

Final

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
April 14, 2026**

Attendance: Pastor Brad, Dianne Mawhirter, Cindy Ganem, Ray Holmes, Jeff McCullough, Ashley Turner, Lynn Rigelman, Mike Poyer, William Lytle, Dell Moller

Excused: Josh Thornton

Guest: Jeff Mitchell

Call to Order: Dianne called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotion: Ray's devotion was based on Psalm 8:3-4 where the author thinks about God placing the moon and stars, asking the question "what is mankind that you are mindful of them?" We think of where Earth is in the vast galaxy and we can pause to consider the great works of God.

Ministry Update: Pastor Brad invited Jeff Mitchell, Director of Education & Technology, to talk about what his role is at Epiphany. *(Jeff then left the meeting.)*

Council Minutes/Approval: The March 10, 2026 Minutes were previously sent out for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Ashley Turner and second by Mike Poyer, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report for December 2025: Josh had previously emailed this report. Although we ended the year on a negative note (giving was \$38,899 less than Budget), the shortfall was less than anticipated. Following is the pertinent information from the report:

The Report notes December's Gifts and Interest were more than Expenses by \$13,889 but the YTD Gifts and Interest remained less than Expenses by \$(41,939). December's Offerings were more than Budget by \$10,562 but YTD Offering remained less than prorated budget by (\$38,899).

Fund Balances:

General Fund Balance \$23,535
Gifts & Furnishings \$44,238
Memorial Funds \$33,720
Operating Reserve Funds \$114,410
Youth Mission Funds \$27,625
Non-budgeted Funds \$12,699
Special Gifts & Projects \$86,643

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Monthly Bank Reconciliation: Operating Assets have been reconciled to changes in General Fund and other aggregate Fund balances (see full Report for details).

Bank Balances were: Operating Account \$190,695; Savings \$50,013; Schwab Brokerage Account \$108,128; Endowment Cash & Investments \$285,896.

Monthly notes and comments from the Treasurer:

- The total benevolence is 8% of General Fund Income to our partners.
- Large Disbursements--over \$1,000 and not typical ongoing for this month: N/A
- Total End of Year Deficit for 2025 was \$41,939 which was funded by our Reporting Reserve.
- Our goal for the Operating Funds is 25% of our Budget (less benevolence):

End-of-Year Balances:

\$ 23,535 General Fund
114,400 Operating Reserve
\$137,935 Total in Operating & Reserve Funds

\$726,800 2026 Approved Budget
61,000 2026 Approved Benevolence
\$665,800 2026 Budget (less Benevolence)
166,450 25% of Budget (our Goal Balance)
\$ 28,515 Additional needed to meet Goal

Recommend we look for ways to increase our Operating Reserve by \$28,515 in 2026 to meet Goal.

There were no questions or corrections on the December 2025 Treasurer's Report. After motion by Dell Moller and second by Ray Holmes, motion unanimously carried to approve this Report.

Pastor's Time:

- On April 13-14, he and Tony attended the first of two intern retreats/workshops for 2026.
- He is working on the planning details for the June 20th Pride Parade.
- For the next 4 weeks, Tony will be leading an Epiphany U class on Wednesdays called Rethinking Biblical Women.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Events: The next two PAUSE menus are designed by two of our children. There were 10 men in attendance at the last Men's Breakfast. Pastor Brad noted there is also a monthly Men's Dinner with 5 men who typically attend. Dartball Team finished up this season as Runners Up to the Championship.

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Finance: Nothing reported.

Preschool Board: Registration for the 2026-27 school year is at 46 with a waitlist for 2 of the sessions. The April 7 Art Show and Book Fair netted around \$700. Graduation is on May 14th at 6p.

Property: See New / Old Business section.

Social Services: The annual Diaper Drive has started. We are sponsoring two teenage girls under The Mirth Project, which is a nonprofit organization providing financial assistance to kids who have aged out of foster care and want to attend education beyond high school.

Welcome & Outreach: Prepared Welcome Bags for this past Preschool Sunday. There are lots of open spots for Sunday greeters and ushers that need to be filled. Jeff Mitchell assisted with the creation of a new Welcome Center card for visitors.

Children, Youth & Family: Rise & Shine was part of the Palm Sunday processional and enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Junior & Senior High youth. The youth and adults who will be heading to Niagara for the summer service trip, did a pre-service project helping out one of our members with yard work. 30 packages were assembled and sent out to Young Adults. The Lenten Prayer Buddy project connected 9 youths with an adult buddy for texts, emails and postcards; they celebrated the project's end with a luncheon and Easter Escape Room. Registration is open for the annual VBS. Work with the Age to Age Grant is wrapping up. Confirmation class will have their last event for the school year on April 26.

New / Old Business:

- Lawncare Service. Property Chair Roger McLoney solicited bids for a new lawncare service. The service we had been using advised Roger in February that they were no longer in the business. The Executive Committee had already reviewed the bid information and are recommending Council approve a 1-year contract with Van Kannel Lawncare for \$8,030 (includes \$2,715 for the Memorial Garden upkeep). After motion by Dell Moller approving Van Kannel Lawncare for \$8,030 for 1-year and second by Ray Holmes, motion unanimously passed.
- Plumbing Renovations. Many of Epiphany's toilets are not working properly including running hours/days after being flushed and no one is in the building. Property Chair Roger McLoney advised we normally use 16,000-20,000 gallons of water per month but January's water bill was for over 60,000 gallons and February's for over 75,000 gallons. He assumes this is due to the stuck toilets. He presented a quote from a company he has used twice for plumbing projects with good results, Rose Plumbing, to install 6 new toilets in various restrooms, rebuild of flushing mechanism in 2 existing toilets, install 1 new sink faucet, and replace 1 toilet seat. After motion by Cindy Ganem approving Rose Plumbing for the noted repairs/replacements at a cost of \$5,745.17 and second by Dell Moller, motion unanimously passed.

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- Painting Project. Question was asked when this project would be completed (painting of hallway) and if a color had been picked. Answer was after VBS and the committee for this project had already chosen a color.

Strategic Planning:

- Space – Kitchen. Dianne led a discussion on what could be done to repurpose the existing kitchen space to make the area more functional. Several ideas were brought up and Will agreed to lead a Task Force to explore options and report back to Council.
- Space – Building. Pastor Brad mentioned Tony had some ideas on how we could enhance some of the existing space in our building to make it more efficient. Pastor Brad will ask Tony to form a Task force for that purpose.
- Stewardship Program. Part two of this program will be coming up and Dianne would like Council to be involved in that portion.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12th, at 7:00p. Cindy Ganem will have the devotion.

Adjournment: Dianne led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ganem

Cindy Ganem, Secretary