Sundays and Beyond

August 2025 East Koshkonong Lutheran Church ELCA



Friends in Christ,

As some of you may recall, last year I had a medical emergency that caused me to have to be taken by ambulance to the hospital and which also caused me to sadly miss a worship service with you all one Sunday. Thankfully, God is good, as a number of you were able to step in to help lead that worship service in my absence on that morning. I have also been receiving wonderful medical treatment from many professionals who have been helping me heal, and who have also been determining the causes of my medical emergency and how to

prevent something like it from happening again in the future. As you can probably imagine there's a lot of moving pieces to all of this, but one of them that has recently been determined is that I will require surgery to help me recover. The doctor has said that the recovery time won't be long and that it should not have any major impact on my ministry with you all. However, there's also still a lot of details left to be worked out that I will communicate with you all once I know them. Thank you all for your prayers, understanding, patience, and kindness through this process, I look forward to the healing that this will provide me and how it will help me be able to continue serving as your pastor in time ahead.

Shalom to you in Christ, Pastor Eric



NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURH COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 17, 2025

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Klemp at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Anders Amundson, Kreg Gruben, Linda Hanson, Amy Hensel, Kurt Klemp, Peggy Luther, Denise Rockney (via phone), Pastor Eric Hanson (via phone from Lutherdale), and Financial Secretary Judy Lund.

Devotions: Pastor Eric called our attention to benevolent organizations, both local and worldwide, and said that through our gifts, East Koshkonong is making a difference.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:

Judy reported that there was not much activity in memorials and money market lately, and that the healthy numbers in the general ledger reflect the recent transfer of \$74,000 from the Trust Fund, which was approved a couple months ago. There was brief discussion of the sequence in which bills get paid. Judy said there was \$1,223.40 designated for Ukraine Relief; motion made by Peggy, seconded by Denise, and carried to disburse those funds to Natasha. Motion made by Linda to approve financial reports, seconded by Amy, and carried.

Pastor's Report included: A "pulpit swap" this month with Pastor's wife, Carina; October 19 is the date our Confirmation student will be confirmed in conjunction with a 50th Class Reunion of Confirmands. Pastor Eric's contribution for the "Preaching Helps" section of *Currents in Theology and Mission* will be published next month. Peace Circle held a Bible Study on June 10 at Home Again for some of our members.

Education Report: Chris, Heidi and Pastor met on June 11 to discuss Sunday School events through the end of the year; Rally Sunday/Fun-on-the-Prairie on Sept. 7; Bible distribution to kids in the fall; maybe more BINGO! dates; and the need for more volunteers.

May's Notes/Council Minutes: Accepted.

Motion made by Denise to approve reports and minutes, seconded by Amy, and carried.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

AED (Automated External Defibrillator): There was a unanimous decision to purchase one (1) device at this time--a fully automated AED w/cabinet & pads as recommended by Trudy. It's a \$2,100 "church pkg" that comes with tech support. Our current AED will be relocated to the Upper Church. Motion made by Kreg, seconded by Linda, and carried to send pertinent info to Holly so she can write a check. Delivery time is approx. 60 days.

LUTHERDALE: Seven Confirmation students are attending camp at this very moment, and they're having a wonderful experience! More on this from Pastor in the July newsletter.

EXTERIOR PROJECTS:

<u>Sidewalks/concrete:</u> Upper Church is done on the west side, and it looks great! The new drain also looks good! Next up is the Lower Church entrance area & west side wrap-around sidewalk & west entrance (into the Sunday School and office).

<u>Electrical</u>: Fans have been purchased; Ready Electric coming this week for the lights.

Narthex window repair: Denise will follow-up again for an expected start date.

<u>Office Manager update:</u> We have a candidate who is interested, but personal circumstances currently prevent her from actively pursuing part-time employment. Our dedicated crew of office volunteers + Pastor continue to pitch in to keep the wheels rolling. Discussed re-posting the position.

<u>Insurance:</u> After State Farm abruptly dropped us, we now have satisfactory coverage with Brotherhood. A rep from Brotherhood recently did a walk-thru of properties with Marilyn and Curt. Many thanks to Linda and Curt for hustling to get a new carrier for us. State Farm pro-rated a premium return in the amount of almost \$4K.

<u>Parsonage:</u> No pressing needs at this time, but several MAJOR expenses are on the horizon: the roof is 25 y.o.; furnace is 23 y.o., water heater is 13 y.o. This congregation will need to decide if we want to continue parsonage upkeep, or make the decision to sell the property and not be landlords.

