If Lent is a time for fasting, prayer, reflection, and repentance, then Easter is a time for feasting, prayer, joyous celebration, growth/renewal, and forgiveness.

Ross and Samuel are the gardeners in our household. They decide what they want to grow and then calculate how many of each vegetable they can grow based on the room that we have. And then they turn our kitchen into a garden. The seed starting supplies come in from the garage and before I know it, a whole bunch of tiny containers are set up on the windowsill that spills out to a card table. Note: a table that causes me pain as I stub my toe on its legs as I get used to the temporary narrow walkway to the pantry). But even though the stubbed toes are frustrating, I find great joy in seeing signs of spring and renewal inside my house, especially when it may be hard to see it or feel it outside.

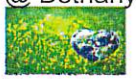
We have a lot going on in our lives and in the world that causes more than just our toes to feel like they've been stubbed. Division, loneliness, loss, illness, distrust, hate, and more pile on top of each other and deeply hurt our hearts and our relationships. But in among all that hurt, God places small pots full or promising seeds, that soon push up and become small sprouts. And then those sprouts continue to grow into plants that bear life-giving food for not only our stomachs but also our hearts. God places in our hearts forgiveness, gives us strength to listen to those different from us, pushes us towards community, heals part of us we never knew were hurt, sows trust, warps us in love, breathes life into our bodies, and so much more. Our Creator does this not only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit—but also through creation and humankind.

Renewal is all around us—in vegetable seeds started on a windowsill, in the grass turning green, the snow becoming a distant memory, in the suns warms rays felt on our skin. Renewal is found in the forgiveness from God and then the forgiveness that we are called to give to another. And through forgiveness we are pulled together for feasting upon all the gifts God gives us. We are able to feel joy as we celebrate the reversing of death's power. We are able to praise God with prayers of thanksgiving and honor.

If Lent is a time for fasting, prayer, reflection, and repentance, then Easter is a time for feasting, prayer, joyous celebration, growth/renewal, and forgiveness. May you feel all the promises of Easter this month and every month to come.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucy

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA Meetings 6:30 PM Tues @ East Lemonweir Thu @ Bethany	**Worship 9 am Bethany 10:30 East Lemonweir**		**1** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany **Alert - April Fool's Day.**	**2** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service @ East Lemonweir	**3** 1 pm Good Friday Service @ Bethany	**4**
5 Easter 8 am Bethany Service followed by Brunch 10:30 am East Lemonweir	**6** Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**7** Rachel Circle 4pm @ Bethany Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**8** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**9** Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**10** Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**11** Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education
12 Family Sunday School Pastor Vac Time & Cont Education	**13**	**14**	**15** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany **Beacon Articles due**	**16**	**17**	**18**
19 Synod Assembly Caucus 3 pm @ West Salem	**20** Betty off	**21 9am East Conference Clergy Mtg @ Bethany** Betty off	**22** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany  Earth Day Betty off	**23** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany Betty off	**24** Betty off	**25**
26 Bethany BINGO Fellowship	**27**	**28**	**29** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	**30** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany		

2026 April Worship Assistants

Easter Worship @ Bethany is 8 am followed by a dish to pass Brunch.

East Lemonweir

Readers

4/5 – Roger Nelson
4/12 – Bret Haschke
4/19 -Jennifer Sarnow
4/26 – Dawn Nelson

Greeters

4/5 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke
4/12 – Audrey Scholl
4/19 – Diane Clark
4/26 – Jennifer Sarnow

Bethany Assistants

4/5 **8 am Worship
Asst Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Asst – Mark Hansen
Ushers – Tim Parker & Karl Katuin

4/12
Asst Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Asst – Galen Lingl, Barb Parker, Inger Kirkwood
Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

4/19
Asst Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Asst – Beth Preuss
Ushers – Tim Parker & Shane Gesler

4/26
Asst Minister –Larry Thome
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Asst – Larry Thome, Julie Zobal, Ross Hardie
Ushers – Collette Schultz & Beth Preuss

** If you cannot meet the schedule, please exchange and if you aren't able to find someone let OFFICE know.

At Bethany

April 26th

Hint for the big prize game:

"EGGS" actly - what are you thinking?

