

Sundays and Beyond

March 2026
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
ELCA



March 8th Daylight Saving Time Begins

Friends in Christ,

With the Lenten season underway, many congregations are reflecting on the themes of Lent. In the Lutheran faith, Lent is not a season about giving things up in order to earn God's favor; for we already have God's favor through Christ. Rather, we use this time to clear the distractions that keep us from following Jesus, or to use church language, we repent from sin and brokenness. Lent begins with the imposition of ashes to remind us of our mortality and fallen state, but at the same time this also reminds us of the cross which saves us, giving us new life. This is reflective of the truths which we as Lutherans hold in tension; that we are simultaneously both saint as well as sinner, or to use some more church language *simul justus et peccator*. This applies to all of us and Lent provides the space to be honest about both of these parts of our own existence as well as these realities of the world in which we live. Especially in challenging times such as these, we see how the forces sin and brokenness are leading to conflict, division, violence, injustice, and other insidious things that harm God's creation. This isn't what God want for us and this world, and that's why we can also see how the gospel calls us to repent, working alongside our neighbors toward a more loving, peaceful, and just world for everyone. Our faith promises that Christ moves us toward this better path forward together. Therefore friends, during this Lenten season let us repent from the distractions that inhibit us from being the people who God created us to be, and let us instead turn to follow Jesus together for the sake of the world.

Shalom to you in Christ,

Pastor Eric.



EKLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON JAN. 20, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Klemp at 6:06 p.m.

Present: Anders Amundson, Kreg Gruben, Linda Hanson (via speaker phone), Amy Hensel, Kurt Klemp, Peggy Luther, Denise Rockney (at 6:19), Pastor Eric Hanson. Guests Cal Reuterskoild arrived at 6:23, and Bryar Veley arrived at 6:30. Financial Secretary Judy Lund unable to attend. Bonnie Ehrke planned to attend, but because of the cold weather, she forwarded a statement to council via email. (See No. 3., below.)

Devotion by Pastor Eric: He referenced baptismal statements, including "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS & MONTHLY REPORTS:

Discussion re: the recordkeeping of positive and negative entries in the general ledger. We've assumed that such entries are usual and customary and part of the normal recordkeeping process, but Kreg will send an inquiry to Judy Lund.

Pastor's Report: Christmas Eve services were well attended, and the Sunday School Christmas Program went very well. Lenten services begin in February. Our new part-time office manager, Reagan Hromatko, began work on Jan. 12 (see No. 6, below). Pastor continues to attend Cambridge area clergy group meetings and Synod cluster gatherings.

Worship Committee Report: There will likely be 2 Christmas Eve services (not 3) in the future; February 18th Ash Wednesday service will be at 7p.m. in the Lower Church and the remaining 5 weeks of Lent will offer Soup Suppers (with soup-cooker sign-ups in the Narthex); there have been requests for another Cemetery Walk; and lastly, there is a desire to have more summer services in the Upper Church + maybe even a special service that includes history and more music.

Education Committee Report: 180th Ornaments still for sale. February 1st = Kids will sing + BINGO after church.

April 19th = Pie auction. May 3rd = Youth Sunday & BINGO. June = Confirmation camp at Lutherdale (camp participation is considered a requirement of Confirmation.)

December Council Minutes: Accepted.

Motion made by Amy to **approve financial reports**, seconded by Anders, and carried.

Motion made by Peggy to **approve December's Minutes**, seconded by Linda, and carried.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

- Bryar's updates:** He will soon put up the EKLC sign in front of the Lower Church. Outdoor path lighting + motion-sensor lights for the east side are priorities, but can't be done until the weather warms up. Furnace in the Upper Church stays at 50 degrees and should be noticeably more comfy for the quilters. Snow removal + salting discussed.
- Two-Sided Road Signs donated by the Eikland Family** in memory of Harriet are ready to go up at the 3 designated locations when weather permits. Harriet's family also bequeathed a money gift \$1,000 to Pin & Sew quilters.
- New Confirmation Photo Display:** On behalf of the entire congregation, the council extends a huge thank you to Bonnie E. for decades of keeping the ever-popular Confirmation photo display updated. Bonnie **and Carroll** were equally involved in the upkeep of the display, which was a time-consuming labor of love, and the pictures remain an ongoing "gift" to the EKLC family. The new photo display is now in the Narthex, ready for photos, however, for a variety of reasons, Bonnie feels this is the right time to pass this photo display project on to someone else.

4. **Parsonage:** No pressing needs at this time, but we were reminded that the roof is 26 years old, the furnace is 24 years old, and the water heater is 14 years old. As expected, property taxes went up significantly. It's likely that insurance will be higher too. Also, it's probably time to review the lease because it hasn't been reviewed for several years now.

5. **Livestreaming:** Still looking more volunteers & still hoping to improve the ease of use.

