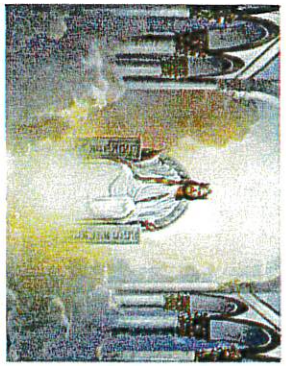
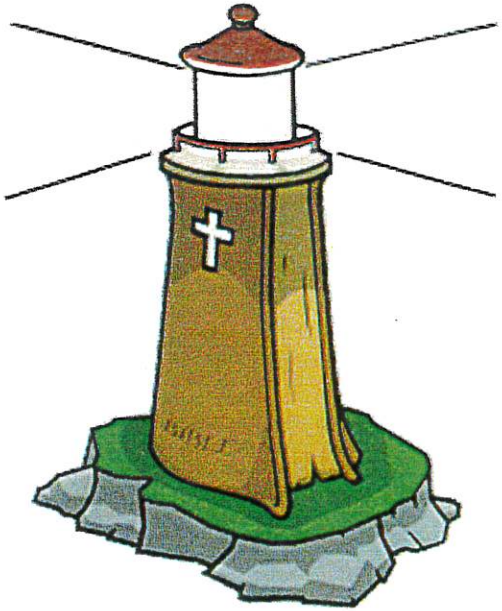


Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
March 2026



"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." – ***Colossians 3:2***

I was recently asked why we always say Lent lasts 40 days when it really lasts 46 days when one would count it on the calendar. This question also made me think about some other questions: Why do some people give up or fast from certain things during Lent? Why is this season before Easter called Lent? What is Lent actually for?

So, here are some thoughts about Lenten tradition, some history, and/or just some food for thought as we move into March and experience the Lenten season. May they add some encouragement and/or confidence as you journey.

- The Lenten liturgical season is the season that comes right before the celebration of Easter (which is the center and holiest day of the Christian liturgical calendar).
- Lent has been and continues to be an important time or preparation for this holy time when as we look forward to celebrating Jesus' victory over death.
- Historically, it was also a time for new members to learn and prepare for baptism and be welcomed fully into fellowship.
- Lenten practices have been shaped by traditions and cultures across two millennia. This offers not only a deep and rich history but also the gift of tremendous variety in its practice.
- Lent is a 40-day period of spiritual introspection that, for Catholics and Protestants, occurs over 46 days.
    - During Lent, Sundays are viewed as miniature breaks from the hard work of preparing ourselves. On Sundays we relax and celebrate that even during the season of self-examination for sinful patterns and habits in our lives, Jesus has already claimed and saved us (think of every Sunday as a mini-Easter where we bask in the glory of forgiveness through Jesus' death and resurrection).
    - Yet we still acknowledge the solemnity of the season by refraining from singing or saying "Alleluia," and adding more opportunities to gather as a community in worship and prayer.
- In other languages, Lent is literally called "fast time." German *Fastenzeit*, Norwegian *Fastetid* and Amharic *Tsome* all point to the reality that abstaining from certain foods and luxuries during Lent is one way we emulate Jesus (and Moses and Elijah) in his 40-day fast. *
    - By fasting from certain foods or actions, we train our minds and bodies to overcome a desire for luxuries. We also contemplate how humans don't live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God's mouth (Luke 4:4). *
- We get our word "Lent" probably from the Old English word *Lencten* the Proto-Germanic *lengatinaz*. Both words literally meant "time of lengthening" and referred to spring when the days get longer in the Northern Hemisphere. Adding more light to our lives during the spring season of Lent is both literal and metaphorical. *
- Even though Lent was viewed as a time for those preparing to be baptized, it quickly expanded to include whole community of faith. In solidarity with those becoming members, current members also fasted, concentrated on prayer, and gave alms as a way of preparing to revisit the promises they received in their own baptisms and be re-immersed in God's love.

