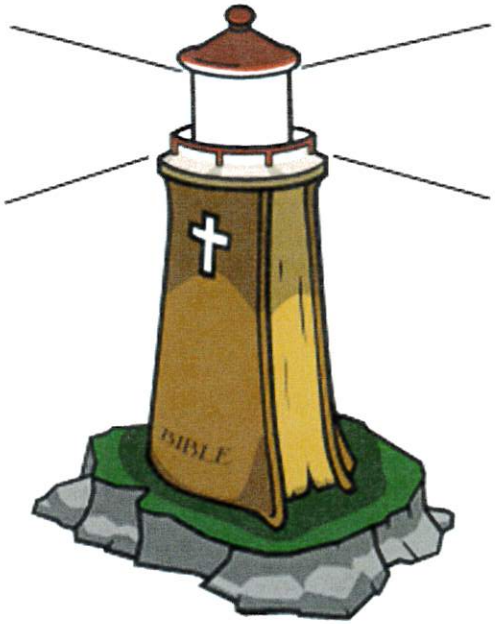
Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
September 2025



Philippians 4:13:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Dear God's beloved,

Here's a fun fact about me. My favorite season is the one that arrives in September, Fall—or as Samuel likes to correct me, Autumn. I know that September is just the beginning of the best season in Wisconsin (in my humble opinion) and for most of the month it still feels like summer. But we do get the occasional glimpse of what is to come: crisp mornings, warm afternoons, the early varieties of apples ripening, the beginning of football season still filled with hope, and the artistry of the trees changing colors.

Plus, there is a feeling of new beginning and celebration. Students and teachers begin a new academic year. We dust off the projects that we set aside so we could enjoy the fun and relaxation of summer. We celebrate the harvest from gardens and a different rhythm of schedules.

But I also know that not everyone shares my enthusiasm for September and the season of Fall. We say goodbye to the longer days and hello to longer nights. We start to say goodbye to friends who leave for warmer climates. Sometimes Fall just seems like it's only a warning that winter will be here before we know it...at least we hope so.

But I invite you to find some time to celebrate this month. Celebrating, even the smallest or silliest of things, can remind us of God's goodness and faithfulness. It can foster joy and hope, helping us express our gratitude for God's blessings, even in difficult times. Celebration can even serve as a spiritual practice that helps us build faith and grow in our relationship with God. And, sharing the joy of celebration can also be helpful in our call to share God's Good News with the world. As we celebrate, we can also tell others why we are celebrating and who's blessings we celebrate. God blesses God's people with so many very good gifts (grace, love, forgiveness, faith, and peace—just to name a few) through the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ.

But if you are still finding it hard to find something to celebrate with the coming of Fall—here are some ideas. Some are completely silly, others are serious, and of course more are in between. Happy new beginnings and celebrating! ---*Pastor Lucy*

Days to Celebrate

September 1-Labor Day and National Forgiveness Day

September 2-First Day of School

September 4 -Eat an Extra Dessert Day

September 5-National Food Bank Day and National Be Late for Something Day

September 6-National Read a Book Day and National Play Outside Day

September 7- Grandparents Day

September 9-Wonderful Weirdos Day

September 11-Nationdal Day of Service and Remembrance

September 13-Positive Thinking Day

September 18-Brithday of the Air Force

September 19-Talk like a Pirate Day

September 21-World Gratitude Day and International Day of Peace

September 22-National Ice Cream Cone Day and the Autumn Equinox

Weekly Reasons to Celebrate

National Arts in Education Week (8-14)

National Fall Foliage Week (24-Oct 7)

Monthly Reasons to Celebrate

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Fruit & Veggies Month

National Sewing Month

National Courtesy Month

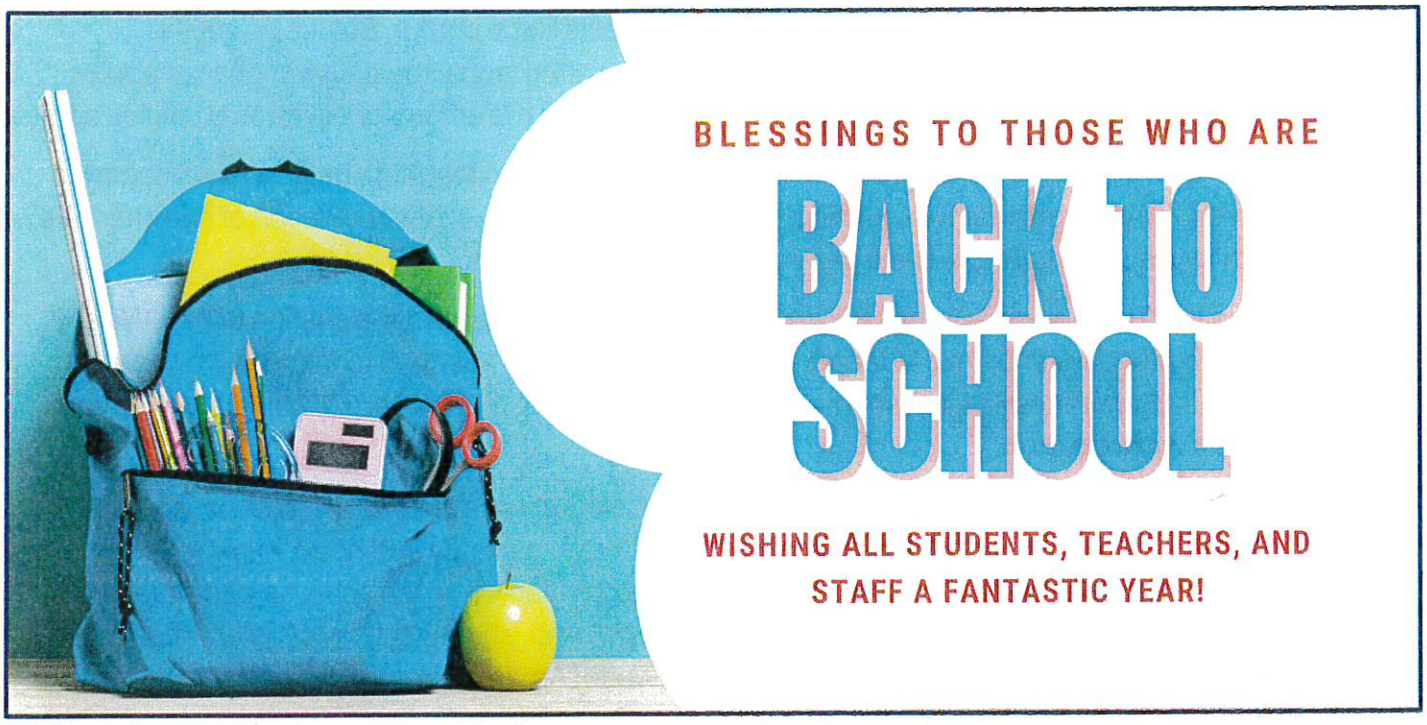
Better Breakfast Month

Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Parish

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Worship @Bethany 10:30am Worship @ EL	1 **Betty Off Several Days this week.**	2 4:00pm Rachel Circle **6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir**	3 9:00am Quilting	4 6:30pm AA/Bethany	5	6
7 10 AM Family Sunday School Altar Communion **Bethany Council Meeting**	8	9 **Pastor Off** **6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir**	10 **Pastor Off** 9:00am Quilting	11 **Pastor Off** 6:30pm AA/Bethany	12 **Pastor Off**	13 **Pastor off** **Sugar Creek Quilt Sale & Fall Festival**
14 **Pastor Off**	15 **Pastor Off**	16 **Pastor Off** **6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir**	17 **Pastor Off** 9:00am Quilting	18 **Pastor Off** 6:30pm AA/Bethany	19 **Pastor Off**	20 **Pastor Off** **W-ELCA Synod LaCrosse Queen Fellowship**
21 **Pastor Off**	22 **Pastor Off** **Beacon Articles Due**	23 **6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir**	24 9:00am Quilting	25 6:30pm AA/Bethany	26	27
28	29	30 **6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir**				Bible Study starts in October…info to come.

Join us for a "Back to School" blessing for students, teachers, and school staff of all ages!



FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

FALL 2025 - SPRING 2026

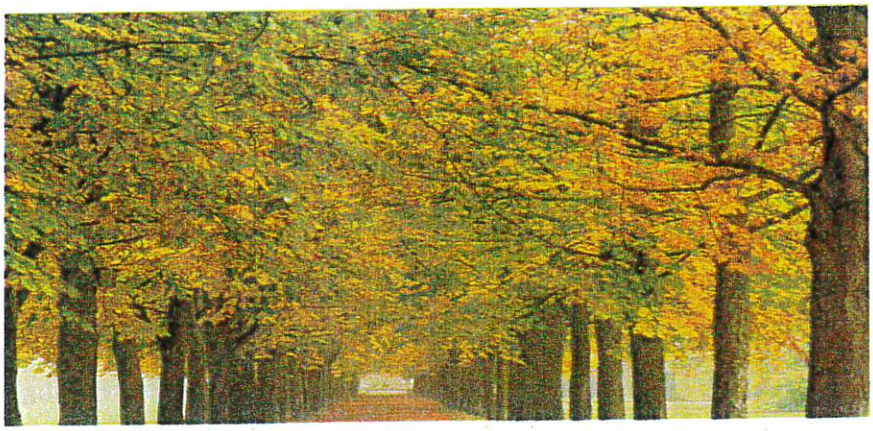
DATE/TIME	Story/Theme
SEPT 7 / 10AM	Creation carve pumpkins to help with a fall fun activity
OCT 12 / 10AM	Noah
NOV 9 / 3PM	Abraham and Sara
DEC 14 10AM	Jesus is Born with a special visit and photos with Santa and Mrs. Clause
JAN 11 / 3PM	Joseph and His Brothers
FEB 15	Moses and the Exodus
MAR 8	Young Jesus in the Temple
APR 12 / 3PM	Jesus is Baptized
MAY 17 / 3PM	Jesus Calls the Disciples End of the year learning and party!

Parent/grandparents/aunts/uncles/friends...any adult/kid pairings welcome. All ages are welcome!

You are invited to Family Sunday School—a time for families to grow together in faith and friendship!

Experience the wonder of engaging Bible stories, creative activities, and plenty of laughter as we celebrate community.

All are welcome for an uplifting time filled with fun, fellowship, and the great messages of scripture!



September 2025 Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir Readers

9/7 – Diane Clark

9/14 – Dawn Nelson

9/21 -Kathryn Pitcel

9/28 – Connie Wolfgram

East Lemonweir Greeters

9/7 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke

9/14 – Roger & Kathryn Pitcel

9/21 – Gayle Hempel

9/28 – Roger & Dawn Nelson

Bethany

9/7

Assistant Minister – Michaele Korbein

Reader – Ross Hardie

Communion Assistant – Michaele Korbein

Ushers – Beth Preuss & Collette Schultz

Bethany

9/21 –

Service lead by Larry Thome

No Communion

Reader – Sheila Stark

Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

9/14 – Pastor Mark Jolivette

Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen

Reader – Debby Hansen

Communion Assistants – Mark Hansen, Betty Krotzman, Barb Parker

Ushers – Tim Parker & Shane Gesler

9/28

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl

Reader – Barb Parker

Communion Assistants – Inger Kirkwood, Galen Lingl, Beth Preuss

Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

SEPTEMBER 2025 CELEBRATIONS

BETHANY BIRTHDAYS

Mark Hansen – 1

Rhonda Larson – 5

Penny Tiedt – 7

Christina Krotzman – 9

Daniel Swinehart – 12

DeAnn Gollmar – 13

Cindy Costello – 14

Frank Zobal – 14

Patti Phillips – 16

Dawn Van Meter – 17

Dennis Stark – 17

Kamden Reichoff - 20

Timothy Georgeson – 26

Morgan Reichhoff - 28

EAST LEMONWEIR BIRTHDAYS

Diane Clark – 20

Marlene Pelton – 28

BETHANY ANNIVERSARIES

Frank & Judy Zobal – 19

John & Rosie Halverson - 30

EAST LEMONWEIR ANNIVERSARIES

Roger & Kathy Pitcel – 5

Roger & Dawn Nelson – 27

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

Fall Fun for Funding

~ to replenish funds from summer projects (air conditioning/parking lot/windows, etc.) and/or for Pastor Lucy's discretionary needs

- Pick a Pumpkin (September 7th – Kick-off) – numbers 1-30 will be on a pumpkin with a Mrs. York cookie. Pay $5 for the pumpkin and cookie. Number will be drawn for a gift certificate of $25 for Mrs. York's Cookies, Etc. **The $150 will be matched.

- Family with a child(ren) decorate pumpkins on September 7th during family Sunday school; the pumpkins will be put on display until October 5th with voting ending on September 28th; vote on which one people like (ex. one penny = one vote); prize for family that wins by having the most money put in the container by their pumpkin. The pumpkin with the most votes will be announced Oct. 5th.

What additional giving to *Building and Grounds* can look like:

IF...

- 20 envelopes donate an extra $5 per month .....**$1,200** (20 X $5 X 12 months)
- 20 envelopes donate an extra $10 per month .....**$2,400** (20 X $10 X 12 months)

- 20 envelopes donate an extra $5 per week .....**$5,200** (20 X $5 X 52 weeks)
- 20 envelopes donate an extra $10 per week .....**$10, 400** (20 X $10 X 52 weeks)

At Bethany

September 14th

Hint for the big prize game:

Fall Warmth!

**You can donate prizes to the Bingo Basket, if you want.
Hope to see and hear you on the 14th!

Needed monthly for only Bethany's budgeted expenses: $10,866,61

	July	Year To Date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 15,469.34*	$ 89,128.71*
Expenses paid	$ 17,685.89**	$110,315.17***

* includes East Lemonweir's budget reimbursements
** includes windows, boiler pump repairs, narthex a/c payments
*** includes final roof work

EAST LEMONWEIR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting
August 17, 2025

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

President Roger Nelson called the August 17, 2025 council meeting to order following Sunday morning worship service. An opening prayer was given by Pastor Lucy Hardie.

There has been no July 2025 council minutes presented to the Council for their approval. Roger Pitcel reported that fuel came in at $1.59.9 for 2,000 gallons. Motion made by Audrey Scholl and second by Marlene Pelton to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Roger Nelson reported that we are in hopes of having the new storm windows installed within the next couple of weeks.

Pastor Hardie reported that the storm of Saturday, August 16, 2025 did damage to the siding on the Parsonage.

Pastor Hardie is in the process of compiling a policy directory for funerals and weddings for East Lemonweir. The funeral policy will be printed and a copy given to neighboring funeral homes. Building use fee to members is waived for funerals and weddings. The Pastor's fee is $200.00 (member or non-member) for a funeral. The Pastor's fee is $250.00 (member or non-member) for a wedding. A fee of $200.00 for use of the Church for a funeral of a non-member. A fee of $400.00 for use of the Church for a wedding of a non-member will be assessed. $100.00 of that fee will be returned if no damage is done to the Church.

While Pastor Hardie is on vacation, Pastors Brad and Dawn Lindberg are to be used for pastoral care. Sunday, September 14, 2025 Pastor Mark Jolivette will be our Supply Pastor. September 21, 2025 will be a lay lead Sunday service. Holy Communion will be administered the first Sunday of September (09-07-2025) only.

Motion to adjourn by Roger Pitcel, second by Marlene Pelton. Motion carried.
Closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Pelton, pro-tempore

Synod Assembly 2025

First let me start with the venue, Westby Coon Prairie Church, and the volunteers. It was a beautiful place to hold assembly -a welcoming space large enough to worship and discuss Synod business. The volunteers hosting were so gracious and joyful to converse with!

So on to the business end of the assembly. On Friday evening we had the opening of the assembly, adoption of the agenda and rules of assembly, Treasurers report, first ballot for Synod Vice President, report of Nominating Committee, Celebration of Rostered Ministers and Congregational Anniversaries, Recognition of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Ministries and announcement of 1st ballot for Synod Vice President. What an opening session! From a personal view, this was well organized and run under Robert's Rules of Order, giving all who wanted a chance to speak and to be heard by all.

Saturday was again a very busy day with several reports on the Synod, approval of the minutes from 2024 assembly, 2nd ballot for Synod Vice President and the repot from the Bishop. And then we got into the 2025 resolutions. The 1st Resolution was for becoming a Creation Care Synod: Affirming Climate Justice as Core Mission of the La Crosse Area Synod, the 2nd Resolution was for the La Crosse Area Synod to Discern becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Synod, and the 3rd Resolution was to amend and ratify the La Crosse Area Resolution to amend and ratify the La Crosse Area Synod Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions 2025. For each of these we had passionate debates, amendments, votes on amendments and votes on the resolutions, with all passing. Then we had lunch at Westby High School, which was a time of good food and discussions on subjects other than the morning business. After lunch we had two keynote speakers and a question-and-answer session with them. We then broke out into various workshops; there were many to choose from. Afterward, we again assembled at Westby Coon Prairie Church for report of results for Synod Council and Committees, the Final ballot for Synod Vice President, any unfinished business from the morning session, honoring outgoing Council members and installation of new Council members, and announced results of final ballot for Synod VP, installation of new Synod VP, and final announcements. We then closed the assembly with a song.

I know this report seems long, but I thought it important to let you all know what happens at the Assembly. As for the resolutions, our council will look at them to see where we are on the journey and how our congregation needs to move forward with them. I would hope that in the future that anyone who has not attended a Synod Assembly would look into your heart and represent Bethany. The days are long, but it is fulfilling and important work of the La Crosse Synod, The ELCA and God!

Thank You for letting me represent you at this year's Assembly.

Keith Korbein

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Debby)*	To help replenish funds from our summer properties projects, the Discipleship committee is looking to sponsor a "Fall Fun for Funding" series of events, including: • September – Pick a Pumpkin (donation required and prize will be gift certificate for Mrs. York's Cookies, etc. Donations will be fully matched. • September – Families from Sunday School will decorate pumpkins and congregation will vote on pumpkins (one penny, one vote). Family with most votes wins a prize. • October – Pick an envelope numbered 1-50. Whatever number you pick, you donate that amount. Donations will be fully matched. • November – Pies and Pies Plus Auction. Members donate pies and they are auctioned off. Pies Plus (pie plus other items) will also be auctioned off.
Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	No report available as Inger was not in attendance.
Property: *(Mark)*	Karl Katuin provided an update in Mark's absence: New windows and air conditioner projects are complete. The parking lot and boiler repairs will be completed the week of August 11.
Worship: *(Larry)*	Pastor Lucy will be on vacation the Sundays of September 14 and 21. Worship will be led by Pastor Mark Jolivette on September 14 and Larry Thome on September 21 (no Communion).
Old Business	
None:	N/A
New Business	
Online Giving:	The Council wants to explore the possibility of implementing online giving (offerings and donations) using your computer. There are many options available, and Larry Thome will research alternatives. There was also discussion about the location of offering plates and the possibility of moving them to make them more visible and accessible, especially for visitors.
Planning for Joint Worship:	August 31 will be the joint worship with Bethany and East Lemonweir at Bethany at 10:30 AM. A fellowship luncheon will follow. Sloppy Joe's (or BBQ) will follow, and Bethany members are asked to bring a dish to pass, (salad, dessert, etc.)
Wedding and Funeral Fees:	Pastor Lucy created a wedding planning document for couples wanting to get married at Bethany. This included a number of items required to use the church and hall and also a usage fee. The costs will be different for members and non-members. A discussion on the costs was had and some adjustments were made. ***Glenda Swinehart made a motion to approve the Wedding Planning Document (including fees) as updated, seconded by Deanna Smith; motion passed 5-0.*** Pastor Lucy started working on a similar document for funerals, and some discussion was had regarding fees. Pastor Lucy will complete the Funeral Planning Document and present it to the Council for review at a later meeting.
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting will be September 7, 2025 at 12:00 PM. Devotions and Announcements for September will be Debby Hansen.
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. ***Glenda Swinehart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michaele Korbein; motion passed 5-0.*** The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Council Members Present:	Karl Katuin, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Glenda Swinehart, Michaele Korbein, Deanna Smith, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Mark Hansen, Debby Hansen, Inger Kirkwood
Guests:	None

Agenda

Call to Order:	President Karl Katuin called the Council meeting to order at 12:00 PM
Agenda Approval:	Karl Katuin presented the agenda for approval. There was an additional item added to the agenda: Wedding and Funeral Fees. ***Glenda Swinehart made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as amended, seconded by Deanna Smith; motion passed 5-0.***
Devotion:	Deanna Smith shared a devotion based on Galatians 6:9: Are people tired of serving? Even godly people get tired of doing good things. We need to keep pushing, persevering in continuing to do good things. Make a commitment to not give up even when you are tired.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the June 2025 Council Meeting. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Deanna Smith made a motion to accept the June 2025 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 5-0.*** Michaele Korbein presented the minutes from the June 8 Special Council Meeting on replacing the air conditioner by the narthex furnace. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Glenda Swinehart made a motion to accept the June 8 Special Council Meeting on replacing the air conditioner by the narthex furnace minutes as presented, seconded by Larry Thome; motion passed 5-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register as of June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025, the Statement of Financial Position, the Savings Summary Report and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense as of July 31, 2025. There were no questions or comments on the reports as presented. ***Deanna Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Larry Thome; motion passed 5-0.***
Pastor's Report:	The Wa Da Shuda Days parade was successful. We had good participation and handed out all 300 bottles of water. We would need to double this amount if we do this again next year. Worship in the Park and the Campfire worship services had less participation than expected, but those that attended enjoyed the events and they were well received. The "Back to School" blessing will be September 7 and Pastor Lucy is looking to start First Communion classes in October. Pastor Lucy also served as Chaplain at Sugar Creek for one week – this is an extension of Bethany's ministry.

Committee Reports

Education: *(Deanna)*	The 2025 – 2026 schedule for Family Sunday School is complete. It is posted in the narthex and on Bethany's website. Pastor Lucy and Deanna Smith will be attending a seminar on "Engaging Children in Worship" at Sugar Creek on September 6.