



Sunday, December 21, 2025

***The East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
454 East Church Rd., Cambridge, WI 53523
www.eastkoshkonong.org***

***Church Office: Phone 608-423-3017
Email: eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com***

***Pastor Eric Hanson: 815-543-5077
Email: eric.hanson88@yahoo.com***

***FACEBOOK PAGE – Please "Like" us on
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Facebook!***

Ministers of East Koshkonong ~ All the people of God
Presider ~ Pastor Eric Hanson
Organist ~ Judy Rusch
Assisting Minister ~ Carolyn Lien
Acolyte ~ Josie Lund
Lector ~ Carolyn Lien
Greeter ~ Holly Loomis
Ushers ~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen
Offering Counters ~ Brenda Schroeder & Andy Christensen
Choir Director ~ Vicki Schuh

Sermon One with Children

Gathering Hymn The King Shall Come

ELW #260

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.

Long-expected 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 tim-
ing, 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 righteous-
ness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome
the Savior. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace
and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may
receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Choir Special Music Follow the Star & When Will He Come?

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading Romans 1:1-17

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he

introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. ⁹ For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, ¹⁰ asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened ¹² or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as I have among the rest of the gentiles. ¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, ¹⁵ hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

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

Gospel

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

Sermon Two

Hymn of the Day Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW #254

Baptism of Louie Joseph Sigur

pg. 227

Parents: Eric Sigur & Savannah May

Sponsors: Ashley Furseth & Henry Furseth

Prayers of Intercession

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill *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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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 My Faith Looks Up to Thee ELW #759

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004341.

Calendar

Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Services

10:00 a.m. Upper Church

3:00 p.m. Lower Church

6:00 p.m. Lower Church

Sunday, December 28, 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.

7

Announcements

We are glad you joined us! We hope that you will experience the good news in mind, body, and spirit as 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.

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.

Pastor Eric will be out of the office on vacation December 26-January 2. **There will be no 5:30 Wednesday worship December 31. Happy New Year!**

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.

Romans 1 Info

Romans written by the Apostle Paul who started out persecuting the church. God changed his heart and Paul would go on to help spread the Christian message and establish new churches around the world. Paul wrote letters to some of those churches that addressed certain issues which they were facing. Key verse 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith."

Important words in Romans 1

1. **Gospel**; "the good news (about Jesus Christ)".
2. **Salvation**; "to be delivered or freed (from bondage)".
3. **Faith**; "to trust in an entity (God)".