

Sundays and Beyond

December 2025

East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

ELCA



Happy new year! No that's not a typo, I'm saying happy new year because we're now in the church season known as Advent, which is when the church calendar begins a new year. Additionally, Advent is also the season when the church waits for Christ's coming into our world. To be honest, I don't really like to wait for things and I don't think I've ever met anyone who truly finds joy in waiting. I don't like waiting in lines, I don't like waiting for things to arrive in the mail, and I don't even like waiting at the dentist or the doctor's office. Yet, whether we enjoy it or not, waiting is a part of life that we just can't avoid. December marks the season of Advent when the Church waits for Christ's coming. That's important because this world needs Christ's salvation, justice, healing, and hope and that's why we wait. I think Max Lucado put the meaning of Christ's coming reign well when he said, "if our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior." So friends as we await so much in this world, even though we might not enjoy it much, we can still find hope knowing that Christ the Savior is coming to bring what this world truly needs most.

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric



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.

NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON OCT. 21, 2025

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Klemp at 6:09 p.m.

Present: Kurt Klemp, Amy Hensel, Kreg Gruben, Anders Amundson, Linda Hanson, Denise Rockney, Peggy Luther, Pastor Eric Hanson. Also present: Bryar Veley. Financial Secretary Judy Lund unable to attend.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Eric led us through this past Sunday's Rite of Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism wherein the congregation followed along in the hymnal to "Renounce the Devil and all his empty promises ...".

Bryar's Update: *1 more exterior light* by the education building to go up soon; *heating/cooling* during services needs adjusting; *exterior handrails* at the Lower Church going up soon; *louvers* are done (and look great + the bees are gone!); *new A/C unit* already installed (didn't have to wait until Spring!); *Narthex windows* are finally repaired. They should be good to go for at least a couple more decades now.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:

\$1,990.79 in *Ukraine funds*—motion made by Peggy, seconded by Denise, and carried to disburse funds to Natasha. Anders told us fewer refugees arrive in the village these days, so immediate needs have changed. Natasha will likely use these funds for things like school supplies, heating assistance, and other pressing needs while the war drags on.

Reimbursement for expenditures made by members: The council believes it is time to have a written policy in place. Denise will work on possible wording.

The Aagot Borge Committee would like to add a council liaison, and Amy Hensel agreed to be that person.

Property—There has not been a "property committee" for several months now, and for the sake of efficiency, the council believes it would be good to have regular updates, much like Bryar did at the beginning of tonight's meeting. So Denise will ask if either/both of the Veleys would be willing to update the council, either in person or via brief written report, each month.

Motion made by Amy, seconded by Kreg, and carried to approve all financial reports.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation + 50th Confirmation Recognition Sunday on Oct. 19 went well; Larger print worship bulletins—a few will now be available; Kids' Bibles handed out on Oct. 5; Ornaments being sold in the narthex with profits going to camp scholarship fund; Currently exploring ideas for a high school/middle school youth group; Pastor will attend synod's Collaborative Boundaries Education Day in Watertown on Nov. 6 + the usual monthly Cambridge area clergy gatherings. Henny Lund has requested membership. Pastor, along with others, continues to pitch in with office duties in the (prolonged) absence of an office manager. Lastly, Pastor Eric told us his recent surgery went well.

Worship Committee Report: Livestreaming of services continues to experience snags; All Saints Sunday on Nov. 2 will recognize 7 members who have passed away this year; a "Blue" Christmas service for those experiencing grief/sadness will be held in the Lower Church on Wed., Dec. 17; the Upper Church will host a morning Christmas Eve service.

September's Council Meeting Minutes: Accepted.

Motion to approve all committee reports + September's Minutes made by Kreg, seconded by Linda, and carried.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

Confirmation Photo Display Stand for Narthex: It was decided to use memorial monies to pay for a new stand. Kreg to look into options.

Norwegian Heritage Day at Liberty Lutheran on Oct. 12 was well-attended. Several attendees asked if EKLC would consider hosting another "Cemetery Walk" because the previous walk turned out to be quite popular. Amy to look into this.

Church signage: *The family of Harriet Eikland* desires to donate 3 roadside signs to direct people to EKLC. These signs will be erected on Hwy B, Hillside Road, and E. Church Road. The design Harriet's family proposed was presented to council. Motion by Kreg, seconded by Denise, and carried to accept the Eikland family's (memorial) gift + sign design.

Continued...

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Parsonage: The 2025 Annual Report will continue to show numbers that indicate a break-even of income and expenses. However, only a more in-depth accounting of detailed expenses would show that we operate in the red every year. Also, although there are no pressing parsonage needs at this time, this council knows SEVERAL major expenses (roof, furnace, water heater) are on the horizon. The current council members only bring this to everyone's attention so that an informed decision can be made when this topic surely comes up for discussion at the Annual Meeting in February, 2026. Your opinion is important.

Benevolences: Currently, we support local, regional, national, and global causes. Denise will reach out to Holly to find out exactly how much is given to these organizations.

Livestreaming: Need to improve the ease of use; need more volunteers.

Office manager: Tabled.

Landscaping: On hold until Spring.

Decorating: There will be no more expenses for this.

Internet outage: Pastor reported on last month's outage + the fix.

Air temp in the sanctuary: Tweak the programmable control for more comfortable temps.

