

FINAL

Epiphany Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting October 14, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Brad Gee, Dianne Mawhirter, Ray Holmes, Cindy Ganem, Lynn Rigelman, Jeff McCullough, William Lytle, Josh Thornton, Ashley Turner

Excused: Dell Moller, Mike Poyer

Guests: Ali Adams, Jeff Mitchell, Terry McCandless

Call to Order: Dianne called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotion: Will shared a devotion based on Isaiah 58:11 that God will give us growth like a well-watered garden.

2026 Budget: Epiphany's Staff—Ali Adams, Jeff Mitchell, and Terry McCandless—presented their draft 2026 Budgets. After answering a few questions, they left the meeting. Josh then went over his initial pass for the 2026 Budget, which shows what costs are anticipated to increase (utilities, insurance, etc.). There was some discussion which included a question if we could add a feature to the Simply Giving and other electronic donation links like Pause to allow people to increase the amount donated to include paying the bank fee. We are at approximately \$5,100 for 2025 for those kinds of fees. Josh will look into it as we agree that most members would not mind paying the fee.

The topic then moved to how we can get more members to attend the Annual Meeting (typically have 40 or less at these meetings). With the current giving deficit of \$67,473 YTD, it is especially important that more members be present to offer their input. Several suggestions included holding this year's meeting (Dec. 14) at 10:00a instead of the usual 12:00p and make up flyers to include in bulletins and place on people's windshields.

Council Minutes/Approval: The September 9, 2025 Minutes were previously sent out for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Dianne Mawhirter and second by Ashley Turner, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Approval for September: Josh emailed this report to Council for review. Following is the pertinent information from the report:

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The Report notes September's Gifts and Interest were less than Expenses by (\$18,499) and our YTD Gifts and Interest were less than Expenses by \$(67,473). September's Offerings were less than Budget by (\$12,870) and YTD Offering was less than prorated budget by \$(60,270).

Fund Balances:

General Fund Balance (\$2,000)
Gifts & Furnishings \$48,620
Memorial Funds \$15,024
Operating Reserve Funds \$117,439
Youth Mission Funds \$25,868
Non-budgeted Funds \$4,019
Special Gifts & Projects \$101,721

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 \$152,262; Savings \$50,010; Schwab Brokerage Account \$106,946; Endowment Cash & Investments \$298,981.

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: \$2,857.50 to Superior Building Serv. for kitchen maintenance

There were no questions or corrections on the September Treasurer's Report. After motion by Lynn Rigelman and second by Cindy Ganem, motion unanimously carried to approve this Report.

Pastor's Time:

- The Audit Committee will be chaired by Cindy Smith who is reaching out to other congregation members to be on this Committee. The plan is to audit Epiphany's 2024 financial records and have a report ready before the Annual Meeting.
- The 2025 Nominating Committee has met to work on the Council positions that will be up for election at the Annual Meeting and to fill two vacancies for the Board of Trustees of the Mission Endowment Fund.
- Men's Retreat on Oct. 24-25 has 12 signed up to attend.
- Women's Retreat on Oct. 17-19 has 13+ signed up to attend.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Events: Will shared the dinner themes for the next six PAUSE meals. He noted there are 4 volunteers who help set up and serve about 125 meals each week. Two

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people signed up to help with PAUSE from the Ministry Fair and one person to help with the monthly First English breakfast. Since the dartball team is full, the Committee is discussing some other team sports that could be offered. Will is preparing the meal for the Ladies Christmas Dinner with the help of 10-12 volunteers.

Finance: See information under Treasurer's Report.

Preschool Board: Everything is in full swing!

Property: Nothing reported.

Social Services: Nothing reported.

Welcome & Outreach: Welcomed 7 individuals/families as new members to Epiphany on Oct. 5. Found some additional mugs to use as handouts and are looking into plastic cups for next year. Some of the team members may act as greeters at Trunk or Treat and the Advent Nativity Brunch. Will be participating in the Worship Servant Workshop on Oct. 22 to train any interested newcomers. Looking at some different ideas for Christmas Eve giveaways like bookmarks or magnetic chip clips with Epiphany's logo on it.

Children, Youth & Family: Next two big events are Trunk or Treat on Oct. 25 and the Advent Nativity Brunch on Dec. 6.

New / Old Business:

- Revised EMEF Regulations. This document was previously sent to Council for review. Jeff McCullough made a motion to approve the revised Regulations and with a second by Lynn Rigelman, motion was unanimously passed. Cindy will provide copies to the EMEF Board for their records.
- Ministry Fair. This event was well attended and resulted in new volunteers signing up for some of Epiphany's ministries. Dianne brought up the fact that we have a lot of leftover pamphlets and overviews. After discussion, the plan is to include the overviews in future Sunday bulletins, placing the pamphlets in the Welcome Center and in new member bags.
- Stewardship for All Seasons. All needed information has been submitted to GSB so they can put together the presentation for our congregation. The program will be announced on Oct. 26 with a letter and bulletin inserts to follow. Nov. 23 will be the "appeal Sunday". Have compiled a list of members to ask if they would be interested in talking about why they joined Epiphany and continue to attend.
- Approval of New Members. Seven new members were received on Sunday, October 5, 2025: Rick & Lisa Clark; Casey Jones; Betsy Mitman; and Shaye Scott, Amelia Conner, and Katherine Beyrle. Upon motion by Ashley Turner and second by Will Lytle, motion unanimously carried approving the addition of these new members to Epiphany.

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- New Policy for Undesignated Gifts. The EMEF Board of Trustees has asked Council to approve that with future undesignated financial gifts made to Epiphany, 20% of those funds will go into the Endowment Fund and the remaining 80% would remain for Epiphany's use in its daily operations. After discussion, Cindy Ganem made a motion to approve this request and with a second by Ray Holmes, motion unanimously passed.
- Will asked for approximately \$900 to purchase and install an ice machine in the kitchen. He was asked to present a formal request to Pastor Brad and Josh.

Strategic Planning:

- Space. The Youth Room has been painted and a new couch ordered. Next step is new carpeting. Dianne Mawhirter made a motion for new carpeting to be purchased and installed in the Youth Room at the approximate cost of \$4,900 and with a second by Ashley Turner, motion unanimously passed. The money will come from the Barry Estate gift, which has been approved by the family.
- Communication. Nothing new to report.
- Building. On hold for now.

Next Meetings:

Tuesday, November 11th, at 7:00p. Josh 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