

**Message from Pastor Brenda Lovick
November 22, 2020**

Dear Friends at EKLC,

A message of hope from one of my favorite psalms, Psalm 27 (CEB):

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

2 When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up—

it's they, my foes and my enemies,
who stumble and fall!

3 If an army camps against me,
my heart won't be afraid.

If war comes up against me,
I will continue to trust in this:

4 I have asked one thing from the Lord—
it's all I seek:

to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
seeing the Lord's beauty
and constantly adoring his temple.

5 Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling
during troubling times;

he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;
he will set me up high, safe on a rock.

By now, you have likely heard the news that I am resigning as pastor of EKLC. So many have reached out to me in compassion and care - THANK YOU for your kind words. So many have said to me, "What could I have done? Why now? What's happening?" I want to assure you to know that this is not about any hard feelings with people in the congregation, nor is it about what could or couldn't have been. This is so much more about where God is calling me and where God can best use my gifts.

A wise leader in this congregation once said to me, "Look out at that cemetery. We've been here for a long time. We've endured a lot of hardship and so many events in the history of our world. We've shared a lot of faith through the generations. This place will carry on beyond you or me or anyone else here right now because ultimately, it's not about any of us."

This place is about faith in God found in Jesus Christ. It's a safe refuge for people through the highs and lows of life. Nothing can change that.

Thanksgiving this week will be a strange one because the pandemic causes many of us to stay home and not see extended family. Please take good care of yourself, and as you watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or eat a special goodie in the comfort of your own home, remember the bigger picture. This is a Thanksgiving for the books - one that we will not forget and one where our children will be telling stories of it to their grandchildren. This is not forever - it's just a bump in the road.

My grandma would say, "This too shall pass." Nothing is certain in this life or this world - the only thing that is certain and true is the love found in Jesus. That's true for our strange Thanksgiving, and it's true for the ebb and flow of ministry at EKLC. There are many wonderful, faithful pastors in the ELCA - I know God is working on another great pastor to serve EKLC.

You are always close to my heart and always in my prayers. I pray for you this Thanksgiving to have a full belly, warmth in your home and in your heart, and abundance of gratitude.

On Wednesday, please note that the Cambridge and Deerfield area pastors are airing an ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service. It will be on Facebook, YouTube, and the local Cambridge cable television station. We have a great fellowship of Christians in this community!

Thanksgiving blessings to you and yours. God bless you always.

Peace,

Pastor Brenda Lovick

Worship Plan for Sunday, November 22, 2020

Christ the King

25th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (ELW 865)

HYMN *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517)

HYMN *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage* (ELW 509)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God, whose fondness for humanity knows no limit, Write your word upon our hearts, so that we need no scroll, no book, no script to know that you love us. Show us the power of your covenant, that you will be faithful to us, even when we fail to remain faithful to you. For the beauty of your word inscribed upon us, we pray, in the name of the one whose body and blood became your new covenant with us, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.

READING: Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

P: A reading from Jeremiah.

Chapter 36

¹In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today.

³It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

⁴Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him. ⁵And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the LORD; ⁶so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of

Judah who come up from their towns. ⁷It may be that their plea will come before the LORD, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people." ⁸And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD's house.

²¹Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. ²²Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. ²³As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

²⁷Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁸Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

Chapter 31

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

MUSICAL MEDITATION

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

P: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Bring peace to every place where conflict rages (*especially*). Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Holy God, bless those among us who have birthdays this week, especially Shawn, Jeffery, Marilyn, Robert, Steven, Linda, Howard, Anbjorg, Gary, Rylan, Wyatt & Breah. Bless those who celebrate anniversaries this week especially Sean & Susan. Thank you for their lives in our congregation. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C; Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

MISSION MINUTE

BLESSING

P: Mothering God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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~Prayers~

To make a prayer requests: Please call church office 608-423-3017 or email eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com before noon Wednesday.

Requests will remain on this list for 3 weeks unless otherwise noted.

-Thanks for New Guinea missionaries John and Amy Lindstrom, and Lutheran Disaster Response.

-Healing and comfort to Harriet (Eikland)*, Daniel (Hull), Rob (White), Allison (Evenson), Arvid (Mathison), David (Graffin), Rocky (Gilbeaut), Brian (Miles), Sylvia (Gerlach), Eric (Krueger), Sara (Depies), Gary (Krueger), Jeff (Walheim), Kevin (Porter), and Walter (Furseth)

-For veterans and those deployed, especially Axel Gaarder.

~Announcements~

Virtual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship is Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm on cable channel 987 and on EKLC Social media page.

First Sunday of Advent is November 29th!

Sunday School will be virtual as long as worship remains virtual. Please search for the Facebook group “East Koshkonong Sunday School” where videos are posted each Sunday. If you have trouble finding the group, please contact Debbie directly ekclyouthdirector@gmail.com and she can help you out! Supplies for crafts were delivered through the end of the 2020 year. Even if we return to in-person before that, we can still use those supplies. Thanks for being flexible!

Cambridge Food Pantry has moved in the lower level of the Nikolay Middle School. During COVID the food pantry will continue to offer drive up grocery pickups on Monday evenings from 5:30pm - 6:30pm until further notice. The following is a wish list of needed items for anyone wishing to donating non perishable food items. There is a donation bin outside of the lower level doors of the middle school/food

pantry entrance. Wish list: **hearty soups, canned pasta, canned or packet tuna, hand & serve complete meals (non-refrigerated/shelf stable), individual cereal boxes/bowls, individual oatmeal packets, saltines, Ramen, shampoo, conditioner, laundry soap, dish soap.**

Church Building: The church building is open to members now. Please continue to be aware of CDC guidelines. Always have a mask with you when you are in the building. If you are in the presence of someone you don't live with, please wear your mask. Please use hand sanitizer and stay distant. Wash your hands regularly. Following these guidelines is a selfless act of taking care of our neighbors. Thank you!

Give Plus – You may make a secure offering donation to EKLC by online giving: **Church website**, **Download the Give Plus App** on your smartphone or

Scan QR Code:



You may also mail your offering to EKLC, 454 East Church Rd., Cambridge, WI 53523



November/December Giving Goal It is our goal to keep pace with our giving from 2019 during the months of November and December. That goal is \$50,000. Please keep EKLC in your giving considerations during this important time of year. Together, as our church community, I know we can all make this happen and reach our goal! Thank You! Watch for updates weekly!

Phone Calls, Conference Calls, Video meetings and outdoor visits can happen at any time.

Please contact Pastor Brenda if you would like any of these things.

~Calendar~

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9:00am Virtual Worship

9:40am Virtual Sunday School

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

8:30am Virtual Staff Meeting

9:30am Prayers for our People Facebook Live

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

11:00am Virtual Cambridge Clergy

7:00pm Virtual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Happy Thanksgiving!

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 27, 2020

Pastor's Day Off

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

9:00am Virtual Worship

9:40am Virtual Sunday School

Let's Walk to Bethlehem!

At EKLC our mission statement includes Gathering. During this time of COVID it is hard to be together as a congregation. Gather by joining the EKLC World Walking Group on a virtual Walk to Bethlehem from now until Christmas.

Each individual who joins the group will record their real world steps walking, miles biking, meters rowing, etc. All of these steps, pedals, and strokes will be used to virtually traverse the 7400 miles from here to Bethlehem.

Let's keep healthy this fall and do something together even when we are apart!

You do not have to have a computer to participate. Follow the appropriate steps below to join us.

How to Participate:

High Techy Folks

1. Search and download **World Walking** from your app store (either iphone or android).
2. Search for the EKLC Group.
3. Create an account and connect to the group.
4. Add the Walk to Bethlehem walk to your account by clicking on the walk from within the group and saying **Join Now**.
5. Connect your account to your fitness device. If you are doing this from your phone, you will get a prompt..
6. **Move!** Your steps will sync to the app. You will need to move your banked steps to the walk in order for them to count toward our destination.
 - a. If you bike or row you may need to manually add those miles as your fitness tracker may not count them.

Low Techy Folks

1. Go to <https://worldwalking.org/> .
2. Click on Groups.
3. **Search** for EKLC in the search field and select the group by clicking on it.
4. **Join this group** by clicking on the button of the same name.
 - a. You will need to Register with your name and email.
5. Once in the group add the Walk to Bethlehem by selecting the EKLC group in your Dashboard, clicking on the Walk to Bethlehem, and choosing **Join Now**.
6. **Move!** This can be walking, biking, or marching in place while watching TV.
7. Track your steps or miles in the app. From your Dashboard use **Add Steps** to log the miles/ you've moved. (note that you can log in either mode steps or miles....or kilometers if you want to be Canadian)
8. Choose **Spend Steps** to apply those steps to our walk. You can do this each time you log or at some other interval. Note, your steps will not be logged to our walk until you "Spend" them.

No Techy Folks

1. **Move!** This can be walking, biking, or marching in place while watching TV.
2. Track your steps or miles on a piece of paper.
3. Call the church office once a week with your weekly counts. Julie will enter them manually in our walk. You can leave a message if the office is closed.
 - a. Alternatively, you could get a family member to create an account for you (see Low Techy Folks) and track your individual progress toward our group goal.

Order your Poinsettia for the Christmas season! We are placing our orders through the Cambridge Music Boosters. The flowers will be red and in a 8" pot. The cost is \$17 each, which needs to be paid for when ordering. If you would like to order one please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Sunday, December 6, 2020. Checks payable to EKLC.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

How Many: _____

In (please circle) Memory/Honor of
