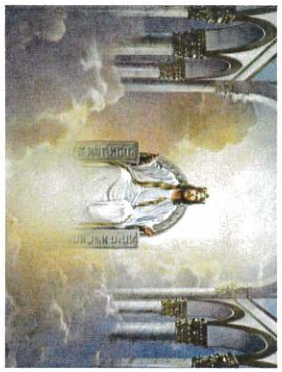
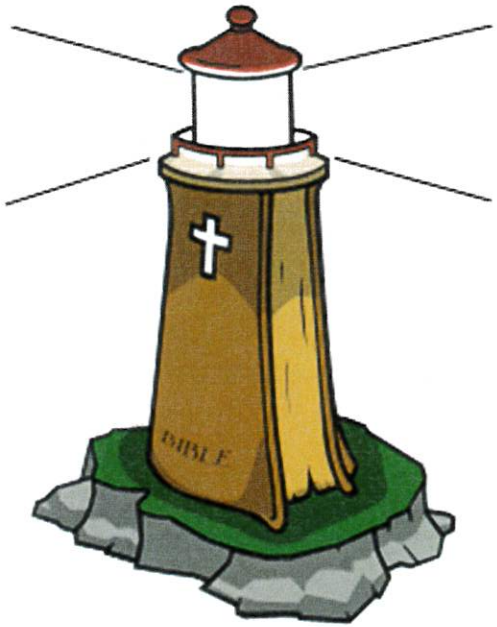


Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
July 2025

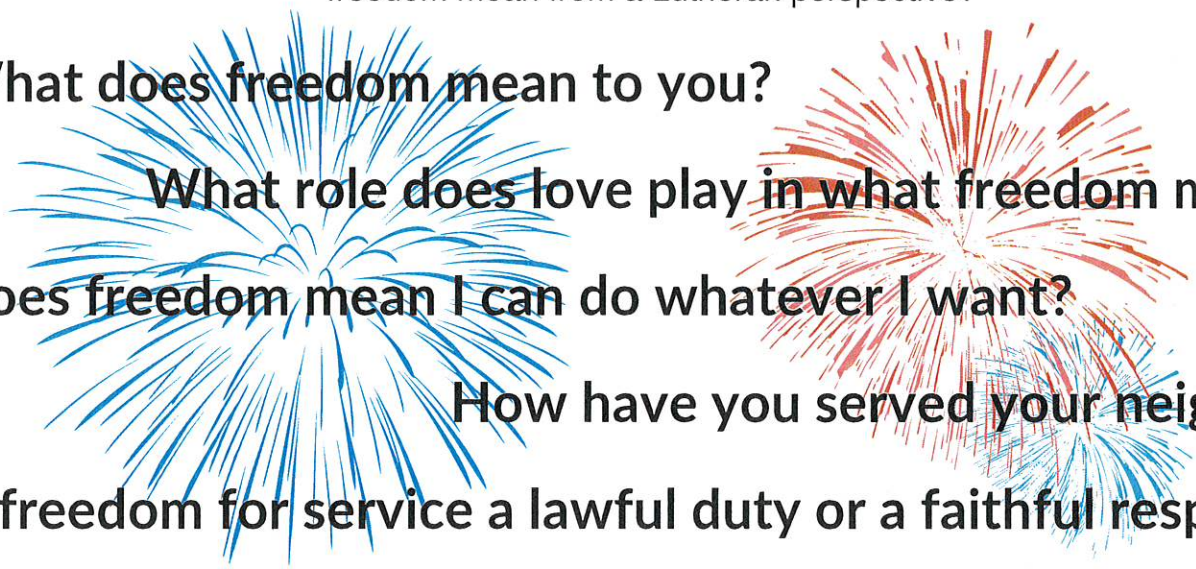


You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love (Galatians 5:13)

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 9 am Bethany 10:30 am East Lemonweir	No Bible Study July - September	1 Rachel Circle 4 pm @ Bethany	2 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	3	4 Happy 4th of July!	5
6 10:30 am Worship in Heritage Park with potluck to follow. Worship with East Lemonweir /Bethany/Winding Rivers UMC	7 Pastor Lucy is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp this week.	8 Pastor Lucy is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp this week	9 9 am Quilting @ Bethany Pastor Lucy is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp this week	10 Pastor Lucy is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp this week	11 New Lisbon Wa Du Shuda Pastor Lucy is at Sugar Creek Bible Camp this week	12 New Lisbon Wa Du Shuda
13	14	15	16 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	31		AA Meeting @ 6:30 pm Tue - East Lemonweir Thu - Bethany

Similar to what I said in February about love--when July rolls around, I can't help but reflect on the word freedom. Freedom means different things in different contexts. When we think about our nation and government, freedom means being able to govern oneself. The US has had this freedom for 242 years, since the signing of the Treaty of Paris. We enjoy the freedom to criticize and support many different things including our own government and each other. But what does freedom mean from a Lutheran perspective?



What does freedom mean to you?

What role does love play in what freedom means?

Does freedom mean I can do whatever I want?

How have you served your neighbor?

Is freedom for service a lawful duty or a faithful response?

This is how Luther explains how God affects our freedom: "Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, just as I am your sin. You have taken upon yourself what is mine and given me what is yours" (Luther's Works, 48:12-13). No one and nothing can take that away from us. In this freedom we are certainly "lord of all, completely free of everything"!

No longer crushed by the weight of self-justification, but gloriously free by being bound to the righteousness of Christ, we are free. But what are freed to do? To serve the neighbor. "I will do nothing in this life except what I see is necessary, profitable, and salutary to my neighbor, since through faith I have an abundance of all good things in Christ" (*On the Freedom of a Christian,* Martin Luther, 1520). Out of joy and gratitude we are called to serve the neighbor. In fact, we are bound to serve the neighbor. In love our freedom makes us "a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all."

Like many other concepts in Lutheran theology, freedom brings a paradox or a "both and" statement. Just as we are simultaneously saint and sinner, know that the Word comes to us in law and gospel, and that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine--we are freed from all and also servants to all.

Christian freedom, which we receive through the grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ, is a truly leveling gift. There is no hierarchy, it's a purpose. We are freed from sin and brokenness for service towards all neighbors united through the love of God and empowered through the Holy Spirit. Amen. ---Pastor Lucy

July 2025 Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers
7/6 Worship in the Park
7/13 Jennifer Sarnow
7/20 Kathryn Pitcel
7/27 Billie Jo Haschke

Greeters
7/6 Worship in the Park
7/13 Henry & Margarete Hummelbeck
7/20 Jennifer Sarnow
7/27 Gayle Hempl

Bethany

7/6 Worship in the Park
Greeter/Usher – Larry & Kathy Thome

7/13 Continuous Communion
Assistant Minister Larry Thome
Reader Barb Parker
Communion Assistants Larry Thome, Barb Parker, Inger Kirkwood
Usher Tim Parker & Karl Katuin

7/20 Altar Communion
Assistant Minister Michaele Korbein
Reader Sheila Stark
Communion Assistant Michaele Korbein
Usher Mark & Debby Hansen

7/27 Continuous Communion
Assistant Minister Mark Hansen
Reader Debby Hansen
Communion Assistant(s) Mark Hansen, Galen Lingl, Beth Preuss
Usher Jack & Betty Krotzman

At Bethany

July 13th

Hint for the big prize game:

Cover It!

**You can donate prizes to the Bingo Basket, if you want.
Hope to see and hear you on the 13th!

Dear church family,

Our family cannot thank you enough for all of the support we received through Jordans pregnancy, oliver's birth and his passing. Your gifts of money and gas gift cards enabled Jordan to be in Madison as much as possible. Cards, snacks, gifts and prayers were deeply appreciated. Your kind word and continued prayers are such a blessing.

Love,

The Family of Oliver Fleming

W-ELCA Thank you

Thank you for the food, money, and workers for the salad luncheon. The Salad Luncheon

Was a great success.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

W-ELCA PROJECT

BABY CARE KITS

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our website.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the Kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

- ☐ **TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- ☐ **TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- ☐ **TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- ☐ **FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ☐ **ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- ☐ **TWO** pairs of socks
- ☐ **ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended
- ☐ **TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- ☐ **TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

Please consider donating some of the items listed for our BABY CARE KITS. Donations accepted now through October 12th. Thank you!

Bethany W-ELCA News

Our W-ELCA annual synodical convention held at St. Stephens in Camp Douglas provided inspiration, information and fun fellowship. Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz, from First Lutheran Church in Onalaska provided a meaningful message entitled You. Me. Us. Being Human Together. She reminded us that we need to give Director of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). Her presentation included migrants via video, sharing their stories and expressing thanks for the help and support they've received.

Our *gather* magazine presents 3 summer Bible study sessions dealing with relationships. We will explore relationships that have formed us, relationships that sustain us and relationships that push us to grow. Guided by biblical friendships, family relationships and kindred bonds, we'll examine not only what the Bible has to say about healthy relationships, but also what we might learn from pastoral and therapeutic theories about what makes for relationships that lead to our flourishing.

Thank you to everyone who supported Oliver's family by helping in various ways to provide a luncheon after his service. May his family's hearts find peace and know that Oliver made a difference during his short life.

Due to so many helping hands we enjoyed another successful salad luncheon. We appreciate all the diners who come to enjoy the food that is offered, it was encouraging to see new faces but also many repeat customers. It certainly is a group effort, but big thanks go to Helen who is the force behind it and to her daughters Jolene and Jill who do so much to support their home church during this event.

The silent purse auction went well, we offered 6 treasure filled purses this year, there were some "bidding wars" and those who won the bid were happy with them.

A thought: "Fear not" appears in the Bible 365 times – once for each day.

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting
June 15, 2025

Present: Pastor Hardie, Roger Nelson, Gayle Hempel, Audrey Scholl, Roger Pitcel, Kathryn Pitcel, and Marlene Pelton.
Absent: Connie Wolfgram and Margarete Hummelbeck.

President Roger Nelson called the June 15, 2025 council meeting to order following Sunday morning worship service. Opening prayer was given by Pastor Lucy Hardie.

Motion made by Kathryn Pitcel and second by Gayle Hempel to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried. Motion made by Gayle Hempel and second by Audrey Scholl to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Roger Nelson reported that there will be approximately an additional $6,000.00 for the soffit and trim on the church project that was not in the original bid.

Pastor Hardie touched upon several items from the Synod Assembly held June 6,7, and 8, 2025. Bishop Felix Malpica and Assistant to the Bishop Dione Stepanek will each receive a 3% raise. The churches of the ELCA are to strive to be a welcoming church, inclusive to all of God's children.

Saturday, June 28, 2025 6:00 p.m. will be a Campfire Worship service at Bethany-New Lisbon. A rain date would be some time in August.

$1,000.00 was given to East Lemonweir in memory of Dennis Nelson Ristow whose memorial service was June 12, 2025. Motion made by Roger Pitcel and second by Roger Nelson to pay $155.52 to Marlene Pelton for food expenses and the remainder to the Faith Circle. Motion carried.

When the front exterior of the church is insulated and sided the question arose about the non-functioning clock. Council determined it will be eliminated and in its place est. 1854 or something similar in metal affixed to the siding.

Motion to adjourn by Roger Pitcel, second by Gayle Hempel. Motion carried.
Closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, June 1, 2025

00Council Members Present:	Karl Katuin, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Debby Hansen, Deanna Smith, Inger Kirkwood, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Glenda Swinehart
Guests:	None

Agenda

Call to Order:	President Karl Katuin called the Council meeting to order at 12:00 PM
Agenda Approval:	Karl Katuin presented the agenda for approval. There were no changes to the agenda. ***Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mark Hansen; motion passed 7-0.***
Devotion:	Inger Kirkwood shared a devotion from the Lutheran Hour Ministries: If we imagine God's people like a good ole Louisiana gumbo, it's not the diversity that defines us, but the lifeblood of God's Lamb, Jesus, our base, whose self-giving love binds diverse people together. Jesus creates this diverse unity, not just for some, but for all His guests.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the May 2025 Council Meeting. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Mark Hansen made a motion to accept the May 2025 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 7-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register, the Statement of Financial Position, and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense as of May 31, 2025. There were no questions or comments on the reports as presented. ***Deanna Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Larry Thome; motion passed 7-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy presided over three funerals in the last week, which was both time demanding and as well as very emotional. She has also been preparing for the Synod Assembly. She also noted that there is some initial discussion and planning on starting First Communion classes in the third quarter this year.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Debby)*	Looking at a couple of In-Reach opportunities to help families in our congregation. Summer Fun and Yum is scheduled for June – root beer floats will be served. We are skipping out of the Bethany Annual Auction this year and looking at other fall funding opportunities.
Education: *(Deanna)*	The Family Sunday School was completed on May 18. Four families participated.
Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	Starting to gather supplies for Health Care Kits on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for individual toothbrushes, dark towels, bars of soap and nail clippers. No combs are needed.
Property: *(Mark)*	The basement remains dry with the cotter dam that has been set up. The air conditioner that cools the narthex and offices is not working. As it is an older system, coolant for the system is not available and the system will need to be replaced. We are waiting on a quote from Bolder Service in Baraboo as to the cost of a new system. We are guessing that it will be between $5,000 - $10,000. Deanna Smith brought up a suggestion from some of the members that maybe we could put some small, framed, stain glass in the new windows of the Sanctuary. This suggestion will be reviewed once the windows are installed to see if it could be done.

	Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
	Church Council Meeting Minutes
	Sunday, June 1, 2025

Worship: *(Larry)*	Saturday, June 28 is an evening outdoor worship opportunity at 6:00 PM. This service is not a replacement for Sunday's worship but an additional time to praise God and enjoy some outdoor fellowship. Worship in the Park is planned for July 6 at Heritage with East Lemonweir and Winding Rivers UMC. Larry also mentioned that he has pulled together some potential small-group Bible Study possibilities (from our Council Long Term planning meeting). He will set some time up with Pastor Lucy to review and determine next steps.
Old Business	
Wa Du Shuda Days Participation:	Debby Hansen presented that at this year's Wa Du Shuda Days, Bethany will be in the parade handing out bottles of water with a label stating it was from Bethany with some additional information on it. We will have 300 bottles of water (12 cases). We will need volunteers to walk in the parade handing out the water pulling wagons. We will also need someone to drive in the parade with the water (preferably a pick-up truck.
Joint Worship in the Park:	As Bethany will be the hosts this year for Worship in the Park. That means that we will be responsible for providing the main course for the post worship lunch. Bethany will provide Sloppy Joes/buns for the main course. We will also need to figure out some type of refreshments (water, lemonade). With an estimate of approximately 100 people participating in this worship, this would require 20 lbs. of ground beef plus buns for the meal. Individuals would provide salads, desserts, etc... for the lunch.
New Business	
July Council Meeting:	As we normally do for summer, there will be NO July Council meeting.
Next Meeting:	Announcements will be Michaele Korbein. Devotions and Announcements for August will be Deanna Smith. Because some people are unavailable the first Sunday in August, the next Council meeting is scheduled for **AUGUST 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM.**
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. ***Mark Hansen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 7-0.*** The meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 8, 2025

Council Members present:
Karl Katuin, Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Glenda Swinehart, Deanna Smith, Debbie Hansen

Council members absent:
Inger Kirkwood, Larry Thome, Pastor Lucy Hardie

President Karl Katuin called the special meeting of the Bethany Council to order at 8:45 a.m. This was to discuss the replacement of the air conditioner on the narthex furnace. Pending today's council approval, the project will then be noticed during today and next Sunday's announcements for a Congregational meeting to be held on June 22 after worship to help get this project started before the weather turns too warm.

Karl stated he tested the non-functioning narthex air conditioner and coolant lines and found no coolant, meaning there most likely is a leak in the condenser. He noted the old coolants are no longer available, meaning we cannot refill the units, and the new coolant is quite expensive compared to the old type. He then presented the quote from Bolder Services for $6,344.68 that includes replacing the condenser with a new unit, using the existing lines for the new coolant, and using a flushing agent to clean the lines before adding the new coolant. The quote includes a church discount. This work does need to be done as both Pastor and Betty's offices are part of the narthex air conditioner's cooling area.

Deanna Smith made a motion, seconded by Glenda Swinehart, to approve presenting this project to the congregation for their approval on the work as quoted by Bolder Services to replace the air conditioning in the narthex; motion passed 6/0.

Debbie Hansen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 6/0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:49am.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Secretary pro tem

Needed monthly for only Bethany's budgeted expenses: $10,866,61

	May	Year To Date
Offerings+Other Income received	$7,792.51	$60,677.50*
Expenses paid	$7,881.34	$74,646.99**

* includes East Lemonweir's budget reimbursements
**includes final roof work, windows downpayment & boiler pump repair