**NO prize donations are needed at this time. Thank you to all who have donated to the prize basket.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 12th following service

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Debby Hansen, Inger Kirkwood, Glenda Swinehart, Galen Lingl, Michaele Korbein, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Tim Parker
Guests:	None
Agenda	
Call to Order:	President Mark Hansen called the Council meeting to order at 11:58 AM
Agenda Approval:	Mark Hansen presented the agenda for approval. There were no additional updates. ***Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 7-0.***
Devotion:	Michaele Korbein shared a devotion based on 1 Timothy 6 about learning to be a content person. What does it take to be content? Difficult experiences should help guide our contentment. True satisfaction comes not from wealth or possessions, but from a heart aligned with God's will. Embrace the peace that comes from knowing that God provides all we need.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Michaele Korbein presented the minutes from the February 2026 Council Meeting captured in Larry Thome's absence. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the February 2026 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 7-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register, the Savings Summary Report, the Statement of Financial Position and the Budget vs. Actual Report as of February 28, 2026. Michaele mentioned that some money needed to be temporarily moved short term as the monthly payment from East Lemonweir was delayed due to vacation. There were no questions or comments on the reports as presented. ***Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 7-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy shared that there are two baptisms scheduled for March and one wedding scheduled for June. She also attended the Sugar Creek annual meeting.
Committee Reports	
Discipleship: *(Glenda and Larry)*	Met with Debby Hansen as part of the transition for the new committee. Worked on plans for 2026 and have a meeting scheduled with Pastor Lucy to review and adjust the plans as needed. Sunday fellowships after worship are planned and Debby will be sending cards to shut-ins in March.
Education: *(Debby)*	Family Sunday School is scheduled for March 8th. Debby working with Sugar Creek to schedule a one-day camp for Bethany/East children at Sugar Creek to have fun and experience what Sugar Creek can provide.
Property: (Tim)	Tim provided Mark with an update that he is working on the addressing the leaks in "Parker Dam" in the church basement as there are some small leaks. Tim will also be getting the Bethany lawnmower ready for the upcoming mowing season. Per Karl Katuin, the fixes to the siding on the church and parsonage from last year's storm damage should be completed in the next few weeks.

Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	No updates other than continuing to gather items for Baby Care and Health Care kits. Meeting scheduled with Pastor Lucy for planning for additional 2026 ministry activities.
Worship: *(Galen)*	No updates but requested information from Larry Thome on procedure for obtaining Supply Pastors.
Old Business	
Synod Council Retreat:	On March 14th, the La Crosse Synod is hosting a Congregation Council Development Retreat at Journey Lutheran Church in Onalaska. The event's objective is to join others serving on congregation councils for a morning of learning and networking together. Bethany will be sending a couple of council members to this event.
2025 Audit Update:	The Bethany Audit Committee provided a report on the findings of the audit. The overall audit was acceptable, and there were a number of suggested improvements that were identified and discussed by the Council. It was noted that the report was not signed by the Audit Committee and Mark Hansen stated that he would follow up with them. ***Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the 2025 Audit Report as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 7-0.***
New Business	
Council Lenten Meal:	The Council is scheduled to host the mid-week Lenten meal on March 25th. In lieu of soup, the meal will be meatballs and gravy left over from the community supper that Bethany hosted. Council members signed up to bring additional items (vegetables, potatoes, desserts, beverages).
AED (Automated External Defibrillator):	W-ELCA will be donating $500 for the church to purchase a defibrillator, which is a portable device primarily used in emergencies when someone suffers a cardiac arrest. The estimated total cost is $2,000 but in lieu of organizing a fundraiser for this important life-saving device, the Hansen family would like to have the designated funds from the Edna Hansen memorial to fund the rest of the cost. ***Mark Hansen made a motion to accept the $500 from W-ELCA for the AED with the additional funding provided by the Edna Hansen memorials for a cost up to $2,500, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 7-0.***
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting will be April 12, 2026, at 12:00 PM. This is the second Sunday of April due to the first Sunday being Easter. Glenda Swinehart will provide the devotion for the April meeting and will provide the announcements during worship for April
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Needed monthly for Bethany's budgeted expenses: $11,075

Actual:	February	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 8,260.70	$ 17,821.53
Expenses paid	$ 14,618.50	$ 25,595.49

W-ELCA News

Mission statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Our Spring Bible, session 2 – God's name, God's promise, learning about and discussion of God the protector and shepherd. God, whose name is I AM, has promised to abide with us in all times and places, never abandoning us. God promises to protect us from all the forces of this world that separate us from God and one another –just as a shepherd protects their sheep.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the soup suppers and our Helen York our planner in this long-held Bethany event.

Thanks to all the ladies who were able to attend our WELCA meeting.

We would appreciate any Easter plants/flowers you could share for our Easter service. Please leave them at the church by Sat., April 4th. Put your name on them if you want to take them home after church. Thanks. We also could use stools of various heights to display them.

A vice president, treasurer and representative from our East Conference is needed for WELCA at the synod level. Please consider these opportunities.

There are cards and our cookbooks available to purchase in the narthex.

Upcoming events:
Tues. April 3rd @ 4:00 -Rachael Circle
Sat., April 18 – Spring Convention at Coon Valley Lutheran
Sun. April 19 – WELCA meets after church
July – Triennial Gathering in Des Moines Iowa

A thought: The beautiful spring came; and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also. Harriet Ann Jacobs

April 2026 Celebrations

Bethany Birthdays

Becky Bailey	*1*	*Bridgette Wehman*	*4*
Peg Katuin	*6*	*Kyler Reichhoff*	*12*
John A. Krotzman	*13*	*Yvonne Olson*	*22*
Jeff Berry	*23*		

Bethany Anniversaries

Ross and Lucy Hardie	*11*	*Jeff & Holly Berry*	*11*
Steve & Renee Spaniol	*21*		

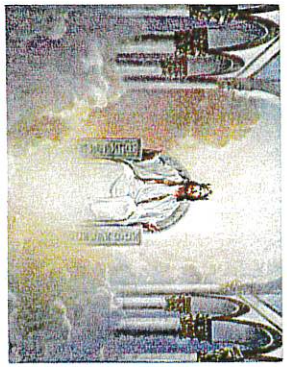
East Lemonweir Birthdays

Audrey Scholl	*6*	*Diana Berry*	*18*

East Lemonweir Anniversaries

N/A

If your name is missing on the Birthday and Anniversary page, please call the Church Office (#562-3807), and let us know. Thank you!

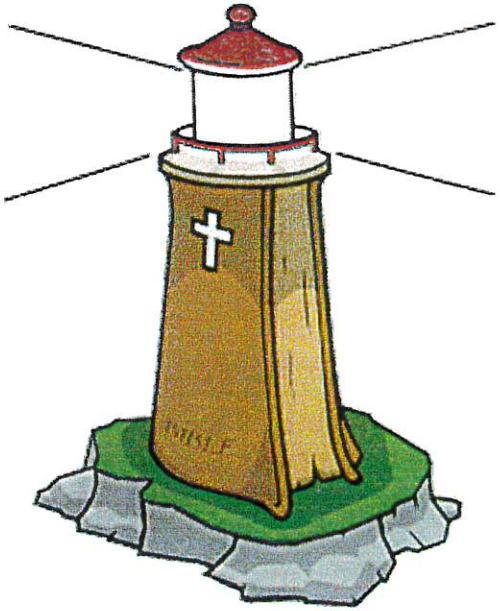


Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
April 2026



Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."