The practices of Lent were never designed to make individuals feel more spiritual in isolation. They were never designed to consume people with guilt. They were designed to help us acknowledge the truths about our lives with Christ and to reshape how the people of God live together. All people, each and every one of us, are sinners in need of forgiveness and grace. God gives us this grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of being called a child of God, forgiveness, grace, and love calls us to live work together as community.

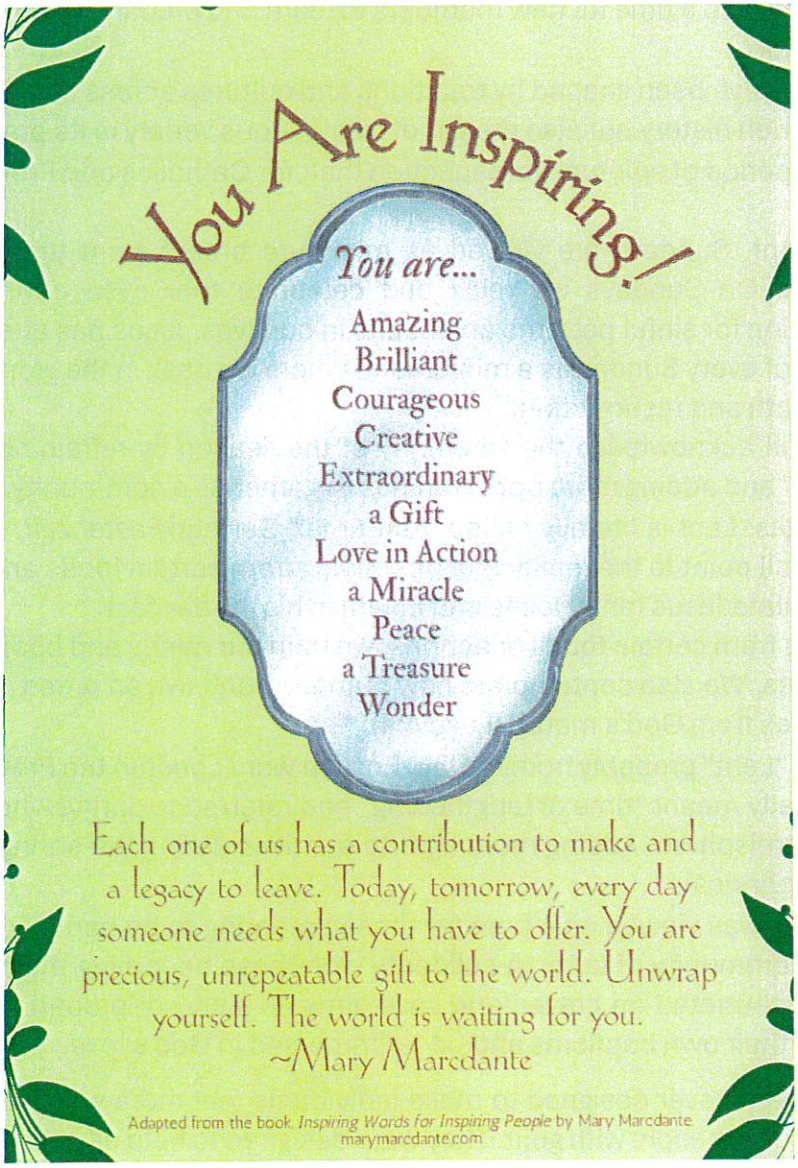
--Pastor Lucy

*Information from "A Penitential Season" by Cory Driver (Director of Leading the Integration of Faith and Entrepreneurship at Miami University in Oxford, OH) from *Living Lutheran. https://www.livinglutheran.org/voices-of-faith/a-penitential-season/*

Bold Women's Day–observed the first Sunday of March, Sunday, March 1, 2026–celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

(from W-ELCA website)

A Note of Encouragement for All Women



Can you name any bold women of faith from your life? What about the Bible? How have they influenced your faith? Pause and give thanks for them.

