

February 10, 2026 Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Council Minutes

Present: Holly Bayerl (President), Brianna Camps (Vice President), Cindy Smith, Janet Conklin, Rob Jamo, Gary Miller, Travis Rod

Present to Report: Deb Villas (Treasurer), Patti Treptow (Youth & Family Ministry Director), Travis Rod (Youth Representative), Holly Bayerl (President), Rev. Christine Olson (Pastor)

Absent: Eileen Beyer, Gail Sieglaff, Allyson Bickel, James Porras, Matt Nowack

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:06 PM** by Council President **Holly Bayerl**.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. A MOTION to approve the agenda as presented was made by **Cindy Smith** and seconded by **Janet Conklin**. **Motion carried.**

Introductions & Collection of Contact Information

Brief introductions were made, with each member also sharing an interesting fact about themselves. Next, contact information was collected from council members, including an updated phone number for Travis Rod, email address for Brianna Camps, and cell phone number for Eileen Beyer.

Opening Devotion — Dwelling in the Word

Pastor Christine led the devotion on **Romans 5:1-6**, reading the passage allowed first, with Cindy Smith reading second, followed by reflection and discussion.

Devotion concluded at **6:38 PM**.

Secretary's Report — Minutes & Correspondence

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

Corrections noted: **Pastor Christine noted that her last name was spelled incorrectly.**

The minutes were accepted with corrections) at **6:42 PM**.

Correspondence: Holly Bayerl reported **"No correspondence noted."**

Treasurer's & Finance Committee Report

Deb Villas presented the Treasurer's and Finance Committee report, including key balances, notable expenses, and budget comparisons. Deb reported that the two Mission Investment accounts' combined balances are \$327,789.07. 88 pledge cards received for 2026 with \$155,279.00 in dollars pledged. Pledged dollars received YTD as of Jan 2026 was \$16,598.00. Deb Villas also shared Debbie Lemery's Pledge Progress Report which went into further detail on the status of pledged dollars by member count (on target, ahead, behind). 2026 YTD Attendance Figures were also reported with a reduction noted compared to 2025 for the annual congregational meeting.

Questions and discussion followed, including a brief conversation regarding the funds previously approved for structural plans that had been presented by the Property committee at the previous meeting in January. Pastor Christine will confirm the exact amount of donations received by the congregation to be contributed to this work for transparency. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented at **6:59 PM**.

Action Items – Old Business

2026 Fundraiser Calendar

Discussion summary:

- Holly and Brianna discussed that they have not yet created a shared Google calendar. Brianna researched the logistics and shared that a new email address is not required. Additionally, it was discussed that each committee should have a council representative who can ensure that events are communicated to the calendar organizer and back to each committee. Holly and Brianna will collaborate on the calendar creation prior to the next meeting.
 - Brief conversation ensued regarding upcoming events that could potentially be added to the calendar, such as a church rummage sale, with mid-June discussed as a possible timeframe for this event. A subcommittee will be formed to coordinate next steps.
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Action Items – New Business

Committee Assignments

Discussion summary:

- 2026 Committees were listed, noting those that require a council representative or liaison: Outreach, Finance, and Human Resources. Deb noted that the guidelines do not require a representative for the Policy & Procedure Committee. Gary Miller volunteered to act as liaison for the Outreach committee, Deb for the Finance Committee, and Rob Jamo for the Human Resources committee. Matt Nowack, though absent, was noted to be added to Little Lutherans by Patti Treptow.

Audit Committee Term Renewal — Marc Jamo:

A MOTION to approve another 3-year term for Marc Jamo on the Audit Committee was made by **Cindy Smith**, seconded by **Brianna Camps**. **Motion carried.**

Reports

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report

Patti Treptow's report was reviewed and accepted as written / presented. She highlighted that the Yoga program started on February 10th and will continue each Tuesday if there is interest.

Youth Representative Report

Travis reported that the Glow Youth Group is going to be participating in tubing on Sunday, February 15th in Gladstone, MI. April will see a bowling event scheduled for this group as well.

President's Report

Holly Bayerl thanked everyone for agreeing to serve or continue to serve on council this year. She acknowledges her new calling as president and welcomes all assistance. She also thanked Brianna Camps for her previous contributions as President and spearheading the Church Directory project. Holly hopes that the council will have the opportunity to reach new goals this year, especially related to fundraising efforts, and continue to be financial stewards in our roles on council. Holly ended with a heartfelt thank you to Joanna Magrane, who has served many committees and council for numerous years.

Committee Reports (Open Floor)

Brief notes from each committee reporting tonight:

- **Fellowship:** Janet Conklin reported that Spirit House trivia is scheduled for this Thursday, February 12th. The next Bunco event was originally slated for Wednesday, March 18th, but that is a Wednesday during Lent, so a new date will need to be arranged (potentially March 17th or 19th). A new “puzzle exchange” activity will be launched on Sunday, March 1st, between services. Participants will be asked to bring a puzzle to exchange.
- **Outreach:** Patti Treptow reported that the “Souper bowl” fundraiser collected 132 cans. The rest went to St. Vincent DePaul's.
- **Worship:** Deb shared that Lent logistics are being discussed via email with Worship Committee members. Pastor Christine mentioned that we will have Wednesday Lenten worship services in collaboration with sister parishes, including a soup supper on Wednesday, March 4th at Emmanuel. A sign-up sheet will need to be created. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Wednesday Lenten services.

No further committee reports.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Christine presented her report and reviewed her new visitation schedule, including her intent to consolidate visits to one day (Tuesdays) rather than spreading across multiple days. Discussion also occurred regarding the Messenger and how consistently the content is being reviewed. Communication may be disseminated in alternative formats in the future, but paper copies will always be available for those that need it. Report accepted as written.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn was made by **Rob Jamo**, seconded by **Travis Rod**. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at **8:02 PM**

Pastor Christine led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brianna Camps (Acting Secretary)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Vice President