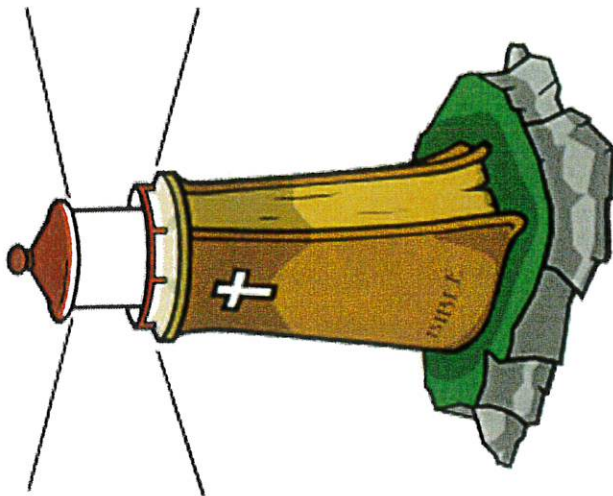


The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
February 2025



~ [2 Timothy 1:7](#)

"For God gave us a spirit not
of fear but of power and love
and self-control."

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

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Whenever February comes around, I can't help but reflect on how love has affected my life. Love has brought me so much hope, strength, adventure, heart-ache, doubt, and yet so much wonder and love. I know Valentine's Day has grown into a holiday that is more about chocolate, cards, and romantic love--but I also can't help but think about God's Love. So here are some more prompts to talk about God's love with those you love this February.

How do you experience God's love in your daily life?

How does love put faith into action?

Where does our ability to love come from?

What's your favorite way to connect to God's love?

What is the greatest thing about faith, hope, and love?

According to 1 Corinthians 13:13, love is the greatest of the three.

I experience God's love through remembering the promises of baptism as I touch water through daily actions like brushing my teeth or washing my hands. I remember that God has chosen to love me no matter where I go, or how much I doubt--God is beside me, ready to forgive me and love me. One of my favorite bible verses about love comes from the Gospel of John.

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

(John 15:9-12)

Following Jesus can be confusing. And if I'm being honest, so can loving others--but that is what we are called to do. As followers of Christ, we are called to mirror the love the Father has for the Son and Jesus has for the disciples. We are forever intertwined and shaped by God's abiding and loving presence through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is God's love that empowers us to be God's hands and feet in the world. ---Pastor Lucy

Our next Family Sunday School will be held February 9 at 3 PM. We will gather for some storytelling, fellowship, fun, and support.

Come join us!

Grand-parent/grand-child groups are welcome too :)

FEBRUARY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

Bethany Birthdays

Jordan McGuire – 1

Deanna Smith – 8

Betty Krotzman – 9

Greg Gollmar – 11

Simon Schultz – 11

Renee Spaniol – 11

Taylor Bever – 11

Maura Baumgart - 14

Kalie Lingl – 16

William Korbein – 16

Alicia Wyss – 24

Leah Faber – 26

Steve Spaniol – 27

Marcia Adams – 28

Bethany Anniversaries

John & Dawn Van Meter – 11

Please let Betty know if we need to include someone on the celebration list.



East Lemonweir Birthdays

Krystle Stoughtenger – 3

Marilyn Wetley – 10

Connie Wolfgram -11

Marion LaFortune – 24

Brad Stoughtenger – 27

East Lemonweir Anniversaries

Heinrich & Margarete Hummelbeck - 28



Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Parish

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Worship Times 9 am Bethany 1030 East Lemonweir</p>	<p>March 23rd 2PM Outing to The Looney Lutherans @ Cal Center- Reedsburg</p>	<p>6:30 pm AA @East Lemonweir</p>	<p>9 am Quilting @ Bethany</p>	<p>9 am Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 Pm AA @ Bethany</p>		<p>1 March 5th is Ash Wednesday March 9th Daylight Savings Time</p>
<p>2 Altar Communion @ B Communion @ EL</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 4pm Rachael Circle Meeting @ Bethany</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Continuous Communion @ B W-ELCA Meets after Bethany SVC 3 pm Family Sunday School</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Pastor @ Spring Theological in Sparta</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Happy Valentines Day!</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Altar Communion @ B Bethany - Ticket Toss after worship Communion @ EL</p>	<p>17 Beacon Articles Due</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 Continuous Communion @ B</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	



2025 February Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

2/2 – Connie Wolfgram

2/9 - Roger Nelson

2/16 – Diane Clark

2/23 – Dawn Nelson

Greeters

2/2 – Gayle Hempel

2/9 – Roger & Dawn Nelson

2/16 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke

2/23 – Diane Clark

Bethany Assistants

February 2

Assistant Minister – Larry Thome

Reader – Betty Krotzman

Communion Assistant – Larry Thome

Usher – Karl Katuin & Tim Parker

February 9

Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss

Reader – Sheila Stark

Communion Assistants- Michaele

Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Beth Preuss

Usher – Kathy & Larry Thome

February 16

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen

Reader – Debby Hansen

Communion Assistant – Mark Hansen

Usher - Lori & Mike Esser

February 23

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl

Reader – Ross Hardie

Communion Assistants- Galen Lingl,

Betty Krotzman, Inger Kirkwood

Usher – Mark & Debby Hansen

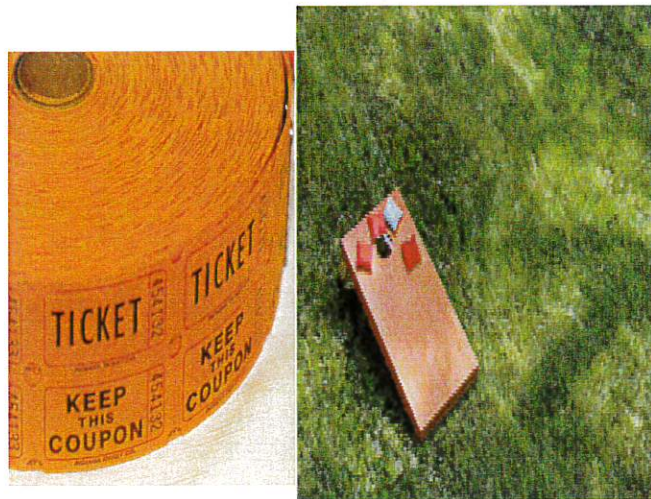
**** March 5th is Ash**

Wednesday***

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

“Ticket Toss”

- *Do you like cornhole or just throwing things at other things? Missing summer? Then this is the activity for you!
- *Do some beanbag tossing and earn tickets for prizes. Don't miss out on this fun event.
- ***Sunday, February 16th, following the service at Bethany!**



W-ELCA News

Mission Statement – To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Current Bible Study from our gather magazine addresses Faithfulness as studied through the relationship between Ruth and Naomi, the struggles they endured and how it relates to us.

All ladies are invited to an afternoon of fun on Sunday, March 23rd at 2:00. Tickets are available to attend the musical production of The Looney Lutherans at the CAL Center in Reeds burg. We will carpool and enjoy laughs and fellowship. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from Judy Zobal. Please consider this fun event.



MARCH 23, 2025 | SUNDAY • 2:00PM

The Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long and lively life, the Lutheran way - and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it! In this show, the "Loonies" go country in "Hotdish on the Range: All Hat. No Cattle". This country and cowboy themed show includes segments like "Cowboy Up" (practical tips for living off the land), Lutheran cowboy-ish wisdom, and hilarious parodies of classic country songs like, "I'm Falling to Pieces." Giddyup!

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Feb. 9th - W-ELCA will meet.

A thought: Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
East Lemonweir Lutheran Church – Elroy, Wisconsin
Special Council Meeting – 2025 Budget Planning
Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Meeting Purpose:	Discuss 2025 draft budget and identify areas of shared costs between both churches. Input to the meeting is the draft 2025 Bethany budget.
Bethany Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Michael Korbein, Larry Thome, Shane Gessler, Inger Kirkwood, Deanna Smith
East Lemonweir Council Members Present:	Roger Nelson, Margarete Hummelbeck, Marlene Pelton, Roger Pitcel, Jennifer Sarnow, Audrey Scholl, Connie Wolfgram, Kathy Pitcel
Also Attending:	Pastor Lucy Hardie
Call to Order:	President Mark Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and Pastor Lucy led us in prayer.
70/30 Split:	<i>Roger Nelson made the request to keep the budget split at 70% for Bethany and 30% for East Lemonweir. The motion was seconded by Shane Gesler and passed 14-0.</i>
Pastor Salary:	A discussion was had regarding the 2025 salary for Pastor Lucy. Per the synod guidelines, for a Pastor with two years of experience, her base salary should \$43,785. <i>Roger Nelson made a motion to set Pastor Lucy's base salary for 2025 at \$43,785 and seconded by Inger Kirkwood. The motion passed 14-0.</i>
Secretary Hourly Rate:	A discussion was had regarding the 2025 hourly rate for Betty Krotzman. Her current hourly rate is \$20 per hour and she averages 10-15 hours a week. Mark Hanson informed the meeting attendees that Betty was staying on her job and not retiring. <i>Roger Nelson made a motion to increase Betty's hourly wage for 2025 to \$22 per hour and seconded by Audrey Scholl. The motion passed 13-1.</i>
New Secretary Search:	As Betty stated that she will stay on for another two years, she did so with the request that she would so only if she could work from home more often and come into the church office once a week unless otherwise required. Pastor Lucy agreed to this. However, Betty will need a new laptop computer and accessories (docking station, monitor, keyboard) and this should be a shared cost between the two churches. It is estimated that Betty will not need to work more than 15 hours a week, and that the new computer and accessories are estimated to cost less than \$1,500. Both churches agreed to this.
Website Update:	Larry Thome gave an update on the new website and that it was in the process of going live. The annual cost of the website is estimated to be between \$150-\$200 annually. Both churches agreed to this.
Final Comment:	Mark Hansen commented on how well the two congregations worked well together for a long period of time.
Adjournment:	<i>Roger Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger Pictel; motion passed 14-0.</i> The meeting adjourned at 5:25 AM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Bethany Council Secretary



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Council Members Present:	Pastor Lucy Hardie, Michael Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Karl Katuin, Glenda Swinehart, Larry Thome, Shane Gesler,
Council Members Absent:	Mark Hansen, Christy Toelle, Deanna Smith
Guests:	None
Review of Financial Audit:	<p>Prior to the Council Meeting, the Financial Audit Team (Ross Hardie, Kathy Thome) presented the Executive Council with the detail findings from their audit.</p> <p>Overall, there were no major risks or concerns, and they stated that Michael Korbein (Treasurer) was doing a very good job at maintaining well-kept financial bookkeeping records. The Audit Team did identify a few items for the Executive Council to consider regarding safe record-keeping practices, some financial process documentation, and software best practices.</p>

Agenda

Call to Order:	Vice-President Karl Katuin (filling in for Mark Hansen) called the Council meeting to order at 12:06 PM.
Agenda Approval:	Karl Katuin presented the agenda for approval. There were no additional items added to the agenda. <i>Shane Gesler made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 6-0.</i>
Devotions:	Karl Katuin shared a devotion on how we identify with each other (which also tied into the Sermon from today's service). Jesus is identified by God, and Jesus is also identified by his Words. We are identified as Children of God.
Secretary's Report: (Larry)	<p>Larry Thome presented the minutes from the December 2024 Council Meeting and also the December 11, 2024 Joint Council Budget Meeting with East Lemonweir.</p> <p><i>Glenda Swinehart made a motion to accept the December 1, 2024 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 6-0.</i></p> <p><i>Shane Gesler made a motion to accept the December 11, 2024 Joint Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 6-0.</i></p>
Treasurer's Report: (Michael)	<p>The Checking Register, Memorial Balances Summary Report, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Income and Expense Reports were presented as of December 31, 2024. There was a question on how the Undesignated Memorial Funds (approx. \$10,000) are used. It was shared that these funds are used for special projects or when unplanned repairs are required. The use of these funds needs to be approved by the Council.</p> <p><i>Larry Thome made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 6-0.</i></p>
Pastor's Report:	<p>There will be a special council meeting on February 23 after services.</p> <p>There will be a Synod Council Retreat on March 22 in Sparta for Council members wanting to participate. The cost is \$25 per congregation.</p> <p>Pastor Lucy received a letter for Bethany to join the New Lisbon Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$75. The Council discussed and agreed that this could be a way of getting better visibility in the community.</p> <p><i>Shane Gesler made a motion to join the New Lisbon Chamber of Commerce as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 6-0.</i></p> <p>Given the horrific criminal event in our community recently, a question came up regarding emergency procedures at Bethany during worship. Pastor Lucy stated that there was some information on how to plan for emergencies from the Synod. Glenda Swinehart and Shane Gesler also volunteered to help look into emergency planning.</p>



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Committee Reports

Discipleship: <i>(Glenda and Shane)</i>	The committee would like to plan for a community supper some time in March. This will be the first time we try this and this could be an exciting discipleship ministry in our community.
Education: <i>(Deanna)</i>	There was a wonderful showing at the December family Bible study, with five very engaged families. The next family Bible study is scheduled for February 9.
Social Concerns: <i>(Inger/Christy)</i>	Starting to receive some donations for health care kits. Also distributed \$700 in gift cards to seven families in need at Christmastime in lieu of Thanksgiving baskets this year.
Property: <i>(Karl)</i>	Reached out to Badger Basement to request a quote for a solution to the church basement flooding issues. Provided a temporary fix to the mailbox to fix a rotting post – will implement a permanent fix when the weather is warmer.
Worship: <i>(Larry)</i>	Working with Pastor Lucy on the Lenten theme this year.

Old Business

Council Open Positions:	Pastor Lucy thanked Shane Gesler and Christy Toelle who are rolling off the Council. Reviewed all the positions on the Council and supporting roles and identified possible candidates to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
Pastoral Evaluation:	The Executive Council (Mark Hansen, Karl Katuin, Michael Korbein, Larry Thome) met with Pastor Lucy and had a discussion on pastoral performance in 2024. It was a positive discussion including encouraging feedback, goal setting and strong reinforcement of Pastor Lucy's performance. This was the first time that the Council has done this, and this process will continue to evolve as we move forward.
Church Cleaning:	Pastor Lucy will put a sign-up sheet on the whiteboard in the narthex along with a list of responsibilities and time commitment to help with the church cleaning. We are looking for congregational members to help volunteer as needed.
Budget:	The Council reviewed the final version of the 2025 budget (as presented in the Annual Meeting packet) and were comfortable with presenting it to the congregation for approval. <i>Karl Katuin made a motion to present the budget to the congregation for approval, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 6-0.</i>
Final Roof Bill:	The heating coil was installed late in December and the roofing project is finally complete after two years. The final payment due is \$6,875. As there were considerable delays, and issues with the contractor, the Council had a difficult discussion on the final payment amount. It was suggested that we hold back a percentage of the payment in consideration of these delays and issues. <i>Larry Thome made a motion to reduce the final payment on the roofing project by 15%, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 6-0.</i> The final \$6,875 bill, reduced by 15% is \$5,843.

New Business

None:	No new business
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2025 at 12:00 PM. Pastor Lucy will provide devotions for this meeting of the new Council and Larry Thome will do Sunday service announcements in February.
Adjourn Meeting/ Closing Prayer:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a closing prayer. <i>Glenda Swinehart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michael Korbein; motion passed 6-0.</i> The meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Council Meeting
January 5, 2025

Present: Roger Nelson, Roger Pitcel, Kathryn Pitcel, Audrey Scholl, Jennifer Sarnow,
Marlene Pelton.

Absent: Pastor Lucy Hardie, Connie Wolfgram

President Roger Nelson called the special meeting to order following worship on Sunday,
January 5, 2025. The intent to approve the proposed budget for 2025, which will be presented to
the congregation at our Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025. Motion made by Roger Pitcel to
approve budget, second by Jennifer Sarnow. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore.

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting

January 19, 2025

Present: Roger Nelson, Roger Pitcel, Kathryn Pitcel, Audrey Scholl, Jennifer Sarnow, Pastor Lucy Hardie, and Marlene Pelton.

Absent: Connie Wolfgram

President Roger Nelson called the January 19, 2025 council meeting to order following Sunday's coffee fellowship. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Lucy Hardie.

A motion was made by Kathryn Pitcel and second by Audrey Scholl to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried. Motion made by Jennifer Sarnow and second by Margarete Hummelbeck to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

A bid was received from Krause Konstruction Company (Church Restoration Specialists) for a new roof, insulation and metal siding, new gutter and downspouts and more. The total price came in at \$674,680.00. This total is out of our range. Marlene Pelton will ask for a separate breakdown for the roof and the siding and insulation. We will also have to contact other contractors for their bids. President Roger Nelson will bring this item of business to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

The laptop that East Lemonweir is purchasing for our secretary, Betty Krotzman, should be coming in soon.

East Lemonweir received a check for \$700.00 from AA. This is their contribution for the use of our fellowship hall during 2024.

Pastor Lucy said it is yet to be determined if there will be a round robin with Pastors for the midweek Lenten services. Pastor Lucy mentioned the possibility of having the worship service for Maundy Thursday here at East Lemonweir. Good Friday service would be at Bethany.

Motion made by Roger Pitcel and second by Marlene Pelton to adjourn. Motion carried.

Closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore