

Minutes
Emanuel's Lutheran Church Council
Sunday, January 11, 2026
11:45am | Family Life Center

Call to Order, *Bryce K.* - 11:57

- I. Attendance, *Sheila E.*
 - a. Present: Darlene Zies, Pastor Rudy, Bryce Kennedy, Sheila English, Janelle Leon Weinmann, Natalia Almquist, Charles Jobe, Rissa Springs, Sharon Herbold, Paul Sims, Pastor Marcus
 - b. Absent: Tim Kent, Bill Salt
 - c. Guests:
- II. Opening Prayer, *Pastor Marcus*
- III. Approval of the Agenda, *Bryce K.*
 - a. Sharon H. moves to approve the agenda as written. Darlene Z. seconds. Motion carries.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes: 12/12, *Bryce K.*
 - a. Sheila E. moves to approve the minutes as written. Rissa S. seconds. Motion carries.
- V. Informational Update
 - a. Executive Council Update of Banking and Investment Signature Cards
 - b. Correction of the 2026 budget expense line items
 - i. \$1,500 for Campus Attendant not correctly added to the expense total
 1. 2026 budget updated accordingly
- VI. New Business
 - a. Financials
 - i. Update: Church & Day School Financials, *Sharon H.*
 1. Review: Financial Statements, Restricted Accounts, Financial Summaries
 - ii. Action: Approval of the December Financial Reports, *Bryce K.*
 1. Darlene Z. moves to approve the financial report. Natalia A. seconds. Motion carries.
 - b. Benevolence
 - i. Update: Proposed 2026 Benevolence Amounts and Organizations, *Bryce K.*
 - ii. Action: Approval of 2026 Benevolence Amounts and Organizations, *Bryce K.*
 1. Rissa S. moves to approve the benevolence amounts as presented by Executive Council. Charles J. seconds. Motion Carries.
 - iii. Action: Approval of the January Benevolences & Amounts, *Sharon H.*
 1. Janelle L-W moves to give the following benevolence:
 - a. \$420 to the Southwest Texas Synod
 - b. \$400 to the Christian Cupboard
 - c. \$400 to the Salvation Army
 - d. \$400 to the New Braunfels Food BankRissa S. seconds. Bryce K. abstains. Motion carries.
 - c. Expense Approval Requests, *Bryce K.*
 - i. 2026 Eggapalooza Expenses
 1. *Eggs, T-shirts, Signage, and Breakfast.*
 2. Shiela E. moves to approve the funding release up to \$10,000 for Eggapalooza expenses from the approved budget. Darlene Z. seconds.
 - a. Upon discussion, Shiela amended the proposal for \$11,000 based on the amount available in the account. Darlene seconds. Motion carries.
 - ii. Worship Listening Devices
 1. Batteries and New Headphones will be replaced via a Divine Canvas to improve availability and reliability of assisted listening devices.
 - d. Recommendations for Action, *Bryce K.*
 - i. Ladies Aid Wall Graphic, Women's Ministry Room

1. Paul S. moves to approve the art installation in the Women's Ministry Room as presented. Charles J. seconds. Motion carries.
- ii. Receiving of New Members
 1. Dottie Richbourg, Jerry Vinyard
 - a. Rissa S. moves to accept the new member transfer and their affirmation of faith. Sharon H. seconds. Motion carries.
- e. Ministry Teams' Updates & Potential Action, *Bryce K.*
 - i. Fellowship & Feast – *Sheila E.; Tim K.*
 1. Lenten meals will follow the model we tried out in the previous Advent meals in the fellowship hall. The Church will provide the sandwiches and chips and congregants will be asked to provide soups and desserts.
 - ii. Gather & Grow – *Janelle L-W; Natalia A.*
 1. All church retreat in 2 weeks!
 2. Pub theology is January 15th. All are invited!
 3. Ember & Iron (men's group) in February. There's congregational desire for a women's group as well. We will be working towards that in the near future.
 - iii. Safety & Property Stewards – *Charles J.*
 1. Signs and hallways are being refinished. Alter top restraining is next.
 2. The community signs around Seguin are in need of cleaning and potential repainting. There are between 7 and 9 of these signs that could use touch-ups.
 - iv. Education – *Paul S.; Bill S.*
 1. Paul will check the signup in the narthex for Children's Church to make sure it's current. There's an opportunity to consolidate online sign-ups for easier visibility and signup via links in the newsletter.
 - v. Worship – *Rissa S.*
 1. Beginning Lenten and Easter planning, but most is already locked in from the previous planning meetings.
 - vi. Outreach and Service – *Bryce K.; Darlene Z.*
 1. Eggapalooza season is upon us! First meeting is on January 20.
 2. Looking to plan an additional food drive soon, with Tillie as the mascot. Planning will be during the January 28th all ministry team meeting.
- f. Staff Reports' Conversation & Potential Action, *Bryce K.*
 - i. Paul S. moves to add one-time additional amount of non-expiring vacation days to staff at Emanuel's excluding those in called positions. The amount will be 4 days for part time employees and 7 days for full time employees. Sheila E. seconds. Motion carries.
 - ii. Darlene Z. moves to populate the two task forces as specified in the report from the Congregational meeting sign-ups. Rissa S. seconds. Motion carries.
 - iii. Pastor Marcus moves to allow Sharon H. the authority to work with Jeni on renewing the Muelbrad CD. Natalia A. seconds. Motion carries.
- VII. Council Greeters, *Bryce K.*
 - a. February: 1 *Natalia A.*, 8 *Sharon H.*, 15 *Rissa S.*, 18 (Ash Wednesday, 6:30pm) *Darlene Z.*, 22 *Sheila E.*
- VIII. Reminders, *Bryce K.*
 - a. Executive Council: February 4, 5pm, Office
 - b. Council Meeting: February 8, 11:45am, FLC
 - c. All Team Meeting: March 25, 2026, WMR (Dinner at 5:30pm)
- IX. Additional questions, comments, or concerns, *Bryce K.*
- X. Closing Prayer, *Pastor Rudy*
- XI. Adjournment, *Bryce K.* - 1:16pm
 - a. Pastor Marcus moves to adjourn. Rissa S. seconds. Motion carries.