Bethany & East Lemonweir Lutheran Parishes

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bethany Council 12PM	**2**	**3** Rachel Circle 4pm @ Bethany	**4** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany 5 pm Soup Supper – Cheesy Broccoli&Chix Wild Rice 6:30 pm Worship	**5** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**6**	**7** At Bedtime
8 **Family** Sunday School after Worship	**9**	**10**	**11** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany 5 pm Soup Supper- Creamy Potato & Chili 6:30 pm Worship	**12** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**13**	**14**
15 Dice Day after Bethany Worship	**16**	**17** **Happy St Pat's**	**18** 9 am Quilting @ Bethany 5 pm Soup Supper- Soup Choice from prior weeks 6:30 pm Worship	**19** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**20**	**21** **Communion Class @ Bethany 10am-12pm**
22	**23** **Beacon Articles due**	**24**	9 am Quilting @ Bethany 5 pm Soup Supper- Church Council Serves 6:30 pm Worship	**26** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**27**	**28** **9am-1pm Sprinkles of Sunshine @ NL Legion Hall by Sunshine Movement**
29	**30**	**31**	February 25th Soup will be Cheesy Broccoli & Chicken Noodle	AA Meetings 6:30 PM Tues @ East Lemonweir Thu @ Bethany		Worship 9 am Bethany 10:30 East Lemonweir

2026 March Worship Assistants

3/29 - Palm Sunday

East Lemonweir

Readers

3/1 – Billie Jo Haschke
3/8 – Kathryn Pitcel
3/15 – Connie Wolfgram
3/22 – Audrey Scholl
3/29 – Diane Clark

Greeters

3/1 – Jennifer Sarnow
3/8 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel
3/15 – Gayle Hempel
3/22 – Connie Wolfgram
3/29 – Roger & Dawn Nelson

Bethany Assistants

March 1 –
Asst Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Betty Krotzman
Communion Asst- Michaele Korbein
Ushers – Beth Preuss & Collette Schultz

March 8
Asst Minister – Larry Thome
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Asst – Ross Hardie, Larry Thome, Judy Zobal
Ushers – Karl Katuin & Tim Parker

March 15
Asst Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader - Ross Hardie
Communion Asst – Beth Preuss
Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

March 22
Asst Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Asst – Mark Hansen, Inger Kirkwood, Betty Krotzman
Usher – Larry & Kathy Thome

March 29
Asst Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Asst – Michaele Korbein, Beth Preuss, Ross Hardie
Usher – Shane Gesler & Beth Preuss

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

Hey, Bethany, "Let's Have Some Photo Fun!"

Start looking through those old photos. We want to see what you looked like in the early years. All ages can participate. This is the plan:

- Bring in a picture of you from your younger years. Be sure to identify that it's you by putting the photo in an envelope with your name on the envelope.
- Please have pictures turned in to Debby Hansen by Sunday, March 29th.
- Pictures will be on display the month of April. Do NOT let people know which one is you.
- On Sunday, May 3rd, the true identity of those sharing pictures will be revealed during fellowship time following our service.
- Photos will then be returned to the owners.

Dice Day Part 2 ~ March 15th following our BLC service!

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 8th following service

Sprinkles of Sunshine

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

9 AM - 1 PM

Treat Expo

NEW LISBON COMMUNITY CENTER

110 WELCH PRAIRIE RD,

NEW LISBON, WISCONSIN 53950

The Sunshine Movement

2026
Bethany Council Members

President – Mark Hansen
Vice President – Galen Lingl
Treasurer – Michaele Korbein
Secretary – Larry Thome
Property – Tim Parker
Worship – Galen Lingl
Glenda Swinehart & Larry Thome - Discipleship
Debby Hansen - Education
Inger Kirkwood – Social Concerns

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

	January
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 9,560.83
Expenses paid	$ 10,976.99

.Bethany Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 1, 2026

Council Members present: Pastor Lucy Hardie, Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Glenda Swinehart, Debby Hansen, Inger Kirkwood, Tm Parker, Galen Lingl

Council members absent: Larry Thome

1. Call to Order: President Mark Hansen called the council meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda: **Glenda Swinehart made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 8-0.**
3. Devotions: Mark Hansen provided devotions.
4. Secretary's Report: **Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the January 4, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 8-0.**
5. Treasurer's Report: The January check register, income and expenses, and savings summary month end reports were presented. **Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.**
6. Pastor Report: Soups will be confirmed for Lenten soup suppers. Ash Wednesday is February 18. The soup suppers start February 25 at 5pm, followed by Lenten worship service at 6pm. Bold Women's Sunday will be in March. Council retreat will be March 14 at Journey Lutheran in Holmen. Installation of the new church council members will be done at the February 22 service. Pastor will be gone April 12.
7. Committee Reports:
- ***a. Education***: Activity and story time calendars are being created for Family Sunday School.
- ***b. Discipleship:*** No report.
- ***c. Property:*** It was discovered the reason the two fellowship hall furnaces were not working was that the air intake pipes were frozen just above the roof due to the extreme sub-zero temperatures in January. The heating contractor provided two workarounds to either solve it in case it happens again or help prevent it from happening again during the cold. A Thank You came from Ken/Marcia Adams for the use of the hall. Mike and Inger Kirkwood had been cleaning on opposite weeks that Crystal of Red Maple Cleaning cleans; but they have decided to retire completely from cleaning the church. Mark will ask Crystal if she could also clean those two weeks going forward.
- ***d. Social Concerns:*** Nothing new.
- ***e. Worship:*** No report.

8. Old Business:
- ***a. Roof Outlets:*** Hardwired junction boxes were installed to power the roof heat tape instead of outlets under the eaves due to code; these can be turned on/off using the breaker.
- ***b. Audit Update -By-laws change:*** Council will be looking at changing the bylaws related to the auditor positions to rotate in a new person each year. This could be done at the same time as updates from Synod assembly. This will be put on next month's agenda.

9. New Business:
- ***a. Announcements/devotions schedule:*** Each council member signed up for one month or two months for announcements during worship and for devotions at council meetings.
- ***b. Committee assignments:*** Council members chose a committee to head up: Inger -Social Concerns, Glenda and Larry -Discipleship, Tim -Property, Debby -Education, Galen -Worship.
- ***c. Possible May 3 planning meeting:*** This Council meeting may be a little longer, focusing on planning, goals, and projects.

9. Next Meeting: Next Council meeting will be March 1, 2026 at 12 noon, with Michaele Korbein providing devotions. She will also have Sunday announcements for the month of March.
10. Adjourn Meeting/Closing Prayer: **Galen Lingl made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.** The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Secretary pro tem

W-ELCA News

Mission statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Our Spring Bible Study begins in March. This 3-session study is entitled "I AM: God's holy name and promise". Session one—Bread, vine and light: Abiding with us (John 6, 8 and 15) We begin this session by rooting and grounding ourselves in the story of Moses at the Burning Bush, learning about God's holy name, I AM—a name that holds all of time and space, all that was.

Please contact Helen York if you can help in any way with our upcoming soup suppers.

Soup supper menu:

Feb. 25 – cheesy broccoli and chicken noodle
March 4 – chicken wild rice and cheesy broccoli
March 11 – creamy potato and chili
Marcy 18 - choice of soup from previous weeks

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

Upcoming events:

Tues. March. 3rd @ 4:00 – Rachel Circle
Sun. March 1 – Bold Women's Sunday
Wednesdays – Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18 WELCA serves soup suppers with our church counsel serving March 25th.

A thought: May I never forget on my best day that I still need God as desperately as I did on my worst day.

March 2026 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!