

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Reardan, WA

Members present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Todd Eckstrom, Chris Falk, Gary Cook, Barbara Hamilton, Pastor Rod Vereb, and Johanna Ellis

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff. Pastor Rod opened with prayer and devotions.

Church Secretary Report

Johanna shared that the church received two letters from the insurance agency indicating they will not cover damage related to a vacant building, roof damage, or other roof-related issues caused by a natural disaster. The letters did not indicate a rate increase at this time.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music, by Buddi Williams

There is coverage for Nancy for the couple weeks she will be gone.

Property & Remodeling: Gary Cook reported that furnace parts were ordered at the end of May. The estimate to install the broken part is approximately \$750. It is hoped that the temperature regulation issues will be corrected after installation.

Outreach & Fellowship, by Buddi Williams

We will be feeding Crosswalk on Saturday May 30 and Buddi is looking for helpers.

Kaitlynne, Gretchen and Hayden will be graduating high school this year and celebrated at the May 31 service along with a 5th Sunday Church Potluck.

Endowment: Todd Eckstrom reported that scholarship applications have been received and will be distributed to the committee in the coming weeks.

Call Committee: Todd Eckstrom reported that he contacted Colleen Kirk at Reardan Bible Fellowship, and they are not interested in sharing a pastor with Emmanuel at this time. The committee will continue exploring additional partnership opportunities, including the possibility of a part-time pastor. A congregational survey will be distributed soon.

Sunday School: No report.

Financial Report

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rod reported making several home visits, hospital visits, and phone calls during the past month. He will continue offering children's time when children are present during worship. Pastor Rod will be unavailable July 12 and 19 and shared ideas for future worship services, which will be discussed with the Worship & Music Committee.

Old Business

Bank Account Transition to STCU: The transition from US Bank to STCU was discussed. Current signers on the accounts are Nancy Johnson, Johanna Ellis, Colleen Ellis, and Lorri Williams. Discussion was held regarding placing a portion of church funds into high-yield savings and certificate of deposit accounts as well as opening the new checking account. Johanna reminded the Council that there may be overlapping in the accounts as time is required to order checks.

Barbara Hamilton moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded authorizing Johanna Ellis to close the US Bank checking and savings accounts. Motion carried.

"Johanna D. Ellis is authorized by the Council of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Congregation to close the U.S. Bank checking account ending in 4902 and the savings account ending in 9120. She is further authorized to delete all other signers on the above accounts. U.S. Bank is directed to issue checks for the balances in the accounts."

Chris Falk moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded authorizing Johanna Ellis to open checking and savings accounts at Spokane Teachers Credit Union and add Christopher S. Falk as a signer along with the existing authorized signers. Motion carried.

"Johanna D. Ellis is authorized by the Council of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Congregation to open a business checking account and a business savings account with Spokane Teacher's Credit Union. The Council also hereby authorizes Johanna D. Ellis, Colleen E. Ellis, Nancy J. Johnson, Lorri G. Williams, and Christopher S. Falk to be signers on the accounts."

Congregational Engagement Potluck: The Outreach & Fellowship Committee has begun organizing the May 31 potluck.

New Business

Facility Requests: The VBS Planning Committee requested use of the church on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 3:30 pm, with a possible additional meeting in June.

VBS Needs: Building hosts are still needed for VBS, scheduled July 6–10, 2026.

2026 Goals / Vision and Mission Statement: Johanna located the congregation's vision and motto within the congregational bylaws. These will be added to the church website and possibly included in the bulletin and Sunday morning slide show.

Congregational Engagement Activities: The Council discussed restarting a monthly Friday prayer breakfast beginning in the fall of 2026.

Chris Falk moved to begin planning and implementing a monthly Friday morning prayer breakfast during the 2026–2027 school year. Gary Cook seconded. Motion carried.

The Council also discussed the need to engage new members and improve community outreach and advertising.

Friendship Process with First Presbyterian Reardan: Prior to the Council meeting, Ramona Hoff provided a brief explanation of the Session meeting attended by herself and Chris Falk.

Reimbursement authorization: Chris Falk moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded reimbursing Johanna for Sundays and Sermons. Motion carried.

Roundtable

No additional items were discussed.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:00 pm

April Minutes approved via e-mail

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary