Stewardship Update: Partnering Together to Meet Our Goals

At the May Bethany Council meeting, Treasurer Michaele Korbein shared that she needed to transfer funds from Bethany's savings account to cover monthly expenses. While this has happened occasionally in the past, it has become more frequent this year due to lower giving. In response, the Council conducted a financial review for 2026 to better understand our current trajectory.

For clarity, Bethany budgets on an annual—not monthly—basis. This means monthly plan-versus-actual comparisons are not precise, and any monthly estimates are simply averages based on dividing the annual budget across twelve months.

Using this approach to estimating and averaging, the January–April 2026 results show:

- **Total Planned Spend Variance** — Planned spending is **$4,126 below** the budgeted amount for this timeframe – we're spending less that planned.
- **Planned Monthly Giving** — Calculated by dividing Bethany's total annual expenses by 12, the planned monthly giving target is **$11,075**.
- **Planned vs. Actual Giving** — For January through April, planned giving totaled **$44,301**, while actual giving was **$36,711**.
- **Giving Variance** — The shortfall for the four-month period is **$7,589**.
- **Average Monthly Variance** — This equals **$1,897** per month.
- **Projected Year-End Impact** — If the current trend continues and all planned expenses are incurred, Bethany will end the year **$22,768 below budgeted giving**.

This update is not a red-level alert, but rather a yellow-level caution. It's an encouragement for all of us to keep Bethany's financial health in mind as we move through the rest of the year. We also recognize that giving often increases toward the end of the year, while summer months typically see a dip as families travel for vacations, holidays, and events.

We understand that the current economy is challenging and that many are feeling the strain of rising costs. With that in mind, we ask that you prayerfully consider your giving plan and, if you are away during the summer, try not to miss your weekly offering. You may also want to explore Bethany's online giving option (QR code below), which can help maintain a consistent weekly or monthly rhythm.

Thank you for being a congregation that gives not out of obligation, but out of shared purpose. Your financial support keeps ministry moving—feeding families, discipling believers, caring for those in need, and creating spaces where people encounter Jesus. Together, we are making a real and meaningful impact.

W-ELCA News

Mission statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ
All women of Bethany are members of W-ELCA and can enjoy the fellowship, programs and activities.

Our summer Bible Study from the *gather* magazine is "I Am Worthy".

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

Please check out the following in the narthex and any help with these is much appreciated!

- Information about our annual Salad Luncheon
- Information about the Silent Purse Auction

Thanks to everyone who helped with the funeral luncheon for Helen Walker. Blessings and peace to her family.

Thanks to those who donated and shared plants/flowers for our Easter service.

Upcoming events:
Sunday, May 31 – Recognition Brunch
Tuesday June 2@ 4:00 -Rachael Circle – meet in the conference room
Friday, June 12 – Salad Luncheon

A thought: Do not ask God to guide your footsteps if you're not willing to move your feet.

POTLUCK RECOGNITION BRUNCH, SUNDAY MAY 31ST.

Bethany BINGO

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

after

WORSHIP

BINGO				
4	26	42	59	73
12	17	39	51	68
7	23	★	48	66
9	22	36	54	71
2	28	45	60	75

BINGO				
3	21	41	56	72
11	19	34	50	67
8	25	★	49	64
6	27	33	52	71
1	16	44	59	68

Come for **FELLOWSHIP, FUN** *and* **PRIZES!**

PLUS... A SPECIAL GRAND COVER-ALL PRIZE!

PRIZE DONATIONS REQUESTED

Your generosity helps make the fun possible!

2026 June Celebrations

Bethany Birthdays

Kevin Klinker – 2
Toni Phelps – 2
Rosie Halverson – 4
Garry Olson – 4
Janie Bever – 8
Jordan Krause - 9
Cody Sletten – 12
John Bailey – 14
Danielle Benson - 14
Don Powell – 15
Jack Krotzman – 15
Shane Gesler – 15
Barbara Pease - 19
Sandy Rhea - 21
ShyAnna Sletten – 30

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Bret Haschke - 25
Nathan Brown – 26

East Lemonweir Anniversaries

Connie & Gerald Wolfgram – 5

Bethany Anniversaries

Kevin & Lisa Klinker – 14
Ken & Marcia Adams – 22
Karl & Peg Katuin – 23
Chris & Leah Faber – 24
Jack & Betty Krotzman – 25

If a celebration is not listed, please call 608 562 3807 or email bethanyeast@mwt.net.

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church

Special Congregational Meeting

May 10, 2026

Roger Nelson opened the meeting explaining the steeple's shingles have been destroyed or damaged by woodpeckers. A nationwide company, Kulp's of Stratford, Wisconsin, has a bid of $40,487. Motion to accept the bid by Roger Pitcel, Marlene Pelton second the motion. Motion carried. Meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wolfgram, Secretary

Bethany Notes

If anyone is interested in being on a "History Team" for Bethany to help organize and display historical items, pictures, etc. from our church, please see Debby Hansen.

Bethany Budget Figures

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

Actual:	April	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$11,724.39	$49,153.82*
Expenses Paid	$23,867.43**	$65,849.11***

- *Includes reimbursements from East Lemonweir
- **Includes payment for insurance work
- ***Includes power roof heat tape & Insurance work

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Debby Hansen, Inger Kirkwood, Glenda Swinehart, Galen Lingl, Michaele Korbein, Tim Parker, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	None
Guests:	None

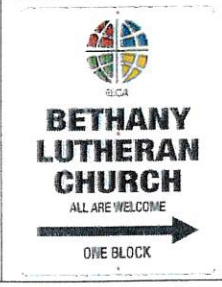
Agenda

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. ***Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 8-0.***
Devotion:	Glenda Swinehart shared a devotion about placing our trust in God and believing in God's grace and love.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Michaele Korbein presented the minutes from the April 2026 Council Meeting captured in Larry Thome's absence. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the April 2026 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 8-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register, the Statement of Financial Position, the Memorials Balance Summary and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense Report as of April 30, 2026. Michaele mentioned that she needed to move money from savings to pay for current operating expenses. It was noted that giving is down for the year and we cannot continue use savings for operating expenses. The Council agreed to raise awareness through announcements and a Beacon article. ***Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy announced that Pastor Kathryn Thompson from LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministries) at UW-La Crosse will be joining us for worship on May 31st to share what the LuMin provides for the students on campus. East Lemonweir provided a donation to their ministry and the Council discussed how we could help their ministry. ***Larry Thome made a motion to use the money collected from the Penny Pole for the rest of 2026 be used to support the LuMin Campus Ministries, seconded by Tim Parker; motion passed 8-0.*** Pastor also shared that she will be away on June 7th for the Synod Assembly (Bishiop Malpica will provide a recorded message) and June 14th for vacation.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Larry)*	Putting together a program to help educate the congregation on the meaning of Lutheran Discipleship. The ELCA teaches the five (5) gifts of Discipleship: LIVE among God's faithful people; HEAR the word of God and SHARE in the Lord's supper; PROCLAIM the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; SERVE all people, following the example of Jesus; STRIVE for justice and peace in all the earth.
Education: *(Debby)*	Family Sunday School is scheduled for May 17th and Debby is planning a one-day camp for Bethany children at Sugar Creek to have fun and experience what Sugar Creek can provide.
Property: (Tim)	The lawnmower is still in the shop and multiple repairs (bad electrical outlet, damaged signage and water in the basement) have been addressed. Clean-up day scheduled for May 16th

	Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
	Church Council Meeting Minutes
	Sunday, May 3, 2026

Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	Continuing to gather items for Baby Care and Health Care kits. Preliminary planning a new project to collect school kits/Backpacks for the New Lisbon schools.
Worship: *(Galen)*	With Michaela Pederson leaving the area in the near future, Bev Rood, who teaches music at New Lisbon, is available to record music for our worship.
Old Business	
Secretary Position:	With Betty Krotzman retiring in the fall, Larry Thome will send the church secretary job description to the Executive Council and Roger Nelson for review and any modifications. The job opening will be posted on social media with the hope of having the candidate in place by the beginning of September.
Spring Clean-up:	Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at 9:00 AM. Tim has a list of things to be completed.
New Copier:	The new copier for the office will be delivered Monday, May 4th. It will be connected to all the computers in church to make it easier to copy/print from any location in the building.
New Business	
Bethany History Display:	A large amount of historical information/articles/pictures about Bethany has been gathered over the years and a group is being organized to create a display somewhere in the building to share with everyone. Anyone interested should contact Debby Hansen or Pastor Lucy.
Bethany Road Sign:	There is a Bethany road sign at the intersection of Bridge and Washington streets that is faded and worn and needs to be removed or replaced. Larry Thome presented four options (including prices) for a new sign. Option selected at the right ⟶ ***Larry Thome made a motion to purchase new Bethany Road Signs from AVH Graphics (Lyndon Station) for $240 using funds from the Charles Magnus and Marlene Fish undesignated Memorials, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.*** 
Guidepost for Decision Making:	Mark Hansen presented a document received at the Synod Council retreat in February outlining guidelines councils can use when making major decisions based on our beliefs, mission and values. We will look to this for guidance in the future.
Wa Du Shuda Parade:	Bethany will participate in the Wa Du Shuda Parade on Saturday, July 11th. Pastor Lucy, Glenda Swinehart and Larry Thome will meet to start planning this month.
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting will be June 28th at 12:00 PM. This is last Sunday of June due to Pastor Lucy being gone on the first and second Sunday in June and other Council members being unavailable the third Sunday. Larry Thome will provide the devotion for the June meeting and will provide the announcements during worship for June.
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

May 17, 2026

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

The East Lemonweir Council Meeting was called to order May 17, 2026 at 11:45 am, by Roger Nelson, President. Pastor Lucy led us in prayer.

The Secretary Report was presented. Motion to approve was made by Gayle Hempel, second by Kathryn Pitcel. Motion carried.

The Treasure Report was presented. Motion to approve was made by Connie Wolfgram, second by Audrey Scholl. Motion carried.

Repair of the cooler was discussed and decision was made that more information is needed.

Sunday, May 31st, Pastor Kathryn Thompson from LuMin (UW-LaCrosse Lutheran Campus Ministries) will be joining us for worship, to share what the LuMin provides for the students on campus.

Sunday, June 6th – 7th is Synod Assembly. Message will be provided via a recording from Bishop Malpica.

Sunday, June 14th – Pastor will be on Vacation and Roger Nelson will lead the service.

Sunday, July 5th – Joint Worship in the park. It will be a Patriotic Theme.

Marlene Pelton reported she has been going through old records of East Lemonweir. She also discussed, the sidewall of the steps are breaking out.

Roger Pitcel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Marlene Pelton, second. Motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wolfgram, Secretary

Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Parish

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 am Bethany Worship 10:30 East Lemonweir Worship	1	2 4 pm Rachel Circle	3 9:00am Quilting	4	5	6 Synod Assembly
7 Synod Assembly – No Communion	8 Pastor Vac	9 Pastor Vac	10 Pastor Vac 9:00am Quilting	11 Pastor Vac	12 Pastor Vac 11 – 1 Bethany W-ELCA Salad Luncheon	13 Pastor Vac
14 Pastor Vac – No Communion BINGO after Worship	15	16	17 9:00am Quilting	18	19	20
 21 East Lemonweir Council Summer Arrives!	22	23	24 9:00am Quilting	25	26	27 Wedding
28 12 pm – Bethany Council Mtg	29	30	AA Meetings East Lemonweir Tuesday @ 6:30 Bethany Thursday @ 6:30	No Bible Study until Fall.	Joint Worship Service – July 5th in the Park	Happy 4th of July

2026 June Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

6/7 – Roger Nelson
6/14 – Bret Haschke
6/21 – Dawn Nelson
6/28 – Connie Wolfgram

Greeters

6/7 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke
6/14 – Diane Clark
6/21 – Jennifer Sarnow
6/28 – Ted Haschke

Bethany Assistants

6/7
Asst Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Betty Krotzman
Ushers – Shane Gesler & Karl Katuin

6/14
Asst Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Ushers – Beth Preuss & Collette Schultz

6/21
Asst Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Asst – Beth Preuss
Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

6/28 –
Asst Minister – Larry Thome
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Asst – Michaele Korbein, Ross Hardie, Judy Zobal
Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

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

BETHANY
SALAD LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

SERVING 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

MENU:

MEATBALLS, PASTA SALADS
MANY VARIOUS OTHER SALADS
DESSERTS

ADULTS: $11; AGES 6-12; $6 – UNDER 6 FREE

SILENT PURSE AUCTION

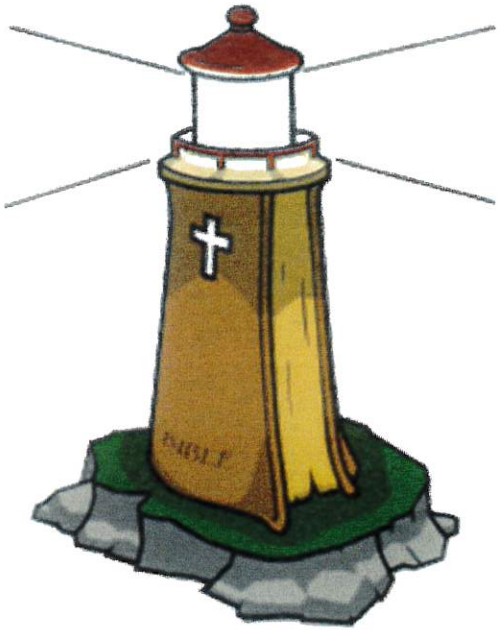
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CORNER OF RIVER & WASHINGTON ST.
NEW LISBON

CARRYOUTS – 562-3807

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

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
June 2026



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24