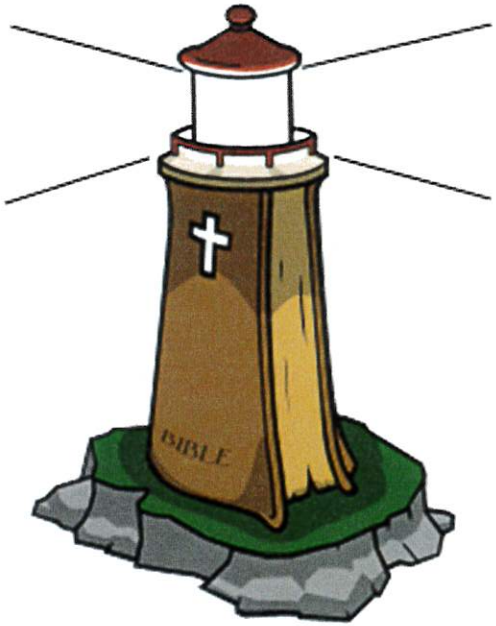
Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
May 2026



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

BABES OF BETHANY REVEAL

Hope to see you on **Sunday, May 3rd**, when the identities of the baby pictures will be revealed during fellowship.

Another activity called "Find Someone Who" will occur on the same day. Let's have some fun getting to know our church family!

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 17th following service

Breathing. We do it without thinking about it—because to say it is vital to our well-being is an understatement but never-the-less true—so our nervous system does it without us having to really think about it. Breathing is also a sign to ourselves and other that we are relaxed, nervous, anxious, frustrated, scared, and/or in dire need of help. Our breath quickens along with our fight or flight response. It can sooth and help us relax as we prepare our bodies and minds for sleep. Deep breathing can help our brains switch from a feeling of anxiousness to feeling calm, reorienting our focus. Breath is powerful, it is holy, it is renewing.

The season of Spring is often a reminder for me to stop and breathe deeply. And if my allergies aren't too bad (haha), I'm greatly rewarded for my effort. The smell of dirt and flowers, the smell of rain, fresh mown grass, and warm air filled me with hope, belonging, and so much more. How can breathing do this? Because the breath we have is God's breath—it is a holy thing filled with love.

So, as our weather gets even more pleasant, as the news continues to be overwhelming, as we spend time with friends and family, as we search for connection and community—let's breathe deep. And remember that God's breath is in us and all humankind—giving us life yes—but also giving us the gift of love and renewing each and every moment of our lives.

Some scripture passages that were running through my head as I wrote and reflected on breath:

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. – Genesis 2:7

God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth. – Isaiah 42:5

This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
– Ezekiel 37:5-6

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. – John 20:21-22

In Christ, *Pastor Lucy*

The East Lemonweir Church Council was approached to financially support Lutheran Campus ministry of La Crosse (called LuMin) at their April council meeting. This is in answer to a call for support after LuMin experienced some rental income loss. We are extremely grateful to be in the financial position we are to be able to contribute $5,000 to ministries outside of our church home.

Pastor Kathryn (the LuMin Campus Pastor in La Crosse) will be joining Bethany and East Lemonweir for worship at a later date this summer. But she expressed her gratitude right away and I'm passing on her brief note of thanks.

"LuMin is incredibly grateful for the large endowment gift that East Lemonweir has given to LuMin. I look forward to joining you sometime in the near future." – Pastor Kathryn

Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Parish

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship **9 am Bethany** **10:30 am East Lemonweir**		AA Meetings 6:30 pm Tuesday @ East Lemonweir & Thursday @ Bethany		May Food Pantry is Pasta Party – tomato sauce, noodle, pkg pizza crust, ramen, etc.	**1**	**2**
3 Bethany – Babes of Bethany Reveal	**4**	**5** 4 pm - Rachel Circle @ Bethany	**6** Bethany – 9am Quilting	**7** 9 am Bible Study	**8**	**9**
10	**11**	**12**	**13** Bethany – 9am Quilting	**14** 9 am Bible Study	**15**	**16**
17 Bethany Family Sunday School after worship	**18**	**19** Beacon Articles due	**20** Bethany – 9am Quilting	**21** 9 am Bible Study	**22**	**23**
24 Joint Worship @ East Lemoweir	**25**	**26**	**27** Bethany – 9am Quilting	**28** 9 am Bible Study	**29**	**30**
31 Recognition Day & Brunch @ Bethany	June Food Pantry items – "Breakfast of Champions" – cereals, pancake mix, oatmeal, juice, syrup				June W-ELCA Salad Lunch & Purse Auction Watch for Details	

