

# Sundays and Beyond

January 2026  
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church



Friends in Christ,

As we start packing away Christmas decorations and turning the calendar to 2026, we enter the beautiful season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6th (The Feast of the Epiphany), this season is the "crown" of the Christmas cycle. While Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, Epiphany celebrates His manifestation to the world. We transition from the quiet stable in Bethlehem to the bold revelation of Christ as the Light of the World.

Some key themes of the season that we will celebrate in the coming weeks include;

1. The Journey of the Magi or Wise Men who followed the star to find the Christ child. We likewise recognize Jesus as the true King for all nations.
2. The Baptism of the Lord: We remember Jesus standing in the Jordan River where he was baptized.

The liturgical color for this season is Green, symbolizing life, growth, and the mission of the church. Just as the star guided the Magi, we are called to be "light-bearers" in our community this year. As we walk through this "Season of Light," let us look for the small epiphanies in our own lives—moments where God's grace and presence are made clear.

Shalom to you in Christ,  
Pastor Eric.

A look back to our final month of 2025!



## NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON NOV. 18, 2025

**Meeting called to order** by President Kurt Klemp at 6:04 p.m.

**Present:** Kurt Klemp, Amy Hensel, Kreg Gruben, Denise Rockney, Pastor Eric Hanson, Anders Amundson, Linda Hanson, Peggy Luther, Financial Secretary Judy Lund, and guest Bryar Veley.

**Devotion:** Pastor Eric shared notes of thanks received from benevolence organizations. He said our gifts are truly making a difference.

### **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS:**

Discussion: Judy reported that nothing fiscally out of the ordinary happened in October. She prepared a draft budget for 2026; it needs several tweaks, especially info for the Pastor's Compensation Package, which comes from the Synod but is unknown at this time. Judy was asked to be present at the annual meeting to speak to the \$110,000 spent in repairs. Discussed missions and benevolences for 2026 and decided to continue giving ½ to local, ¼ to national, and ¼ to global organizations. Motion made by Linda, seconded by Amy, and carried to maintain the current \$12,000 amount, but discontinue (national) benevolence to Lutheran Indian Ministry, and (global) benevolence to NELC-India, and give to Arizona's Navajo Evangelical Luth. Mission (NELM) instead.

**Worship Comm. Report:** It was decided at this time to NOT pursue a new directory with Lifetouch. Next year will be a large Confirmation class. Three graduates will be invited to attend a service to recognize them in the spring. All is ready for Christmas services, including a "Blue" service on Wednesday, December 17, for those experiencing grief or sadness.

**Pastor's Report:** All Saints Sunday on November 2 went well. A few larger print bulletins are available on Sundays. Pastor attended a synod Collaborative Boundaries Education Day in Watertown on November 6.

**Education Comm. Report:** Ornaments are for sale in the narthex with profits going to a camp scholarship fund. Sunday School Christmas Program is on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Ideas for a middle/high school youth group are being explored.

Motion made by Amy to approve **financial reports + October's Minutes + all committee reports**, seconded by Denise, and carried.

### **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Current projects: Bryar plans to put exterior handrails up shortly and install a new door lock to the furnace room in the Upper Church. The sign in front of the church is getting a sprucing up. Heating and cooling issues are being addressed. Stumps to be removed next year. Need a new person (Eric Schroeder?) to plow in the winter. Veleys will do the shoveling as needed.
2. Confirmation photo display stand: tabled for now.
3. Parsonage: A recent property revaluation has more than doubled the assessed value, and it remains to be seen how this will affect property tax. There are no pressing parsonage needs at this time. Council is interested in seeing a breakdown of expenses for the parsonage as well as each of the two church buildings so we have a good idea of what it costs to maintain each of the properties. It seems likely that insurance premiums for all three properties will increase.
4. Livestreaming: Still looking to improve the ease of use, and it would be ideal to be able to remotely operate the livestream.
5. Office Manager: It's difficult to find a good candidate for this part-time position! Council would like to let our office volunteers retire!!
6. Church Custodian: We have a description of what needs to be routinely cleaned (likely a 5-hour/week position). There may be a person interested.
7. Expense Reimbursement Policy: Draft #1 was distributed, with changes forthcoming.

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8. Changing of the Guard: Two council members (Linda and Peggy) are finishing their terms and need to be replaced. We also need two delegates to attend the annual Synod Assembly in early May.
9. Checklist for Maintenance: Kurt received an info packet from Lane and Marilyn that lists everything needing attention on a routine basis (e.g., pumps/filters/furnace/bulbs, etc.) in one concise document.
10. Trust Fund Investment Policy: Trust Fund Committee members, Tom S., Oren H., and Marilyn G., provided a one-page investment policy document that expresses the financial goals of EKLC that will be provided to our advisors at Thrivent and Edward Jones. Motion made by Kreg, seconded by Denise, and carried to approve the policy document.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9 @ 6 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn** at 8:23 made by Denise, seconded by Linda. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary



Welcome to our  
newest baptized  
member  
Louie Joseph Sigur.  
Louie was baptized  
December 21.



Huge 'thank you' to everyone contributing to the holiday food basket drives of October and November. You collected close to 125 of each of the items, exceeding the goal of 100. Also, thanks to everyone who helped pack up these basket items and to those who helped early on a Friday morning to get everything packed up for our Jail Ministry collection before the storm rolled in. Thank you for your generosity in helping to care for those in need during this holiday season!

We're launching a new youth group that will meet at Cambridge bowling alley on Saturday January 3 from 1-3 pm, this event is open to all EKLC youth and is free! Food will be provided. Please let Pastor Eric know if you're interested.

