

Sundays and Beyond

July 2024
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
ELCA



Friends in Christ,

This month I've decided to write about a topic that deserves some attention, stewardship. I know that just the sound of that word can cause worry among some people who think of stewardship only as a ploy asking for more money. So with that in mind, **let me assure you that is not the primary goal or focus of this article.** This article instead will focus on what the broader meaning of stewardship is all about and what stewardship might look like in this culture.

First, let me briefly establish what stewardship actually means. The word stewardship is about using the abundance that God has entrusted to our care to serve and love God as well as our neighbors. I realize that may sound a bit vague so let me do some unpacking. The culture we live in tells us that we are the owners of everything that we have, i.e. land, natural resources, and so on. However, the bible and our faith declares that **these things are actually God's, not ours. God merely entrusts us with these resources so that we can use them to care for ourselves and our neighbors. It's kind of like when a friend or relative lets someone stay in their home; even though this person has been given permission to live inside of and use that home, it still doesn't actually belong to them. In a way our faith shows us a similar arch about the resources God entrusts to us, we can use them but in the end they are all still God's, not ours. God has bestowed upon us everything, i.e. our time, our talents, our possessions, and so on. God then calls us to be responsible and generous with how we use these blessings, meaning we are to use them to tend our own needs, provide for our loved ones, and share with our neighbors.**

However, that is very different than the messages we receive about the resources on this planet from the culture in which we all live. The message of consumerism instead insists that everything is ours and we must constantly acquire more and more of it; i.e. we need newer and fancier cars, bigger and newer houses, the latest technology, larger bank accounts, and so on. One of my economics professors shared a few insights that I think illustrate how this type of consumeristic sentiment has actually grown substantially over the years in this culture. The first was that in the United States most people could survive by the average 1940s standards of living with just about half of the current median salary. The reason why is because the average standard of living in this country 80 years ago included much smaller homes, less vehicles, limited technology, and just less in general than what we have today. The second thing I learned in this class about how our culture has changed was how storage units did not really exist prior to the 1960s because people rarely had more stuff than they could fit inside their homes in those times.

Stewardship shows how God calls us away from some of these tendencies of consumerism, and **instead invites us all to see how if we all learn to use God's resources more responsibly, that we can build a more equitable world for ourselves and our neighbors.** Imagine the possibilities for the world through living into this vision of stewardship; hunger and poverty could be drastically reduced or perhaps even obliterated, more people suffering from diseases could receive vital treatments, the earth could be cleaner, and creation could be healed. All these things are very real possibilities so long as everyone lives as God created us to live, using only what we need and learning to share with our neighbors. If we even start to live just a bit more generously, we can see these things start to become reality.

In closing I'd like to share with you all the great thanksgiving prayer because I think this prayer summarizes stewardship better than anything else I've ever seen before. It declares "merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric

EKLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 20, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm

Attendance: Denise Rockney, Hal Schuh, Oren Hammes, Amy Hensel, Peggy Luther, Pastor Eric, Linda Hanson, Ron Knapwurst, Judy Lund, Financial Secretary

Agenda: No changes or additions

Devotions: Pastor - Statement from Bishop Joy.

Financials: Judy answered questions regarding financials. There is \$786.88 in the Ukraine Fund. A motion was made by Ron to authorize the funds be disbursed to Natasha Amundson for her to wire to her family in the Ukraine. They then use to help needy in the area. Motion 2nd by Peggy. Motion carried. Oren moved to approve financials. Linda 2nd. Motion carried.

Review of committee reports: Reports received: Pastors report, Worship committee. Motion to approve reports – Linda. 2nd –Amy. Discussion. Motion carried.

Review and approval of minutes from last council meeting: Motion to approve –Amy. 2nd –Denise. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Thank yous- Peggy will follow up.
2. No new members
There have been new people attending, but no new applications for membership at this time.
3. Audio/Camera system update – Oren
We continue to get positive comments on the new audio system. i.e. clear sound, children are heard better.
Bryar is communicating with Mike from Peak systems regarding better usage of our existing video system.
A number of people are interested in learning how to operate the video. Training times will be set up.
4. Upper Church
A ground-breaking ceremony at the upper church will be held on June 16 after services.
Construction is set to begin on June 19.
5. Steering Committee
The next meeting of the steering committee will be held on June 2. There are new co-leaders for the committee. The committee is open to anyone interested in upgrading the education area as well as other areas in need of updating in the addition. It is too early to consider a design contract with NCI. This will be addressed by Oren.
6. Maintenance
Clean up day went well. There is more to do, but some areas were addressed and improved.
Brian Luther will do stump grinding where needed.
Hal, Linda and Bryar will follow up on some more of the suggestions from the landscape designer.
Heating and cooling needs- Bryar contacted Al Beyers. New thermostats will be installed for better control of heating and cooling.
Tree removal – One dead tree will be removed on west side of education wing.
Lane met with Amish on April 11th regarding bell tower repairs. We are waiting to receive the information from Lane.

Continued...

Bring in your Piggly Wiggly Receipts!
The CAMBRIDGE Piggly Wiggly donates a percentage of Piggly Wiggly dollars to EKLC from your receipts collected in the Church Narthex.



July Council Meeting:
Monday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.

2024 COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Denise Rockney
VICE-PRESIDENT: Oren Hammes
SECRETARY: Linda Hanson
TREASURER: Ron Knapwurst
COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Amy Hensel, Peggy Luther, Hal Schuh

If you need to speak to a council member please call the church office to leave a message and they will return your call.

The Church is looking for help on Sundays after worship to help count the offering money. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Joy Graffin.



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 profile through this 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 profile through this secure website, if you haven't already, 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 fill out a form from the church office: 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

Treasurer's Report

May 2024 Income:	\$20,968.89
Expense:	\$33,868.87
May 2023 Income:	\$22,885.71
Expense:	\$28,647.41
YTD 2024 Income:	\$151,258.14
Expense:	\$172,150.07
YTD 2023 Income:	\$116,932.67
Expense:	\$138,416.84

We have sound amplifying devices available in the usher stand in the narthex. Instructions for use are in the basket with the devices, as well as saniwipes for wiping off the ear bud after use. Please turn off the device after use to conserve the batteries. Thank you!

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NCI may also be able to do this job. We need a quote.

Projects need to be prioritized.

7. Trust Fund

Ron developed a receipt form to be incorporated in the Funeral/Wedding policy book for gifts given to EKLC.

8. Office assistant

Thanks to all that have been helping out with any administrative duties. The job description will be posted in the upcoming June newsletter.

9. Rally Sunday is September 8th. Party on the Prairie, 180th Celebration and

Council installation will be included on that day.

New Business

Council will provide a Resolution to Farmers and Merchants Union Bank for fund availability if needed for upper church project.

A notice of sale of excess pews will be in June newsletter.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Recipe Books Still Available

We had a very good response to our recipe book sale this year. We still have about 15 books left. If you are interested in purchasing a book, please contact Marilyn Gunderson (423-3876). The cost is \$15.00. If you write a check for payment, please write it to WELCA.

EKLC Homebound Members

Melissa Anderson

279 Hwy A, Cambridge, WI 53523

Bea Householder ~ Home Again

308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Arlen Lund~ Home Again

308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Wilma Furseth

1000 Ridge St 3B Stoughton, WI 53589

Betsy Calhoun

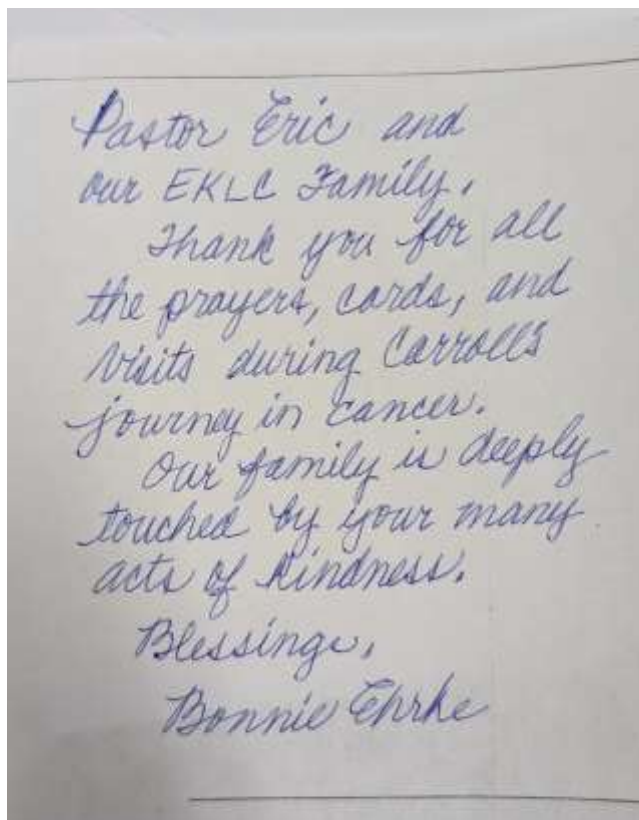
10702 W Hwy 14 Evansville, WI 53536

Joan Volenberg

2315 Hwy W Cambridge, WI 53523

Edward & Linda Melton

400 N Morris Street. Stoughton, WI 53589





**Join our team!
We are hiring**

Church Office Administrator

We are looking for a dedicated individual to join our church community and help make a difference.

