

FINAL

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
September 8, 2026**

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

Excused: Jeff McCullough, Josh Thornton

Guests: Tony Maggio

Call to Order: Dianne called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotion: Tony's devotion was based on the passage from Matthew reminding us we have all we need from our Father and second, that we do not have to be perfect.

Council Minutes/Approval: The August 11, 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 Will Lytle and second by Lynn Rigelman, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report/Approval: Josh was unable to attend the meeting so no Report was provided.

Pastor's Time:

- In August and September, he officiated 1 wedding and 5 funerals/memorial services.
- He is currently leading an Epiphany U series on "What is the Bible" on Sundays/Wednesdays.
- He plans to meet with the Nominating Committee next week to begin work on the 5 Council positions that will be open for the 2027-2028 term.
- New baptismal font will be dedicated on Sep. 27. First baptisms with the new font will be on Oct. 4 and 11. There are plans to do something with the existing font.
- New member class on Oct. 3.
- Internship retreat on Oct. 5-6. He continues to have weekly meetings with Tony and the Messiah Lutheran Church intern.
- Men's Retreat is being held on Jan. 22-23.
- Pastor Brad then read an email and Facebook message from a mother with 4 young children who arrived late for their first service with Epiphany and she did not feel she was welcome. A response has already been sent to this person and Pastor will follow up with a phone call. There was some discussion on how all of us need to be better prepared to show our hospitality and welcome.

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- Tony passed out flyers to remind everyone about the free Epiphany Growth Retreat at Hopewood Pines on Sep. 26.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Events: PAUSE is in its second week. Will is working on the lunch menu for next Sunday's God's Work Our Hands.

Finance: Nothing reported.

Preschool Board: At the last minute, they were able to hire the 2 teachers needed to complete the team. Pre-K class is full and there are still some openings in the other classes. 52 students in total are attending Preschool programs. A speech therapist will be coming this month to work with some of the children. Dec. 17 at 6p will be the Christmas program.

Property: Nothing to report.

Social Services: God's Work Our Hands is this coming Sunday. October will be the annual coat and blanket drive.

Welcome & Outreach: July Backyard Party was another success with over 250 people attending; freezer failed, ice cream had to be thrown out, funds were made available to purchase another freezer, and \$200 in donations made to purchase more ice cream—success! Will Lytle kept everyone fed with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. 10 volunteers with many more jumping in when needed. Lovely evening of fellowship with kids' crafts, games, live music, and watching the fireworks.

Sunday hospitality team is running smoothly. Working on new ideas for the Welcome Center area. Upcoming events include the New Members' reception and providing greeters for Trunk or Treat and the Nativity Brunch. Are looking for ideas on a new table cover to use when attending community events to hand out information on Epiphany.

Children, Youth & Family: Looking for new curriculum and additional teachers for Rise & Shine. Registration opens on Oct. 21 for kids to sign up to attend the ELCA 2027 Youth Gathering; believe 15 are interested. Upcoming events: Haunted Village on Oct. 22, Trunk or Treat on Oct. 31, Advent Nativity Brunch on Dec. 5.

New / Old Business:

- Audit 2024 / 2025. The 2024 Audit was previously emailed to Council for review. There was one question on who is the Bookkeeper's backup; answer is the Treasurer. With there being no other questions or concerns, motion was made by Cindy Ganem to approve the 2024 Audit and with second by Ashley Turner, motion unanimously carried. Cindy will forward the Audit to Dori to include in Connect and make a few copies for the Communication Center.

Pastor Brad is working with the Audit Committee to begin the 2025 audit.

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- Constitution Changes. Cindy previously sent out revisions to the Constitution which are required by the ELCA from its 2025 Churchwide Assembly. At last month's meeting, several Council members asked if Epiphany's Annual Meeting could be held in January instead of December. This would allow the Bookkeeper and Treasurer to have the final financial data for the calendar year to better prepare the next year's budget for the congregation's approval. The Executive Committee discussed this proposal at its meeting and after seeking advice from the Synod, Cindy drafted a revision to the Constitution which states the Annual Meeting will be held no later than the last Sunday in January and that operations shall continue to be funded at the previous fiscal year's approved expenditure level.

After some discussion, Cindy will make one small revision to the wording. A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8th, immediately after the 11a service, seeking the congregation's approval for these revisions. If approved, the Annual Meeting will then be held on Sunday, Jan. 17th.

Dell Moller then made a motion approving the Constitution revisions and with second by Lynn Rigelman, motion unanimously carried.

- Ministry Connections. Dianne has approval of the drafts of each Committee's purpose. She will use those for a presentation to the congregation highlighting opportunities for other members to join.
- Endowment Fund Committee. They received gifts following the passing of Carol Ackerman and Joan Heft. Council was advised this Committee has asked to amend the EMEF Regulations to state the total yearly amount awarded will not exceed 10% of earnings available. Dianne will be inviting Chair Steve Wolfarth and Vice Chair Ann Leak to attend the October Council meeting to provide us with the Committee's reasoning for this request. Cindy will provide Council with the current EMEF Regulations and the email request for their review.
- Stewardship for All Seasons. Tabled until the next meeting.

Strategic Planning:

- Space – Kitchen. Will advised the total cost for the kitchen renovations will be approximately \$49,512 which includes new equipment and small wares, installation, and freight/shipping costs. He is working with Property Chair Roger McLoney for contractor recommendations for the installation needs. Will believes it will take 60 days to complete this project and should not cause any real disruption to the use of the kitchen other than when the sinks are taken out. After some discussion, Dell Moller made a motion to approve up to \$60,000 for this kitchen renovation and with a second by Mike Poyer, the motion unanimously carried.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th, at 7:00p. Dianne 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