6. **Office Manager:** Hallelujah!! Raegan Hromatko is our new office manager, which means our wonderful volunteers can finally retire!! Raegan will be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. - 1p.m. Some may remember Raegan when she was our office manager 25+ years ago.

Welcome, Raegan!

7. **Church Council Candidates/Synod Assembly Delegates:** We have one council candidate (but need one more) and one Synod delegate for Synod Assembly in May.

8. **"REGULAR" GIVING vs. NOISY OFFERINGS:** There is a difference, and church leadership would like to remind people that **"REGULAR"** giving, which is usually via Vanco Payment Solutions (online giving), or offering envelopes, or cash, go directly into EKLC's general ledger for the purpose of paying budgetary obligations.

"NOISY OFFERING" from the kiddos does **not** get deposited into our general ledger; it accumulates for 12 months, then is donated to ELCA World Hunger to "buy" a variety of gifts for impoverished people far from the Koskonong Prairie. (*Think farm animals, clean water well system, community veggie gardens, fruit trees, and honey bees.*)

This congregation has been very generous, even in trying times, and council members thank you for your offerings, both monetary and in-kind, for organizations and causes which you choose to support.

9. **Cemetery Walk?** There have been a few requests to host another walk.

10. **Security Camera:** There was discussion about what type of security system would be most beneficial.

11. **February 8th Q&A:** Financial Secretary Judy Lund and Council Treasurer Amy Hensel will be available to answer annual meeting budgetary questions during Coffee Hour on the 8th.

12. **Cleaning Service:** We have hired someone to clean the Lower Church. Motion made by Peggy, seconded by Denise, and carried to hire Scottish Cleaning, LLC, to clean 4 hrs/2x a month for \$400. Her name is Amy, and she is a fully-insured, licensed cleaner out of Fort Atkinson. Prior to tonight's council meeting, Amy cleaned the Lower Church so we could get an idea of her level of service. (Yes, it was impressive.)

Motion to Adjourn at 8:17 made by Peggy, seconded by Denise, and carried.

Next meeting: Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary



**March Council Meeting:
Monday
March 24th @ 6:00 p.m.**

Treasurer's Report

January 2026 Income \$27,318.08
January 2026 Expense \$40,813.19
January 2025 Income \$30,265.30
January 2025 Expense \$40,309.61



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



Our congregation's public prayer list is a way in which we support one another in times of need. In order to continue this commitment, we ask anyone who has requested that an individual be added please also update the office once they feel that the time of need for public prayer has ended. Thank you for helping to keep our ministry of public prayer meaningful and focused!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

***Maundy Thursday , April 2
Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.***

***Good Friday, April 3
Worship Service at 5:30 p.m.***

***Easter Morning, April 5
Sunrise Service—Upper Church at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Service— Lower Church 9:00 a.m.***



*Thank you to all who have given donations for Lutheran World Relief Kits and shipping. These gifts are so much appreciated. Cambridge School District has sent a thank you for the school supplies they received from East Koshkonong at the beginning of the school year. We are helping to set a wonderful example of stewardship and generosity for the community. Thank you also for all donations and help for the Food Pantry. Keep it up, folks!!!
Carolyn Lien*



Spring Gathering

The South Jefferson/Walworth cluster will be holding its Spring Gathering Saturday , April 18, 2026 at St. Lukes's Lutheran Church Rome, WI W1956 Main Street, Sullivan (Rome) ,WI 53178

Speaker: Nancy Stephan. Program: St. Luke's Cross Ministry For Show & Tell, each woman is asked to bring along a favorite cross.

There will be a Salad Luncheon as well as a freewill offering Bring along a salad to pass(one for ever 2 attendees) Please RSV the number of your group by April 11 to Pauline Stephan at paulinestephan03@gmail.com or 920-728-0548



It's Blue Jay Backpack Time!



EKLC will once again be participating in the Cambridge Schools Blue Jay Backpack program through the Cambridge Food Pantry. We will be collecting foods listed below to provide meals for about 35 students. Collecting will begin on February 22, 2026. Backpacks for the month of April will be distributed at the school on March 27, 2026. These backpacks will supplement meals for students who normally get breakfast/lunch provided at school through the Everybody Eats program at school. We are trying to make sure they have at least one meal (microwaveable, self-contained) for lunch, as well as one breakfast item for each weekend day, and several snacks, granola bars, cookies, etc. You will find the green collection tub located in the Narthex. Final day for collection will be March 15, 2026. We will pack the backpacks after worship that day. Thank you in advance for helping make this program successful. Food items could include substantial, healthy food items that students can easily prepare and eat to supplement meals that they aren't receiving through school during holiday and other extended breaks/weekends.

Here are some ideas: (feel free to add your own ideas also)

Individual Fruit Cups, Ramen Noodles, Canned Soup, Ravioli (prefer cans; may be any pasta meal in a can) Individual Grits or Oatmeal Packets, Granola Bars, Small Boxes of Cereal (individual servings) Mac-n-Cheese (microwavable, individual servings) Individually wrapped snacks (peanut butter crackers, Cheez-its, Pudding cups, cookies, etc.

News from the church basement ladies:

Pin and Sew will be on Thursday, March 5, from 8 AM to noon. Light Circle is in charge of serving duties this month. Thanks to them, and to Joy Circle who served in February. We had a vacation in January, when the weather was so cold, but we are meeting again on the first and third Thursday mornings. We welcome visitors! And we will put you to work. Volunteers are needed to make and serve soup for Wednesday evening suppers during Lent, so if you are so inclined, please check the sign-up schedule in the Narthex.

Thank you to our loyal Meals on Wheels delivery people. Here is the next schedule.

Monday and Tuesday, March 23 and 24 - Hoehns
Wednesday and Thursday, March 25 & 26 - Klemps
Friday, March 27 and Monday, March 30 - Dieckhoffs
Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 and April 1 - Hensels
Thursday and Friday, April 2 & 3 - Notstads.

May you develop your faith during Lent and look forward to Holy Week and Easter. God Bless you.
Communicator Carolyn

Worship Helpers for March 2026

In-Person and Virtual Worship Every Sunday at 9:00am with communion

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)

3/1 ~ Trudy Spike
3/8 ~ Kyle Durkee
3/15 ~ Vicki Schuh
3/22 ~ Holly Loomis
3/29 ~ Carolyn Lien

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

3/1 ~ Peggy Luther
3/8 ~ Kristen Lien
3/15 ~ Carolyn Lien
3/22 ~ Beverly Lien
3/29 ~ Don Amundson

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

3/1 ~ Mia Frodel
3/8 ~ Hank Wierzba
3/15 ~ Sammy Sable
3/22 ~ Elyn Wierzba
3/29 ~ Josie Lund –Palm Sunday

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

3/1 ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn
3/8 ~ Marilyn Gunderson
3/15 ~ Holly Loomis
3/22 ~ Ken Rude
3/29 ~ Karen Hayes

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

3/1 ~ Hal & Vicki Schuh
3/8 ~ Amundson Family
3/15 ~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen
3/22 ~ Peggy Luther & Brenda Schroeder
3/29 ~ Ron & Nancy Knapwurst

Offering Counters~

3/1 ~ Jean Lehr, Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel
3/8 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila, Carl & Diane Ash
3/15 ~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen
3/22 ~ Jean Lehr, Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel
3/29 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila, Carl & Diane Ash

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

3/1 ~ Sunday School
3/8 ~ Natasha Amundson
3/15 ~ Arlen Lund Family
3/22 ~ Choir
3/29 ~ Light Circle

Prayer for church council

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for calling these new council members to serve East Koshkonong. Bless them with wisdom that comes from above, courage to lead with integrity, and hearts that reflect Your love. May they listen with compassion, speak with grace, and act with humility. Guide their decisions so they align with Your will, and let unity and peace be the foundation of their work together. Protect them from discouragement, and fill them with joy as they serve Your people. Lord, may their leadership inspire faith, strengthen our community, and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Church Council

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Kurt Klemp

VICE-PRESIDENT: Denise Rockney

SECRETARY: Amy Hensel

TREASURER: Anders Amundson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Kreg Gruben, Diane Ash, Cal Reuterskiold

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

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00am Sunday School Sings Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship Worship Com Meeting 10:00</p>	2	<p>3 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>4 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>5 Pin & Sew 8:00-12:00 Light Circle</p>	6	7
<p>8  9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>9 Education Committee @ 6:30</p>	<p>10 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>11 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>16 Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study</p> <p></p>	<p>18 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>19 Pin & Sew 8:00-12:00 Light Circle</p>	<p>20 Spring Begins</p> <p></p>	21
<p>22 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>23 Meals on Wheels Hoehns</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study Council Meet- ing 6:00 Meals on Wheels Hoehns</p>	<p>25 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service Meals on Wheels Klemps KlempsHoehns</p>	<p>26 Meals on Wheels Klemps</p>	<p>27 Meals on Wheels Dieckhoffs</p>	28
<p>29 Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship No Sunday School 9:40 coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>30 Meals on Wheels Dieckhoffs</p>	<p>31 Meals on Wheels Hensels</p>	<p>April 1 Meals on Wheels Hensels</p>	<p>April 2 Meals on Wheels Notstads</p>	<p>April 3 Meals on Wheels Notstads</p>	

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 - Wednesday
608-423-3017

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/UChUv6MDQV54yCWz6oIGWezw>

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

GIVE PLUS
A VANCO COMPANY

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.