### News from the church basement

Greetings from the church basement, Winter surely set in with a vengeance, and it makes me wonder what the rest of it will look like!!! We do not schedule regular Pin and Sew mornings in January, because often it is very cold, or very snowy. If it looks like we might be able to get together to work, we'll let the regulars know. Peace Circle will be in

charge of serving duties in January. Thanks to them and to Light Circle for December.

Thanks to Cheryl N for putting our schedule booklet together. These will soon be available for you to pick up in the Narthex.

Thanks to all of you for your generosity this year, in giving needed supplies to the Food Pantry and Jail Ministry, as well as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Ukraine (thru Natasha), and other ministries. The noisy offering is a favorite, too, and all of us enjoy participating in that.

I'll include here the Meals on Wheels schedule which is lapping over into January.

Jan. 1st and 2nd Sheryl  
Jan. 5th Jeff  
Jan. 6th and 7th Barb and Kurt  
Jan. 8th and 9th Linda and Duane

Thank you to all of our loyal volunteers for this community ministry.





P. O. Box 8885, Madison, WI 53708 [info@madisonjailministry.org](mailto:info@madisonjailministry.org)

November 28th, 2025

Dear Barb and Everyone at East Koshkonong Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Dane County Jail re-entry coordinator and the Madison Area Jail Ministry, a very large thank you to everyone at East Koshkonong Lutheran Church who contributed winter apparel and blankets. Thank you for your generosity and sharing God's love by responding this fall to the request for the need for winter jackets, blankets and clothing for those being released from the Dane County Jail during the late fall and winter weather.

The gift of this donation helps those being released from incarceration who are in need, know that God is with them even in the most challenging circumstances and that he loves and forgives unconditionally. Your act of kindness can be the example that causes them to turn toward Jesus.

As found in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" What a wonderful thing it is to realize that God has forgiven us of all our sin. When we come to Christ and ask for his forgiveness, he pardons us of all our wrongdoing.

Thank you again for helping those in need and sharing and showing God's love for everyone!!! You are changing and transforming lives and demonstrating God's love with your actions, not only words. Your donation is a tangible example of Jesus by clothing others with dignity and love.

Blessings,

Paul L Hundt

Committee Chair

Madison Area Jail Ministry Friends

A Non-Profit Group of Volunteers Sharing God's Love and Grace to Those Incarcerated in Dane County Jail

Cell: 608-225-0377

Email: [phundt@madisonjailministry.org](mailto:phundt@madisonjailministry.org)

Facebook [Madison Area Jail Ministry | Facebook](#)

**We depend on contributions to purchase bibles and pay Chaplain's salary. Help the ministry change lives with a donation of any size using this QR code or visit the MAJM website at [www.madisonjailministry.org](http://www.madisonjailministry.org)**



## ***Treasurer's Report***

November 25 Income \$23,690.07  
November 25 Expense \$17,570.37

November 24 Income \$28,412.10  
November 24 Expense \$25,071.18

YTD 25 Income \$353,513.24  
YTD 25 Expense \$405,547.29

YTD 24 Income \$356,221.63  
YTD 24 Expense \$390,588.69

## ***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

### **Final (maybe) ramp update**

Just over a year ago, on November 17, we celebrated the completion of our ramp project. as it turned out, it was even more of a blessing than we imagined. As the project has made our upper building ADA compliant and accessible for all, we had met the goal of keeping this beautiful historic church available for worship going forward.

A situation came up we hadn't anticipated. Our insurance carrier saw fit to drop all churches older than one hundred years. This affected many churches in our area and far beyond. In seeking a new insurer, we were faced with making many upgrades to the lower church building and because of our recent project at the upper building, only a few upgrades there. It is very likely that without the work of the project, our upper building may have been considered not able to be used. So, an unexpected blessing.

We have paid off our bank loan and the entire debt has been cleared. Due to the incredible generosity of all of you, this project is now complete. Our Aagot Borge Committee plans to work with the worship committee to schedule summer worship services and is in the process of planning some special events as well. We have been greatly blessed and are so very grateful.. thanks be to God!

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

# Worship Helpers for January 2026

*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)

1/4~ Vicki Schuh  
1/11~Kyle Durkee  
1/18~Holly Loomis  
1/25~Carolyn Lien

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

1/4~ Holly Loomis  
1/11~Elizabeth Kaashagen  
1/18~Vicki Schuh  
1/25~Joy Graffin

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

1/4~ Elyn Wierzba  
1/11~ Sammy Sable  
1/18~ Josie Lund  
1/25~ Hank Wierzba

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

1/4~ Kory and Diane Luginbuhl  
1/11~Peggy Luther  
1/18~Tom and Trudy Spike  
1/25~Rosenthal Family

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

1/4~ Holly Loomis and Jackie Zahn  
1/11~Lane and Judy Taylor  
1/18~Kory and Diane Luginbuhl  
1/25~Barb and Kurt Klemp

**Offering Counters~**

(Contact Person: Joy Graffin)

1/4~ Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash  
1/11~Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen  
1/18~Jean Lehr & Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel  
1/25~Brenda Schroeder & Leila Carl & Diane Ash

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

1/4~  
1/11~  
1/18~  
1/25~



**December Council Meeting:  
Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 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.*

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Event @ Bowling Alley
4 9:00 a.m. Worship  9:40am coffee fellowship & Worship Committee meeting	5	6	7 5:30 p.m. Worship  6:30 p.m. Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship  9:40am coffee fellowship	12 6:30 p.m. Education Committee meeting	13	14 5:30 p.m. Worship  6:30 p.m. Confirmation	15	16	17
18 9:00am Worship  9:40am coffee Fellowship	19	20 6:00 p.m. Council meeting	21 5:30 p.m. Worship  6:30 p.m. Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship  9:40 coffee Fellowship	26	27	28 5:30 p.m. Worship  6:30 p.m. Confirmation	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](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)