

Sundays and Beyond

February 2025
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church
ELCA



Friends in Christ,

The word love is one of the most powerful words in the entire English language. **Yet, it's also one that gets thrown around an awful lot in this society. People say that they love the food they're eating, their household appliances, pieces of technology, and even sports teams. Don't mishear me, there's nothing wrong with enjoying any of those things, I know that I certainly enjoy many of them myself as well, 😊** but I think that using the word love to in relation to these things is just a little too strong.

A few years ago, I read the book *Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry. As the name implies, **love is the central theme in this book and if you haven't read it yet, it's a good one to add on your reading list.** In this book, Bishop Curry describes how other cultures have many different words for love to nuance and distinguish its different meanings and uses. Some of these different **terms for love revolve around enjoyment, like what I was describing a moment ago. There's also words** for romantic kinds of love. However, what Bishop Curry discusses most in this book is the kind of love that seeks to give something to its object. This is the kind of love that God has for the world; in the original Greek language in which the New Testament was first written, the word used to describe this kind of love is *agape* and in the original Hebrew language in which the Old Testament was first written the word is *hesed*, and yes if you were wondering it does take a lot of phlegm to pronounce that word correctly. 😬 This kind of love which God gives to creation is active and does something for the recipients, **in other words it's a love that centers more around what's done instead of just what's said. We as God's people are called to share and reflect God's active love to the world. That's why as a church contribute to different charities and organizations that do God's work of justice in the world, that's why we're involved in the community, and finally that's why we end each worship service with the words, "go in peace, God is at work in you". These words remind us that in worship we experience the active love of God, and are then called to go out and actively share that love with the world around us. So church, with that let us all continue to go and love the world!**

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be Sunday February 16, after worship. Our new council will then have a short meeting to elect officers afterwards.

EKLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 16, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by President, Denise Rockney

Attendance: Denise Rockney, Hal Schuh, Oren Hammes, Amy Hensel, Peggy Luther, Pastor Eric, Linda Hanson, Ron Knapwurst; Financial secretary: Judy Lund; Curt Hanson and Marilyn Gunderson

Agenda: Representative from council needed for brief presentation to confirmation class on January 8. Peggy will do this. Property discussion

Devotions: Pastor Eric: A message from the Bishop regarding Abundant Life shooting. "Lord Have Mercy"

Presentation from Curt Hanson and Marilyn Gunderson regarding quotes for insurance on church property and workers compensation. Motion made by Oren to accept the quote from State Farm Insurance, 2nd by Hal. Discussion followed. Peggy amended the motion to include quarterly payments. Motion carried.

Financials:

Review and approval of financials.

Budget: Oren made a motion to approve the amended budget, 2nd by Ron. Motion carried. Oren moved to approve financials: 2nd by Ron. Motion carried.

Review of committee reports:

Reports received: Pastors report and Worship committee report.

Ron moved to approve the committee reports. 2nd by Oren. Discussion. Motion carried.

Review and approval of minutes from last council meeting:

Oren moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. 2nd by Amy. Motion carried.

Thank you's: Peggy will follow-up with thank you's .

Camera system update: Several people have shown interest in working with the Video/recording system. A "cheat sheet" has been created and just needs some final adjustments.

Maintenance of church buildings:

- Thermostats have been upgraded and will be set to be controlled remotely.
- Vogel construction has been contacted to give us other options for repair of the bell tower louvres. NCI has also given us options.
- Lights on the east side and back of the church are up and running. Motion light set up on ramp to front of lower church. (east side)
- Legge Professional Cleaning: 2/3 of the deep cleaning of the church has been completed. The remainder will be completed early in 2025.

We currently have many members stepping up and assisting with office duties. A candidate is being interviewed with a suggestion of ½ days 4 days a week.

Annual Meeting is set for February 16, 2025

The benevolence calculation has been realigned.

Adjourn: Peggy moved to adjourn. 2nd by Linda. Motion carried. 9:25 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21st 2025 at 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.

February Council Meeting:
Sunday, February 16 after annual meeting.

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 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

December 2024 Income:	\$44,287.79
Expense:	\$35,302.08
December 2023 Income:	\$26,182.25
Expense:	\$27,096.79
YTD 2024 Income:	\$400,509.42
Expense:	\$425,890.77
YTD 2023 Income:	\$280,035.04
Expense:	\$291,441.15

*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!

thank you

Our noisy offering for September, November, and December 2024 totaled \$725. Thank you for your generosity!

Copies of the proposed 2025 budget will be available February 2 for the congregation to review and ask questions ahead of our annual meeting.

2025 Offering boxes are in the narthex. Please pick yours up.



Our deepest sympathies to the family of Stanley Lien

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.

- Worship with us Wednesday nights or
- Sunday mornings in-person or on YouTube.
- Remember to like the videos and subscribe to the channel! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChUv6MDQV54yCWz60IGWewz>

The Chosen Bible Study
Tuesdays at 10 am,
weather permitting.

We are still in the process of searching for a church office administrator.

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

News from the church basement

We are happily ensconced in our familiar basement again, and shooting out quilts like crazy! Several women have joined us, and the fun continues. By the way, if you ever hear of people wanting to get rid of unused fabrics, please grab them for us. We can use pieces of any sizes and colors, regular cotton and polyester fabrics. We also can use sheets or light blankets for liners. Thanks for your help. Let's not let people throw away these valuable fabrics. There are often packets of fabric squares to be found in the Narthex. If you like to sew, perhaps you can pick one of these up and sew together a quilt top. These are so helpful and are put together with a liner and a backing, then tied with knots of thread and the edges sewn with a machine. We can also use yarn. Beverly makes mittens for kids in a Milwaukee school, and I am still making Prayer Shawls. Our next Pin and Sew day with meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6th, and Joy Circle is on deck for serving duties in February. Thanks to Peace Circle for January.

Thank you for new folks stepping up to take on some of the duties for altar work, communion, and coffee hour. Some of these things fall to the same people, and we surely can spread these duties around. No one is getting any younger!

Thank you to our loyal Meals on Wheels delivery folks. Here is the latest schedule. Perhaps some of you will get this in time for the reminder.

Monday and Tuesday, January 27 & 28 Don and Eileen
Wednesday and Thursday, January 29 & 30 Sheryl H
Friday, January 31 Ron and Shawn

Monday and Tuesday, February 3 & 4 Duane and Linda
Wednesday, February 5 Bud and Beverly
Thursday and Friday, February 6 & 7 Kurt and Barb

Your help is so much appreciated.

New Year's Blessings.
Communicator Carolyn



Welcome to our newest member
Linda Roberson.

Natasha Amundson and her
sister will be hosting a meal
in Friendship Hall Saturday,
March 1 at 4 PM.





It's Blue Jay Backpack Time!

EKLC will once again be participating in the Cambridge Schools Blue Jay Backpack program through the Cambridge Food Pantry. We will be collecting foods listed below to provide meals for about 30 students. Collecting will begin on January 26, 2025. Backpacks for the month of March will be distributed at the school on February 27, 2025. These backpacks will supplement meals for students who normally get breakfast/lunch provided at school through the Everybody Eats program at school. We are trying to make sure they have at least one meal (microwaveable, self-contained) for lunch, as well as one breakfast item for each weekend day, and several snacks, granola bars, cookies, etc. You will find the green collection tub located in the Narthex. Final day for collection will be February 23, 2025. We will pack the backpacks after worship that day. Thank you in advance for helping make this program successful.

Food items could include substantial, healthy food items that students can easily prepare and eat to supplement meals that they aren't receiving through school during holiday and other extended breaks/weekends.

Here are some ideas: (feel free to add your own ideas also)

Individual Fruit Cups

Ramen Noodles

Canned Soup

Ravioli (prefer cans; may be any pasta meal in a can)

Individual Grits or Oatmeal Packets

Granola Bars

Small Boxes of Cereal (individual servings)

Mac-n-Cheese (microwavable, individual servings)

Individually wrapped snacks (peanut butter crackers, Cheez-its, pudding cups, cookies, etc.)

UKRAINE UPDATE

Hello all,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday season and enjoyed their family time.

It has been a while since I sent an update. I will try to summarize everything that has happened since the last update.

This time I will start with my family. My parents are doing ok. They are very involved with volunteering and helping those in need. I will give updates on that a bit later. My parents harvested their garden in the fall, and they have enough food to get them through winter until summer. They are also keeping themselves busy by cracking walnuts for sale, it is a regular thing that my parents do. They pick walnuts in fall, and then they dry them in the attic, and then they crack them, take the inside out, and then sell them. They do it every year and can make some side income, which is good to have especially during the holidays.

Continued on page 7

My brother-in-law completed some special training that I don't know the details about, and he was sent to the front not that long ago. I don't really know many details, and even my sister doesn't know them. All that I know he is about 1.5 miles away from Russian troops and being bombed regularly. My sister is very stressed, which is totally understandable, and she hasn't even told my parents so they will not worry about it yet. Unfortunately, it's a hard reality these days. Please keep him in your prayers if you can.

Now, I will give updates on my village and what my parents have been doing and how they are helping others.

We don't have many new refugees in our village. Some of the families moved to different towns, some of them got established and don't need any help, but a couple of them still need help, but are embarrassed to ask. So, my mom talked to the families that were new in the village, and of course, asked them what they need. She got them everything that they needed, including food, and some cash to cover other expenses. Occasionally she checks on them to see if they are still in need of something. This one lady was asking if she could buy some potatoes because no one would sell her any. Well, my mom said that this year was not very good for the potato harvest, and that's why no one wants to sell any, because they are keeping for themselves. Apparently, this lady (mother of the refugee family) was short on some produce and money too, because they were struggling with finding jobs. So, my mom asked people in the village for donations of potatoes and other vegetables, which turned out to be a few buckets; also, she bought all kind of grains, sugar, flour, sausage, cheese, some sweets, and other items. She delivered everything to this family, including some cash, right before the holidays so they could have a nice Christmas. The family was very happy and very thankful. My mom told them that the people from the USA provided the contributions, and she was able to do all this just because there are good-hearted people overseas. The family was very thankful to everyone. They asked her to send some thanks from them, which I am doing right now. I will attach some pictures to this letter in the end.

Also, my mom and my sister donated some money for medication for soldiers. They were asking for some as the weather was getting colder and cold/flu season was coming.

Also, they purchased and donated some food items that were requested by the soldiers from our region. That was primarily my sister, because she was in contact with one volunteer who was directly going to the front lines, and he had a list of needed food items. Mostly it was dry food, tea, coffee, granola bars, ramen etc. So, my sister can get some food in bulk with a discount, since she works in that branch, and she was able to get a nice amount of items, which was very needed and appreciated. She keeps in touch with that volunteer and occasionally she donates what is needed the most.

This year my mom with a group of other volunteers again organized Christmas gifts for all kids whose dads are fighting, who lost their dads, or kids who are from low-income families. It turned out to be over 40 gifts. Also, my mom got some additional gifts to people who are with disabilities. Everyone was very happy and very appreciative. I will attach some pictures as well. They even issued a thank you note on our village community Facebook page. Lots of people appreciate and are truly thankful for all donations and help. My mom makes sure that she tells everyone where the money came from. The people are happy that after all these years people are still helping them.

The other things for which my mom donates the money is helping some local soldiers with medical bills. We had a couple of them wounded and they were in the hospital in pretty bad shape and needed some funds. So, my mom made sure to help them out as well.

I am not shipping any packages to Ukraine anymore, as it seems there is no need of items at the moments. However, I shipped several packages of yarn, which was donated. Women in my village knit and they did some projects in the past, like seat covers, socks, hats, blankets. So they can stay busy and help someone too.

Continued on page 8

Also, I helped a couple of low-income families with kids by sending some gifts and money for Christmas to help brighten their holidays. They were very appreciative as well.

My mom coordinates a lot of stuff. When she calls, she always gives me updates about what is needed. We discuss what should be donated and what else can be done and she makes that happen. She keeps the book of all donations that she receives and what she spends, so she knows how much there's left. There is a small reserve fund that she keeps, just in case something comes up and someone needs something. All these good things are happening because of people like you. Everyone in my village knows that our church has been helping since day one, and everyone truly appreciates it. I am so thankful to all of you for your support and help.

On February 24 it will be the three-year 'anniversary' since the war has started. It's hard to believe that it's been that long. We just can hope that there is an end to this ugly war.

My sister and I are planning to host another Ukrainian dinner as a 'thank you' to all. We are planning on having it at our church on Saturday, March 1 at 4p.m. We are working on a menu, so we have some more desirable items, but also have a few different ones so you don't get tired of the same food. I know some of you could not make it the last time, so hopefully you will be able to join us this time. Everyone is welcome, including family and friends, but we would ask to send us an RSVP so we know how much food we should prepare. You can text me at (608)438-7146, or email at nvamundson@yhoo.com and include the number of people that would be coming.

Thank you again and God bless!
Natasha

I don't have pictures of everything that was done, but these are some of what my parents and sister sent to me.

Help for soldiers.



More help with food and medicine.



This is what the Christmas gift included for the kids.

The packages have been assembled.



Some of the kids came to receive the gifts, and some couldn't so the family members came. Some of gifts were delivered later.



The gifts were also delivered to disabled people in our village (others didn't take pictures).



Help for refugees.



More help for refugees.



Some monetary donations for wounded soldiers.



Worship Helpers for February 2025

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)

2/2~ Carolyn Lien
2/9~ Kyle Durkee
2/16~ Trudy Spike
2/23~ Holly Loomis

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

2/2~ Joy Graffin
2/9~ Don Amundson
2/16~ Trudy Spike
2/23~ Barb Klemp

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

2/2~ Mia Frodel
2/9~ Josie Lund
2/16~ Caitlin Terland
2/23~ Sammy Sable

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

2/2~ Gloria Fruit
2/9~ Don & Eileen Hoehn
2/16~ Karen Hayes
2/23~ Kory & Diane Luginbuhl

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

2/2~ Terland Family
2/9~ Dennis Lund Family
2/16~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen
2/23~ Beverly & Buddy Lien

Communion Set-up/Take-down~

(Contact Person: Marge Stach)
Altar Guild

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)
2/2~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit
2/9~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl &
Diane Luginbuhl
2/16~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel
2/23~ Joy Graffin & Gloria Fruit

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

2/2~ Sunday School Kids
2/9~
2/16~
2/23~ Joy Circle

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	3	4 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting	5 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	6 Pin & Sew	7	8
9 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	10	11 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study	12 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	13	14	15
16 9:00am Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting	17	18 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study	19 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	20 Pin & Sew	21	22
23 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	24	25 10:00 a.m. The Chosen Bible Study	26 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	27	28	

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

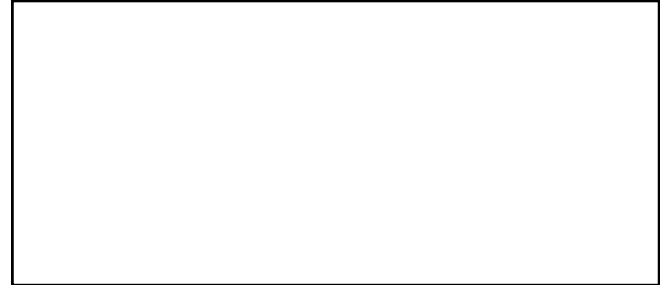
⇒ YOUTUBE

⇒ 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