Lawnmower Lease: The church shares mowing expenses with the cemetery association. We currently are in the middle of a 2-year lease with Mid-State and will owe \$1,000 in January and \$1,000 in July, with Mid-State paying for all maintenance, which is a **very** good deal for us. However, Mid-State is giving us the option of renewing the lease **or** purchasing a new mower for approx. \$13,000. Motion made by Denise, seconded by Amy, and carried to continue the lease on the current lawnmower.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 18 @ 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 made by Linda, seconded by Denise, and carried. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary



Our Sunday School
Christmas Program will be
December, 14 at 9 am.

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!



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.

News from the church basement:

Happy Holidays to all, a bit late for Thanksgiving, but all the other holidays are almost upon us, too.

Thank you to Joy Circle for serving the congregation in November, and to Light for December. We will be meeting for Pin and Sew on Thursday, December 4, from 8 to noon. Business meeting over coffee at 9:30. Thank you to all who helped with the funeral luncheon last month. Your help is so much appreciated. We're hoping to have a quilt ready to raffle in December. We're having fun, but we're not done!!!

Thanks to all who deliver Meals on Wheels for our community. You are appreciated. Here is the schedule which begins in late December and continues into January,

Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30	Don and Eileen
Wednesday, Dec.31	Jeff N
Thursday and Friday, Jan 1 & 2	Sheryl H
Monday, Jan 5	Jeff N
Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan 6 & 7	Kurt and Barb
Thursday and Friday, Jan 8 & 9	Duane and Linda

May you enjoy your families this holiday season.

God Bless you - Communicator Carolyn



Our Bible Study on The Chosen tv series will resume in 2026; please stay tuned for further details.

From Cambridge food pantry;
"I wanted to thank you and the kids at East Koshkonong Church for all your help with our Thanksgiving baskets, from the generous donations to the hands-on assembly. I hope you'll consider bringing them back soon! Thank you again for all that you and your congregation do to support our community.
With gratitude,
Kerry."

We would like to thank everyone who remembered Kathy in so many kind ways. Your encouraging words and prayers mean so much. The memorial gifts, donated food and help provided at the luncheon were very much appreciated as well. Blessings to all.

Sincerely,
The Family of Kathy Bergholz



Deepest sympathies to the family
of Kathy Bergholz

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



There will be no Education or
Worship committee meetings in
December.

Treasurer's Report

October 25 Income \$17,405.49

October 25 Expense \$30,649.27

October 24 Income \$23,807.17

October 24 Expense \$22,722.78

YTD 25 Income \$324,848.17

YTD 25 Expense \$387,976.92

YTD 24 Income \$327,809.53

YTD 24 Expense \$365,517.51



We're launching a new high School
and middle school youth group;
we'll meet at Cambridge bowling
alley on Saturday January 3, this
event is open to all East
Koshkonong Lutheran Church
middle and high school youth and is
free! Please let Pastor Eric know if
you're interested.

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 December 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)

12/7~ Holly Loomis
12/14~ Sunday School
12/21~ Carolyn Lien
12/24~ 10 am Upper Church ~ Holly Loomis
3 pm Lower Church ~ Kyle Durkee
6 pm Lower Church ~ Vicki Schuh
12/28~ Trudy Spike



**December Council Meeting:
Tuesday, December 9th at 6 p.m.**

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

12/7~ Trudy Spike
12/14~ Sunday School
12/21~ Carolyn Lien
12/24~ 10 am Upper Church ~ Beverly Lien
3 pm Lower Church ~ Elizabeth Kaashagen
6 pm Lower Church ~ Kristen Lien
12/28~ Don Amundson

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

12/7~ Tess Marchant
12/14~ Sunday School Christmas Program
12/21~ Josie Lund
12/24~ 10 am Upper Church ~ Jayley Wagner
3 pm Lower Church ~ Jameson Wagner
6 pm Lower Church ~ Lena Skjolaas
12/28~ Caitlin Terland

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

12/7~ Ken Rude
12/14~ Karen Hayes
12/21~ Holly Loomis
12/24~ 10 am Upper Church ~ Marilyn Gunderson
3 pm Lower Church ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn
6 pm Lower Church ~ Buddy & Beverly Lien
12/28~ Vicki Schuh

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

12/7~ Curt & Linda Hanson
12/14~ Don & Eileen Hoehn
12/21~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen
12/24~ 10 am Upper Church ~ Kory & Diane Luginbuhl
3 pm Lower Church ~ Amundson Family
6 pm Lower Church ~ Hal & Vicki Schuh
12/28~ Terland Family

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.

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

12/7~ Jean Lehr & Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel
12/14~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash
12/21~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen
12/28~ Jean Lehr & Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel

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

12/7~
12/14~ Sunday School
12/21~
12/28~ Light Circle

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	4 8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew Business Meeting 9:30 a.m.	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:40a.m. coffee fellowship	8	9 6:00 p.m. Council meeting	10 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	11	12	13
14 9:00a.m. Sunday School Program 9:40a.m. coffee fellowship	15	16	17 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service	18	19	20
21 9:00a.m. Worship 9:40a.m. coffee Fellowship	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 10:00 a.m. Upper Church 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Lower Church	25 	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 9:40a.m. coffee Fellowship	29	30	31 No 5:30 p.m. Worship			

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