

# Sundays and Beyond

December 2024  
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church  
ELCA



Friends in Christ,

I know this time of year is usually extremely joyous for most people, myself included. Yet I also know that for those who are experiencing loss and grief, that this time of year can be extremely difficult and trying. Truthfully, loss and grief affects everyone in some way. Either we ourselves are grieving loss(es), or we know someone else who is grieving. That is why I would like to share this letter to the editor my wife and I **wrote together and submitted several years ago. I pray it's helpful for those who need it.**

For the tired and grieving ones: If you are tired, that is ok. If you are angry, that is ok.

**If you have no idea how you're going to continue on, if you're exhausted, empty, or**

full of anxiety, questions, or fear: we cannot fix it, but we can sit with you in it so you are not alone. When we live in true community, we suffer alongside one another. Loss is painful, whether it is the loss of a loved one, a community leader, health, a relationship, a job, or a dream. When you are the one who loses someone or something, after the initial outpouring of support, it might get a little quieter, a little lonelier. You continue on in your grief, in all the ways it affects you, but people might not know how to help, or how to support you, in the weeks and months to come.

**You might feel some pressure to "get on with life", even though everything has changed and you** might not know what your life is supposed to be about anymore. In those times, in the lonely and dark and hopeless times, we can still reach one another.

Facing what you really feel might help. Chances are that sharing your true feelings and experiences will **help free others to do so as well. You weren't made to go through grief alone. There are people who can, and will, give support. Sometimes you will have to ask. Asking for help is not weakness. Sharing the truth in community is strength. It's ok to not be ok.**

Thank you to all who reach out with kind words and gestures to those who grieve, or to those who are **often forgotten. We don't always know how our actions, even small ones, will impact another human being.**

In the midst of so much sadness, we have now, and we have each other. Our faith also tells us that we have God. May you grieve the way you need to, and may you not be alone in that grief. Neighbors, communities of faith, local clergy, counselors and doctors are all available to support you if that is what you need. Peace be with you.

Shalom to you in Christ,

Pastor Eric

## News from the Church Basement

Happy Holidays..... We are back in our home in the Upper Church basement! Thank you to every single person and \$ that helped with that project. I guess we can quit calling it a project now, as it's a permanent part of the building. It looks wonderful, and I think many of us will be using that entrance in the days and years to come. The service on November 17th was wonderful, thanks to planners and musicians and speakers and ribbon holders and photographers and sound folks, and on and on. Thank you thank you to everyone. And that coffee hour!!! Wonderful.

We will be meeting for pin and sew with regular business meeting on the first Thursday of each month, except January, and we also work on the third Thursday morning of the months. We begin at 8 for those who like to get there early, or later for others! Thank you to Joy Circle for serving duties in November, and to Light Circle for the upcoming December. Plans aren't finalized yet, but there may be a Christmas Coffee after service some Sunday in December.

*News from the Church Basement continued on pg.2*

*(News from the Church Basement continued)* Thank you to our dedicated Meals on Wheels delivery folks. I do not have next year's schedule yet, but I will let you know when we are called on again, probably February. God Bless you all in this holiday season, Advent, Christmas, New Years. and all the others. Communicator Carolyn.

## EKLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Monday, October 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by President, Denise Rockney

**Attendance:** Denise Rockney, Hal Schuh, Oren Hammes, Amy Hensel, Peggy Luther, Pastor Eric, Linda Hanson, Ron Knapwurst (by phone)

Financial secretary: Judy Lund

**Agenda:** Approved

**Devotions:** Pastor Eric: Disaster Relief, prayer for those affected

**Financials:**

Oren made a motion to approve the financials as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amy. Motion carried. Discussion: Discussed current status of budgeted items. Ron and Judy will be working on budget numbers for next year. Any requests should be presented for consideration by council.

**Review of committee reports:**

Reports received: Pastors report, Education committee report, Worship committee.. Oren moved to approve the reports. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda. Discussion. Motion carried

**Review and approval of minutes from last council meeting:**

Peggy moved to approve minutes from last meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron. Motion carried.

