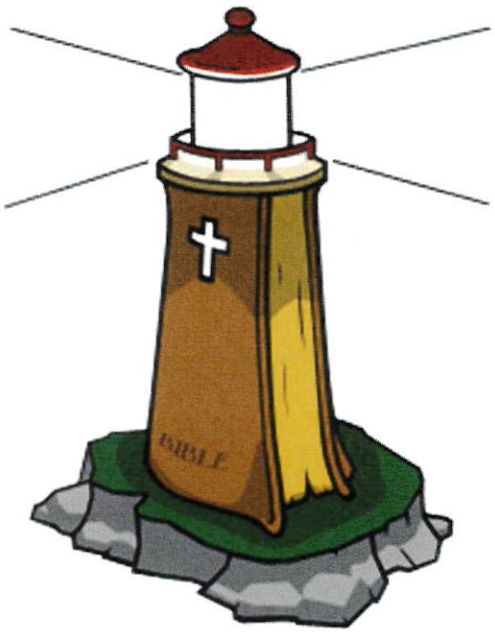
Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
July 2026



Galatians 5:13: "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."

Dear God's Beloved,

This is just a short note to say, "thank you." Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers upon the passing of my father. This was a very unexpected event for our family, so I very much appreciate the grace and time given to us as we grieve and mourn. Another thank you goes to all who brought us meals or a baked good during these past weeks. Not having to think about dinner as we figure out this new normal has been a great blessing.

Grief is a surprising thing. We never know when it's going to pop up. When we see other people grieve, our own grief can pop up and leave at a loss of where and why we feel sad or anxious. There is no timeline with grief. Doctors and therapists have identified stages of grief, but it is far from a linear progression. We start at stage 1 and can jump to 5, go back to 3 and so on.

What I'm clinging to and finding comfort in remembering that we as Christians have the ability to grieve and mourn. Our Lord wept at his friend Lazarus' tomb as well as wrestled with all the emotions (including grief or at least very deep sadness) throughout his ministry including the night of his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We often Jesus could have taken a bit more from this world with his death and resurrection. Sometimes the love, grace, and forgiveness that we are given through Christ's death and resurrection don't seem quite enough...we wish he would have taken more of the pain and suffering from this world. And yet, through Christ there is a blessing in grief. There is hope even as we face death—because we know and can trust that God does not leave us alone in our grief. God joins us. Our love for others causes us to grieve. And if that is true, the One who is Love (God) can grieve with and for us.

I'll end with a reflection by Father Henri Nouwen:

"What to do with our losses? ... We must mourn our losses. We cannot talk or act them away, but we can shed tears over them and allow ourselves to grieve deeply. To grieve is to allow our losses to tear apart feelings of security and safety and lead us to the painful truth of our brokenness. Our grief makes us experience the abyss of our own life in which nothing is settled, clear, or obvious, but everything is constantly shifting and changing... But in the midst of all this pain, there is a strange, shocking, yet very surprising voice. It is the voice of the One who says, "Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted." That's the unexpected news: there is a blessing hidden in our grief. Not those who comfort are blessed, bur those who mourn! Somehow, in the midst of our tears, a gift is hidden. Somehow, in the midst of our mourning, the first steps of the dance take place. Somehow, the cries that well up from our losses belong to our songs of gratitude."

Thank you God, for the people of Bethany and East Lemonweir. Thank you for Your Spirit's call to serve each other during times of joy and sadness. Thank you for the blessings hidden in grief, for calling us to be yours and being with us always. Help us to be your hands and feet for all of creation. Amen.

God's Peace to you,

Pastor Lucy

July 2026 Celebrations

If a celebration is not listed or you do not want your birthday or anniversary listed in the BEACON or on Facebook, please let the church office know by calling 608 562 3807.

Bethany Birthdays

Terri Fish – 1
Grace Faber -2
Brooke Costello - 5
Michael Kirkwood – 5
Allison Gollmar – 6
Frances Benson – 9
Brian Larson – 16
Samuel Hardie - 20
John Halverson – 24
Callie Bever – 29
Inger Kirkwood – 31

Bethany Anniversaries

John & Brooke Costello -17
Trever & Morgan Reichhoff – 21
Nick & Alicia Wyss – 27
Jordan & Patricia Krause - 30

Happy 4th of July

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Gary Stoughtenger – 10
Samuel Hardie - 20
Simone Arnold – 28

East Lemonweir Anniversary

N/A

Happy Celebrations!

JULY 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	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 10:30 JOINT WORSHIP IN THE PARK & PICNIC – BRING A CHAIR AND A DISH TO PASS IF ABLE	**6**	**7** Rachel Circle 4pm @ Bethany	**8** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	**9**	**10**	**11**
12 Sundae Sunday 	**13**	**14**	**15** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany **Beacon Articles due.**	**16**	**17**	**18**
19	**20**	**21**	**22** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	**23**	**24**	**25**
26	**27**	**28**	**29** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	**30**		

2026 July Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

7/5 – **Worship in the park**
7/12 – Kathryn Pitcel
7/19 – Jennifer Sarnow
7/26 – Audrey Scholl

Greeters

7/5 – **Worship in the park**
7/12 – Henry & Margarete Hummelbeck
7/19 – Gayle Hempel
7/26 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel

Bethany Assistants

7/5 – **Worship in the park**
Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Assistant – Mark Hansen
Usher – Beth Preuss and Collette Schultz

7/12
Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Larry Thome
Communion Assistant – Inger Kirkwood, Galen Lingl, Larry Thome
Usher – Mark & Debby Hansen

7/19
Assistant Minister – Michael Korbein
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Assistant – Michaele Korbein
Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

7/26
Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Assistants – Beth Preuss, Barb Parker, Judy Zobal
Ushers – Tim Parker & Shane Gesler

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

Sundae Sunday

- July 12th following our service at Bethany
- Enjoy some fellowship with your church family ☺

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

June 21, 2026

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

Motion made by Gayle Hempel and second by Bret Haschke to approve secretaries report. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report for May 2026 was reviewed. Motion made by Gayle Hempel and second by Audrey Scholl to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

Marlene Pelton read a thank you letter from LuMin Lutheran Campus Ministry for the $5,000.00 gift that East Lemonweir gave to the Campus Ministry.

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church will provide the meat and buns for the Picnic in the Park on July 5, 2026. This service will include Bethany-New Lisbon, Winding Rivers Methodist Church-New Lisbon, and East Lemonweir.

Marlene Pelton has taken inventory of items to purchase for the Wa du Shuda Ice Cream stand. The signup sheet for workers needs to be completed.

Marlene Pelton gave an itemized report on what has been paid to TK Elevator from 2011 through 2025 under our maintenance agreement. A new maintenance agreement will begin December l, 2026 with AllStar Elevator.

Bret Haschke will check on who could give us a repair estimate on our Leer Cooler.

Gayle Hempel made a motion to adjourn, second by Bret Haschke.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore