

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY MORNINGS IN-PERSON OR ON YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	Page	
Pastors Pen	Front Page	
President's Message	2	
Church Council	3	
Council Minutes	4	
Church Basement Ladies	5	
SWO Conference	5	
Sunday School/Confirmation	6	
Kids Page	7	
November Events	8	
Wanted: Adult Education Coordinator		
EKLC Members	9	
Unsung Hero - Wilma Furseth	9	
Worship Helper Schedule	10	
November Calendar	11	
In-Person guidelines	Back Page	

Sundays and Beyond



Dear Friends in Christ:

Our time as your interim pastors is winding down. Our six month contract is up at the end of November. When we started with you in June, summer was just beginning. Now, even though it has been warmer than usual, it is fall. A lot of things have changed. But many things have stayed the same. When we started at East Koshkonong in June, it seemed as if the long nightmare of Covid was 22 ndl y co mingt o an end. Vaccines were available. We no longer had to wear masks. It looked like we would soon be able to gather once again over a cup of coffee and visit with each other. Unfortunately, that has not happened. The delta variant of Covid 19, combined with a reluctance by some to get vaccinated has pushed us right back into mask mandates, social distancing, rising hospitalizations, and more deaths. Our society is split. Tempers are short. I am often left wondering why we don't care enough about our neighbor to do such simple things as wear a mask in public or get a vaccine.

East Koshkonong has wisely followed the science and complied with the public health mandates. We were heartened to see the congregation take seriously the mask mandate when it was once again necessary. It was so hard to put that mask back on and refrain from shaking hands, but we knew it was for a good reason. Hopefully, we may again be able to take a step forward as numbers begin to trend down.

Some things have changed and some things have stayed the same. East Koshkonong is still waiting to call a pastor. And because of Covid, many of the activities that normally happen at church are back on hold.

Yet, what has not changed is that God is still leading us and this congregation forward. The Call Committee has met with Marie Leafblad, Assistant to the Bishop. The Ministry Site Pro21 e has November 2021 East Koshkonong Lutheran Church ELCA



been revised. At the meeting we talked about the next steps that can be taken.

God is at work in this process! God is at work in this church! Let's keep that in mind as we deal with things that just don't seem to change and things that keep changing. God is at work in us. I have heard so many church people, here, and at other churches, express the hope that we can soon get back to normal, back to the way things were.

But even before Covid, churches were struggling to bring in new members, keep 22 nances steady, and engage their youth. Things do change and things do stay the same.

Could it be that God is leading the Church to a new place? Could it be that the Spirit is blowing through our churches and allowing us to rethink who we are as Church.

I have never been known as a patient person. But perhaps what this most unusual time calls for is patience with how God is working in us, patience with ourselves, and patience with each other. Yes, as we go forward things will change. But what will not change is that God loves us and is present with us. What will not change is that God has a plan for this church. What will not change is that God has a mission in this world and God's people at East Koshkonong are part of God's mission.

President's Message

This time of year I think a lot about farmers. The work that happens to get the harvest in from the fields is significant. What that harvest looks like in the grain bin depends on effort, weather, luck, timing, and decisions that farmers make starting when they buy seed for the next year.

Imagine that your job is to feed the world. Imagine your job is to feed the soul of the world.

Farmers and the church have a lot in common.

Looking back:

- Our call committee met with our rep from the Synod to talk about who we are as a congregation. Lots of good conversations happened!
- Personnel committee started our search for a new Youth and Family Director.
- Confirmation is on 10/31. Congratulations to Anna Amundson and Kellan Jacobson.
- Thanks to Andrew Severson for his many years of sharing his gift of music with us.
- We had a pretty significant leak in the education wing roof this month. We'll be looking at options and estimates for repair.

Looking ahead:

- With any luck the Dane County mask mandate will end on 11/5. The council has decided that if this happens we'll start having coffee hour again on 11/7. For now, it will just be coffee until we can figure out how to safely serve treats (I'm thinking about you lemon bars). We will still need people to sign up to get the coffee started before worship and clean up after people leave. Sign up in friendship hall if you are willing to help.
- Congregational budget requests are going out. Please think about what committees need to make 2022 a great year.
- The nominating committee will start looking for people to fill various roles in the congrega-

tion to start in 2022. Please consider saying yes (or better yet reaching out to volunteer) when they give you a call. Positions needed:

- Council
- Aagot Borge
- Investment
- Synod Assembly

November Congregational Challenge:

"The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us." Psalm 67:6

This month, consider all that we have as individuals and as the church. Focus on what we have, not what we don't.