Continued pg. 3...

... cont.

Kosh. Prairie Historical Society: Bonnie might be interested in this multi-church event(s).

Roof/Shingles: Missing shingles will be replaced when the lift can be used for other things besides just shingles. Hansons are donating the use of one of their lifts.

New Church Road Signs: The family of Harriet Eikland would like to use memorial monies to purchase new road signs for both Hwy 73 and Hillside Road.

<u>Upper Church worship:</u> There has been a request to hold more worship services in the Upper Church in July and August, and in months going forward. The recent worship service on Father's Day was well received.

Next Meeting: Tues., July 15 @ 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 made by Denise, seconded by Kreq. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary





Bring in your Piggly Wiggly Receipts!

The CAMBRIDGE Piggly Wiggly donates a percentage of Piggly Wiggly dollars to EKLC from your receipts collected in the Church Narthex.

The Church is looking for help on Sundays after worship to help count the offering money. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Joy Graffin.





Thank you for all the love, prayers and notes of sympathy at the time of Lisa's passing. Lisa had a wonderful life full of love and joy. She always had a smile and loved everyone! She will truly be missed.

Special thanks to Pastor Eric for his helpfulness and officiating at the celebration of life.

~ Jim and Linda Teske

Recipe Books Still Available

We had a very good response to our recipe book sale this year. We still have about 15 books left. If you are interested in purchasing a book, please contact Marilyn Gunderson (423-3876). The cost is \$15.00. If you write a check for payment, please write it to WELCA.



Our deepest sympathies to the family of Daryl Rahn.

EKLC Homebound Members

Melissa Anderson

279 Hwy A, Cambridge, WI 53523

Bea Householder ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Mickey Farrar ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Betty Gunnelson ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Wilma Furseth

1000 Ridge St 3B Stoughton, WI 53589

Betsy Calhoun

10702 W Hwy 14 Evansville, WI 53536

Joan Volenberg

2315 Hwy W Cambridge, WI 53523

Edward & Linda Melton

400 N Morris St , Stoughton, WI 53589

We will be worshiping in the Upper Church Sanctuary on August 17th.

Worship with us Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings in-person or on YouTube. Remember to like the videos and subscribe to the channel! https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChUv6MDQV54yCWz60IGWezw

Summer greetings from the church basement, the only cool place some days.

We are busy sewing and collecting things for the backpacks, which we will be packing in August, because our shipping day is early in September. Thank you for your help in finding the school supplies. They can be dropped off in the Narthex.

Thank you to Peace Circle for serving duties in July, and to Joy Circle for August. We will meet for sewing on the first and third Thursday mornings. We have been sneaking in some extra mornings, too, and so the shelves are filling up with quilts. It's a joy to see.

Thank you to our loyal Meals on Wheels delivery people. Some got a break this time, as the restaurant is closed, and thank you to Marlene Hussey who is doing the cooking and delivering while this happens. Our next delivery time is in October.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

God Bless you. Communicator Carolyn



On behalf of our congregation here at EKLC, the Health Ministry Team would like to express their sincere 'thank you' to the anonymous donor who covered the cost of our recent AED purchase, thus enabling us to have an AED at both places of worship.

Thank you so very much, Health Ministry Team

Rally Sunday will be September 7. Our council installation will take place during the service. Weather permitting we'll have worship outside and our family fun day will follow.

Pastor Eric will be on vacation August 25-September 1. There will be NO Wednesday worship on August 27th.



With summer here, school food programs for those experiencing food insecurity are not available. Listed below are items of greatest need during the summer. There is a collection box in the Narthex at church. Items in the box will be delivered to the Food Pantry regularly. Specifically needed for the summer: Individual meals for kids (microwave mac and cheese,

etc.) meals that are easy for kiddos to make on their own. Also, there is a great need for KID FRIENDLY cereal (kinds of cereal that kids would like.) Thank you in advance!

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: With all of these options, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

Option 1: 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: Scan this QR code with your smartphone. Create a profile through this secure website, if you haven't already, and complete the form on the website.

Option 3: 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.

If you don't have online access for this giving

option, you are welcome to fill out a form from the church office: 608-423-3017 or

eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com

OFFERINGS ARÉ ALSO ALWAYS ÅPPRECIATED BY MAILING TO: EAST KOSHKONONG LUTHERAN CHURCH, 454 EAST CHURCH ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, WI 53523

Worship Helpers for August 2025

If you are unable to serve on a date you are scheduled please make every effort to find a replacement. If you have any questions or concerns please communicate with the appropriate contact person. Thank you!

Organist~ Judy Rusch

Assisting Ministers~ (Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

8/3 ~ Trudy Spike

8/10 ~ Vicki Schuh

8/17 ~ Kyle Durkee

8/24 ~ Holly Loomis

8/31 ~ Carolyn Lien

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

8/3 ~ Barb Klemp

8/10 ~ Holly Loomis

8/17 ~ Holly Loomis

8/24 ~ Jane Furseth

8/31 ~ Anders Amundson

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

8/3 ~ Tess Marchant

8/10 ~ Josie Lund

8/17 ~ Elyn Wierzba

8/24 ~ Casey Travis

8/31 ~ Caitlin Terland

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

8/3 ~ Janalee Wagner

8/10 ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn

8/17 ~ Vicki Schuh

8/24 ~ Koy & Diane Luginbuhl

8/31 ~ Kurt & Barb Klemp

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

8/3 ~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen

8/10 ~ Ron & Nancy Knapwurst

8/17 ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn

8/24 ~ Lane & Judy Taylor

8/31 ~ Hal & Vicki Schuh

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

8/3 ~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel

8/10 ~Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash

8/17 ~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen

8/24 ~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel

8/31 ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash

Coffee Hour~ (Contact: Sign-up in Kitchen)

8/3 ~

8/10 ~

 $8/17 \sim \text{No fellowship}$

8/24 ~

8/31 ~



August Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 19 at 6 p.m.

2025 COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kurt Klemp

VICE-PRESIDENT: Denise Rockney

SECRETARY: Peggy Luther **TREASURER:** Amy Hensel

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Anders Amundson, Kreg

Gruben, Linda Hanson

If you need to speak to a council member please call the church office to leave a message and they will return your call.

Treasurer's Report

June 2025 Income \$27,173.58 June 2025 Expense \$33,050.46

June 2024 Income \$54,663.72 June 2024 Expense \$28,875.04

YTD 2025 Income \$246,639.28 YTD 2025 Expense \$226,995.87

YTD 2024 Income \$205,921.86 YTD 2024 Expense \$201,025.11

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Befriender's Committee meeting	4 6:00 p.m. Education Meeting	5 6:00 p.m. Worship Meeting	6 5:30 p.m. Worship	7 8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew	8	9
10 9:00am Worship 9:40am coffee fellowship	11	12	13 5:30 p.m. Worship	14	15	16
17 9:00am Worship At Upper Church	18	19 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	20 5:30 p.m. Worship	21 8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew	22	23
24 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	25	26	27 No Worship	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship						

July 7, 2025

As many of you know I went to Ukraine recently. I am sorry it took me a while to write this email; I just had a few items on my plate as I came back from Ukraine.

Well, here are the updates....

My sister, my daughter and I went to Ukraine. It was a bit of a trip as the airplanes still do not fly to Ukraine. So, we flew to Moldova and then, after a few hours and lots of worries, we finally found a bus that could take us to a city relatively close to my parents' house in Ukraine. However, we didn't make it in time to catch a different bus that would go to my other sister's town due to issues on the Moldova/Ukraine border (wasn't because of us \square). We connected with my other sister, and she was able to come to pick us up. It wasn't a very long drive for her, a bit over an hour. This time when we came to my parents' house, they were expecting us and knew that we were coming. However, only my mom was home as my dad was in the hospital. Apparently, my dad was rototilling the garden, and he lifted the rototiller higher than he should have and thus he rototilled his knee. That's another story. Luckily his recovery was quick. We visited my dad the next day in the morning, and he was coming home the day after.

The Sunday after Easter, we have a tradition of going to the cemetery and visiting relatives that are no longer with us. It's a very popular tradition as everyone goes to cemetery and you can visit with different people and some relatives and friends who also came to visit their "families". During that visit, they have a service in the cemetery and then the priest walks around the cemetery and blesses the graves and people. After the cemetery visit, my family went to visit with my uncle (my mom's brother). I attached a picture of my family with my uncle.

Next day my dad came home from the hospital. While he was in the hospital, he said he was sharing a room with some wounded soldiers who had surgery. Some of them did not have any families as they were orphans and no one came to visit them. At that moment we decided to ask the medical staff how many wounded soldiers were recovering and we put together some treat bags for them. When we delivered goodie bags, they were so happy to see us, and they were very thankful. Some of those people were missing legs, or partially legs. It was hard to imagine what they went through, but they were in a very positive uplifting mood. We didn't take any pictures of them as we didn't want them to feel like they needed to pose on the camera.

Another visit we made while we were home was to visit some refugees. We got some food and goodies for them. They were very thankful and appreciative. I was very impressed how they were trying to establish a new life in a new place. They planted a garden with lots of vegetables so they could sell them in the future. They didn't sit and wait for help.

Another visit we made was to physically and mentally ill people. It was a very hard and emotional visit as some of them were taken very good care of and others were not.

We also stopped at the school I went to. It was interesting for Anna to see where her mom went to school. It's nothing like American schools
However, she had a chance to have lunch there. It was also different (I attached a picture). Everyone in school was very happy to see us and were thankful for everything that has been done for the children and people who are in need. I always told them that there were some people in our community and church who care about them and want to help and that's why we could do those things. We asked what the kids needed in school, and we got a response that they need books for elementary school kids. As the budget is tight right now, the school can't afford new books for kids. Well, we heard them, and we went to a bookstore in the bigger town. We purchased lots of books, including some encyclopedias and folk fairy tales for elementary school. We also bought some treats and put together small treat bags for all the kids of the school. There are only 50 kids in the entire school in our village. That's unfortunate. It took us a few attempts to deliver everything as the constant sirens alert were in our way of getting everyone together. However, it happened, and everyone was happy and thankful. Anna signed the books in English, and I put a small note in Ukrainian, so the school has some memory of this gift. Some kids even tried to speak English. It was very nice of them and very cute. Anna wanted to live stream her friends form the Fort Atkinson High School so the kids could interact and see some snaps of the American school, but unfortunately, it didn't work out due to the time difference

We also prepared and delivered small treat bags for preschool kids.

A week later, the same celebration of going to the cemetery and visiting relatives that are no longer with us was held at my dad's hometown but the next weekend. We visited my dad's side of family and my grandparents and great-great parents. After the cemetery visit, my family went to visit my grandparents' house. Also, Anna saw the house where my great grandma lived. It's very tiny but Anna said she would love to live there.

Well, she couldn't because it's not in living condition and is falling apart. It brought some memories back of my greatgrandma, and I even remembered how her house was laid out.

Despite being busy with visiting everyone and delivering treats and needs, we managed to carve some time for helping my parents. We helped to plant some potatoes, beets and corn. We weeded all vegetables, strawberries and raspberry bushes. I will tell you, I didn't feel young anymore after holding a hoe for the entire day. I was thinking to myself, I used to do this all the time for several weeks. Anna was mostly helping with chickens. She was feeding them, finding some grass for them, collecting eggs. She even said that she wants to get a chicken as an emotional support animal. Of course, my answer was, 'you can do whatever you want when you get your own place'. I am not a very supportive mother, I guess. Also, she mentioned chickens after she wanted to get a goat. Apparently, she wants a mini farm in her back yard in Fort Atkinson which her mom will take care of them, and she will just play with them when she needs

When we went to a small convenience store in our village, we noticed several stray dogs that were looking for some food. Anna right away asked if we could buy some hot dogs to feed them, and we did. Next time we came with some dog food. Every chance Anna had; she brought food and fed them. After a while they got to know her.

Anna had fun seeing our village and she compared her memories from her childhood to nowadays, and it's surprising how much she remembered, despite it having been 8 years since she was there.

I also met some of my classmates. Lots of our conversations were about war, about our friends, schoolmates and who is serving in the war. Some stories that I heard are just horrible, and can't get out of my head, unfortunately. Look at me, I am trying to get something I heard out of my head, and some people experience and live with it. It's very hard. In general, everyone talks about the war, about how so many young guys dying for no reason, so many innocent people died, and kids will be growing without parents.

While we were in a bigger town, where my sister lives, we got a notification that a soldier's body would be coming through the town. So many people got along the road and kneeled while the bus was coming through just to show their last respect to the fallen soldier. It was very hard. This town is the center of our region and the bodies of all fallen soldiers from our region are going through this town. There is also a memorial build for all soldiers that died in our region. It had lots of pictures. Some soldiers were only 20, the same age as Anders. It was hard for me to look at everyone's picture and think that there is a mother, wife or child that will never see him again. Some of those people I knew. I had to leave that place because I just couldn't stop crying. I am sorry, I am writing this all; I just feel like I am reliving that moment and just wanted to tell you about my experience.

There was one young soldier that was missing from our village. He was 21, and no one knew if he was killed or captured. A couple of days before we had to leave Ukraine, the news came out that there was a prisoner's exchange and his name was on a list. All village was very happy to hear this news. There's another young man missing, and we hope that we will hear some happy news one day.

All the time that we were in Ukraine, my brother-in-law was in a dangerous zone, and at some point, it was a very scary time that he might not be able to get out. Fortunately, all the prayers were heard, and he came home one day before we left. We were very happy to see him safe.

As I am writing right now, I just saw a post that one of my friends was killed a few days ago. Rest in peace. People ask, what do Americans think of Ukraine. It's interesting, because here I hear the same question, what do Ukrainians think about Americans. Everyone wants to hear what people actually say and not just what they hear on the TV. And my answer is the same to both, some people support and some don't. Some people really care about the situation. People in Ukraine are thankful for all the help they get. Some say that they understand that America has to put their needs first because it's not their war, and they are glad that they get at least some help. Some people say that America doesn't do enough. Some people like Ukraine's president, and some don't but everyone is tired of this war. Just like it is here too. However, in our village everyone is thankful for all your help, help from this community. They truly appreciate it. They said that several people left the country, but no one helped, but us. We right away offered to help and continuously have been helping, and I told everyone that it's a whole community. All your help was very appreciated. Thank you everyone for all your help!

This is my story about our trip to Ukraine. I just hope the next time I go there, we will be able to fly to Ukraine, and it will be a peaceful time. No sirens, no bombing, no deaths, and just like the USA celebrated their Independence Day, I hope Ukraine will have a happy celebration one day too.

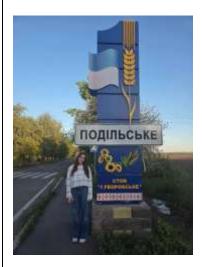
Natasha

emotional support.

Some Pictures

Entrance to my village. It's called Podil'ske 🛘

My house where I grew up (no one lives there now)





My grandparents' graves (my mom's parents)





Visit with my uncle (from the left – my sister Luda, Anna, my mom, Yulia, my uncle's wife, my uncle (mom's brother)). Picture to the right – my uncle's tractor





Packages we put together for wounded soldiers in the hospital





Items we bought to put together packages for refugees and mentally disabled people





Treat bags for kids





Books for kids

Picture of some kids in school





Lunch at school – millet porridge with butter, a piece of fish and tomato. Drink – fruit compote



A list of soldiers that had graduated from our school

Patriotic display in school





Paying respect to a fallen soldier







Memorial for the fallen soldiers in our region





An interesting piece of information – this is a picture of the guy (Mykola Leontovych) who wrote the music for Carol of the Bells. He lived in Tulchyn (the town where my sister lives and is the center of our region). Yes, the music for the carol comes from the song written by the Ukrainian composer



Soldiers from our village





Some small memorials are displayed in each town



My dad's side of family in front of my dad's parents' house.



My parents and my sisters

My parents with granddaughters







Sisters

Cousins (my niece Nika)





Anna with a spoiled cat



East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

454 East Church Road Cambridge, WI 53523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tel: 608-423-3017

E-mail: eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com

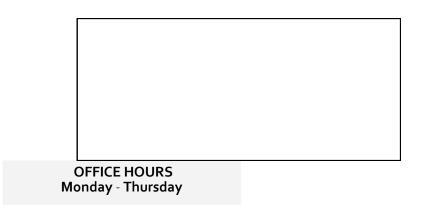
Website: www.eastkoshkonong.org

WORSHIP WITH US AT 9:00AM SUNDAY MORNINGS

- ⇒ IN-PERSON
- ⇒ YOUTUBE
- ⇒ FACEBOOK

In person at 5:30pm Wednesdays

TO WATCH WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE or FACEBOOK:
YOUTUBE: Go to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church" or the email eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com.



YOUTUBE: Go to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church" or the email eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Remember to like the videos and subscribe to the channel! $\frac{\text{LChUv6MDQV}_{54\text{yCWz6oIGWezw}}}{\text{LChUv6MDQV}_{54\text{yCWz6oIGWezw}}}$

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

In case of severe weather, you may contact the following resources to learn about cancellations at East Koshkonong

- church office @ 423-3017 (A message will be left on the office answering system as soon as a cancellation is made)
- web site, www.eastkoshkonong.org