Overview: Perform Administrative duties and act as a point of contact for EKLC

Hours: While there could be flexibility - generally would be looking for Mon - Thurs 9am -2pm

Requirements: Proficient in Microsoft office, publisher, comfortable using a computer. Must be outgoing and willing to work independently.

**Interested in learning more? Email all inquiries to
eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com**

Worship Helpers for July 2024

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

If you are unable to serve on a date you are scheduled please make every effort to find a replacement. If you have any questions or concerns please communicate with the appropriate contact person.

Thank you!

Organist~ Judy Rusch

Assisting Ministers~ (Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

7/7 ~ Trudy Spike
7/14 ~ Gloria Fruit
7/21 ~ Vicki Schuh
7/28 ~ Holly Loomis

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person:)

7/7 ~ Vicki Schuh
7/14 ~ Beverly Lien
7/21 ~ Trudy Spike
7/28 ~ Joy Graffin

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

7/7 ~ Payton Mancheski
7/14 ~ Tanner Furseth
7/21 ~ Zack Durkee
7/28 ~ Casey Travis

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

7/7 ~ Peggy Luther
7/14 ~ Vicki Schuh
7/21 ~ Marilyn Gunderson
7/28 ~ Marg Stach

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

7/7 ~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen
7/14 ~ Hal & Vicki Schuh
7/21 ~ Frodel Family
7/28 ~ Curt & Linda Hanson

Communion Set-up/Take-down~

(Contact Person: Marge Stach)
Altar Guild

Offering Counters~ (Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

7/7 ~ Jean Lehr and Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel
7/14 ~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit
7/21 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl &
Diane Luginbuhl
7/28 ~ Jean Lehr and Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel

Coffee Hour~ (Contact: Sign-up in Kitchen)

7/7 ~
7/14 ~
7/21 ~
7/28 ~

July 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 5:30 p.m. Worship	4 Office Closed Happy 4th of July	5	6
7 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	8	9	10 No Worship	11	12	13
14 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	15 6:00 p.m. Council meeting	16	17 5:30 p.m. Worship	18	19	20
21 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. Worship	25	26	27
28 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	29	30	31 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Education Committee meting			

News from the church basement:

Apparently, no news is good news! Not much going on in the basement lately, at least on the inside! The outside may be humming by the time you see this. We are on a week-to-week basis with the Sewing, so come on Thursday mornings until we must halt our work. We will not meet on the first Thursday of July, since that is the 4th of July, and some of us will be at the Stoughton Fair. Thank you to Light Circle for serving duties in June, and to Peace for July. Just a recap of what those duties are: Conduct the monthly business meeting at Pin and Sew (First Thursday of the month, 8-12 AM with business meeting and coffee at 9:30). Set up and clean up communion for the first Sunday of the month, and the Wednesday night following. Provide flowers for the altar each Sunday. Serve coffee fellowship on the 4th Sunday of the month after Sunday morning worship. Offering goes to mission work, Lindstrom Wycliff Bible Translators, or help for Ukraine. There are other duties, too, see the yearly schedule booklet of the Women of East. I am currently in search of helpers to deliver Meals on Wheels in August. We are scheduled for weekdays, August 12 through 23. Please let me know when you are available to take this task – 608-669-4249 or speedystoutknitter@gmail.com.

God Bless You
Communicator Carolyn

Backpack Supply Drive:



School just got out but supplies for next fall will soon be going on sale. If you are able, please help make school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Backpacks are in and ready to go. Some supplies have been ordered, and these are the things that we still need: Spiral notebooks, (70 sheet) , Crayons, (boxes of 16 or 24), blunt scissors, unsharpened #2 pencils, and blue or black ink ballpoint pens. Multiples of notebooks and pens and pencils are needed for each backpack, so we need a lot!!! If you can't go shopping, but would like to help, please send money. Jane collects \$\$\$ for supplies, and Sue collects \$\$\$ for shipping. Our goal is around 100 backpacks. Thank you for whatever you can do to help.

Hello all,

It has been a while since I sent an update. Sometimes it's just hard to write something if there is no happy news. Well, I will try to summarize everything that has happened since the beginning of 2024.

On February 24 it was the two-year 'anniversary' since the war has started. There was a small gathering at the Capitol in Madison on that day. It was nice to see that not only Ukrainians, but local residents showed up to support Ukraine. My sister-in-law even made a friend who came from Chicago area specifically for that event.

Back home there isn't much happy news. There are still lots of men returning home in caskets. There are at least 2-3 people per week in my parent's region. Soldiers were complaining that they don't have enough ammunition to defend themselves on the front lines, so they are literally fighting for their lives. There is a problem with medications, it's always not enough. In my parent's village a few of the guys who were on the front lines came back wounded and some had bad seizures. One guy is officially missing. He is a few years younger than me. His family hopes that he is alive but captured. We can only hope.

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On the bright side, since the US government has now approved the aid package to Ukraine, we hope to see some improvements.

My parents are doing ok. It's spring time and time for planting gardens. They already planted potatoes and other veggies.

They are still doing volunteer work as much as they can. There are not many refugee families in my parents village, and the families who have been established in the village do not need any help anymore. They prefer to provide help to those who are in need. So, my parents provided some funds for wounded soldiers to help with medications and rehabilitation. Also, we have a few people in the village who are handicapped with special needs. My parents asked their families if they needed anything, but they said that they are ok for now. My parents decided to put together nice Easter baskets (including Easter bread, sausage, canned meat, fruits, chocolates, etc.) and will give them on Saturday before Easter. Also, one family asked for a portable mattress, so my parents got them that too, and for other two people they got nice blankets. It made their Easter more special with a thought that someone cares about them. I attached a few pictures.

Easter is the biggest holiday in Ukraine. People are really getting ready for Easter. Everyone is coloring eggs, baking Easter bread, making/baking/smoking meat, baking special treats, etc. On the day of Easter, people go to church to a sunrise service, and they bring baskets full of food so the priest can bless that food in the end of the service. Then people go home and have a meal, but they should eat something from the basket first (blessed food), after which they can eat everything else. After the meal, people visit their friends and families. A week after Easter, on following Sunday, people go to cemeteries to visit their relatives who are no longer with them. That is a tradition that we have had for **years. This year's Easter was on May 5 in Ukraine. I attended a picture of eggs that my mom colored** and a special Easter bread that she made.

As I was thinking about Easter, I was thinking of all those families who lost their loved ones. It's just hard to acknowledge how many young men, women and kids have died.

I was talking to my sister, and she mentioned that she knows one volunteer who drives to the front lines and brings to people what they need. He said that medication is the number one request. With the funds that we have, my parents are going to go to the drug store and buy the medications that are in high demand and send them with the volunteers. Those people need help more than anyone else, I think.

I just want to thank everyone for their continuous support. These good things could not have happened without you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. We just can hope that there is an end to this ugly war.

God bless!
Natasha







Pastor Eric will be on vacation July 8-14th. There will be NO Wednesday night worship on July 10th.



Our sympathies to the families of Gerry Hommen and Alvina Philips

Cambridge Food Pantry
WISH LIST

- Cereal
- Hearty Soups
- Canned Meals (Ravioli, etc.)
- Instant Potatoes
- Corned Beef Hash
- Hamburger Helper
- Salad Dressing
- Ketchup
- Cake Mix and Frosting
- Sugar
- Shampoo and Conditioner

 A drop box is located outside the food pantry doors for your donations.

 **Thank YOU!**

A drop box for the Cambridge Food Pantry is in the Narthex. Donations will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you for your continued support in this ministry!

The rain stopped just in time and the sun shone bright as we met after worship for the ground breaking dedication at the Upper Church. Once the project is completed, this building will be barrier free and all will be able to enter safely and enjoy worship in this historic church.



East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

454 East Church Road
Cambridge, WI 53523

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tel: 608-423-3017

E-mail: eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.eastkoshkonong.org

WORSHIP WITH US

AT 9:00AM

SUNDAY MORNINGS

⇒ IN-PERSON

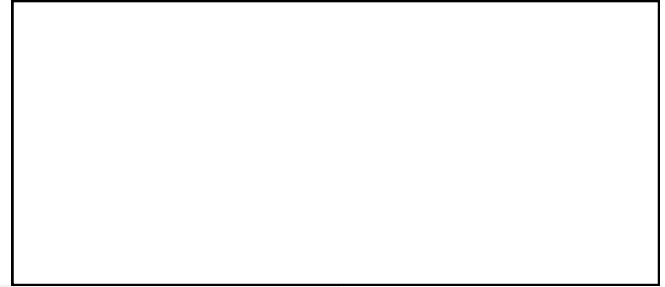
⇒ YOUTUBE

⇒ FACEBOOK

In person at 5:30pm Wednesdays

TO WATCH WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE or FACEBOOK:

YOUTUBE: Go to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church" or the email eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com.



OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday

YOUTUBE: Go to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church" or the email eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Remember to like the videos and subscribe to the channel! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChUv6MDQV54yCWz6oIGWezw>

FACEBOOK PAGE – Please "Like" us on East Koshkonong Lutheran Church Facebook!

In case of severe weather, you may contact the following resources to learn about cancellations at East Koshkonong

- church office @ 423-3017 (A message will be left on the office answering system as soon as a cancellation is made)
- web site, www.eastkoshkonong.org