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

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
October 2026

2 Corinthians 9:10 – God supplies and enlarges the harvest of righteousness.

Bethany & East Lemonweir Lutheran Parishes

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 AM Bethany 10:30 AM East Lemonweir	**AA Meeting East Lemonweir Tue @ 6:30 PM Bethany TH @ 6:30 PM**	**October Food Pantry Theme** **MEAT the Need. Canned Meats, stews, Hamburger/Tuna Helper**		ible Study @	**2**	**3**
4 BINGO **after Bethany worship!** **Sun PM-Tue PM Pastor @ Fall Theological**	**5** **Pastor at Fall Mtg.**	**6** Rachel Circle @ 4pm Pastor @ Fall Mtg	**7** Quilting @ 9	**8** Bible Study @ 9am Betty Off	**9** Betty Off	**10** Betty off
11 Betty off **WELCA mtg after worship**	**12 Columbus Day** Indigenous Day Betty Off	**13**	**14** Quilting @ 9	**15** Bible Study @ 9am	**16**	**17** Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering Saturday, October 17, 2026 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,21 North Hill Street, La Crescent MN 55947
18 Bethany Family Sunday School – **The 10 Commandments**	**19**	**20 November Beacon Articles Due**	**21** Quilting @ 9	**22** No Bible Study	**23**	**24 East Lemonweir Fall Luncheon 10:30AM – 1:30PM**
25	**26**	**27**	**28** Quilting @ 9	**29** Bible Study @ 9am	**30**	**31**

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of October? Maybe it's the fact that it is the "best month of sports" (due to the NFL, NHL, MLB, NBA plus many others all playing games). Or maybe you think of crunchy leaves, apples and apple cider, the start pumpkin spice season, sweaters, cooler weather, garden and field harvests, baking, soup, sitting around a bonfire.

Well, when I think of October—I think of the second best holiday in the world...Halloween! I've always loved Halloween...I actually get a bit braver--not letting spiders terrify me as much and I may even be convinced to watch a spooky movie or two. I loved putting a costume together—searching for each perfect part or helping my mom make it—and then going trick-or-treating with friends or passing out candy to kids. I even still dress up today as I take Samuel around trick-or-treating (last year he was a spider and I was his web).

But Halloween has interested me too because of the legends, myths, and mysticism it brings. Although it has become a day filled with candy and costumes. The origins of Halloween begin with harvest celebrations, an ancient belief in a thinning of the divide between this world and the spiritual world, and taking time to remember the dead. All Hallow's Eve is the vigil before All Saints—where we, as the church, recognize all the saints that have died and rest in the promise of resurrection.

The Festival of All Saints originally honored those who were considered especially holy, like the heroic figures from scripture and the martyrs of the early church that gave their lives in the face of persecution and witness to faith. However, *all* are saved by grace. Therefore, in the Lutheran church the Festival of All Saints is a time to recognize all who have been baptized into Christ's death, exemplary life or not. It is a time to remember God's grace and that it is grace, apart from our works, that makes us saints. It is through God's grace that we find lasting rest in the mercy of God.

So, I invite you to enjoy all that we think of when October rolls around: the fun, the costumes, the spookiness, the yumminess, and the abundance of harvest as well as all the saints that have walked the path of faith before us. Let us celebrate the gift of God's grace and that the God who is merciful and abounds in steadfast love calls us to belong to the body of Christ. ---*Pastor Lucy*

These are the names of the saints that we have laid to rest this past year and the saints that we have welcomed into the body of Christ. (an * denotes a non-member)

Lorraine Emma Schultz
05/18/1929 – 04/04/2026

*Duane "Dewey" J. Kimpton
03/04/1947 – 04/14/2026

Helen Elizabeth Walker
05/08/1937 – 04/22/2026

*Donna Jean Ritchart
07/22/1953 – 05/18/2026

*Alan Peter Marquardt
08/05/1954 – 06/11/2026

Toni M. Phelps
06/02/1968 – 07/02/2026

Marian Alice LaFortune
02/24/1939 – 08/04/2026

*Peter Wollschlager
08/19/1938 – 09/03/2026

Marcia Anne Adams
02/28/1939 – 09/03/2026

Asher Surprise
Bap: 11/02/2025

Frankie Costello
Bap: 11/16/2025

Haelynn Crandall
Bap: 03/08/2026

Books Mortensen
Bap: 03/22/2026

Asher Krause
Bap: 05/03/26

Lainey and Beckett Stoughtenger
Bap: 05/17/2026

OCTOBER 2026 CELEBRATIONS

If a CELEBRATION is not listed, please call 608 562 3807.

East Lemonweir Birthdays

Toni Stoughtenger – 12

Lynn Ormson – 13

East Lemonweir Anniversaries

Roger & Julie Onsager – 2

Bethany Birthdays

Carmen Heffler – 1

Miles Krause - 1

Brantley Wyss – 3

Susan Powell – 7

Collette Schultz – 9

Galen Lingl – 18

Christopher Faber – 24

Angela Krizan – 24

Bethany Anniversaries

Ross & Angela Krizan – 4

Don & Sue Powell – 8

Mark & Debby Hansen – 20

Joe & Ilea Baumgart - 25

Douglas & Sonja Haske - 29

October 2026 Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir Readers

10/4 – Diane Clark

10/11 – Roger Nelson

10/18 – Bret Haschke

10/25 - Dawn Nelson

East Lemonweir Greeters

10/4 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel

10/11 – Connie Wolfgram

10/18 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke

10/25 – Audrey Scholl

Bethany

10/4

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl

Reader – Ross Hardie

Communion Assistant – Galen Lingl

Ushers – Collette Schultz & Shane Gesler

10/11 –

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen

Reader – Sheila Stark

Communion Assistants – Mark Hansen, Judy Zobal, Barb Parker

Ushers – Tim Parker & Karl Katuin

Bethany

10/18

Assistant Member – Beth Preuss

Reader – Deanna Smith

Communion Assistant – Beth Preuss

Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

10/25

Assistant Minister – Larry Thome

Reader – Betty Krotzman

Communion Assistants – Larry Thome, Betty Krotzman, Inger Kirkwood

Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

East Lemonweir's

Fall Luncheon,

Bake Sale, & More

(Norwegian Pastries for sale too)

Saturday, October 24, 2026

10:30 am to 1:30 pm

at

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church

4 miles south of New Lisbon on Hwy. 80

Lunch $9.00 for adults, $3.00 under 12

Delicious Bakery items

Raffle Items

Craft Items

Napkins & Cards

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Sponsored by the East Lemonweir W-ELCA

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Debby Hansen, Glenda Swinehart, Inger Kirkwood, 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 11:55 AM
Agenda Approval:	Mark Hansen presented the agenda for approval. There were no additional updates. ***Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 8-0.***
Devotion:	Debby Hansen shared a devotion reminding us that when we remember and emulate the forgiveness God had shown us, forgiveness can flow to others.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the August 13, 2026 Council Meeting and the August 30, 2026 Special Council Meeting on the insurance premium increase. There were no questions on the either of the reports as presented. ***Glenda Swinehart made a motion to accept the August 13, 2026 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Debby Hansen; motion passed 8-0.*** ***Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the August 30, 2026 Special Council Meeting on the insurance premium increase minutes as presented, seconded by Tim Parker; motion passed 8-0.***
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 August 31, 2026. Michaele stated that we're "holding our own" of keeping up with our expenses, but is concerned that the high cost of heating in the colder weather will impact our finances – we may need to ask for a special offering to cover the higher costs. There were no other comments or questions. ***Inger Kirkwood made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 8-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy shared that she did have a relatively quiet August with having to preside over two funerals. It was shared with her that her funeral ministry brings much comfort to grieving families and is a blessing. Pastor Lucy stated that through her own personal grieving, this has helped renew her call for service and ministry.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Larry)*	It was decided not to move forward with the planned monthly discipleship study at this time and the committee will brainstorm with Pastor Lucy on another approach. Need to start planning for decorations for Christmas at Riverside Park.
Education: *(Debby)*	September 13 was Grandparents Sunday with special treats – 10 children participated September 20 is the first Family Sunday School The "History Team" had a meeting and Cindy Costello is working on putting the scrapbooks together on Bethany's history. Pastor Luch mentioned that Bible Study has started with the study of a different book of the Bible being covered each week (some weeks will include more than one book).

	Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
	Church Council Meeting Minutes
	Sunday, September 13, 2026

Property: *(Tim)*	There was a roof leak that was repaired ($150). There still seems to be an issue with one of the toilets (now called the "ghost toilet"). The "Low Clearance" signs by the entry need replacing and will cost $103 for two signs. Old incandescent dimmer switches are interfering with the sound system, and an electrician recommended replacing them so that they would be compatible with the LED lights. This will be funded using sound system memorial funds.
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	
Change to the Constitution:	After consultation with Pastor Denny, the Council proposes the following change to the Bethany Constitution: "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." ***Galen Lingl made a motion to present this change to the congregation for approval, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 8-0.*** Because constitutional changes require two congregational votes for approval, we will hold these votes after worship on October 11 and October 18.
New Business	
Portico Increase for 2027:	Portico Insurance is a nonprofit organization that provides health, retirement, and life insurance benefits specifically for members of the ELCA. Bethany has been informed that the rates for 2027 will increase 15% and the cost will increase from ~$27,000 to ~$31,000. This is in line with increases in the health care industry. We will look into the possibility of other alternatives.
Time Capsule:	Scott Gollmar informed the Council that around 1994 there was a time capsule buried near the corner of the property. He asked if he could use a metal detector to try and find its location. The Council agreed in searching for it, but if it's located, then will decide if to dig it up.
Pastor's Laptop Computer:	The monitor hinge on Pastor's laptop has and issue. William Korbein will look at it and then make a recommendation on how to fix it.
Next Council Meeting:	The next Council Meeting will be October 4 at 12:00 PM. Tim Parker will provide the meeting devotion and announcements for October.
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

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

Actual at month end:	July	August	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 11,994.86	$ 13,557.26	$ 101,908.53*
Expenses paid	$ 11,470.69	$ 21,585.32**	$ 123,884.21

* includes reimbursements from East Lemonweir

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

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Special Council Meeting – Insurance Premium Increase

Sunday, August 30, 2025

Meeting Purpose:	To discuss and vote on the annual insurance premium for the church and parsonage.
Background:	In 2025, Bethany had paid an annual insurance premium to State Farm of $5,992 for the church and parsonage with a $1,000 deductible. With the policy needing to be renewed by August 30, 2026, State Farm increased the same policy with a $1,000 deductible to $8,953 annually. This was presented to the Council at the August meeting by Michaele Korbein and she agreed to research the increase and look at possible alternatives to State Farm.
Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Galen Lingl, Inger Kirkwood, Tim Parker, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Debby Hansen, Glenda Swinehart, Pastor Lucy
Guests:	None

Agenda

Call to Order:	President Mark Hansen called the Special Council Meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
Discussion:	Prior to the meeting, Mark sent out quotes to Council members to review. The quotes were: • State Farm Proposed: $8,953 with $1,000 deductible • State Farm Alternative Quote 1: $8,768 w/ $2,500 deductible (- $185 annually) • State Farm Alternative Quote 2: $8,529 w/ $5,000 deductible (- $424 annually) • Independent Quote 1: $8,605 w/ $5,000 deductible • Independent Quote 2: $10,000+ w/ $5,000 deductible Michaele shared the following: • Michaele spoke with our current State Farm agent and an independent Insurance agent. • Both agents stated that our hail claim is a large cause of our increase, affecting the loss history negatively, even for being a relatively small claim compared to other properties. • The independent agent stated that only two insurance companies replied to our request for a quote. • Increases in church insurance are due to issues like natural disasters and property claims are accelerating, construction cost increases, increased property values, inflation and even molestation cases. Even though these might not be the cases at Bethany, all churches are in a separate classification and share the costs of others. • Other than the hail damage claim, Bethany has not had a claim in only 20 years. • To pay for the increase in this estimate, Bethany has funds left from the hail damage insurance claim to fund for one year – we can ask for a new quote next year. The Council discussed the pros/cons of a higher deductible against the decreases in the premiums.
Council Vote:	***Galin Lingl made a motion to move forward with the State Farm quote of $8,593 with the $1,000 deductible. The motion was seconded by Tim Parker; motion passed 5-0.***
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 17, 2026

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
21 North Hill Street, La Crescent MN 55947

$20 payable to La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA on the day, at registration sign-in.

Call Mona Van Riper at 608-857-3474 to register by Friday, 10/09/2026, so the Prince of Peace women will have a count to prepare for the luncheon.

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" by Rev. Tiffany Chaney. This 3-session study speaks to how faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect. It takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too are seen, sustained and sent to carry good new into the world. Session one is Encountering God in the wilderness.

There are cards and our cookbooks available to purchase in the narthex. Money for any of these can be given to Helen York, our W-ELCA Treasurer.

WOW – what a wonder outpouring of items for our Baby Care Kits. THANK YOU! To complete 14 kits, we could use the following: 10 dark hand towels, 10 pairs of socks, 6 jackets/sweaters/sweatshirts with or without a hood and 6 bars of gentle soap. Each kit contains about 16 items. Again, thanks for the generosity for this project.

We remember Marcia Adams, who demonstrated her love for church and community through many and various ways. Thank you to everyone who helped and/or provided food for her funeral luncheon.

Upcoming events:
Tues., Oct 6 at 4:00 - Rachel Circle meets at the church (all women invited)
Sun., Oct 11, WELCA meets after church. (note change of date)
TBD – assemble our baby care kits

A thought: Fall for Jesus, He never leaves.

Much appreciation for the wonderful outpouring of support for our baby care kits. Please check the note above the tote in the coat room for items needed to complete the kits which include dark hand towels, socks, jackets or sweaters or sweatshirts and soap. We were gifted with enough sleepers,
T-shirts, diapers, diaper pins and blankets.