

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Reardan, WA

Members Present: Charlotte Preuschoff, Gary Cook, Todd Eckstrom, Barbara Hamilton

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Charlotte Preuschoff. Opening prayer was provided by Charlotte.

Church Secretary Report:

Johanna reported that she is working on completing the transfer to STCU. She has applied for a grant to help support We C.A.R.E.; the decision regarding the grant will not be available until later in the year.

Financial Report:

The June financial report was presented. Annual insurance policies have been paid, and there was an increase to the policy cost for the year. Kysar was paid for the installation of the dishwasher at the parsonage; however, Chartwell Homes has not been paid because an invoice has not yet been provided. Chartwell Homes completed work to seal the basement during the month of June.

Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the June financial statement. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: No report.

Worship & Music: No report

Property & Remodeling, by Gary Cook:

Other than Chartwell Homes needing to send an invoice, the other big item to be addressed in the completion of the flooring in the basement. Currently, the plan is to store the majority of items in the nursery and the current storeroom.

Outreach & Fellowship: No report

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June Minutes approved via e-mail

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Endowment: No report.

Call Committee:

Todd Eckstrom reported that the congregational meeting was held on June 23 and went well. The Call Committee will meet with a prospective lay minister on July 15 to discuss this option. Bishop Megan Manlove has contacted Charlotte and Pastor Rod and has discussed the possibility of a lay minister and she is supportive of this direction given the current shortage of ordained ministers and has offered to meet with the Council and Call Committee.

The Council expressed a desire that any hired minister, temporary or permanent, be able to perform the sacraments of baptism and communion. A tentative meeting with Bishop Manlove was scheduled for July 30 at 6:00 pm.

Sunday School: No report.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Rod was unable to attend due to vacation but submitted his report via email. He completed one home visit and made several phone calls during the month.

Pastor Rod shared the following reminders:

- Emmanuel is responsible for Church in the Park on August 2. Confirmation is needed regarding the availability of a portable sound system, and someone will need to take the lead in securing equipment for that Sunday.
- Pastor Rod will be on vacation July 12 and July 19. A supply pastor has been arranged through Barbara's assistance.
- Pastor Rod offered prayers for the Call Committee's work and for a successful VBS week.

Old Business:

Congregational and Community Engagement:

Student Prayer Breakfast:

Discussion was deferred until August. The Council would like Barbara to serve as liaison with students to determine mutually agreeable dates and times. Todd and Charlotte previously volunteered to monitor the facilities; additional volunteers may be needed.

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Options Use of Basement Classrooms:

The Options program completed a walkthrough prior to the meeting to discuss facility needs. School representatives were interested in continuing discussions, as they felt the space appears usable for their needs.

The Council discussed the need to clean out the large room, and possibly epoxy the concrete floor, and reviewed requirements from the school. A Facility Use Agreement will need to be developed including custodial responsibilities, weather related maintenance, and issues regarding congregational conflicts.

The proposed use would be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am–3:00 pm. Students would enter and exit through the back stairway, and certain areas of the church would remain unavailable during school use (the school will provide barricades for designated areas).

The Council will discuss liability concerns with the insurance company and the school district. The school will be asked to provide a temporary divider for the large back room. The proposed rental rate will be \$2,000 per quarter for use two days per week, with additional days available at a rate of \$75 per hour. The Council agreed that rental fees must cover electricity and potential custodial costs.

The Council determined that congregational concerns had been adequately addressed and agreed to continue discussions with the school district. A Facility Use Agreement will be drafted for review and approval at the August meeting.

5th Sunday Potluck – August 30:

Charlotte recommended beginning preparations for the upcoming potluck. The Council will handle setup and cleanup. Charlotte will contact Nancy to request that she send text reminders to the congregation as the date approaches.

New Business:

Parsonage Rental Agreement:

Some changes were made to the rental agreement with the tenants. The updated lease was provided and discussed. The lease renews on August 1, and time will be provided for tenants to review the agreement before signing by July 30.

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Request to Use Emmanuel Lutheran as a Red Cross Evacuation Center:

Chris reported a request to designate the church as a Red Cross evacuation center. The school is currently the only approved evacuation site in Reardan. The Council agreed that this aligns with Emmanuel's mission to support the community during times of need.

Chris Falk moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded to list Emmanuel Lutheran Church as a potential Red Cross evacuation center. Motion carried unanimously.

A volunteer list will be needed to ensure the church can be opened for Red Cross or Emergency Management personnel during an emergency.

Roundtable:

The Council discussed ways to increase Emmanuel's visibility in the community as a means of encouraging congregational growth. Chris noted that several initiatives, including leasing space to the school district, congregational potlucks, and the upcoming student prayer breakfast, will help strengthen community engagement.

The Council revisited the idea of purchasing an advertisement sign in the Reardan High School gym, which would be visible to many community members during events. Todd will contact the Reardan Boosters for current pricing.

The meeting concluded at 7:40 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary

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