

## **Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

**April 7, 2026**

Reardan, WA

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Charlotte Preuschoff. Pastor Rod opened with prayer and devotions.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Rod shared that he appreciated serving during Holy Week and felt services went well. He noted special appreciation for the music provided by Nancy's band. He has not received requests for visits or calls and has been focusing on children's sermons when relevant. Pastor Rod also asked questions regarding the friendship process with First Presbyterian, including its purpose and potential benefits to both congregations.

### **Church Secretary Report**

EJ will be present for the next two Sundays to run PowerPoint in the absence of Johanna and Colleen.

### **Financial Report**

January financials were updated. Barbara Hamilton moved and Gary Cook seconded to approve the January financials as amended. Motion approved.

The March financial report was presented, Barbara Hamilton moved and Todd Eckstrom seconded to approve the report. Motion approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Stewardship:** No report.

### **Worship & Music, by Buddi Williams**

During Holy Week, we held Maundy Thursday services and 26 community members were in attendance and participated in Jesus' Last Supper. On Friday, the Presbyterian Church held a very spiritual Good Friday Service. Both services were intended to get us ready for Easter. I truly believe they did.

Thank you also to Nancy and the musicians who provided special music for Easter - it was beautiful! We also had 46 people in attendance on Easter Sunday.

**Property & Remodeling:** Gary Cook reported that he contacted Waylen regarding the back wall project but has not received a response. Chris Falk also spoke with Waylen, who indicated he is currently busy. Gary will reach out to another contractor. The thermostat was turned off after not regulating properly and is currently holding at 72 degrees. Chris paid for a plumber to inspect the parsonage toilet, which is now functioning properly.

### **Outreach & Fellowship, by Buddi Williams**

Thank you to everyone that continues to supply treats for fellowship hour. It is most appreciated.

**Endowment:** Scholarship applications are due May 1, 2026, for fall semester awards.

**Call Committee:** Todd Eckstrom reported that the committee has slowed its work pending further discussion with First Presbyterian. Chris Cook will serve as secretary, and Todd will report to the Council. The committee plans to develop a congregational survey after exploring local partnership opportunities. The Ministry Site Profile will be completed following survey results if needed.

**Sunday School:** No report.

### **Old Business**

**Bank Account Transition to STCU:** Johanna is currently unavailable due to travel. A special meeting may be scheduled to discuss the transition. Council members expressed interest in a pre-planning meeting, which Chris Falk will coordinate. Discussion deferred to May or later in April.

**Congregational Engagement Potluck:** Plans for 5th Sunday potlucks were discussed and, as the next month with five Sundays in May, this would be planned for May 31, 2026. Barbara Hamilton will coordinate with the Outreach & Fellowship Committee.

### **New Business**

**Synod Meeting:** The church has received tickets for the Synod meeting at the end of April. Each voting delegate may bring a guest. The Council will discuss participation with the congregation on Sunday, April 12, including attendance at the April 23 dinner and meeting.

**Stained Glass Consultant:** A consultant has contacted the church. Charlotte has additional information.

**Annual Reports:** The annual congregational report and pastor's report must be submitted to the Synod.

**Facility Request:** Ramona Hoff requested use of the church for a VBS Planning Committee meeting on Monday, April 13 at 3:30 pm.

**VBS Planning:** Building hosts are needed during VBS (July 6–10, 2026) from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm. This need may be shared during Sunday ministry moments so hosts can be scheduled.

**2026 Goals:** Discussion included developing a vision and mission statement. Pastor Rod will draft a proposal in collaboration with Charlotte and Chris for the May meeting. Charlotte will also provide the council with the notes from Pastor Carol and Greg's exit interview and the goal setting documents to revisit as we move forward.

**Congregational Engagement Activities:** In addition to the May potluck, ideas discussed included Bible studies such as "Bibles and Brews" and joint studies with other community churches.

**Friendship Process with First Presbyterian Reardan:** Representatives from First Presbyterian, including Pastor Katie T. and Session elders Diane Lubbers and Craig Madsen, shared information about the purpose of their visit. Chris Falk and Ramona Hoff will attend the Presbyterian Session meeting on April 21 from 7:00–9:00 pm. This process is in the beginning stages to determine what a relationship with other congregations could look like in the future.

## **Roundtable**

No additional updates.

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

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm  
March minutes were approved via email.

**Pending Items:** 2026 goals and engagement activities; Zelle electronic transfer directions; September 13, 2026 "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hamilton, Secretary