

Sundays and Beyond

May 2025

East Koshkonong Lutheran Church

ELCA



Friends in Christ,

I thought I'd bring up a topic that I know makes everyone comfortable, money. You'll have to excuse my use of sarcasm there :), I know this is actually a topic that most people don't like discussing or hearing about. But the reason why I bring it up is because the Christian faith actually has a lot of things to say about money. In fact, did you know that the bible talks about money 7 times more often than it does about prayer? Yet, while most people I have served throughout my ministry are comfortable with me praying for them or someone they know, on the other hand most people I have served throughout my ministry are to say the least uncomfortable discussing the Christian understanding of money. In fact, sometimes people will get angry, defensive, or resentful when the Chris-

tian understanding of money comes up. So what does our faith teach about money? Perhaps the clearest teaching is that it's not ours, it's God's. Psalm 24 declares that "**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it**", and this declaration includes and applies to wealth and material possessions. This is why we often say that we are stewards of our wealth and material possessions, it's a recognition that it all still belongs to God, but that God has entrusted it to our care. This financial stewardship is sort of like if someone were to leave town and ask you to watch their home while they are gone. While you'd be able to stay in and use that person's house during that time, it still would not belong to you, and you'd also have certain responsibilities to which to attend as you watched over their home.

Another thing our faith teaches about money and material possessions is that they can easily become idols that we worship in place of God breaking the first command (Matthew 6:24). Scripture makes quite clear that it is not possible to greedily hoard wealth or possessions and follow Jesus at the same time (see Mark 10:25, Luke 14:33 and 12:13-21). Further, the bible shows that God cares deeply about the least fortunate among us who suffer from poverty (see Luke 6:20 and Matthew 5:3). These individuals are precious to God and the plights they face aren't lost to God. One of the biggest responsibilities God has given to everyone who is fortunate enough not to be suffering from poverty, is supporting those who do (see Proverbs 19:17 and Isaiah 58:10). This doesn't only mean giving money and donations, it also means making changes to our behaviors and our social structures that are creating and perpetuating poverty in the first place. Throughout the writings of the Old Testament Prophets, God was constantly angered whenever God's people would worship God only ceremoniously but then fail to see how their ways of living were actually harmful to some of their neighbors and were even working to push some of them into poverty. In these writings, God always calls God's people to change these things, so that all of creation may experience God's peace and justice (see Amos 5:21-24).

So what might this all mean for us as followers of Jesus today? Well I don't think it means that money and material possessions are totally bad, or at least not in and of themselves. Nor do I think this means that we all have to completely give away every cent in our bank accounts. That's certainly **not** the way that I practice or approach financial stewardship in my life. As someone who is fortunate enough not to be living in poverty, I instead try and remember that the resources in my possession are all God's, and God entrusts them to me to care for myself as well as my neighbors. So I will constantly ask "how would God have me use these blessings"? I certainly think part of the answer to that question involves generously supporting God's church as well as different agencies that help do God's work, so each month we have money automatically donated to the church as well as some faithful charities and social agencies. Additionally, I think being a faithful steward of God's resources can also entail lifestyle choices that will help build a more just, peaceful, and equitable world. Some of the habits I've tried adopting for this include supporting businesses and stores that treat their employees justly and make a positive impact in the world, actively trying not to buy products that were made in sweatshops or that cause great harm to humans or the environment, tipping generously especially when staff members depend upon tips as a major part of their income, and finally learning to distinguish better between my needs and my wants so I can be more generous with what God has entrusted to me. Admittedly, it's difficult to follow these and other examples of faithful stewardship, especially in this culture that in many ways is

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Cont.... constructed antithetically toward faithful stewardship. But let us remember that God is always with us on this journey. As you stieve to find what it means to practice faithful stewardship in your lives, I pray that God will continue to bless and inspire you to discover what it means to be a faithful steward today.

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric

The Ramp Project is Complete

It has been almost one year since we broke ground for the “Ramp Project”. It was June 16, 2024, when we officially began the process of transforming our Upper Church into an ADA compliant building. The workers started in July and on November 17, 2024, we held our “Ribbon Cutting” service. On that day, we celebrated the ability to now invite and host any and all who wish to join us in worship.

The ramp and new vestibule/restroom areas are very welcoming and have been so well received. We feel blessed by the many, many generous donations that have been made to help with the expense of this project. Although we haven’t completely met our goal, we are very close to being able to say it has been met. If you care to donate to help finish the monetary obligation, that would be a welcomed gesture.

There is a special service being planned for June 15, a year after ground breaking happened. Let’s fill the church as we rejoice and celebrate in worship and song. Thanks be to God.



COMMUNITY MEAL

EKLC will once again be hosting the Cambridge Community Meal. We will be hosting a little earlier this year, it will be on Thursday, May 1st, at the Cambridge High School. The meal is served from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. The Veley’s will be cooking up their fantastic chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy. We are needing volunteers to make salads, cookies and bars. There are signup sheets in the Narthex. In addition to help with food, we are needing volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. This is a very enjoyable time to meet and visit with your neighbors and friends. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Schroeder at 608-220-2008.



Our church cleanup day will be Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m.-noon.

May 4 will be our Youth Led Worship Service. There will also be an intergenerational bingo event during fellowship.

Noisy offering so far for 2025 has totaled \$1,700!



Kids Sharing the Peace with Pastor Eric during Palm Sunday worship.



Congratulations to Owen Rosenthal who received his First Communion with EKLC April 17.



Congratulations to
Ruby James Purnell
who was baptized
April 20. We
welcome you into
God's family!



May Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

2025 COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Kurt Klemp

VICE-PRESIDENT: Denise Rockney

SECRETARY: Peggy Luther

TREASURER: Amy Hensel

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Anders Amundson, Kreg
Gruben, Linda Hanson

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

Treasurer's Report

March 2025 Income - \$24,197.94
Expenses - \$55,148.73

March 2024 Income - \$17,625.85
Expenses - \$41,717.86

YTD 2025 Income - \$77,429.90
Expenses - \$143,905.51

YTD 2024 Income - \$89,817.47
Expenses - \$108,194.52



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

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!

MARCH 18, 2025 EKLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by council president Kurt Klemp.

Attending: Kurt Klemp, Denise Rockney, Linda Hanson (via phone), Kreg Gruben, Pastor Eric Hanson, Financial Secretary Judy Lund, Anders Amundson, Amy Hensel, Peggy Luther

Agenda: Agenda approved without changes/additions.

Opening Devotion by Pastor Eric. The First Commandment is why we are here. We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

Review & Approval of Financials: Motion by Denise to approve as presented, seconded by Amy, and carried. Discussion: Judy Lund explained/clarified monthly reports and the general ledger. More discussion about lawnmower lease, how to pay for new furnaces in the Upper Church, staying with Frontier because they service the elevator as well as telephones, and \$1,598.78 in Ukraine monies which will be disbursed to Natasha. Motion by Amy to approve Financials, seconded by Denise, carried.

Review, discussion, and approval of committee reports: Motion to accept made by Denise, seconded by Amy, and carried.

Pastor's Report---received without discussion.

Worship Report---received. Peggy to be council liaison on Worship Committee.

Education Report---received. Denise continues to be council liaison on Education Committee.

Review & approval of Minutes from the 2-16-25 council meeting: Motion by Kreg to approve, seconded by Amy, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thank yous: Peggy will send out.

New members: none

State Farm Insurance--updates, discussions, funding: MUCH discussion! In Jan. 2025, State Farm said coverage could be rescinded because of: A. multiple deficiency in the physical condition of church property; B. electrical systems in both churches that do not meet code; and C. multiple safety hazards with steps, railings, or trip hazards. Many updates already completed but major repair bills for electrical, concrete, and furnaces are soon coming. State Farm said they will rescind cancellation because of numerous efforts being made by EKLC to be in compliance.

Ready Electric's proposal was accepted. Upper Church: \$11,800-\$22,400, depending on what has to be done. Lower Church: \$23,450-\$37,730, depending on what has to be done. No start date as of now.

Concrete work to be done by the Veleys, and we are grateful to them! Final quote forthcoming. Necessary concrete work will begin when the weather warms up.

We owe Al Beyers over \$15,800 for installing three furnaces in the Upper Church + approx.\$700 for regular routine maintenance in the Lower Church and the parsonage.

How to pay for all these major expenses: It has been many, many decades since any improvements have been made, and we've been on borrowed time. Because all this work HAS TO BE DONE, the only choice is to use Trust Fund monies for electrical, concrete and HVAC. Motion made by Peggy, seconded by Denise, and carried to use \$70,000 in Trust Fund monies.

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Future projects: replacing the roof on the education building and revamping the north side driveway to fix drainage issues and address mold problems.

Other maintenance: The parsonage septic to be inspected and pumped by May 1.

Office Assistant: A possible candidate with good references *may* be interested.

Anders has expressed interest in operation the Audio/Camera system.

NCI should “soon” begin repairing the rot in the Narthex windows.

NEW BUSINESS:

Use of church for weddings: general discussion about church regulations.

Spring Clean-Up: Saturday, May 3rd. Volunteers needed! 9am-Noon.

Cambridge Community Meal: EKLC to host the meal on May 1 @ Cambridge HS.

Confirmation kids/Lutherdale Camp: Ten students have expressed an interest in attending camp in mid-June. Council is very supportive, and although money is tight, it was unanimously agreed to help with fees. \$400x10 kids=\$4,000. Maybe Thrivent has grants? Motion by Denise to take an additional \$4K out of the Trust Fund, which bumps the total amount to \$74,000, and put \$4,000 into Youth & Family Ministry for Lutherdale Camp. Parents to register their child and pay the \$100 fee, then EKLC would fulfill the remaining payment. Seconded by Linda. Carried.

New microwave in the kitchen: Peace Circle donated \$59 from the March 16 Coffee Hour to help pay for a new microwave.

Next Meeting: Tues., April 15 @ 6pm. Bryar Veley will be invited to attend.

Motion by Peggy to adjourn at 8:24, seconded by Kreg. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary



The end of the Sunday School year is upon us!

The Sunday School kids will be hosting Youth Sunday on May 4th.

The kids will take over the church service, and host coffee hour afterwards.

We’ll be having an intergenerational bingo event during coffee hour. Come and join the fun!

With the ending of one year, that already has us planning the next year!

Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday on September 7th!

We’re combining our Rally Sunday and Fun on the Prairie events to be one big party that will start with an outdoor worship (weather permitting).

It’ll be a day of great celebrations! We’ll have fun for the kids and adults!

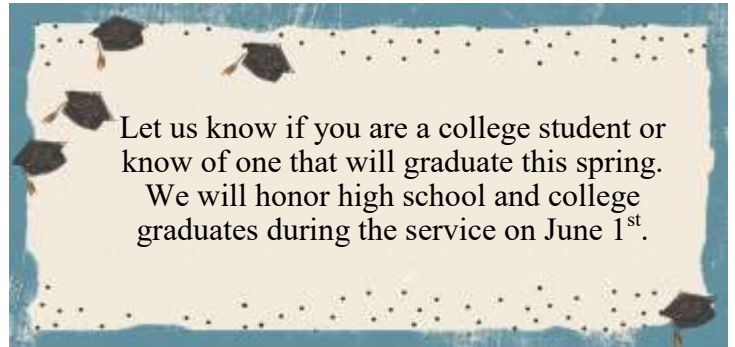
Everyone have a wonderful and safe summer, and we’ll see you in the fall!!

In God’s Peace,

The Education Committee



What faith related questions or topics have you always wondered about? There will be a box out in the narthex until May 12 where you can submit any faith-related questions you have. Pastor Eric will then select a few to answer during worship on May 14 and 18.



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

Mickey Farrar ~ Home Again

308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523

Betty Gunnelson ~ 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



A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone! Together we were able to collect 61 cans of cherry pie filling, 56 bags of jelly beans and a bonus of 41 packages of marshmallow Peeps for the Cambridge

Food Pantry Easter basket drive! Thank you for your generosity in helping all to celebrate Easter!

- 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/UCuUv6MDQV54yCWz60IGWezw>

News from the church basement

Remember when we went to the Christian Fish Fry at the Fireside? Let's do that again. We have selected a concert by The Inspirations, a men's quartet, on Wednesday, August 6. We will go to the matinee and will need to be at the theater around 10:30am. The cost is \$43 per person, which includes tax, and we will each need to leave our tips at the table. The meal is a fish and chicken buffet. We need to make reservations early so we can sit together at tables and in the theater, so please get your reservation and check to Sue Repyak (make it out to her) by Memorial Day. Plan to bring a friend or a spouse, and we can figure out how to carpool later.

