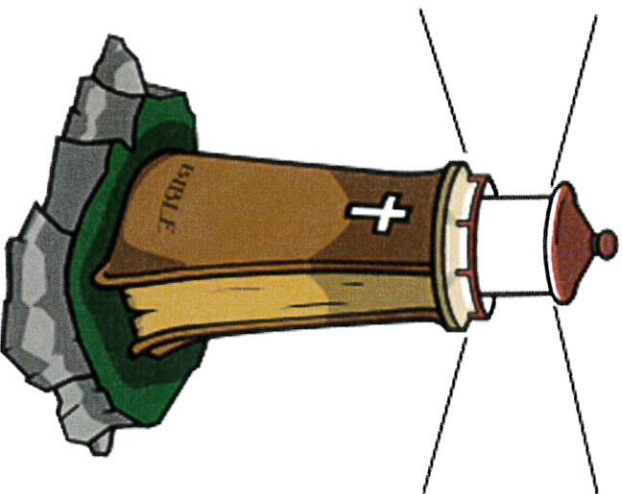


Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
March 2025



Psalm 27:14
“Wait for the Lord; be strong
and take heart and wait for the
Lord.”

Be stretched, Be filled, Be warmed

Dear God's Beloved,

As March begins, I find a bit of excitement in my heart. It's Ross and my birthday month, the official start of spring, "March Maddess" basketball, and Lent. That's right, I said I'm excited for Lent.

I'm not kidding you; jokes are for next month; I really do enjoy the journey of Lent. I enjoy the reminder to examine my heart and actions—to purposefully make time to discern where and to what God is calling me. I'm filled as we walk together as a community, as the body of Christ, through this time—where we hear messages of forgiveness and feel God's love. I'm warmed, not just by the warmer temperatures as spring approaches but by the praises God's Word and actions move us to make as a community. I'm especially excited about our journey this year.

Starting with Wednesday, March 12, we will gather for worship around the tables of the fellowship hall at Bethany. Our time will be filled with worship, reflections, conversation, and soup. Why soup? Well, soup is a good reminder of how something can be stretched, filled, and warmed (and it's tradition 😊).

I honestly don't think it's an accident or coincidence that we gather for meals of soup during Lent. In a season that helps remember God's forgiveness—soup is endlessly forgiving. If extra people stop by soup can be stretched and extra places can be set. Seemingly unrelated and a small amount of ingredients can be put together and create a full meal. We too are called to stretch during Lent. Jesus often broke bread with people that others deemed "unworthy." Lent is a time to contemplate what walls we put up and how Jesus calls us to break down those walls so that we can find and form loving communities for all people.

Soup is endlessly versatile. When you hear the word "soup," it's likely that many images flood your mind as you sort through your own experiences with this simple meal. While we may have memories of soups that left us hungry after a couple of hours, so many soups can leave us completely full and satisfied, from a slow-cooked stew to a chunky loaded baked potato soup. Whatever kind it is, it fills us up to the brim. Even if the recipe changes because others brought different items, or the pantry is running low—the "potluck" aspect of soup reminds me of the richness and diversity of the body of Christ. In the pot and around tables, ingredients and people differ and aren't always filling on their own. Yet, when brought together, delicious and filling food and community are formed.

Even though Spring is coming, Lent can often feel cold—especially since the focus of Lent is penitence and bareness. But it also can be warming. We add extra time for fellowship and community. We gather to enjoy each other's hospitality, talk about how we are feeling, and how we see God working in the world. Soup warms our bodies while fellowship and God's Word of forgiveness warms our hearts.

So please, join me this Lent on Wednesdays for Soup at "Luke's Diner." Come and be warmed, filled, and stretched by God's Word and eating soup together. God's Peace, *Pastor Lucy*

"Luke's Diner" services and soup-dinner will start at 6:00PM in the Bethany fellowship hall.

March 12 – Luke 5:27-39 "Feasting with Levi"

March 19 – Luke 7:36-50 "A Sinful Woman
Forgiven"

March 26 – Luke 9:10-17 "The Feeding of 5,000"

April 2 – Luke 14:1-24 "A Sabbath Meal"

April 9 – Luke 19:1-10 "Zacchaeus"

A Special Thank You!

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and prayers while I was sick. It knocked me down for quite a few weeks and I really appreciated the time to rest and get better.

East Lemonweir Council Meeting

February 26, 2025

President Roger Nelson called the meeting to order. Present were Pastor Lucy, Marlene Pelton, Connie Wolfgram, Roger Nelson. Absent were Gail, Audry, Roger and Kathryn Pitcel. We began at 11:45. Pastor Lucy led us in prayer.

A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Marlene, second by Connie; motion carried. There was no treasurer's report.

We have received an estimate for metal roofing and gutters of \$33,900 from Ernest Gingerich Construction. This includes metal gutters, chimney and roof. No action was taken.

On April 17th Maundy Thursday services will be held at East Lemonweir at 6:30.

Motion to adjourn by Marlene second by Connie; carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wolfgram, sec.

Bethany & East Lemonweir Lutheran Parishes

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9AM Worship @ Bethany 10:30AM Worship @ East Lemonweir	AA Meeting 6:30 PM - Tuesday @ East Lemonweir	AA Meeting 6:30 PM - Thursday Bethany	1			
2 Communion Bethany Council Mtg	4 Rachel Circle - 4pm @ Bethany	5 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday 9 am Quilting	6 9 am Bible Study	7	8	
9 Altar Communion East Lemonweir Special Congregational Mtg	10	11	12 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service	13 9 am Bible Study	14	15
16 Communion East Lemonweir Council Mtg	17	18	19 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service	20 9 am Bible Study	21	22
23 W-ELCA Cal Center Trip for Looney Lutherans Altar Communion	24	25	26 6 pm Soup Supper & Lent Service	27 9 am Bible Study	28	29
30 Altar Communion	31					



March 2025 Celebrations

Birthdays

Bethany

4 Joe Baumgart
5 Sidney Schultz
10 Shirley Wehman
17 Leni Costello
18 Keith Korbein
29 Bridger Benson
31 Pete Smith

East Lemonweir

2 Lorraine Bowen
11 Karren Elsing
11 Ron Thompson
21 Sharron Groskreutz
22 Rustin Groskreutz
27 Mararete Hummelbeck

3/13 - Ross Hardie

3/16 Lucy Hardie

Anniversaries

Bethany

3/25 - Mike & Lori Esser

East Lemonweir

3/20 Bret & Billie Jo Haschke

If your name is missing on the Birthday and Anniversary page, please call the Church Office (#562-3807), and let us know. Thank you!

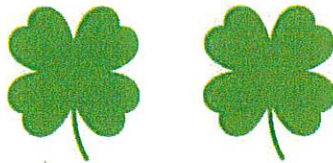
B-I-N-G-O

L U C K Y				
13	27	38	47	64
4	20	40	50	70
11	28		48	66
15	19	43	54	68
-	-	-	-	-

At Bethany

March 16th

Hint for the big prize game: Maybe you will be
the **Lucky** one!



**You can donate prizes to the Bingo Basket, if you want.
Hope to see and hear you on the 16th!

March 9th

East Lemowneir Congregational Meeting is being held. The meeting is needed for the approval, of the proposal, for a new church roof.



2025 March Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

3/2 – Audrey Scholl
3/9 - Connie Wolfgram
3/16 – Jennifer Sarnow
3/23 – Kathryn Pitcel
3/30 – Dawn Nelson

Greeters

3/2 – Audrey Scholl
3/9 – Connie Wolfgram
3/16 – Jennifer Sarnow
3/23 – Gayle Hempel
3/30 – Roger & Dawn Nelson

Bethany Assistants

March 2

Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Assistant – Beth Preuss
Usher – Karl Katuin & Tim Parker

March 5th @ 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service

March 9

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Assistants- Inger
Kirkwood, Galen Lingl, Barb Parker
Usher – Larry and Kathy Thome

March 16

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Assistant – Mark Hansen
Usher - Lori & Mike Esser

March 23

Assistant Minister – Michaelae Korbein
Reader – Betty Krotzman
Communion Assistants- Michaelae
Korbein, Betty Krotzman, Ross Hardie
Usher – Shane Gesler & Tim Parker

March 30

Assistant Minister – Larry Thome
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Assistants – Larry
Thome, Mark Hansen, Deanna Smith
Ushers - Mark & Debby Hansen

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

Upcoming Events from W-ELCA

*Sunday, March 2 – Bold Women’s Sunday

*Tuesday, March 4 – pancake supper

*Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2 – Soup Suppers

*Sunday, March 23 – Looney Lutherans at CAL Center in Reedsburg

*Saturday, April 26 – Spring Convention at St. Stephens in Camp Douglas

*Sunday, April 27 – Bethany’s Recognition Brunch

+Bless our quilters, especially on National Quilting Day –
March 15

+A thought: God is our wireless provider!



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!



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Council Members Present:	Pastor Lucy Hardie, Karl Katuin, Mark Hansen, Michael Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Debby Hansen, Glenda Swinehart, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Deanna Smith
Guests:	Collette Schultz
Agenda	
Call to Order:	President Karl Katuin called the Council meeting to order at 12:03 PM.
Agenda Approval:	Karl Katuin presented the agenda for approval. Karl added an additional item to New Business – a presentation by Collette Schultz on the Sunshine movement organization. Glenda Swinehart made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented and updated, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 7-0.
Devotions:	Pastor Lucy shared a devotion/poem called “Green Light” from the poet Joe Davis. The poem focuses on if we can’t see the light, we need to “go be the light”. When we, or people we are with are down, we need to “let our people glow”! Our souls should shine with infinite wealth.
Secretary’s Report: <i>(Larry)</i>	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the January 2025 Council Meeting. There were no questions on the report as presented. Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the January, 2025 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 7-0.
Treasurer’s Report: <i>(Michael)</i>	The Bank Account Balances Report and Savings Summary Report were presented as of January 31, 2025. There were no questions on the reports as presented. Mark Hansen made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s reports as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 7-0.
Pastor’s Report:	Pastor Lucy in researching safety procedures on how to plan for emergencies from the Synod. She also confirmed the Bethany does have liability insurance to cover us for serving food if we host a community supper. The following Sundays are going to be used for time off: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 4 – Continued education • July 27 – Vacation • September 14 and 21 – Vacation • November 23 – Vacation We will look to get Supply Pastors for those Sundays.
Committee Reports	
Discipleship: <i>(Glenda and Debby)</i>	No updates other than we are still looking to host a community supper.
Education: <i>(Deanna)</i>	No updates as Deanna was not in attendance, but a reminder that the next family Bible study is scheduled for February 9.
Social Concerns: <i>(Inger)</i>	No updates.
Property: <i>(Karl)</i>	Had the circulation pump on the boiler fixed (cause of no heat in the sanctuary on Jan. 28). Replaced the light switch in the Fellowship Hall (caused the lights to go out on Jan. 28). Looking to replace the light bulbs in the Fellowship Hall with LED bulbs.
Worship: <i>(Larry)</i>	Pastor Lucy shared that the Lenten theme will be “Luke’s Diner”, based on the Gospel of Luke. Our mid-week Lenten services will be done in the Fellowship Hall and we will be eating (like at a diner) during the service – very casual. Our services will start at 6:00 PM.



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Old Business			
Church Cleaning:	We've had some people sign up to help with cleaning, but we still don't have a longer-term viable solution to helping Mike and Inger Kirkwood. Larry Thome will check with external cleaning services to get estimates on the cost of cleaning 2x a month		
Synod Council Retreat:	There will be a Synod Council Retreat on March 22 in Sparta for Council members wanting to participate. The cost is \$25 per attendee which includes lunch.		
New Business			
Sunshine Movement:	<p>Collette Schultz, a Bethany member and founding member of the Sunshine Movement made a presentation requesting support from Bethany.</p> <p>The Sunshine Movement is a New Lisbon organization that was founded in 2020 with a mission to help people cope with the burden on loneliness and supporting others to spread their sunshine. They have sponsored the Christmas Lights in the Park, gift baskets for those ill or needing support, Sprinkles of Sunshine Treat Expo as well as other community events.</p> <p>This support was not a monetary request, but rather a request to act as a "Fiscal Agent" for the Sunshine Movement. This would include Bethany creating a bank account for the Sunshine Movement under the Bethany name, as the Sunshine Movement does not have the capacity to function as a separate 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status organization.</p> <p>The Council discussed this in detail and would like to meet with the Bethany Financial Auditing team (Ross Hardie, Scott Gollmar) along with Kathy Thome, who helped develop the financial auditing processes, to get their input on any potential issues or risks and for guidance on any safeguards we should have in place should Bethany move forward in this role.</p>		
Announcement/ Devotion List	<p>Based on the elections from the Annual Meeting, the makeup of the 2025 Bethany Council is:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Executive Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Karl Katuin • Vice President – Mark Hansen • Secretary – Larry Thome • Treasurer – Michaele Korbein </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Standing Committees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship – Glenda Swinehart and Debby Hansen • Education – Deanna Smith • Social Concerns – Inger Kirkwood • Property – Mark Hansen • Worship – Larry Thome </td> </tr> </table> <p>Karl Katuin passed around a list for Council to sign up for devotions and announcements for the rest of the year.</p>	<p><u>Executive Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Karl Katuin • Vice President – Mark Hansen • Secretary – Larry Thome • Treasurer – Michaele Korbein 	<p><u>Standing Committees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship – Glenda Swinehart and Debby Hansen • Education – Deanna Smith • Social Concerns – Inger Kirkwood • Property – Mark Hansen • Worship – Larry Thome
<p><u>Executive Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Karl Katuin • Vice President – Mark Hansen • Secretary – Larry Thome • Treasurer – Michaele Korbein 	<p><u>Standing Committees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipleship – Glenda Swinehart and Debby Hansen • Education – Deanna Smith • Social Concerns – Inger Kirkwood • Property – Mark Hansen • Worship – Larry Thome 		
Audit Risk Review:	Karl Katuin updated the Council on the 2024-year end Audit Review. There were some recommendations from the audit regarding documenting procedures and some best practice suggestions. One of them was to have a secure location for financial documents. The Bethany safe needs to be fixed to satisfy this recommendation, and Michaele Korbein will contact a locksmith to see if this can be fixed.		
Church Basement Water-Proofing:	Karl Katuin received an estimate from Badger Basement for a solution to the church basement flooding issues. The estimate came in at ~\$32,700. This work will be prioritized at the next Council meeting on long-term planning.		
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2025 at 12:00 PM. This meeting will be a longer meeting (2-3 hours) focused on long-term planning, including identifying and prioritizing long-term projects, and then developing the long-term timeline for these items.		
Adjourn Meeting/ Closing Prayer:	<p>Pastor Lucy led the Council in a closing prayer.</p> <p><i>Glenda Swinehart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Debby Hansen; motion passed 7-0.</i> The meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.</p>		

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary



Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Special Council Meeting – Sunshine Movement

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Meeting Purpose:	To discuss and possibly vote on the request from the Sunshine Movement to become a “Fiscal Agent” for their organization.
Background:	<p>At the February Council meeting, the Sunshine movement, represented by Collette Schultz, a Bethany member and founding member of the Sunshine Movement made a presentation requesting support from Bethany.</p> <p>The Sunshine Movement is a New Lisbon organization that was founded in 2020 with a mission to help people cope with the burden on loneliness and supporting others to spread their sunshine. They have sponsored the Christmas Lights in the Park, gift baskets for those ill or needing support, Sprinkles of Sunshine Treat Expo as well as other community events.</p> <p>This support was not a monetary request, but rather a request to act as a “Fiscal Agent” for the Sunshine Movement. This would include Bethany creating a bank account for the Sunshine Movement under the Bethany name, as the Sunshine Movement does not have the capacity to function as a separate 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status organization.</p> <p>During the past week, emails were sent among the Council with additional information on the role of being a Fiscal Agent. This meeting today was planned to meet with the Bethany Auditing team to discuss.</p>
Council Members Present:	Karl Katuin, Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Debby Hansen, Glenda Swinehart, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Deanna Smith, Pastor Lucy Hardie
Guests:	Kathy Thome (past auditor) Ross Hardie and Scott Gollmar were unable to attend (current auditors)
Agenda	
Call to Order:	President Karl Katuin called the Special Council Meeting to order at 9:55 AM.
Discussion:	<p>A discussion was made regarding the role of a Fiscal Agent and the responsibilities of such a role. This basis of this discussion came from the information shared during the prior week and also research from various Council members.</p> <p>Kathy Thome also provided some of the risks associated with Bethany fulfilling this role (Bethany’s role/potential liability, additional work representing the Sunshine Movement, financial risks).</p> <p>The Council wholeheartedly supports the work the Sunshine Movement does for the community and want to find alternative ways to provide this support other than the role of a Fiscal Agent. Some suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist the Sunshine Movement in setting up a 501c3 organization• Provide the financial support to set up this 501c3 organization (approx. ~\$100) – this would be provided by private funding, not Bethany• Potentially assist in setting up the banking accounts for the Sunshine Movement <p>After this discussion, the Council agreed that there was support for the Sunshine Movement, just not in the role of Fiscal Agent.</p>
Council Vote:	<i>Glenda Swinehart made a motion to NOT have Bethany act as a Fiscal Agent for the Sunshine Movement, but provide any other kind of support for the organization. The motion was seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 7-0.</i>
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary