



Sunday, December 14, 2025

***The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
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Ministers of East Koshkonong ~ All the people of God

Presider ~ Pastor Eric Hanson

Organist ~ Judy Rusch

Assisting Minister ~ Sunday School

Lector ~ Sunday School

Greeter ~ Karen Hayes

Ushers ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn

Offering Counters ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful ELW #283

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Music Solo – Dalton Rockney

First Reading: Isaiah 35

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

Music Solo – Caitlin Terland

Psalm Luke 1:46-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Music Solo – Christian Terland

Second Reading James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11 **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation Song: Silent Night

ELW# 281

Skit: No Ordinary Night

Scene One: Joshua, Luke, Chloe, Amos, Anna

Congregation Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear ELW# 282

Scene Two: Amos, Luke, Anna, Chloe, Joshua, Angels

Congregation Song: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! ELW# 270

Scene Three: Amos, Joshua, Chloe, Luke, Anna

Congregation Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem
ELW# 279

Scene Four: Joshua, Joseph, Luke, Anna, Mary, Amos

Congregation Song: Away in a Manger ELW# 277

Scene Five: Joshua, Chloe, Amos, Luke, Joseph, Anna

KIDS SONG: Go Tell it on the Mountain

Hymn of the Day Angels We Have Heard on High ELW #289

Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (*especially*) Kurt, Ernie, Ron, Danelle. Ronald, Jackie, Judy, Mary Lou, Lisa, Landon, Ed, Kathy, Cherie, Gary, Barb, Lindsay, Betsy, Jim, Chris, Robert, Michelle, Karen, Monica, and Gwendolyn. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of

your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Noisy Offering-for Sunday School Mission Project for ELCA
World Hunger

Offering Prayer

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer after Communion

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song Joy to the World

ELW #267

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God**

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No Ordinary Night Cast

Shepherds:

Joshua = Paige

Luke = Dalton

Chloe = Tess

Amos = Mia

Anna = Caitlin

Angels = Cora, Lennox, Aleah

Joseph = Owen

Mary = Parker

Group of Travelers/Shepherds:

Wally

Lukas

Lydia

Ben

Rylan

Chase

Sheep:

Ryker

Landon

Corrine

Lena



Calendar

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

5:30 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship



You may make a secure offering/donation to EKLC by following the directions below. All donations are secured through Vanco. Thank you for your generous offering in this way! Online giving directions, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

Go to www.eastkoshkonong.org and click on Donate. Create a profile through this secure website, if you haven't already, and complete the form on the website.

Option 2: Download the GivePlus app on your smartphone for either Android or iOS. If needed, create an account with your email address. Sign into your account and search for "East Koshkonong Lutheran Church." Select the plus "+" sign and complete the form.

Announcements

We are glad you joined us! We hope that you will experience the good news in mind, body, and spirit s we pray, listen, sing and share the peace of Christ and the meal of Holy Communion. You are invited to worship in as many ways as you are comfortable and able. In this bulletin, **bold print** indicates congregation's responses. The presence, energy, and noise of children are most welcome here! The sound of children in worship is the sound of a new disciple being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and invite children to participate in worship.

For many, the lack of daylight during the winter intensifies other suffering. We also get stressed when our calendars fill with extra obligations this time of year. Finally, we mourn losses of all kinds throughout the holiday season. The message of Christmas is specifically sent for those suffering. It is not that "all is merry". Rather, it is that God seeks to be with us, even when we are blue. If you or someone you know is experiencing these challenging realities this season, then please join us for a Blue Christmas service December, 17 at 6:30 p.m. in support of those who are hurting through this season.

Our Christmas Eve worship schedule for December 24, will include a morning service at 10 AM in the Upper Church building, and then 3 and 6 PM services in the Lower Church building. There will be no Wednesday evening 5:30 worship service on December 24 or 31.

We're launching a new youth group that will meet at Cambridge bowling alley on Saturday January 3 at 1 pm, this event is open to all EKLC youth and is free! Food will be provided. Please let Pastor Eric know if you're interested.