transfer is expected to be completed during June. Remaining funds will be transferred once checks are available.

2026 Goals:

Discussion was deferred until after the congregational meeting scheduled for the end of June.

Congregational and Community Engagement:

Todd suggested hosting a community shredding day as a way to welcome community members to the church while providing a useful service.

New Business:

Options School Use of Basement:

The Reardan-Edwall School District approached the church regarding leasing basement space for its Options Program. The proposal would involve use of the facility on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:40 pm between November and April, as well as Thursdays throughout the school year. Students in grades K–8 would participate.

Discussion included supervision, storage needs, disruption to existing church activities, liability concerns, ADA requirements, fire regulations, and potential rental income. The Council agreed to continue discussions with the district and gather additional information before presenting any proposal to the congregation.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:

The ELCA has designated Sunday, September 13, 2026, as God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. The Council discussed the possibility of partnering with the Presbyterian Church on a community service project. Discussion will continue around this opportunity and suggestions will be welcomed from congregational members.

Congregational Directory Update:

Charlotte will forward information received from the ELCA regarding updates to the congregation's directory and leadership records.

Parsonage Rental Agreement:

The current agreement renews on August 1.

Roundtable:

No additional discussion.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer followed by an executive session to discuss the rental agreement for the parsonage.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 6:00 pm.
The May minutes were approved via email.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary