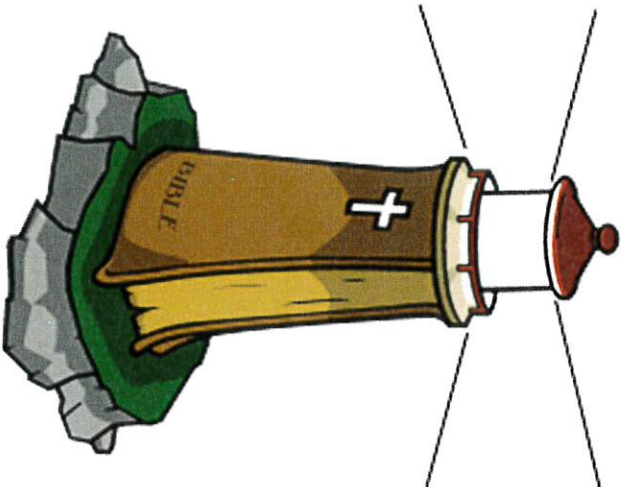




Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
January 2025



Proverbs 3:19
The LORD founded the earth
by wisdom and established
the heavens by
understanding.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, beloved people of God!

As we traveled through Advent and Christmastide, we looked at some lessons that most of us learned at the beginning of our lives—but didn't realize the importance of them until later. We've also found that we often forget these lessons and have to re-learn and then realize their significance again and again. In a sense, we begin again—relearning truths about ourselves and God that are building blocks for a life of faith.

To help visualize each lesson—a quilt square was designed to help us remember the lesson as well as the scripture we turned to reflect upon. A wall-hanging of these quilt squares will be completed soon and will be hung at Bethany. But I thought it would be a good review of our Advent learning by placing them here.

1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CHRISTMAS/EVE	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	EPIPHANY
YOU ARE A BLESSING	WE CAN'T GO ALONE	DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO	HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK	LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME	DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH	THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT
<u>Luke 1:26-38</u> (The angel Gabriel comes to Mary) <u>Isaiah 43:1-7</u> ("I have called you by name")	<u>Ruth 1</u> (Ruth says to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go") <u>Ecclesiastes 4:9-12</u> ("A threefold cord is not easily broken")	<u>Luke 3:7-16</u> (John the Baptist proclaims how to bear good fruit) <u>Isaiah 58:9b-12</u> ("You shall be called the repairer of the breach")	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u> (The angel visits Joseph in a dream) <u>Luke 1:46-55</u> (Mary's song)	<u>Luke 2:1-20</u> (The nativity story) <u>Isaiah 9:6</u> ("Wonderful Counselor; Prince of Peace")	<u>Luke 2:10</u> , <u>Matthew 2:10</u> , <u>Isaiah 9:2-3</u> , <u>Psalms 148</u> , <u>Psalms 126:1-3</u> , <u>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</u> , <u>Isaiah 55:12-13</u> (Selections on joy)	<u>Matthew 2:1-12</u> (Magi come from the East) <u>Isaiah 43:16-21</u> ("I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth")
						

--Image credit: from Sanctified Art Sermon Planning Resource

I take comfort that God is the beginning and end. That creation began through God's power, Word, and Spirit (Genesis 1). God has promised to make all things new (Revelation 21:5) and gives us opportunities to turn around and begin again on new paths (Isaiah 43:18-19). Our first beginning was experienced in the womb and at birth—but our lives are filled with beginnings: new school years, new jobs, new homes, new colleagues, new challenges, and each new day/week/year. It's hard to face so many endings and beginnings. Starting again takes so much time and effort and is full of emotions. We often grasp for reminders of who we are, and who God is. So, I hope you use these words/lessons to steady yourself as you begin again.

--Pastor Lucy

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?—Isaiah 43:18-19

January Updates

Family Sunday School

Save the Date!!!

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 :)



Annual Meetings

January is Annual Meeting Time!

- Bethany will have their annual meeting on January 19.
- East Lemonweir will have their annual meeting on January 26.

It may sound boring, but each congregation is required to have an annual meeting as a full congregation. Plus, it's another way that we can be church together.

Each congregation will be voting on the following:

Council Members*, Synod Assembly Voting Members*, Sugar Creek Representatives*, and the 2025 budget.

*If you would like to serve for any of the open positions let a current council member know :)



2025 January Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

1/5 – Jennifer Sarnow
1/12 – Audrey Scholl
1/19 – Dawn Nelson
1/26 – Kathryn Pitcel

Greeters

1/5 – Connie Wolfgram
1/12 – Jennifer Sarnow
1/19 – Audrey Scholl
1/26 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel

Bethany Assistants

January 5

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Assistant – Galen Lingl
Usher – Mark & Debby Hansen

January 12

Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Larry Thome
Communion Assistants- Beth Preuss,
Inger Kirkwood, Ross Hardie
Usher – Larry & Kathy Thome

January 19

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Assistant – Mark Hansen
Usher - Tim Parker & Shane Gesler

January 26

Assistant Minister – Michael Korbein
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Assistants- Michael Korbein, Betty Krotzman, Barb Parker
Usher – Mike & Lori Esser

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

2025 Food Pantry Monthly Themes

January: Winter Warm-up - tuna, stew, rice, mac & cheese, pasta, vegetables

February: "Soup"er Bowl – all types of soups

March: Spring Into Action – Take a bag (or use one of your own). Fill it and bring it back by the end of this month.

April: Cool Cans – canned fruit

May: Rise 'n' Shine – breakfast foods like cereal, pancake/waffle mix, syrup, juice

June: Summertime Noodles (not the floaties) – any pasta noodles

July: Freedom to Help - hamburger/tuna helper, etc.

August: Baking Vibes - flour, sugar (brown and white), salt, chips, vanilla

September: September Snacks - fruit bars, granola bars, cookies, crackers

October: PB & J - peanut butter, jelly/jam, bread

November: Holiday Hustle – stuffing, canned items like corn, beans, potatoes, cranberries

December: Jesus's Birthday Celebration – brownies, cake mixes, frosting, cupcakes, muffins

Needed monthly for only Bethany's budgeted expenses: \$9,960.28

	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Yr To Date</u>
Offerings+Other Income received	\$11,317.98	\$33,901.16	\$168,955.36*
Expenses paid	\$11,804.15	\$10,819.99	\$148,091.48**

* includes a property donation and East Lemonweir's budget reimbursements

**includes property insurance payment and youth trip expenses

Betty, please put this thank you in the news letter –

A big thank you to everyone who supported me during the death of Dennis. Thank you for all the cards, hugs, calls and your words of sympathy. Also thank you to everyone who donated food for the lunch and the girls in the kitchen and serving food. You are all great!

God bless you,
Sheila Stark

JANUARY 2025 CELEBRATIONS



Happy New Year!

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Betty Johnson – 11
Heinrich Hummelbeck – 12
Kade Stoughtenger – 15
Jennifer Sarnow – 18

No East Lemonweir Anniversaries!

Bethany Birthdays

Shanda Sletten – 4
Fred Wehman – 6
Jon Van Meter – 7
Penny Wehman – 7
Kenneth Adams – 7
Judy Zobal – 13
Katherine Means – 30

Bethany Anniversaries

Pete & Deanna Smith 21
John&Christina Krotzman– 24
Tim & Barb Parker - 28

If name is missing on the Celebration Page, please let us know.

Bethany & East Lemonweir Lutheran Parishes

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9AM Worship @ Bethany 10:30AM Worship@ East Lemonweir Pastor off 12/31 - 1/5	Altar Communion 1/19 Continuous Communion 1/12 & 1/26	AA Meeting 6:30 PM - Tuesday @ East Lemonweir and Thursday @ Bethany	1 Annual Reports were due 12/30.	2 No Bible Study	3	4
5	6	7 4 pm Rachael Circle	8 9 am Bethany Quilting	9 900 am Bible Study	10	11
12 Bethany BINGO Bethany Council Mtg @ noon.	13	14	15 Beacon Articles Due 9 am Bethany Quilting	16 900 am Bible Study	17	18
19 Bethany Annual Mtg	20	21	22 9 am Bethany Quilting	23 900 am Bible Study	24	25 East Lemonweir Prime Rib Dinner Doors open @ 5, Dinner @ 6
26 East Lemonweir Annual Mtg	27	28	29 9 am Bethany Quilting	30 900 am Bible Study	31	Feb 9th 3 pm Family Sunday School

B-I-N-G-O

@

Bethany

January 12th

Hint for the big prize game: This is for the
birds!

*You can donate prizes to the
Bingo Basket, if you want. Hope
to see and hear you on the 12th!

B I N G O

12	25	41	51	63
3	30	37	54	66
7	21	FREE	56	74
1	26	35	50	69
10	17	45	47	64

MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY
Springfield, Massachusetts



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Council Members Present:	Pastor Lucy Hardie, Mark Hansen, Michaelae Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Karl Katuin, Glenda Swinehart, Larry Thome, Shane Gesler, Christy Toelle
Council Members Absent:	Deanna Smith
Guests:	None

Agenda

Call to Order:	President Mark Hansen called the Council meeting to order at 12:02 PM.
Agenda Approval:	Mark Hansen 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 9-0.</i>
Devotions:	Larry Thome shared a devotion on the meaning of Christmas. We should not forget the true meaning of why we celebrate during this time of year. Celebrate the baby Jesus and trust Him as Savior today.
Secretary's Report: <i>(Larry)</i>	<i>Christy Toelle made a motion to accept the November 3, 2024 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Karl Katuin; motion passed 9-0.</i>
Treasurer's Report: <i>(Michaelae)</i>	The Checking Register, Memorial Balances Summary Report, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Income and Expense Reports were presented as of November 30, 2024. There were no questions after the review. <i>Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 9-0.</i>
Pastor's Report:	Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Pastor plans to visit all regular shut-ins before Christmas. December 8 th is the Family Sunday School and Pastor is looking for increased communication to ensure a strong participation. Dawn Nelson will be at Bethany on December 15 th to sell tickets to East Lemonweir's Prime Rib Dinner in January.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: <i>(Glenda and Shane)</i>	Items have been gathered for the mitten tree for Christmas in the Park at Riverside Park. Calendars have been ordered and will be here in time for Christmas for people to give as gifts.
Education: <i>(Deanna)</i>	No new updates.
Social Concerns: <i>(Inger/Christy)</i>	Spoke to the New Lisbon School (Sonja) about the Christmas gift cards which will help families over the long Christmas break. Christy will follow up with Sonja to finalize the families.
Property: <i>(Karl)</i>	No new updates, however with all the water in the church basement, Karl may be contacting a few different companies to get estimates on how to address the basement flooding.
Worship: <i>(Larry)</i>	No new updates. Larry mentioned that there was a large gathering of people at the back of the sanctuary before worship and that it could present a challenge if we have guests/visitors who are new to Bethany. We should be aware of keeping a path clear for people coming to worship.

Old Business

Administrative Assistant Position:	Betty Krotzman has rescinded her retirement for at another two years (unless a person is found to replace her). This is due to the option of her being able to work from home more. She will still have at least one day in the office, and will be able to cover any phone messages and email from home.
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Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Final Roof Bill:	The church received the final bill for the roof replacement for \$6,875. While the skylight is now closed up, there is still an outstanding item of installing a heating coil on the roof to eliminate any ice dams forming in the winter. After discussion, the Council decided that the bill should not be paid until the heating coil is installed. Karl Katuin/Mark Hansen will contact the roofing contractor that this needs to be completed within 10 days as this needs to be done before we receive a measurable snow amount.
Church Cleaning:	We are still looking for someone/couple to assist Mike and Inger Kirkwood on the cleaning of the church. Mike and Inger have stated that they can still clean twice a month, and we now need to find people to clean the other two weeks in a month. It takes two people 3-4 hours to clean the church, and we will be creating a sign-up sheet for people to help out along with a checklist of what needs to be completed. If enough people sign up, a couple might only have to clean once every two months.
Advent Meal:	The Council will be hosting the mid-week Advent meal on December 4 th . Setup starts at 5:00 PM and serving starts at 5:15 PM.
Christmas Lights:	Bethany will be putting up Christmas Lights in Riverside Park on Monday, December 2 nd at 9:30 AM. As the ground is now frozen, we will not put up the full display, but ensure that we will have a presence at the park.
Budget:	The Council walked through the latest version of the 2025 budget and adjusted accordingly. Michaela will finalize the budget, and the Councils from Bethany and East Lemonweir will meet at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 11 th to review.
Bethany Website:	Larry Thome sent out the link for the new Bethany/East website to Council member in mid-November for their review. The website is now ready for publishing and using this new service, will cost approximately \$150 a year. <i>Larry Thome made a motion to move forward and replacing our existing website, seconded by Karl Katuin; motion passed 8-0.</i>
New Business	
Council Openings:	Four member's terms are up on Council – Mark Hansen, Christy Toelle, Shane Gesler and Inger Kirkwood. Based on the changes made to the by-laws earlier this year, the congregation approved having a smaller Council moving forward. Discussion followed about whether all four positions needed to be filled or if the Council could be represented with only three positions being filled. <i>Karl Katuin made a motion to reduce the incoming Council members from four to three, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 8-0.</i>
Building Fund Donation:	A donation of ~\$21,000 was made to the Bethany building fund. A discussion on what to do with the donation followed. Micheale Korbein suggested that we combine this donation with the current account building fund balance of ~\$9,000 and purchase a one-year CD at 3.96% interest from the Bank of Mauston. <i>Michaela Korbein made a motion to purchase the CD using the donation and existing building funds from the Bank of Mauston seconded by Larry Thome; motion passed 8-0.</i>
Next Meeting:	<u>The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2025 at 12:00 PM. This is changed from January 5 as Pastor will be off that Sunday.</u> Mark Hansen will provide devotions and Sunday service announcements in January.
Adjourn Meeting/ Closing Prayer:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a closing prayer. <i>Shane Gesler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.</i> The meeting adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

East Lemonweir Council Meeting

December 15, 2024

Present were Margarete Hummelbeck, Roger Pitcel, Pastor Lucy, Roger Nelson, Audrey Scholl, and Connie Wolfgram. We began at 11:50.

Roger Nelson called the December council meeting to order. Pastor Lucy led us in Prayer.

A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Audrey S. and a second by Margarete; motion carried. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Marlene second by Connie; motion carried.

Our railing for the outside steps is going to cost \$4,920. A motion to approve this was made by Roger P. second by Marlene; motion carried.

The new web site is up and running.

We discussed the possibility of cutting the number of council members. We will bring it to the congregation at the January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting of the congregation.

After discussion a motion to pay for the new laptop for the church secretary made by Marlene and second by Roger P. Motion carried.

A motion to give \$400 to the World Hunger Appeal was made by Roger P. second by Marlene; motion carried.

Pastor Lucy reported she will have vacation time from Sept 14-Sept 21, 2025.

The next meeting of the East Council will be Jan. 19th, 2025.

There will be Communion on Christmas Day. A motion to give Larry Thome a gift was made by Marlene, second by Audry; motion carried. A motion to give Betty a gift was made by Connie and a second by Margarete; Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Audry and second by Margarete; Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wolfgram, sec.

Bethany and East Lemonweir Joint Council Meeting

December 11, 2024

Members attending: Bethany-Larry Thome, Michaile Korbein, Shane Gessler, Mark Hanson, Inger Kirtwood, and Deanna Smith. East Lemonweir-Roger Nelson, Margarete Hummelbeck, Marlene Peitor, Roger Pitcel, Jennifer Sarnow, Audrey Scholl, and Connie Wolfgram.

Mark Hanson called the meeting to order and Pastor Lucy led us in prayer. A motion by Roger Pitcel to keep the 70/30% Shane seconded the motion; carried.

The Pastor's salary is on year 2 of the synod's suggestions. A motion by Roger Pitcel, second by Inger to set the pastor's salary at \$43,785. The motion carried.

A motion to set the salary for the secretary at \$22. made by Roger P. and second by Audrey S. motion carried.

It was suggested we widen the search area for a secretary, and we were informed that the secretary would be willing to stay if she could work from home with a computer. After some discussion this was agreed upon.

Mark commented on how well the two congregations work together and for so long a time.

Motion to adjourn by Roger Nelson second by Roger Pitcel; motion carried.

W-ELCA News

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

Rachel Circle met on Tuesday, Dec. 3rd. The lesson “In God’s Garden” centered on what fig trees teach us about Advent. The idea and study demonstrated how fig trees and the fruit they bear have a great deal to teach us about what it means to watch, wait and prepare.

Our annual Christmas Bruch was Friday, Dec. 6th. It was a good time for fun, fellowship and food. We had a wonderful turnout and appreciated those who attended. We’re happy that some of our friends from East Lemonweir joined us.

Sunday, Dec. 8th W-ELCA assembled fruit baskets for our shut ins and met as a group to make decisions about our annual disbursements. The fruit baskets were delivered that day and one Tuesday, our members were so happy to receive this gesture from Bethany’s W-ELCA. Fran Benson sends greetings to everyone.

Wednesday, December 11th we served Advent supper.

Sunday, December 15th was the end of our Silent Christmas stocking project. 7 people won the bid on 9 stockings and the Christmas quilt hanging.

We were able to serve Dennis Stark and Edna Hansen’s funeral luncheons. We offer our deepest sympathy to their families and hold them in our hearts.

THANKS – so many people to thank and appreciate for all their time, effort, work and donations toward all the activities W-ELCA was involved in this month.

Upcoming Events:

W-ELCA will meet in February.

A thought: All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.