Camera system update: A new I-Pad was purchased to control the camera. Anders Amundson has shown interest in training and operating the camera system. We need several people to ensure back-up and a schedule set up.

The construction on the upper church ADA improvements are proceeding on schedule. November 17<sup>th</sup> is set for ribbon cutting and dedication of the update.

NCI Roberts has measured the louvres on the lower church bell towers and has provided us with a quote for repair/replacement. We will be researching other quotes. Oren and Hal will meet with NCI Roberts regarding window repair/painting on the lower church on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We are researching ideas on diverting the water runoff from the cemetery downwards to the church education wing parking area.

The sidewalk and drainage project proposed by Bryar may be a spring project.

Contacted Al Beyers for heating and cooling needs.

The annual meeting is set for February 16, 2025.

**Oren has contacted Peak regarding audio needs for upper church. Microphones don't work per Pastor.** Peak will come on October 29<sup>th</sup> to inspect and make suggestions to get system working or install new.

Adjourn: Linda moved to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oren. Carried. 9:05 pm

**Closed with the Lord's prayer**

Next meeting: Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm

**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.

December Council Meeting:  
Monday, December 16, 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.



**Treasurer's Report**

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](http://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](mailto:eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com)**

OFFERINGS ARE ALSO ALWAYS APPRECIATED BY MAILING TO: EAST KOSHKONONG LUTHERAN CHURCH, 454 EAST CHURCH ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, WI 53523

October 2024 Income: \$23,925.03  
Expense: \$22,936.78  
October 2023 Income: \$28,975.55  
Expense: \$17,713.20  
YTD 2024 Income: \$327,920.07  
Expense: \$365,731.51  
YTD 2023 Income: \$245,483.43  
Expense: \$245,654.62

**\*Please note, 2024 numbers reflect information related to the Upper Church Restoration Project in addition to normal offerings and expense.**

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!



EKLC will once again be participating with area churches in collecting items for Christmas food baskets. This year, our congregation will be collecting 100 cans of canned corn and 100 boxes of scalloped or au gratin potatoes (any brands). There will be a labeled container in the narthex for collection through December 1, 2024. Thank you in advance for helping all to have a Christmas meal.



Congratulations to Jocie and Zach Purnell on the birth of their Daughter, Ruby James Purnell, born November, 12.

Our Christmas decorating will be December 3 at 6 PM. **We'll be putting ornaments on the Christmas tree** December 8 during the 9 AM Worship service.



Welcome to Diane Ash and Kreg Gruben who have both joined as members of EKLC.

December 18 Blue Christmas service  
Wednesday December 18 at 6:30 PM in the Upper Church building.

There will be no Wednesday night worship services December 25 or January 1!

### 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

#### 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 St , Stoughton, WI 53589

#### Maxine Porter

1221 E Main St, Stoughton, WI 53589

Christmas Eve worship schedule will be a morning service at 10 AM in the Upper Church building, and then 3 and 6 PM services in the Lower Church building.

Befriender's Committee will meet after worship  
December 22 in the Council Room



Our deepest sympathies to the family of Greg Schroeder

## New History Brochure is Available

Thanks to the work of our church historian, Bonnie Ehrke, we have an updated history brochure. The last brochure was done some 40 years ago, and needless to say, many things have happened since then.

We were able to receive copies of this new brochure at the Dedication and Ribbon Cutting service on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It is very interesting and so well done. It will be available at both churches for anyone who would like to pick up a copy. Thanks to Bonnie for her hard work in creating this new brochure and to Cheryl Nuenthel for helping to have it prepared and printed.

## The “Massive” Thank You

**Where to start....we start by thanking the Congregation for believing in our ramp project.** Support from Pastor Eric and The Council and everyone who saw the possibility of making our historical Upper Church accessible has led to this moment of watching it become reality.

**It is a little risky to name names, but the members of the Aagot Borge committee and the “at large”** members were integral in making this happen. Marilyn, Curt, Judy, Dan and Bjorn, along with Bonnie, Johnnie and Lane met regularly with the construction company and architect in the early stages of planning and then as the building actually began, kept careful watch to make sure the work met expectations.

As the project came to conclusion, we saw the need to improve the west parking lot. Stanley Lien donated and Tom Hensel worked the gravel to produce a wonderful new surface there. The technology challenges were addressed. Oren, Bryar and Denise worked together and their hard work **resulted in our “live stream” on Facebook becoming possible.** Trevor Gunderson was in the balcony creating a video of the service, which will be available on YouTube. Hopefully you have gone to the church Facebook page and viewed all of the wonderful photos Barb took throughout the service. She did not miss a thing.

The special music was amazing. The Choir, Vicki, Judy & Steve performed outstanding musical pieces. Then Alana, Sammy and Synneva shared their musical talent as well. They were all wonderful.

Marge and Trudy greeted everyone inside, while Bonnie, Curt and Dan greeted folks outside. Ryan, Peggy, Trudy, Marge and Bonnie helped with ushering duties. Gloria was our Assistant, Caitlyn was our Acolyte and she and Dalton helped with the ribbon cutting too. Mia was our Confirmation class helper.

Finally, our coffee hour was hosted by our Church Council. It was a blend of delicious cakes and amazing Norwegian treats. Everyone enjoyed this time of fellowship together.

We may have missed someone, so just know that anyone and everyone who helped in any way should feel our appreciation. We also thank all of you who have supported this effort both by monetary donations and donations of furnishings. We are blessed by your generosity.

**We thank God for every moment of this celebration of 180 years of being a Congregation and for now being able to worship at both buildings barrier free.**

# Worship Helpers for December 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)

12/1 ~ Vicki Schuh  
12/8 ~ Carolyn Lien  
12/15 ~ Trudy Spike  
12/22 ~ Trudy Spike  
12/24 ~ (10am Upper) Holly Loomis  
(3pm Lower) Vicki Schuh  
(6pm Lower) Gloria Fruit  
12/29 ~ Carolyn Lien

**Lay Readers**~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

12/1 ~ Holly Loomis  
12/8 ~ Peggy Luther  
12/15 ~ Bobbie Rawinski  
12/22 ~ Jane Furseth  
12/24 ~ (10am Upper) Anders Amundson  
(3pm Lower) Elizabeth Kaashagen  
(6pm Lower) Vicki Schuh  
12/29 ~ Holly Loomis

**Acolytes** ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

12/1 ~ Hank Wierzba  
12/8 ~ Tess Merchant  
12/15 ~ No acolyte needed  
12/22 ~ Mia Frodel  
12/24 ~ (10am Upper) Josie Lund  
(3pm Lower) Caitlin Terland  
(6pm Lower) Lena Skjolaas  
12/29 ~ Josie Lund

**Greeters**~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

12/1 ~ Holly Loomis  
12/8 ~ Kurt & Barb Klemp  
12/15 ~ Tom & Trudy Spike  
12/22 ~ Scott & Chris Frodel  
12/24 ~ (10am Upper) Marilyn Gunderson & Don Amundson  
(3pm Lower) Don & Eileen Hoehn  
(6pm Lower) Buddy & Beverly Lien  
12/29 ~ Gloria Fruit

**Ushers**~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

12/1 ~ Don & Eileen Hoehn  
12/8 ~ Buddy & Beverly Lien  
12/15 ~ Curt & Linda Hanson  
12/22 ~ Tom & Trudy Spike  
12/24 ~ (10am Upper) Kory & Diane Luginbuhl  
(3pm Lower) Terland Family  
(6pm Lower) Hal Schuh  
12/29 ~ Kurt & Barb Klemp

**Communion Set-up/Take-down**~

(Contact Person: Marge Stach)  
Altar Guild

**Offering Counters**~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)  
12/1 ~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel  
12/8 ~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit  
12/15 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl & Diane Luginbuhl  
12/22 ~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel  
12/24 ~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit will count another date  
12/29 ~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl & Diane Luginbuhl

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

12/1 ~  
12/8 ~ Deb Brown  
12/15 ~ Sunday School  
12/22 ~ Light Circle  
12/29 ~

# December 2024

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu                                       | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|-----|-----|
| <p>1<br/>9:00am<br/>Worship</p> <p>9:40 coffee<br/>Fellowship</p>  | 2  | <p>3<br/>6:00 p.m.<br/>Christmas<br/>Decorating</p> <p>6:00 p.m.<br/>Worship<br/>meeting</p>          | <p>4<br/>5:30 p.m.<br/>Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m.<br/>Confirmation</p>                                 | <p>5<br/>8:00 a.m.<br/>Pin &amp; Sew</p>  | 6   | 7   |
| <p>8<br/>9:00am<br/>Worship</p> <p>9:40 coffee<br/>Fellowship</p>  | <p>9<br/>6:30 p.m.<br/>Education<br/>Meeting</p> | <p>10<br/>10:00 a.m.<br/>The Chosen<br/>Bible Study</p>   | <p>11<br/>5:30 p.m.<br/>Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m.<br/>Confirmation</p>                                | <p>12<br/>8:00 a.m.<br/>Pin &amp; Sew</p> | 13  | 14  |
| <p>15<br/>9:00am<br/>Sunday<br/>School<br/>Program</p> <p>9:40 coffee<br/>Fellowship</p>                       | <p>16<br/>6:00 p.m.<br/>Council<br/>meeting</p>  | <p>17<br/>10:00 a.m.<br/>The Chosen<br/>Bible Study</p>   | <p>18<br/>5:30 p.m.<br/>Worship</p> <p>6:30 p.m.<br/>Blue Christmas<br/>Worship<br/>Upper Church</p> | <p>19<br/>8:00 a.m.<br/>Pin &amp; Sew</p> | 20  | 21  |
| <p>22<br/>9:00am<br/>Worship</p> <p>9:40 coffee<br/>Fellowship</p> <p>10:00am<br/>Befriender's<br/>Meeting</p> | 23   | <p>24<br/>Christmas Eve</p> <p>10:00 a.m.<br/>Upper Church</p> <p>3 &amp; 6 p.m.<br/>Lower Church</p> | <p>25<br/>Merry<br/>Christmas<br/>Office<br/>Closed</p>  | <p>26<br/>8:00 a.m.<br/>Pin &amp; Sew</p> | 27  | 28  |
| <p>29<br/>9:00am<br/>Worship</p> <p>9:40 coffee<br/>Fellowship</p>   | 30   | <p>31<br/>10:00 a.m.<br/>The Chosen<br/>Bible Study</p>   |  |   |     |     |

# East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

454 East Church Road  
Cambridge, WI 53523

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tel: 608-423-3017

E-mail: [eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eastkoshkonong.org](http://www.eastkoshkonong.org)

## WORSHIP WITH US

AT 9:00AM

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

⇒ IN-PERSON

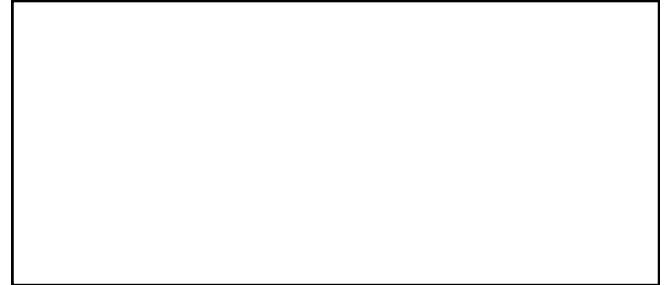
⇒ YOUTUBE

⇒ 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](mailto:eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com).



OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Thursday

**YOUTUBE:** Go to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church" or the email [eastkoshkononglutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.eastkoshkonong.org)