Our next Pin and Sew with business meeting will be on May 1st from 8am to noon, with coffee and a meeting around 9:30am. We also meet for sewing on the third Thursday morning. Thanks to the Peace circle for serving duties in April, and to Joy for May. Thank you to our loyal Meals on Wheels Deliverers. Our next gig begins mid-August. Thanks to Diane and Bonnie for the Tea Party we had with Women of the ELCA from the area. It's good to keep these networks going. Diane represents our congregation and cluster on the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synodical Board, and we are thankful for her work to keep us connected. And thanks to all of you and your efforts to keep our congregation vital and important. We should make a list of all the opportunities for service available and be sure our names are included in the volunteers. Each and every one of you is very much appreciated. But don't get me started on that, or this letter will get too long.

Happy Spring.
God Bless you.
Communicator Carolyn



Visitors at East Koshkonong

Thank you so much for the wonderful tour. Britt and Stig (Norway) thoroughly enjoyed it as did the rest of my group. You're very kind to have taken time on Saturday to show us your beautiful churches.

-Sharon and All

Sharon Erb and family toured EKLC on April 5. Their family members were from Gaupne, Norway.



Cambridge Area Resource Team
a non-profit helping Cambridge residents in need

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CART is in need of volunteer drivers.
Rides are needed to help Cambridge residents
get to appointments, the grocery store,
pharmacy, and errands.

Rides are provided based on your availability.
Never drive more than you want to

If you are interested in providing this meaningful and
needed service, contact CART to learn more or to
complete an application

CART:
cartforhelp@gmail.com
(608) 423-1423 call/voicemail
(608) 213-5819 text
223 Jefferson Street Cambridge (near Dollar General)

Worship Helpers for May 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)

5/4~ Youth Sunday

5/11~Holly Loomis

5/18~Carolyn Lien

5/25~ Trudy Spike

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

5/4~ Youth Sunday

5/11~ Holly Loomis

5/18~ Bobbie Rawinski

5/25~ Jane Furseth

Acolytes ~ (Contact: Pastor Eric)

5/4~ No acolyte needed (Youth Sunday)

5/11~Sammy Sable

5/18~Mia Frodel

5/25~Casey Travis

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

5/4~ Peggy Luther

5/11~Kory & Diane Luginbuhl

5/18~ Karen Hayes

5/25~Ken Rude

Ushers~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

5/4~ Peggy Luther & Jane Furseth

5/11~ Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen

5/18~ Curt & Linda Hanson

5/25~ Kurt & Barb Klemp

Communion Set-up/Take-down~

(Contact Person: Marge Stach)

Altar Guild

Offering Counters~

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

5/4~ Joy Graffin & Diane Luginbuhl

5/11~ Jean Lehr & Eric & Cheryl Nuenthel

5/18~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl

5/25~ Joy Graffin & Diane Luginbuhl

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

5/4~ Sunday School Kids

5/11~

5/18~

5/25~Joy Circle



Community Good Friday service at Veterans' Park.

Thanks for the Soup!

Again this year we shared a soup meal together before our Lenten Services. Thank you to Tom & Trudy, Pastor Eric, Mark & Bryar, Deb, Amy & Sheryl. The soups were all delicious and very much appreciated.

Sharing of the soup meal before the Lenten service gives an opportunity for some fellowship with friends and adds to the meaningfulness of this season. Again, thank you all who provided these wonderful meals.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew 9:30 a.m. Coffee & meeting	2	3 9:00 a.m. - noon Church Cleanup
4 9:00 a.m. Youth Led Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	5	6 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting	7 5:30 p.m. Worship	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	12	13	14 5:30 p.m. Worship	15 8:00 a.m. Pin & Sew	16	17
18 9:00am Worship 9:40am coffee Fellowship	19	20 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	21 5:30 p.m. Worship	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship 9:40 coffee Fellowship	26	27	28 5:30 p.m. Worship	29	30	31

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/UCUv6MDQV54yCWz6oIGWezw>

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