MAY 2026 CELEBRATIONS

Bethany Birthdays

Anne Fenwick – 1

Clara Krause - 1

Evelyn Baumgart - 6

Linda Eddy - 11

Cylus Sletten – 12

Randy Fenwick – 13

John Costello - 14

Dan Schultz – 18

Dean Allard – 18

Lorraine Schultz – 18

Ethan Benson - 20

Glenda Swinehart – 22

Beth Preuss – 22

Bethany Anniversaries

Randy & Anne Fenwick – 1

Keith & Michaele Korbein – 23

Galen & Janenne Lingl – 28

If a celebration is missing, please call Betty at 608 562 3807. Thank you.

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Anne Fenwick – 1

Randy Fenwick – 13

Gerald Wolfgram – 20

Kathryn Pitcel – 25

Dawn Nelson – 26

Richard Groskreutz – 29

Shari Ann Lee – 31

East Lemonweir Anniversaries

Randy & Anne Fenwick - 1

2026 May Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

5/3 – Diane Clark
5/10 – Connie Wolfgram
5/17 -Kathryn Pitcel
5/24 – Audrey Scholl
5/31 – Diane Clark

Greeters

5/3 – Ted Haschke
5/10 – Henry & Margarete Hummelbeck
5/17 – Gayle Hempel
5/24 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel
5/31 – Connie Wolfgram

Bethany Assistants

5/3
Asst Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Asst – Mark Hansen
Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

5/10
Asst Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Asst – Ross Hardie, Inger Kirkwood, Beth Preuss
Ushers – Tim Parker & Shane Gesler

5/17
Asst Minister – Larry Thome
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Asst – Larry Thome
Ushers – Beth Preuss & Collette Schultz

5/24 **- Service at East Lemonweir**

5/31 –Asst Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Asst – Judy Zobal, Michaele Korbein, Betty Krotzman
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 Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, April 12, 2026

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

Council members absent: Pastor Lucy Hardie, Larry Thome

1. Call to Order: President Mark Hansen called the council meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda: **Galen Lingl made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Tim Parker; motion passed 7-0.**

3. Devotions: Glenda Swinehart provided devotions.

4. Secretary's Report: **Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the March 1, 2026 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Debby Hansen; motion passed 7-0.**

5. Treasurer's Report: The March check register, budget vs actual income and expenses, and savings summary month end reports were presented. Noted that $7500 was borrowed from savings to cover bills during winter, with the hope to repay the savings. All agreed that ES Construction has completed work on insurance repairs to the siding, so their bill was okay to pay. **Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 7-0.**

6. Pastor Report: Mark Hansen reported that he, Pastor, Debby Hansen, and Larry Thome attended the council workshop in Holmen where they worked together on projects such as planning and mission statements. Mark will also be getting information to create a policy for when the church receives bequests.

7. Committee Reports:

- ***a. Discipleship:*** May be doing another mailing this year to inactive members to get them to come back. Several inactive members came back after last year's mailing. Trends, however, are not to attend church. Working on ideas and plans for the rest of the year to see if more would come back.
- ***b. Education***: Four families attended last month's Family Sunday School. Planning a Day Camp for July 21.
- ***c. Property:*** Working on possible repairs on the water control system in the basement since part of the drain system is failing. Lawn mower is being tuned up. One fire exit sign in fellowship hall is not working and will be replaced. A Low Clearance sign is on order to replace the broken sign on the north side of the drive thru. Outlet by the sound system was not working and will be replaced.
- ***d. Social Concerns:*** A new project creating school kits was reviewed. They will be put together in October, when we do the health kits. They will be shipped out with the health kits and the quilts, where Lutheran World Relief can distribute them world-wide. A complete list of acceptable items like scissors, pencils, crayons, rulers, and cloth string bags will be posted on the bulletin board. Collections for this will begin soon.
- ***e. Worship:*** Will meet with Pastor regarding dates for when supply pastors may be needed.

8. Old Business:

- ***a. AED:*** This was ordered, tax free. WELCA is contributing $500 toward this, with the balance to come from Hansen memorial funds. Training will be set up for this.
- ***b. Audit Committee changes:*** Waiting to hear back Pastor Hallemeier regarding possible changes to the church bylaws pertaining to audits and auditors.
- ***c. Piano:*** Working on finding a new home for the piano that is in the quilters room to create more space for them. The piano is listed on Facebook as Free. Tim Parker even offered to haul it a short distance if required.

9. New Business:

- ***a. Spring cleanup:*** This to be Saturday, May 16 from 9am-done and will cover both inside and outside projects.
- ***b. Secretary position:*** Betty Krotzman has given notice of her retirement in November. This position will be posted very soon to give several months to find someone to replace her.
- ***c. Pianist:*** A search will be starting to find another pianist/organist, as Michaela Pedersen will be moving away.
- ***d. Copier contract:*** Current copier contract will expire later this year. Two proposals from Rhyme for a new copier were presented -one with features like we currently utilize for $253.74/month and the other with additional features of collating, stapling, and folding for $304.03. The sales rep noted that the cost per copy has gone down, there is no cost in breaking our current contract, and that you do not want to not use the allotted/allowed amount of copies as otherwise it wastes money on the contract. Most of our copying is flat, so it was determined the additional features would not be needed and would save us $50.28 by not having them. **Michaele Korbein made a motion to approve going forward with a new copier for the $$253.74/month cost as soon as possible, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 7-0.**

9. Next Meeting: Next Council meeting will be May 3, 2026 at 12 noon, with Glenda Swinehart providing devotions. She will also have Sunday announcements for the month of May.

10. Adjourn Meeting/Closing Prayer: The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Secretary Pro Tem

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

Actual:	March	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 19,607.90*	$ 37,429.43*
Expenses paid	$ 16,386.19**	$ 41,981.68**

* includes Jan-Mar reimbursements from East Lemonweir
**includes running power to church roof heat tape

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 2026

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

Pastor Lucy Hardie gave an opening prayer.

There were no Council meetings in February and March 2026. Hence, no secretaries reports to approve.

The treasurer's reports for January, February, and March were reviewed. Motion made by Audrey Scholl and second by Gayle Hempel to approve reports. Motion carried.

Roger Nelson and Marlene Pelton met with Kirk Haigh from Kulp's of Stratford, WI regarding the removal of old shingles, and repairing any damage to the church steeple and replacing with new stone coated steel shingles. This proposal is for $40,784.00. This work to be done was approved by Roger Pitcel and second by Marlene Pelton. This expenditure needs congregational approval, and will be announced the next two (2) Sundays with a special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 10, 2026.

The question has been raised if we are in possession of the books on historical data pertaining to the church that date back to the 1800's. There is a microfilm that has seven reels. We have been advised that the microfilm will deteriorate in time. Marlene Pelton believes that we have all the books. She will check into what is on the microfilm. It should be noted that all records until 1940 are in Norwegian.

Roger Nelson has been in contact with A-Plus Lawn Care. They will do our two cemeteries for the same price as last year.

Melvin Miller of Hilltop Builders has replaced the two arches that were damaged by wind or snow. The other arches above our stained glass windows received additional fastening as well.

Pastor Lucy Hardie gave a presentation on LuMin Campus Ministry of LaCrosse, WI. They are in financial difficulties. The Property Manager had gone AWOL and the upper apartments and lower business offices were not filled causing a loss of income. Pastor Dione Stepanek-Assistant to our Bishop Malpica said there was a loss of $28,131.00 in income. They now have a new Property Manager. Since August 1, 2024 Kathryn Thompson, an ordained ELCA pastor, is the head of LuMin Ministry. Pastor Hardie advised that Pastor Thompson would like to come and be with us for a worship service to speak about the LuMin Ministry. Congregations and individuals are being asked to help this ministry. Pastor Hardie is going to have an article for our Beacon about the LuMin Ministry. Motion made by Gayle Hempel and second by Roger Pitcel to give $5,000.00 toward this cause. Motion carried.

There will be a joint worship service with Bethany at East Lemonweir on Sunday, May 24, 2026. There will be a lunch following worship provided by East Lemonweir.

Marlene Pelton asked if East Lemonweir wants to have their Ice Cream Sundaes and Cones booth at Wa du Shuda on July 11, 2026? This is affirmative.
Roger Pitcel said there is $392.30 in the church account that is net from former Wa du Shuda events. He would like to see this sum go to the Faith Circle since they purchase the items needed for the day. A motion to this effect made by Roger Pitcel and second by Gayle Hempel. Motion carried.

Roger Pitcel made a motion to adjourn, second by Gayle Hempel. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore