

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Reardan, WA

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

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

Pastor's Report – Pastor Rod shared that he had not yet been requested to complete home or hospital visits. Ash Wednesday went well even though it was small. Pastor continues to make phone calls to parents with small children.

Holy Week services were discussed. Pastor Rod offered a Maundy Thursday service to be held at Emmanuel and will discuss further with the Worship and Music Committee. Good Friday at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm, and Easter will be celebrated on April 5. Pastor also noted that when a new pastor is called, a change in service time may be considered.

Church Secretary and Financial Reports – Expenses for January and February included an increased T-Mobile bill due to internet changes and the purchase of ink cartridges. Avista charges were slightly higher than previous statements as well.

Chris Falk moved to approve the February financial report. Todd Eckstrom seconded. Motion carried.

January financials will be deferred until April due to pending questions.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: by Buddi Williams

“We held a very meaningful church service here on Ash Wednesday. There were only 28 in attendance. The 3 churches participated.

The Good Friday Service will be held at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00. This is also a very meaningful service. I hope everyone will attend.”

Property & Remodeling: by Gary Cook - If the early spring weather holds, he will contact someone to evaluate the grass at the back of the church to see what we can do to ensure the leak stops.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00
e-mail

February Minutes approved via

Pending items: Community engagement activities, Zelle electronic transfer directions

Outreach & Fellowship: by Buddi Williams

“I want to thank everyone for continuing to supply wonderful treats for our fellowship time after church.

We learned in Bible Study that back in ancient times, most major decisions were made around the table while sharing a meal. Fellowship was an important part of their lives. Maybe we won't make any earth shaking decisions, but we are pretty good at “sharing fellowship”.

Thank you, Buddi”

Endowment: by Todd Eckstrom

Scholarship applications will be available in mid-March and must be postmarked by May 1.

Call Committee: Todd reported that another meeting will be held in mid-March to discuss next steps and the Ministry Site Profile. A congregational survey will be distributed to gather input regarding qualities desired in a new pastor.

Sunday School: by Charlotte Preuschoff - no report

Old Business

US Bank Closure: The Council discussed the need for a regular person to make deposits, as no one routinely travels to Davenport. Council will reach out to congregational members who may be able to assist with the deposits temporarily.

Chris suggested moving accounts to STCU in Airway Heights for easier access.

Discussion included account structure, interest rates, and investment options such as high-yield savings accounts and certificates of deposit. The possibility of consulting a financial professional was also discussed as we move toward a new minister and change financial institutions.

Chris Falk moved to transfer the church's accounts from US Bank to STCU in Airway Heights. Todd Eckstrom seconded. Motion approved. The transition will occur after verifying that the Council has authority to make this change without congregational approval. If congregational approval is required, this motion will serve as an advisory vote pending that approval. The transfer will also take place after Johanna returns so she may serve as one of the approved account governors and advise on additional authorized signers. Allocation of funds among the accounts will be determined at a later date.

Newsletter Publication Timing: Because changing the publication date is not an option and in order to ensure timely communication of council business, previously approved Council minutes will be posted as a PDF on the church website using the newly added link.

Discretionary Spending: Discussion was held regarding discretionary spending by committees without prior Council awareness. The Council expressed concern that large purchases may impact stewardship of congregational funds and emphasized the importance of reviewing significant expenses in advance. Chris Falk moved to set a \$250 limit for any purchase without prior discussion with the Council. Gary Cook seconded. Motion approved.

New Business

2026 Goals: Discussion deferred.

Congregational Engagement Activities: A potluck is proposed for the fifth Sunday in May (May 31). This will be discussed with the Fellowship Committee.

Friendship Process with First Presbyterian Reardan: Discussion continued.

Roundtable: No additional items were brought forward.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:27 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:00 pm
February minutes were approved via email.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary