

Sundays and Beyond

September 2025
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
ELCA



Friends in Christ,

I can hardly believe that the summer's almost over and that fall will soon be here. There's a lot happening in the congregation this fall; rally Sunday is September 7 where we'll have our outdoor service, council installation, and family fun day. Our bible study on *The Chosen* will be resuming as well. Finally, our Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be restarting for the programmatic year. I feel blessed because we've had some wonderful Confirmation classes here that I've enjoyed teaching. One of my favorite lessons for Confirmation class is about Martin Luther's explanation of the eighth commandment "you are not to bear false witness against your neighbor." In the *Small Catechism* Luther explains that this means that

we should "not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations." That seems logical and I think many Christians would offer a similar explanation of what the eighth commandment means. However, Luther's explanation of the eighth commandment expands to explain that we should also **"come to our neighbor's defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."** Wow, that is quite the commandment!

However, in this deeply divided and broken world, we seem to be surrounded by examples of people failing to follow this command faithfully. When I do this lesson in Confirmation, I have the students share examples of how humanity fails to follow this command faithfully, some of the examples they've given have included gossiping about or slandering others behind their back, talking negatively about others on social media, radio, or television, and stereotyping people. The result of all of this has created a lot of hurt, hatred, division, and conflict throughout creation. Admittedly it is not easy to always "come to our neighbor's defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light". I too struggle to always live this out. However, it is vital that we do this because whether we realize it or not, we are all God's people. Genesis 1:27 declares that all human beings are created in the image of God, so every human being is sacred and deserves to be treated with dignity. Just consider how much better the world would be if everyone followed this commandment faithfully; people from different political ideologies would get along and even work together for the common good. People from different cultures and social classes would treat one another as friends growing as individuals through sharing their different experiences with one another. Gossip and bullying could be replaced by friendships.

Now do not mishear this as advocating for some kind of blank uniformity. Because the fact is that we can follow the eighth commandment and at the same time disagree or even debate with one another. Further, we can also publicly express our opinions when we believe others are wrong or mistaken about something. None of these things are necessarily mutually exclusive to following the eighth commandment! However, when we do these things, we're called to be respectful, so as not to slander our neighbors and ensure that we are portraying them in a positive manner as God instructs for us to do. Following the eighth commandment faithfully certainly breaks from social norms and isn't easy, but contrary to what you might hear or believe it is possible. I have witnessed people disagree with one another in a way that is both respectful and civil. I have also seen people come to their neighbor's defense when they witness them being gossiped about or other forms of slander against them. Finally, I have seen people overcoming the ubiquitous divisiveness that surrounds us by speaking about others positively and praying for others. I pray that God might help us all follow the eighth commandment faithfully together for the sake of the world.

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric.

EKLC Council Meeting Agenda

Date: July 15, 2025

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Klemp at 6:02pm.

Present: Anders Amundson, Kreg Gruben, Linda Hanson, Amy Hensel, Kurt Klemp, Denise Rockney, Pastor Eric Hanson, Financial Secretary Judy Lund, and guests Lane Taylor, Dan Hensel, and Bryar Veley.

Absent: Peggy Luther

Devotions: Be kind to others as everyone is going through something that others don't know about. Pray for each other.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:

Financials and Pastor's report were reviewed. Motion made by Linda to approve, seconded by Kreg, and carried.

June Notes/Council Minutes: Accepted. Motion made by Kreg to approve, seconded by Amy, and carried.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

Tax Parcels – guest speakers Lane Taylor and Dan Hensel presented information from the Dane County Zoning committee. We currently have 7 parcels that make up the Upper church, the Lower church, the cemetery, and the parsonage. Dane County would like us to downsize, if it works for us. Lane and Dan presented the option to go down to 3 parcels: one for both churches, one for the cemetery, and one for the parsonage. We were insured there would be no cost to the church for making such changes. Kreg made a motion to move from 7 zoning parcels down to 3 zoning parcels, seconded by Amy, and carried.

AED (Automated External Defibrillator): It has arrived and has been installed! Both churches now have AEDs units installed. The new unit ended up being donated by an anonymous donor, so there was no cost to the church for this life saving unit. **THANK YOU!!!**

EXTERIOR PROJECTS:

- ♦ Sidewalks/concrete: Starting cement work once Diggers Hotline shows up on Thursday. Plan on putting river rock down (like what was done at the Upper Church). Will also be fixing the drains on the south side of the church, as they need to go away from the building.
- ♦ Will be removing and replacing rotted light poles – 3 total.
- ♦ Education roof – there was 1.5 feet of standing water until the drain was unclogged. Need to get a proper roof on there sooner than later.
- ♦ Waiting on the electricians to put lights and fans together. Once done, Bryar will raise them back up.
- ♦ Windows: emailed Bernie several times, and they are now scheduled to perform the work on Wednesday, August 20th.

Office Manager update: We had a promising candidate interview for the position but ended up retracting their application due to moving out of the area. The Personnel committee is considering posting the position on the Cambridge community Facebook page.

Insurance: We received our policy from Brotherhood Mutual / Lightwell Insurance, which includes our Workman's Compensation Insurance. On another note, State Farm wants to do a Workman's Compensation Insurance audit with us. Linda Hanson is working with State Farm on this request.

Koshkonong Prairie History Society Norwegian Days: Bonnie and Marilyn have taken this over. The event is scheduled for October 12, 2025, at noon at St Paul's Liberty Lutheran Church in Deerfield.

Parsonage: No pressing needs currently, but several MAJOR expenses are on the horizon: the roof is 25 years old, the furnace is 23 years old, and the water heater is 13 years old. 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.

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. No updates currently.

Upper Church worship: There have been requests to hold worship services in the Upper Church once a month during the summer months. Next worship will take place on Sunday, August 17th.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20pm made by Linda, seconded by Amy, and carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Rockney, Vice President

Rally Sunday worship on September 7 will be outside, weather permitting.
Please bring your own chairs.
 Family fun day events will follow during fellowship time.



Confirmation classes for new and returning students who aren't being confirmed this fall will begin on September 10. Both parents and students are asked to attend this first opening class in the EKLC sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor Eric will be attending the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA 2025 Fall Conference in Madison September 15-16.

Noisy Offering totaled \$2,900.69 for the year!
 Thanks for your generosity!

YOU'RE INVITED to Guatemala

OCTOBER 19-27
WWW.UPAVIM.ORG/GUATEMALATOIR

Your Support at work
 Come witness the impact of your church's generosity first-hand. We are so grateful for your faithful support! UPAVIM is a women's cooperative in a slum in Guatemala City that provides essential work and educational opportunities for women and children.

Artisan Workshops
 Help in UPAVIM's Fair-Trade workshop. Visit our partner wood and ceramic cooperatives and see your favorite crafts created before your eyes.

Riches of Guatemala
 Visit the cultural gems of Antigua and Lake Atitlan and see some of the most beautiful places in God's creation with a social justice focused tour. We hope you can join us!

CONTACT US Janessa Landeck, Foundation President
jlandeck@upavim.org

LEARN MORE
www.upavim.org
www.upavimcrafts.org

Cambridge Area Resource Team
 a non-profit helping Cambridge residents in need

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CART is in need of volunteer drivers. Rides are needed to help Cambridge residents get to appointments, the grocery store, pharmacy, and errands.

Rides are provided based on your availability. Never drive more than you want to

If you are interested in providing this meaningful and needed service, contact CART to learn more or to complete an application

CART:
cartforhelp@gmail.com
 (608) 423-1423 call/voicemail
 (608) 213-5819 text
 223 Jefferson Street Cambridge (near Dollar General)

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.



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

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.

• 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>



Sunday School classes will resume in September. We are currently in need of more volunteers to help teach these Sunday School classes. The curriculum has been set up and will be provided to anyone who volunteers to help lead classes. If interested, please see Denise Rockney for more information. Thank you.

Concrete update! The west entrance is now open again thanks to all the hard working, dedicated folks involved with this project!



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 ARE ALSO ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY MAILING TO: EAST KOSHKONONG LUTHERAN CHURCH, 454 EAST CHURCH ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, WI 53523

Worship Helpers for September 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)

9/7 ~ Trudy Spike

9/14 ~ Kyle Durkee

9/21 ~ Vicki Schuh

9/28 ~ Holly Loomis

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

9/7 ~ Peggy Luther

9/14 ~ Kristen Lien

9/21 ~ Elizabeth Kaashagen

9/28 ~ Beverly Lien

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

9/7 ~ No Acolyte Needed, Rall Sunday Outdoor Worship

9/14 ~ Paige Reinstad

9/21 ~ Lena Skjolaas

9/28 ~ Josie Lund

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

9/7 ~ Scott & Jackie Zahn

9/14 ~ Ken Rude

9/21 ~ Karen Hayes

9/28 ~ Marilyn Gunderson

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

9/7 ~ Don Amundson Family

9/14 ~ Curt & Linda Hanson

9/21 ~ Buddy & Beverly Lien

9/28 ~ Frodel Family

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

9/7 ~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen

9/14 ~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel

9/21 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl & Diane Ash

9/28 ~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen

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

9/7 ~ Family Fun Outside

9/14 ~ Sunday School Kids

9/21 ~

9/28 ~



**September Council Meeting:
Monday, September 15, 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

July 2025 Income \$22,821.55

July 2025 Expense \$55,987.48

July 2024 Income \$48,255.12

July 2024 Expense \$86,305.91

YTD 2025 Income \$269,460.83

YTD 2025 Expense \$282,983.35

YTD 2024 Income \$254,176.98

YTD 2024 Expense \$287,331.02

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2 6:00 p.m. <i>Worship</i> Committee Meeting	3 5:30 p.m. <i>Worship</i>	4 8:00 a.m. <i>Pin & Sew</i>	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. <i>Outdoor</i> <i>Worship</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Fun</i> <i>Day Activities</i> <i>Education</i> <i>Committee</i> <i>meeting after</i> <i>activities</i>	8	9	10 5:30 p.m. <i>Worship</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Confirmation</i>	11	12	13
14 9:00am <i>Worship</i> 9:40am coffee <i>fellowship</i>	15 6:00 p.m. <i>Council</i> <i>meeting</i>	16	17 5:30 p.m. <i>Worship</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Confirmation</i>	18 8:00 a.m. <i>Pin & Sew</i>	19	20
21 9:00am <i>Worship</i> 9:40am coffee <i>Fellowship</i>	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. <i>Worship</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Confirmation</i>	25	26	27
28 9:00am <i>Worship</i> 9:40 coffee <i>Fellowship</i>	29	30				

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.



OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday

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

Remember to like the videos and subscribe to the channel! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUv6MDQV54yCWz6oIGWezw>

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