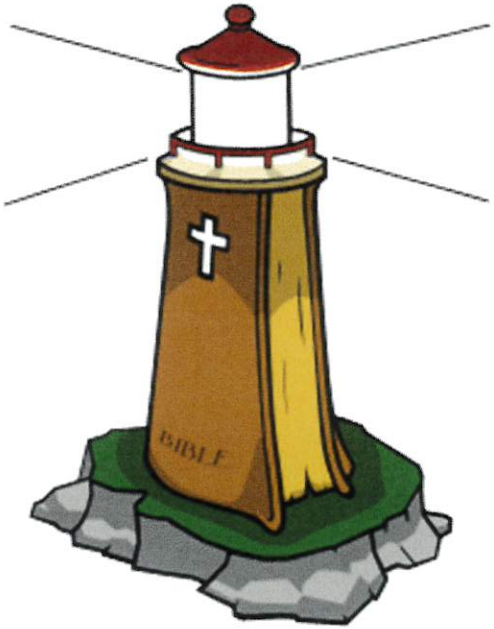
Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
November 2026



"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

When I think of November my thoughts seem to mostly revolve around two things: deer hunting and Thanksgiving. Archery season is at its peak, and our family takes the time to make sure that our gun season blinds are already to go. And then after thoughts of preparation and logistics for hunting are through...my thoughts immediately turn to the logistics of figuring out where and what we will be doing for Thanksgiving.

I never had a strong tradition for Thanksgiving. Yes, a meal was had but where and with who always changed. Sometimes it was actually on the Thursday of Thanksgiving—other times it was the day after...and it never included Black Friday Shopping (at least for me). Sometimes it was with Mom's family other times it was with Dad's. And, since marrying—sometimes it's 3 meals in 3 days. Sometimes it's a large meal with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green beans, rolls, lefse, mashed potatoes and gravy, Jello, carrots, salad, and multiple flavors of pie—all homemade. Other times it's been just the basics and scooped out of take-out containers.

But no matter where, no matter what, no matter who we are with...meals are a gift. A gift of sustenance, a gift of time together, a gift to pause and breathe. Meals are a gift in the ordinary and extraordinary. They can become places where we are able to talk about hard things as well as times where those hard things are put away for a while. All meals are a gift in one way shape or form...and most of the time it goes beyond the food that is eaten and shared.

So as our thoughts turn toward a meal that often has extraordinary expectations—may you also find the gift in the meals that lead up to and come after Thanksgiving. May you find blessing in those who are able to gather and remember the ones who aren't there. May we remember to give thanks.

Pastor Lucy

<u>A Blessing for Around the Table by Kate Bowler</u>

God, awaken us to the everyday miracle of a simple meal.
Whether it is take out that took a phone call,
or the cereal-for-dinner again feeling this meal creates, bless it all.

So blessed are we, sharing a meal today.
May we recognize God's goodness in the thoughtful preparation,
in the delivering, in the eating together, savoring something that tastes like love.

May our time around the table be a gift

May we be present to one another engaging in all our senses
as an act of thankful worship to the nourishment that's before us
with the people we love. Or are trying to.

God, bless the hands that prepared this,
those with us now, and the ones we wish were.
Bless us, oh God, in all of our eating and cooking and gathering and sharing
our jokes, talking-with-our-mouths full,
and elbows on the table, may we taste and see the love that multiplies. Amen.

November Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir Readers

11/1 – Connie Wolfgram
11/8 - Jennifer Sarnow
11/15 – Kathryn Pitcel
11/22 – Audrey Scholl
11/29 – Diane Clark

East Lemonweir Greeters

11/1 – Diane Clark
11/8 – Jennifer Sarnow
11/15 – Henry & Margerete Hummelbeck
11/22 – Gayle Hempel
11/29 – Connie Wolfgram

Bethany

11/1

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Barb Parker
Communion Assistant – Galen Lingl
Ushers – Tim Parker & Karl Katuin

11/8

Assistant Minister – Larry Thome
Reader – Deanna Smith
Communion Assistants – Larry Thome, Michaele Korbein, Betty Krotzman
Ushers – Amanda Hulka & Shane Gesler

Bethany

11/15

Assistant Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Assistant – Michaele Korbein, Judy Zobal, Inger Kirkwood
Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

11/22

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Amanda Hulka
Ushers – Beth Preuss & Collette Schultz

11/29

Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Assistant – Beth Preuss, Ross Hardie, Judy Zobal
Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 9 am Bethany 10:30 East Lemonweir	AA Meetings 6:30 PM Tues @ East Lemonweir Thu @ Bethany	**November Food Pantry**-Holiday Helper:stuffing, rice, jello, canned veggies, pumpkin, evaporated milk				
1 **12 pm Bethany Council Meeting** **All Saints Day Worship**	**2**	**3** Rachel Circle @ 4pm – Bethany Conference Room	**4** Quilting 9am @ Bethany	**5** No Bible Study	**6**	**7**
8 After Bethany Worship stay for fellowship- Card Run.	**9**	**10**	**11** Quilting 9am @ Bethany	**12** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**13**	**14**
15 **Bethany WELCA Thank Offering** **Bethany Family Sunday School** **East Lemonweir Council Meeting**	**16**	**17** Beacon Due.	**18** Quilting 9am @ Bethany	**19** 9 am Bible Study @ Bethany	**20**	**21**
22 Pastor Lucy Off	**23**	**24**	**25** Quilting 9am @ Bethany	**26** **Thanksgiving** 	**27**	**28**
29	**30**				December 4 Bethany Potluck Christmas Brunch at 10 am. Please sign up. Welcome All.	