Your challenge? Just give thanks.

See you in worship

Kristen



November Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 16th at 6:15pm

2021 COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kristen Lien **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Tom Locchetta **SECRETARY:** Jason Schlieckau **TREASURER:** Kimberly Timler **COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Jaime Lewellin

Oren Hammes Nathan Stach

Treasurer's Report

September 2021 Income - \$ 17,897.59

September 2021 Expense - \$ 13,134.98

September 2020 Income - \$ 15,463.87

September 2020 Expense - \$ 21,518.13

YTD 2021 Income - \$ 194,685.24 *PPP Loan was forgiven and added as income, explaining the increase from previous*

YTD 2021 Expense - \$ 129,552.82

YTD 2020 Income - \$ 190,006.70

YTD 2020 Expense - \$ 191,456.82

You may make a secure offering/ donation to EKLC by following the directions below.



All donations are secured through Vanco. Thank you for your generous offering in this way!

Online giving directions: With all of these options, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

Option 1: Go to www.eastkoshkonong.org and click on Donate. Create a prola et h ought his secure website if you haven't already, and complete the form on the website. Option 2: Scan this QR code with your smartphone. Create a prola et h ought his secure website if you havent dready, and complete the form on the website.

Option 3: Download the GivePlus app on your smartphone for either Android or iOS. If needed, create an account with your email address. Sign into your account and search for "East Koshkonong Lutheran Church." Select the plus "+" sign and complete the form.

If you don't have online access for this giving option, you are welcome to 2011 out af or mfromthe church offae 608 423-3017 or eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com OFFERINGS ARE ALSO ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY MAILING TO:

EAST KOSHKONONG LUTHERAN CHURCH 454 EAST CHURCH ROAD CAMBRIDGE, WI 53523

ATTENTION EKLC COMMITTEES

Any budget requests/changes for the EKLC 2022 Budget need to be submitted to the church office by **NOVEMBER 12, 2021** Thank you, -EKLC Church Council



Thanksgiving Baskets

Cambridge Food Pantry will be once again providing Thanksgiving baskets to those in need. Second Harvest of WI provides turkeys, hams, produce, canned soups and veggies. Area churches have been asked to partner with the Pantry to complete the needed 55 baskets. <u>EKLC will be collecting</u> <u>cans of fried onions</u>. Starting next week there will be a collection box in the Narthex for those members wishing to donate. The box will remain there until November 14....or earlier if quota is met. Thank you in advance to everyone.

amazonsmile

East Koshkonong is now registered with AmazonSmile!

You shop. Amazon gives.

You Shop.

Amazon gives to

East Koshkonong

Lutheran Church

in Cambridge.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to EKLC. Please support EKLC every time you shop.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. You get the same products, same prices, and same service. Please support East Koshkonong Lutheran Church by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

> You may use the following link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1053720

September 21st, 2021 EKLC Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm. Those in attendance were Jaime Lewellin, Oren Hammes, Tom Locchetta, Kim Tim-ler, Nathan Stach, Linda and Loren Schumacher and Jason Schlieckau.

Tom is filling in for Kristen, in her absence tonight.

Additions to agenda: Aagot Borge fund discussion with Marilyn Gunderson.

Devotions- Nathan: Rest in Gods Care.

Marilyn is here on behalf of Aagot Borge fund to present an amendment to the resolution that created the fund. This is more housekeeping than anything else. They would like to change the fund's wording to keep it more current with today's economy. Need to change wording to reflect the use of principal and interest instead of interest only. Also consider changing perpetual to a different word too, since the principal could now be accessed. The Aagot Borge committee has already approved this new wording. Council recommends the "perpetual" wording goes back to the Aagot Borge committee and revise perpetual word-ing. Also place a stopgap to prevent draining fund completely. The stopgap can be determined by the Aagot Borge committee. Council recommends using interest for day to day maintenance but additional repairs to come from general operating fund and be approved by council.

Financial updates, Profit/Loss statement, Money Market account and Memorials.

Income expenses into Money Markey were minimal. There were a few memorials in August. Shirley Johnson memorial designated to Alter Guild, Total of \$1500 to go into Undesignated Memorials. June Ramberg memorial not to be used for general expense.

Profit/Loss August and January-August has same trend that we've had over the last eight months. Giving down compared to last year. Online giving holding strong. Expenses still down for this year too. Sound system line item being negative balance discussed. Leave negative until end of year and assess at that time if it should be zeroed out. September giving to this point is about same as last year.

We received notification that our PPP Loan is officially forgiv-en. This will be removed from the Balance Sheet so it doesn't show as a liability anymore.

Envelope discussion: As suggested, 197 boxes of envelopes to be ordered plus 10 extra

Motion to approve reports made by Oren, seconded by Jaime, passed.

Review of Minutes from August meeting.

Motion to approve Minutes made by Oren, seconded by Jaime, passed.

Education Committee Minutes discussion: Started Sunday school on 9/12. 12 - 23 kids were anticipated. Research to keep high school confirmation youth involved in church. Offer Silver Cord hours for volunteering maybe? Christmas program late October to start practicing. The question was raised if a future qualified Youth Director can-didate needs to be interviewed and approved by council? Discussed youth trip funds and if they could be used for a different, future trip.

Another email went out for any other interest in trip. Kids singing in choir room discussed with regard to COVID.

Worship Committee discussion:

With the absence of singing, Worship committee discussed the possibility of playing music through speakers instead. Copyright could be an issue. If we have rights, this is OK. If we don't have rights then we cannot broadcast to Facebook. Looking for

modern songs. Consider doing before service. Nathan to find out what they want to play. Tom to look into what non-copyright material is allowed.

Personnel Committee Discussion: Motion to go to closed meeting to discuss Personnel Committee. Motion to go to closed meeting made by Tom and seconded by Oren.

Stewardship Committee Discussion: Envelope discussion.

Property Committee Discussion: No quote for fans yet. Get before next meeting. Lawnmower discussion. Kurt Hansen to sell us the mower that he's renting to us (awaiting quote) and take our current mower in on trade. Split cost between church budget and cemetery budget.

Redirect tuck point budget funds since not used- the tuck point-ing is not needed at this point. Tuck pointing was budgeted for three years, but finished in two years. Consider using memorials instead of tuck point fund for lawnmower.

We will table until next meeting until lawnmower quote comes in

A motion made by Jason to approve reports and seconded by Nathan, accepted and passed.

Old Business Unsung hero nominee for the month is Holly Loomis. Mask status extended to OCT 8 Keep status quo and follow Dane County guidelines. Request to use Friendship Hall came in from Bonnie/Carroll for dart ball. OK if they understand and follow Dane County guidelines and whatever guidance is in place at church at that time.

Pastor's update: Confirmation has started. Classes have grown a little. Eight in $7 \text{th}/8^{\text{th}}$ grade confirmation.

Office phone update. The testing of Ooma has gone well. Will port our church number over to Ooma and cancel Frontier service, leaving only the elevator line active on Frontier.

Tom is looking at live-stream camera currently and will have an update next meeting.

New Business

Transfer of Ellen Seithamer to Holmen Lutheran complete.

Authorize Roger Olstad Memorial to be transferred Perpetual Fund as requested by family. Jamie made motion to approve the Trust Fund committee investing this memorial into the perpetual fund as requested by the family, Oren seconded, approved.

Investment committee recommends Trust Fund match Thrivent fund, as an investment in our youth. These funds can be used for upcoming youth gathering. Christianson fund also funds these trips as well as Youth and Family Ministry funds. We have funds, but we need to see if we have any signups or not, then make a decision.

Topic to be added to next month's agenda: Working with our Interim Pastors. There is room for conversation about commu-nication and the church's understanding about the role of Pastor. Spend time in the upcoming months on this topic.

Confirm next meeting: Oct 19, 6:15 PM (Devotions -Pastor Loren)

Adjourn at 7:48PM - Motion made by Oren, seconded by Kim. Close with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jason Schlieckau

Report from SWO Conference Diane Luginbuhl

Greetings from Diane Ehrke Luginbuhl and South Central WI Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)15th Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat held at Lutherdale, Elkhorn WI on Sept. 24 and 25 2021

Theme this year was "Just Love....in the neighborhood" with hints of Mr Rogers.

Conference started Friday afternoon with pontoon rides available around Lake Lauderdale to those that signed up. Also there was a card making session, "Neighborhood Art pARTy" Love Notes. The business meeting was conducted with 5 voting members and Elizabeth Burgess joining us via zoom. Elizabeth is from CWO Executive Board in Maine. After the meeting 2 movies were offered. 'A beautiful day in the Neighborhood', a movie about Mr Rogers. The other was Zulu (1964) a movie about a war in South Africa.

Saturday morning started with keynote speaker Pastor Lily Brehlenthin sharing about her experience of her year long mission trip in South Africa. "Our Life together".

Afterwards Lynn Mehringer, Sandy Seffrood and I held a workshop on "Paper Quilt cards to show you care".

Lunch was held promptly at 12 noon, brats, potato salad, chips and chocolate chip cookies served.

The afternoon started with Pastor Lily speaking "Neighbor across the ocean, neighbor across the street". SHe continued to fascinate us with her stories of South Africa.

Closing worship was conducted by Bishop Joy Mortenson-Wiebe. Installation of officers and a message from Pastor Kathy Jacobson.

My experience serving on the board the last 2 years was rewarding and challenging due to covid. When the term started we met in person several for months, but I soon learned about zoom meetings. All in all, It was a wonderful time and i met a lot of fabulous women! Please pray about getting involved in going to the synod meeting. It is rewarding.

God's blessings to all!

Diane Luginbuhl

Theme verse

John 13;34-35 (NRVS)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you. YOu also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

Women ELCA 🚽

News from the church basement....

We did have a long and beautiful fall, but the other shoe is set to drop! Thank you to Light Circle for duties in October, and to Steadfast who is on for November.

Thanks again to the Confirmation classes for their wonderful help in packing our quilts and kits. Thanks to Julie for meeting with us to plan our work for next year, as much as could be done in light of our challenging Covid-19 presence.

Thanks to those who helped with kits and shipping costs for our Lutheran World Relief gifts. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 4, at 8 AM for Pin and Sew.

We will have our business meeting during coffee break at 9:30, and finish by noon.

Hopefully some month soon we will be able to have lunch together. We usually meet on the Thursday which is two weeks after our regular meeting, for a morning of quilt work. We would love to see some new faces. It is not necessary to have any particular skills. We can teach almost anyone to tie knots!!! We aren't sure if we will be able to have a Christmas event, so stay tuned for news on that.

Our next <u>MEALS ON WHEELS</u> schedule is set for weekdays, December 6 through 17. If you would be willing to deliver these meals for a day or two, please let me know, as I will be setting up the schedule now. Call (608-669-4249) or email me <u>speedystoutknitter@gmail.com</u>

Thank you for your help with this important community service.

Thank you again for all the help and your presence during the last 2 years, when things have been changing every minute.

God Bless you. Communicator Carolyn

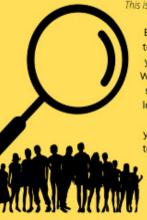
Sunday School

Sunday School will be in person all year and will abide by the mask mandates that are in place.



WE ARE HIRING!

Director, Youth & Family



This is a paid, staff position

EKLC is seeking a Director, Youth & Family to engage and expand our ministry of the youth and of our church and community. We are seeking someone with a passion to see youth introduced to and flourish in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. EKLC is committed to meeting the needs of youth in every capacity and endeavoring to promote biblical prosperity. Our desire is to continue to see it become a place where youth and adults alike come to "Gather, Grow, Be Glad, and Go with Grace."

Do you know the perfect person? If so, please contact Jaime Lewellin at 608.206.4323 or jaimelewellin@yahoo.com for more information.



Education Committee Dates Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 7, 7:00pm



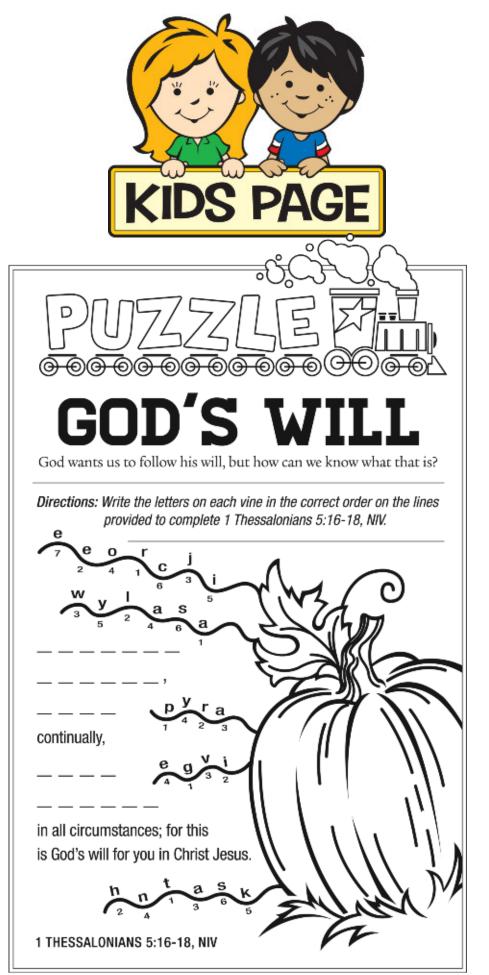
Congratulations to the following 2021 EKLC Confirmands who made public affirmation of their baptism on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at the 9:00am Worship Service

Anna Nikolina Amundson

Parents: Don & Natasha Amundson Sponsors: Stuart & Maureen Hammen Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Kellan Robert Jacobson

Parents: Eric & Sabra Jacobson Sponsors: Ryan Jacobson & Wendy Harden-Landsee



PRAISE-FILLED Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece. What you need: Colorful sheets of thin paper Aise Scissors Black pen Dish of water Ove What you do: 1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals. 2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers. 3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower. 4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words. 5. Invite meal guests to

 Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks



Community Thanksgiving Service in Cambridge will be November 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church 501 Skogan Rd.

It will be an in person service but also a live broadcast on Charter Cable and on Facebook.

Here's an article worth reading! Generations of Faith in the October Living Lutheran. You can 22nd a copyin the church narthex!





"My least favorite saying is, 'Children are the future of the church, " said Matt Byrd, pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in West Chester, Ohio. "<u>They're the church now.</u> They can serve here and now with adults, who can share wisdom and insight and be welcoming and inclusive to children." pg. 20 Oct. Living Lutheran



First Sunday of Advent Begins November 28th



ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

'Grow and learn how to be a disciple of Jesus and share Christ's love' is part of our mission statement. Our adult education coordinator would work with the pastors to create opportunities for adult members to learn more about their faith and the church. From bible studies and book clubs to video watching during coffee hour anything is really possible. We are looking for a person to be a caretaker of our growth as a congregation in this area.

If you are interested, contact Julie in the office.





Ask anyone at East, or in Stoughton if they know Wilma Furseth and of course they do.

She has been God's hands and feet around here for many years. She shepherded

the Stewardship committee for Women of East for many years, and has made many quilts, as well as lap robes and other things needed at Skaalen. Wilma has been president of our congregation at least twice, has served as usher and friendly greeter for many years. She is our Skaalen representative and keeps us informed as to activities and events there. She now has an assisted living apartment there, so keeps her hand in as a volunteer there. **Congratulations, Wilma, you're our hero!**



EKLC Homebound Members

Melissa Anderson ~ Home

279 Hwy A, Cambridge, WI 53523 Harriet Eikland, Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523 Irene Hensel ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523 Bea Householder ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523 Betty Scheel ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523 Phyllis Vergenz ~ Our House 201 W. Madison, Cambridge, WI 53523 Gary Johnson ~ Home 1513 Raveen St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Janette Klemp ~ Sage Meadow 5330 Century Ave. Room 200, Middleton, WI 53562 Lila Spike ~ Swift Haven 124 N. Henry St. Apt. #103, Edgerton, WI 53534 Joanne Gyland ~ Skaalen – Magnolia Gardens 400 North Morris St. Stoughton, WI 53589

Thank You...

 Dear EKLC, thank you so much for the opportunity for me to go to Lutherdale Camp this summer. I had so much fun there. Thank you again for the chance to go to Lutherdale Bible Camp this summer. From, Mia Frodel



Coffee Hour: In the hope that the existing Dane County mask order is done on 11/5, we are tentatively planning for coffee hour to restart on 11/7. For now coffee hour will just be coffee (no treats until we can 22gure out howto safely dothat). If you are interested in serving, please sign up in friendship hall.

Worship Helpers for November 2021



Remember ...set your clocks back on Sunday, November 7th when Daylight Savings ends .

Sunday Readings ~

11/7 ~ Isa 25:6-9; Ps 24; Rev 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

- 11/14 ~ Dan 12:1-3, Ps 16; Heb 10:11-14(15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
- 11/21 ~ Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 93; Rev 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
- 11/28 ~ First Sunday of Advent; Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:17, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Musician ~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

11/7 ~ Vicki Schuh 11/14 ~ Judy Rusch 11/21 ~ Trudy Spike 11/28~ Judy Rusch

Assisting Ministers~ (Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

11/7 ~ Carolyn Lien 11/14 ~ Holly Loomis 11/21 ~ Gloria Fruit 11/28 ~ Vicki Schuh

Lay Readers~

(Contact Person: Julie Kriedeman) 11/7 ~ Vicki Schuh 11/14 ~ Don Amundson 11/21 ~ Carroll Ehrke 11/28 ~ Jane Furseth

Acolytes ~ (Contact Persons: Students & Parents via google doc) 11/7 ~ Zack & Kyle Durkee 11/14 ~ Cally Travis 11/21 ~ Tara Bettenhausen 11/28 ~ Tanner Furseth

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

11/7 ~ Tom & Stephanie Locchetta

11/14 ~ Marge Stach

11/21 ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn

11/28 ~ Marilyn Gunderson

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

- 11/7 ~ Holly Loomis, Diane Luginbuhl, Dennis & Judy Lund
- 11/14 ~ Ron & Nancy Knapwurst, Judy Taylor & Brenda Schroeder
- 11/21 ~ Jason Schlieckau Family
- 11/28 ~ Tom & Trudy Spike, Scott & Jackie Zahn

Communion Set-up/Take-down~

(Contact Person: Marge Stach) 11/7 ~ Altar Guild 11/14 ~ Altar Guild 11/21 ~ Altar Guild 11/28 ~ Altar Guild

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin) 11/7 ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl 11/14 ~ Jean Lehr, Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel 11/21 ~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit 11/28 ~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl

Church Lock up~

(Contact Person: Holly Loomis) 11/7/21 – Gloria Fruit 11/14/21 – Judy Rusch 11/21/21 – Holly Loomis 11/28/21 – Carolyn Lien

November 2021

In-Person and Virtual Worship Every Sunday at 9:00am with communion

Sun

Mon Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9:00am Staff Meeting	6pm Confirmation Class	8am Pin & Sew	Office Closed	
Set Vour Clocks Back Back Daylight Savings Ends 9:00am Worship, All Saints Sunday 9:40am Sunday School	8	9:00am Staff Meeting 7pm Education Committee	10 6pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 9:00am Worship 9:40am Sunday School	15	16 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Property Committee Meeting 6:15pm Church Council Meeting	17 6pm Confirmation Class	18	19 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline	20
21 9:00am Worship, Pastor Margo Martins 9:40am Sunday School 7:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at Grace Lutheran	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving	26 Office Closed	27
28 First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship, Pastor Margo Martins 9:40am Sunday School	29	30 9:00am Staff Meeting				

Bible Study/Faith 5 Week 5 – The Promise Continues

- 1. Share or Think about your highs and lows.
- 2. Our Bible verses for today are Genesis 25:21-23 *Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.'*
- 3. Think about or discuss the Bible passage. Here are some thoughts: Abraham and Sarah finally have the baby that God promised them. His name is Isaac. In our verses today, Isaac is about to become the father of twins. But from the beginning, the boys are very different and mom loves Jacob best and dad loves Esau best. Do you know of any situations where parents or grandparents favored one kid over the others? How harmful would that be to the family? In this family it was very harmful. Jacob, the youngest, was kind of a jerk. He tricked his brother out of his birthright and then tricked his father out of the blessing meant for brother Esau. He ended up running away in fear of his life. In your Bible read about the rest of his life and journey in Genesis 28:10ff. Even when he was at his nastiest, God still loved Jacob. Talk about or think about a time when you did not feel worthy of God's love. How did that feel? How did you realize that God loved you no matter what? It is amazing what God can accomplish through us messed up as we are. Jacob went on to have 12 sons and 1 daughter. Those 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.
- 4. Pray for the needs of others, for our church, community and world.
- 5. The Blessing this week: "May God bless you and may you know that God loves you no matter what."

Week 6 – Moses and the Wanderings

- 1. Share or Think about your highs and lows.
- 2. Bible verses: Exodus 3:1-5 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.'
- **3.** Think about or discuss the story of Moses. What do you remember about Moses? He was an Israelite born at a time when the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians. When the order came to kill all the Israelite baby boys, his mother put him in a basket on the Nile and he was found and adopted by the Egyptian king's daughter. He was raised knowing he was an Israelite but raised as an Egyptian. Why would that be confusing? He ended up killing an Egyptian and running away into the wilderness. There he married, became a father, and was a shepherd. Our verses come at this point in his life. Why do you think that God appeared to Moses in a burning bush? Why would that place be holy ground? Where is holy ground in your life? God asks Moses to do something very difficult (Exodus 3): Go back to Egypt and tell the King to let the Israelites go free. Moses didn't want to do it and didn't think he could. When have you been asked to do something difficult? Did you want an excuse not to do it? Moses eventually did what God asked after God promised to be with him. Did you end up doing that hard thing? Why?
- 4. Pray for the needs of others, for our church, community, and world.
- 5. Blessing: "God bless you and give you strength to serve God and others.

Week 7 – Moses and the Wanderings, cont.

- 1. Share or think about your highs and lows.
- 2. Our Bible verses are Exodus 12:23-24: For the LORD will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children.
- 3. Think about or discuss what happens next in the story of Moses and the Exodus. As you might imagine, the Egyptian king was not about to let his slaves go just because Moses told him to do it. But God was with Moses and God was determined to change the king's mind. So, God sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians. Do you remember any of them? Water to blood, hail, darkness, etc. But the last plague was the worst of all the death of the firstborn. The Israelites were told to eat a lamb and to put the lamb's blood on the doorpost. Then the angel of death would Passover them. What do you know about the Jewish celebration of Passover? For the Jews, it is the story of salvation God freeing them from slavery. The Confirmation Class got to see what some of the symbolic foods at a Passover looked like and how they tasted: haroset, bitter herbs (horseradish), and unleavened bread. What holidays do we, as Christians celebrate as an important part of our faith? What are some of the foods and traditions that go along with our celebrations? How is Jesus instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion related to Passover? Mark 14:12-25.
- 4. Pray for the needs of others, for our church, community, and world.
- 5. Blessing: "God bless you and may you remember that God frees you from your sins."

Week 8 – Moses and the Wanderings, cont.

- 1. Share or think about your highs and lows.
- 2. Our Bible verses are Exodus 16:2-4 "The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."
- **3.** Think about or discuss: Moses does lead the Israelites out of slavery to freedom in the promised land. But the journey was long and difficult. And the people complained – a lot. What kind of complaining do you do? What kind of complaints do you hear? Why can complaining be annoying? Is it ever helpful? The Israelites complained about food and water. Do you think their complaints were because they didn't trust God to take care of them? Do you think that they might have been afraid? Do our complaints ever come out of fear? God did provide them food and water in the wilderness. Our verses talk about the Manna (bread) that God provided. And it talks about God's test of their faith when they were told to gather enough for just that day. Is it sometimes hard to trust God's promises? When has it been hard for you? Is it hard for our church to trust God? Why or why not? It was on this journey to the promised land that God gave the people the 10 Commandments. The first 3 are about our relationship to God and the last 7 are about our relationship to others. Why are commandments or laws, necessary? How many of the 10 commandments do you remember?
- 4. Pray for the needs of others, for our church, community, and world
- 5. Our blessing is from Faith Inkubators: "(Name), child of God, may you know that God goes with you this day."

East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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> OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



EKLC In-Person Worship Guidelines

Updated 8/17/2021

Effective on Aug 19, 2021, Public Health Madison & Dane County will again require all individuals aged two and older to wear a mask while in any indoor space open to the public. East Koshkonong will continue to follow and base our guidelines from Dane County directives as well as best practices from the CDC.

As of 8/19, EKLC will again require individuals to be masked while inside our buildings. We recommend that any member or guest follow CDC guidelines related to mask wearing while on church property, but outside our buildings.

Worship:

- •Some pews will continue to be blocked off to encourage social distancing
- •We will continue to live stream services on Facebook and YouTube
- •Offering will be collected in baskets in the Narthex.
- •Communion will continue be held weekly and will be distributed upon entrance to the sanctuary.
- •The sending hymn will continue to be sung at the end of worship. If you are uncomfortable with singing, you are free to leave prior to this.

Common Areas:

- •The following common areas are open to members
 - •Restrooms directly below the Narthex
- •The following common areas are currently closed:

Nursery

•As of 8/22 - Kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be closed for all functions

These policies will be reviewed monthly and will be updated as needed.

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