

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Reardan, WA

Members Present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Gary Cook, Chris Falk, Barbara Hamilton, Pastor Rod Vereb – Todd Ekstrom was absent

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff and devotions were provided by Pastor Rod.

Church Secretary Report

Johanna Ellis reported that the transfer from US Bank to STCU will be completed on August 4, 2026, and all US Bank accounts will be closed. She will also participate in a Zoom meeting with Synod representatives regarding W.E. Care.

Johanna reported that the church sound system is functioning well and does not require replacement at this time. She also purchased a wireless streaming system that will improve the quality of future livestream services.

Financial Report

The July financial report was presented. Gary Cook moved and Chris Falk seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rod was away for two Sundays during July but led two worship services, completed one home visit, and made several phone calls.

Pastor Rod suggested purchasing an air conditioning unit for the church office so the pastor's office door can remain closed during the summer months. He also reiterated the need to update the office furniture before calling a new pastor.

Pastor Rod expressed appreciation to everyone from Emmanuel who assisted with the Church in the Park service.

Chris Falk moved and Gary Cook seconded to purchase an air conditioning unit for the church office, depending on the most appropriate unit for the space. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: There was no official report but we thank the congregation for the help with the fellowship in the park at the beginning of August.

Property & Remodeling: Gary Cook reported that LED lighting will be installed in the back classroom. Ten four-foot fixtures will be replaced, and an electrician will be consulted to ensure proper installation. The

illuminated exit signs will also be updated, and the electrician will evaluate several additional electrical items throughout the building.

A school safety officer will complete a building evaluation in the coming weeks. The Council also discussed the need to ensure smoke detectors are installed where required.

Outreach & Fellowship: No report.

Endowment: No report.

Call Committee: No report.

Sunday School: No report.

Old Business

Follow-up Meeting with Bishop Manlove

Barbara Hamilton read the summary of the meeting with Bishop Manlove. The minutes from that meeting will be included in the church newsletter.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss Rhonda Kahlous as a potential lay minister. The Council agreed to recommend to the Call Committee that Rhonda be invited to serve as a guest minister before a final decision is made. Charlotte will contact Chris Cook with the recommendation and ask whether Rhonda could preside at the Fifth Sunday Potluck service on August 30.

Pastor Rod expressed his willingness to assist with the transition and continue serving as a resource for the congregation.

Bishop Manlove also suggested, and Council members agreed, that changing the worship start time may be beneficial as the congregation transitions to a new minister. This discussion will be ongoing and continue once the church leadership is more settled in the future. This time change would allow opportunities for activities such as Bible study, Sunday School, or breakfast before worship.

Options Program Facility Use Agreement

The classroom has been cleaned in preparation for the Options Program beginning at the end of August. Several questions were raised regarding the draft Facility Use Agreement. Those concerns will be addressed, and the agreement will be finalized for signatures this month.

Congregational and Community Engagement

August 30 Fifth Sunday Potluck: The congregation will gather for a potluck meal following worship.

Student Prayer Breakfast: Barbara Hamilton will meet with students after school begins and report back to the Council regarding the most appropriate day and time.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday – September 13, 2026: Charlotte will contact Todd regarding the possibility of hosting a community shredding event. A brief devotional service will be held before members participate in community beautification projects.

New Business

Liturgy and Life

Bishop Manlove contacted Pastor Paul Palumbo regarding *Life and Liturgy*. Pastor Palumbo would like to meet with the congregation by Zoom. Charlotte will contact him to obtain additional information.

Increasing Community Visibility

The Council discussed several opportunities to improve Emmanuel's visibility within the community. Ideas included replacing the welcome banner on the accessibility ramp, purchasing a sign in the Reardan High School gym following football season, updating the church website with current information and photographs, and creating a visitor brochure containing information about Emmanuel Lutheran Church, worship opportunities, confirmation, baptism, and suggested donations for special services.

The Council also discussed having members walk through the church as first-time visitors and identify opportunities to improve the overall visitor experience.

Roundtable

The Council watched Bishop Manlove's YouTube message on the Spokane fires which can be found <https://youtube.com/watch?v=4-Jlyt6P0RQ&feature=shared>.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 7:41 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

July minutes were approved via email.