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Adelia.

Adelia who?

Adelia the cards, it's your turn to play!

Ok, we promise that the "Card Run" activity on Sunday, November 8th, will be better than that knock-knock joke. Please join us following worship for some fellowship and fun!

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 4, 2026

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

Agenda

Call to Order:	Vice President Galen Lingl called the Council meeting to order at 11:51 AM
Agenda Approval:	Galen Lingl presented the agenda for approval. There were no additional updates. ***Tim Parker made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 6-0.***
Devotion:	Tim Parker shared a devotion reflecting on gratitude for God's mercy, praising the spiritual blessings we receive through Christ, and giving thanks to the Lord for deliverance in response to prayer.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the September 13, 2026 Council Meeting. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Tim Parker made a motion to accept the September 13, 2026 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 6-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register, the Savings Summary Report, the Statement of Financial Position, and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense Report as of September 30, 2026. Michaele had to "borrow" $4,300 from savings until East Lemonweir provided their monthly share, which was expected to be around $2,900. That still leaves us short of our giving against our spending. Our giving isn't keeping up with our expenses. Pastor Lucy thought that we might have to engage the congregation on stewardship as our expenses (namely insurance and utilities) are increasing. There were no other comments or questions. ***Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 6-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy shared that she hosted the East Synod conference here at Bethany. Each church in the conference takes turns in hosting. She also shared that there are 8-10 people attending the weekly Bible study on Thursdays. Pastor Lucy will also be attending a Synod Fall Theological Conference this month.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Larry)*	Planning has started for decorations for Christmas at Riverside Park. Cindy Costello is sprucing up the paint on the nativity characters as part of the decorations. Glenda Swinehart and Pastor Lucy will be coordinating Bethany's participation in the New Lisbon Trunk-or-Treat event on October 31. Larry Thome will complete the registration, Glenda will get the candy and Pastor Lucy will coordinate the decorations.
Education: *(Debby)*	Debby was not in attendance, but provided Pastor Lucy with the following update: The first family Sunday School was a success with 4 families participating. There were 6 children and 5 adults and everyone had a great time!

	Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
	Church Council Meeting Minutes
	Sunday, October 4, 2026

Property: *(Tim)*	One of the toilets in the women's restroom was fixed but the issue of the "ghost toilet" still exists. However, more people are reporting the noise! The "Low Clearance" signs by the entry were replaced. A few of the old incandescent dimmer switches have been replaced so that they would be compatible with the LED lights. The rest will be completed in the near future. We will be doing a health check on the furnaces before the cold weather arrives to ensure that they're good for winter (fingers crossed). The glass on the front storm door on the parsonage shattered and needs to be replaced ("ghost storm door?").
Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	Health Kits packing will take place on October 11 and the blessing will take place on October 18.
Worship: *(Galen)*	No updates.
Old Business	
Time Capsule:	Scott Gollmar found the general area by the tree on Washington Street where he thinks the time capsule was buried and marked it with orange flags. We will note the area, but leave it as is for now.
Portico Increase for 2027:	Mark Hansen, Roger Nelson and Pastor Lucy will meet with the Portico representative to understand the increase in rates and determine the best solution for Bethany and East Lemonweir.
New Business	
	None
Next Council Meeting:	The next Council Meeting will be November 1 at 12:00 PM. Debby Hansen will provide the meeting devotion and announcements for November.
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

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

Actual at month end:	Sept	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 7,304.33	$ 109,212.86*
Expenses paid	$ 12,395.12	$ 136,279.33**

* includes reimbursements from East Lemonweir

** includes property, liability, and work comp insurance payments

Bethany Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 11, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church Council President Mark Hansen opened the Special Congregational Meeting after the conclusion of worship at 9:54a.m. A quorum was present.

Mark explained that the Bethany Lutheran Church Council is proposing a change to the Bethany Constitution, and they have approved sending the following amendment to the Congregation for consideration: *"An Audit Committee of two voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council. Term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed each year."* This change removes the previous two-year term limit, allowing an individual to continue serving on the Audit Committee as long as they -and the Council- wish. It also provides continuity and consistency in carrying out Bethany's audit processes. Because constitutional changes require two congregational votes for approval, these votes would be held after worship on October 11 and October 18.

After hearing no comments or questions, Mark asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Bridgette Wehman made the motion, seconded by Glenda Swinehart, to approve the amendment to the constitution to read as follows:

> ***"An Audit Committee of two voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council. Term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed each year."***

All members present were in favor; motion passed.

This proposal will be presented for a second vote after next Sunday's worship service -October 18, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Secretary pro tem

Bethany Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, October 18, 2026

Bethany Lutheran Church Council President Mark Hansen opened the Special Congregational Meeting after the conclusion of worship at 9:55 a.m. A quorum was present.

Mark reviewed Bethany Lutheran Church Council's proposed amendment to the Bethany Constitution. The proposed amendment is as follows: *"An Audit Committee of two voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council. Term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed each year."* This change removes the previous two-year term limit, allowing an individual to continue serving on the Audit Committee as long as they -and the Council- wish. It also provides continuity and consistency in carrying out Bethany's audit processes. Constitutional changes require two congregational votes for approval. This was put to a congregational vote on October 11, 2026, and passed. Today's meeting is for the second vote.

After hearing no comments or questions, Mark asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Karl Katuin made the motion, seconded by Christy Toelle, to approve the amendment to the constitution to read as follows:

> ***"An Audit Committee of two voting members shall be appointed by the Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Council. Term of office shall be two years, with one member appointed each year."***

All members present were in favor; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56am.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Secretary pro tem

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

Date: October 18, 2026
Time Called to Order: 11:50am Time Adjourned: 12:20pm
Present: Marlene Pelton, Connie Wolfgram, Bret Haschke, Audrey Scholl, Roger Pitcel, Roger Nelson, Pastor Lucy Hardie, and Gayle Hempel
Absent: Kathryn Pitcel
Called to order by: Roger Nelson
Pastor Lucy Hardie led us in prayer.

Motion to approve minutes from October Council meeting by Gayle; second by Audrey. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Treasurers Report by Marlene; second by Connie. Motion carried.

Steeple work is progressing, steeple is stable. Total bill is $40,784.00

We discussed health insurance for Pastor Lucy. With the increase of health insurance going up 15% we will continue to keep it in discussion. No decisions were made.

Concrete on steps has been fixed, the warranty upheld.

Motion to go forward with joint expenses 65/35 by Roger Pitcel; second by Audrey. Motion carried.

A new speaker is needed on the right back area of the sanctuary behind the pews. Marlene agreed to investigate the situation.

Pastor Lucy reported on her time at the Fall Theological Conference "Civic, Life and Faith". She also gladly reported that the Bible Study Group on Thursday mornings is growing!

Advent theme is "Until the Dawn". Note there will be no mid-week advent services on December 16th.

Sent $200 to the Synod for world hunger from the change fund.

Date for the Prime Rib Dinner will be January 23, 2027

April 12, 2027 will be the Synod Caucus

June 11-12, 2027 LaCrosse Area Synod Assembly

Motion to adjourn meeting by Roger Pitcel; second by Marlene. Motion carried.

Meeting closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wolfgram, East Lemonweir – Council Secretary

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 Fall Bible study from our *gather* magazine is "Bold faith on an unexpected journey". Session two is titled Love and loyalty, a story of connection and courage as it relates to Ruth whose story speaks directly to the human need for social connection. Ruth demonstrates loyalty amid uncertainty.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the luncheon for Anna Kirkwood. May her memory be an inspiration.

Please check out the posts on our WELCA bulletin board in the narthex of events happening in various churches in our synod.

Upcoming events:

Tues., Nov. 3 at 4:00 - Rachel Circle meets at the church (all women invited)
Sun., Nov. 15 – Thankoffering during our church service.
Fri., Dec. 4 – Potluck Christmas Brunch @ 10:00 a.m.

Thank you>>> Due to your wonderful support, we were able to assemble 14 baby kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each of these 14 kits were required to include 19 items, which is 266 items in total!

What Is a Thankoffering Service and When Is It?

Our Thankoffering Service this year is on **Sunday November 15th** during our regular church service. Women of the Lutheran Church have been gathering in the setting of Thankoffering services since the early 1900s. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community. We come together as faithful women joyfully giving thanks and praise for what God has given us. The Thankofferings support the total outreach of the ELCA including congregational and global ministries and specific programs of the women's organization. Blue envelopes are available on the ushers' table if you would like to use them for your offering.

nnou

NOVEMBER 2026 CELEBRATIONS

Bethany Birthdays

Douglas Haske – 2

Tim Parker – 3

Karl Katuin – 7

Lisa Klinker – 11

Mary Gollmar – 12

Janene Lingl – 14

Lynn Benson -16

Jordan Lucas – 17

Nick Wyss – 20

Brad Bever – 21

Al Rhea - 21

Lilley Wyss – 23

Barbara Parker – 24

Sheila Stark – 25

Sonja Haske - 29

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Donald Wetley – 4

Roger Onsager – 16

Patty Thompson - 18

We do not have any November Anniversaries for either church.