

*Final*

**Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
May 12, 2026**

**Attendance:** Pastor Brad, Dianne Mawhirter, Cindy Ganem, Ray Holmes, Ashley Turner, William Lytle

**Excused:** Josh Thornton, Jeff McCullough, Lynn Rigelman, Mike Poyer, Dell Moller

**Guests:** Tony Maggio, Terry McCandless

**Call to Order:** Dianne called the meeting to order.

**Prayer:** Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Devotion:** Cindy's devotion was a conversation with God about good days, hard days, empty days but remembering He is always with us.

**Ministry Update:** Pastor Brad invited Terry McCandless, Director of Music, to talk about what he does both at Epiphany and outside of it. When asked what he might need from Council, he said the choir chimes are wearing out. He will be looking at costs and come back to Council. *(Terry then left the meeting.)*

**Council Minutes/Approval:** The April 14, 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 Ray Holmes, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes.

**Treasurer's Reports:**

Josh advised that Epiphany received \$105,617 in special gifts: 20% will go to the Endowment Fund (\$21,123), \$28,515 will go into the Reserve Fund, and the remaining \$55,977 could be used for special projects. There is also \$26,594 left in the Barry Estate gift which could be used.

As to the monthly Treasurer's Reports, Josh has been working to integrate the 2026 Budget into the spreadsheet and then he should be able to provide Council with the January thru May reports by the June meeting.

A question was raised on where the 2024 Financial Audit stands. It is believed the Committee is close to finished with that Audit. Dianne will get in touch with the Committee Chair.

**Pastor's Time:**

- Leading the Columbus Pride Parade (June 20) for ELCA congregational participation and has 45 people signed up so far.

## *Final*

- Leading Epiphany’s participation in the Pickerington July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.
- Organizing a work group to coordinate use of the bulletin boards and working with ministry leaders to create attractive advertisements about upcoming events to display at the Communication Center.
- Had another baptism on May 24.
- Will be serving as a small group leader during VBS.
- Participating in the youth’s mission trip to Niagara, NY from July 5-10.
- Serving as a volunteer leader of adult discovery (daily bible study) at HopeWood Shores from July 12 – 18.
- Will be on vacation from July 11 thru August 8. Guest preachers have been arranged for that period.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Congregational Events:** Tomorrow is the last PAUSE dinner. Will be helping out with the Backyard Party on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Begin plans to hold the End of Summer party before school starts.

**Finance:** Josh has been playing catchup in several areas including completion of the 2025 ELCA annual report, EMEF reports, and scheduling counters for the summer months.

**Preschool Board:** May 14 is graduation for 24 students. Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is above this past year’s numbers. Believe one of the substitute teachers will come on as a full-time teacher. May 15 is the last day of school.

**Property:** See New/Old Business section.

**Social Services:** The annual Diaper Drive netted 2,325 diapers and 62 packages for baby wipes. The Mirth Project (nonprofit organization providing financial assistance to youth who have aged out of foster care and want to attend education beyond high school) was a success.

**Welcome & Outreach:** Coordinating Greeters, Ushers, and Welcome Center hosts to cover empty slots at the 11a service. Starting to plan and advertise for the Backyard Party on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Received new plastic color changing cups for handouts. Starting work on VBS Welcome bags.

**Children, Youth & Family:** Rise & Shine ends on May 17 and will begin again on August 16 with the annual Backpack Blessing and Pop Up Sunday. New program for the summer is Cooldown & Connect which is an intergenerational hangout between services with popsicles, conversation, and playtime. Celebration Sunday for all graduates is on May 31<sup>st</sup> with brunch at 10a. Preschool VBS is from June 8-12 with 59 participants and 48 volunteers signed up so far. Epiphany will be at Hopewood Pines from June 28-July 1. We will be participating in the Pickerington 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The summer mission experience will be at Niagara, NY from July 5-10. Day Camp runs from July 20-24 (3 host homes are needed for counselors).

*Final*

**New / Old Business:**

- EMEF Committee Update: They received a grant request in April for Lutheran World Relief and the Committee will be meeting on May 18 to make a decision.
- Painting Project—Hallways: Pastor Brad had Council look at the different swatches of paint color in the hallway outside the Youth Room and advised which color had been chosen by the Task Force for this project. The plan is to start painting all the hallways next week. Council noted new signs are needed outside the various rooms as many are incorrect.

**Strategic Planning:**

- Space – Kitchen. William agreed to head up a Task Force with 6 other members to come up with ideas on better storage and costs for other items like an ice machine.
- Use of space -- tour. Tony Maggio then took Council into the Gathering Space to talk about some possible updates:
  - Redesign the Welcome Center so it's more visible; put in a coffee bar (maybe have one of the local establishments supply just regular coffee)
  - Move the kids' play area to the other side of the sanctuary windows so it's not in the way of PAUSE or other events, add a sign stating this area is for children to play, and move the pews so some are facing the sanctuary so people can feel a part of the service while watching their children
  - Redesign the Communication Center by reducing the number of things advertised (less information overload) and adding that information as a slide on the TV, use the bulletin boards only for timely announcements and sign-ups, create a team to manage/approve use of the bulletin boards, and add a new sign that explains what people can find at the Communication Center

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 9th, at 7:00p. Pastor Brad 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