

East Koshkonong

Lutheran Church

Gather • Be Glad • Grow • Go • With Grace

# Sundays and Beyond

Friends in Christ,

May is the month when our Confirmation program concludes for the summer. While our class will participate in Lutherdale's Confirmation Camp next month, and our students will also complete a few independent assignments that we ask them to do during the summer months, we won't, however, have any formal classes again until the fall. I hope you all know that I deeply enjoy teaching and leading Confirmation here and that this congregation has been blessed with many great groups whom I've been honored to have had in our classes. One of my favorite parts about Confirmation is all of the questions that I get during our classes, as the students ask me many very thoughtful and important faith-related questions. We actually encourage this, as at the end of our worship note forms that they complete there's a spot where they can write down any questions they have, and I'll try to answer them during class. There's also times during the class when they can ask questions as well. Recently, there's been a number of questions which relate to challenges that are happening in the world, both near and far, and I hear similar kinds of questions from other parishioners in my ministry as well. I also personally wrestle with these kinds of issues and questions, and let me assure you all that it's ok to struggle with these things and that it doesn't mean that you're not faithful. After all, even our Lord Jesus himself on the cross cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me" (Mark 15:34, NRSV), showing that there were even things which he struggled with. I certainly don't have all the answers or solutions to all that this world is facing, but I did want to share with you all part of a recent article that I read and found helpful for wrestling with these topics. This was written by Grace Shim as part of the Christian charity *Bread for the World's* devotional series, I pray these words might be helpful to you all amidst the many challenges that are before us. "Each day, the news confronts us with stories of suffering – families displaced by war, children crying from hunger, natural disasters destroying homes and lives, communities torn apart by violence and injustice. It is tempting to turn away, to guard our hearts from a sense of powerlessness and despair. Yet in John 11, when Jesus is invited to "come and see" the grief and pain, he does not look away. He enters in...And then he wept. C.S. Lewis once wrote, "We grieve deeply because we love deeply." To love as Jesus loves means allowing our hearts to break as his did, gripped by his tears at the effects of a broken world on those he loved. Our typical response to pain is to try to solve the problem. But before we move to solutions, we see the example of Jesus whose first response was to weep and be brokenhearted. He vulnerably and openly cried tears, not in private, but publicly in a communal lament...[our faith] invites us to resist the impulse to turn away or suppress the pain and allow ourselves to "weep with those who weep." Opening our hearts to be moved by the stories, images, and testimonies of suffering is vulnerable work. To learn how to be broken is, in itself, a privilege and a choice available to those not daily living under the weight of injustice. Like Jesus, may we be willing to feel sorrow because of his love and a longing for the world to experience God's shalom. May Jesus' example shape in us tender and courageous hearts, broken with and on behalf of the vulnerable and suffering."

Shalom to you in Christ,

Pastor Eric.

· NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Klemp at 6:00 p.m. Present: Kurt Klemp, Kreg Gruben, Cal Reuter-skiold, Denise Rockney, Anders Amundson, Diane Ash, Amy Hensel, Pastor Eric Hanson, Financial Secretary Judy Lund Devotion: Pastor Eric reminded us that the first commandment is you shall have no other gods and that we should trust God above all things. Pastor led us in prayer to remember to serve God. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS: Discussion: Judy thoroughly went through all financial reports to help new council members understand all the numbers. Judy explained the various categories and showed how the QuickBooks software allows us to compare income/expenses to years prior. Thank you, Judy! There was \$1,704.91 in the Ukraine Relief Fund from the last 3 months. Motion made by Denise to disburse the funds to Natasha Amundson who will send the amount to her family in Ukraine to use as needed, seconded by Amy, motion carried. Motion made by Kreg to approve all financial reports, seconded by Cal, and carried. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL MINUTES: Council Meeting Minutes February: Motion to approve last month's council minutes made by Diane, seconded by Kreg, and carried. Pastor's Report: Lenten services and soup suppers going well; Upper Church Sunday services planned for first Sunday of each month this summer; EKLC will be hosting the Cambridge Community Meal on May 7th. Worship Comm. Report: Youth Sunday will be May 3rd; Maundy Thursday will be first communion for those interested; May 31st will honor high school seniors and cake will be served. Diane Ash graciously volunteered to be the Worship Comm. Liaison – Thank you, Diane! Education Comm. Report: Looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School; Pie Auction on April 19th; Youth Sunday and Bingo will be May 3rd. Confirmation students have been attending Lenten Services in lieu of class and Lutherdale confirmation camp will be June 14th-19th. Motion to approve all committee reports received made by Kreg, seconded by Denise, and carried. OLD & NEW BUSINESS 1. Road Signs: The family of Harriet Eikland donated 3 roadside signs that will be put up this spring to direct people to EKLC 2. Benevolence Thank You's: Madison Area Jail Ministry, Cambridge Food Pantry, and ELCA Good Gifts sent Thank You letters to EKLC for our continued offering contributions. 3. Parsonage: We are conscious that there are many major expenses for the parsonage on the horizon (roof, furnace/ac, water heater) and with the increase in Christiana township taxes and new property insurance, we are trying to break-even with parsonage income versus expenses. With all this in mind, a motion was made by Cal to increase the parsonage rent from \$850 per month to \$1200 per month, seconded by Kreg, and carried. The lease agreement will be updated to reflect this. We will also look into having an appraisal done to determine the current value of the parsonage. 4. Livestreaming: Pastor and Denise have been coordinating and managing the livestream for Sunday worship services, but other volunteers are always welcome to learn if interested. 5. Security Cameras: For the safety and security of our church, members, and employees, 4 'Blink' cameras have been installed in the church. 6. Church Maintenance Updates: Now that warmer weather is upon us, we plan to install the handrail for the new east sidewalk, replace the repainted sign in the front of the church, and begin work on landscaping. 7. Cemetery Walk: There has been interest from members and the community for another cemetery walk. It is a big undertaking, so may be beneficial to reach out to other local congregations to coordinate all together. 8. Lawn Care: As spring approaches, we will make sure the lawn mower has been serviced and is ready for first mow! Mark and Bryar have done such a nice job with the lawn care and grounds maintenance in the past, so we will check in to see if they are still up for the task this year, too. 9. Audit Committee: We are in need of two volunteers from the congregation to serve as auditors on the church's audit committee. Audit committee typically meets once in the fall. If anyone is interested, please reach out to a council member. Next Meeting: Monday, April 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. made by Cal, seconded by Denise, and carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The South—Central Synod of Wisconsin's assembly  
will be May 15-16 at Woodman's Sports and  
Convention Center in  
Janesville, WI



South-Central Synod  
of Wisconsin

CHURCH  COUNCIL

**May Council Meeting:  
Tuesday  
May 26 @ 6:00 p.m.**

## News from the church basement ladies:

Spring greetings from the church basement:

Thanks to Peace Circle for serving duties in April, and to Joy who will do May. Thanks to our faithful Meals on Wheels delivery folks, who got a lot more work last time! We are on again starting June 15. Thank you to folks who have been delivering things to add to our kits for shipping in September. In trying to come out fairly even, I am taking inventory. These are things needed most: spiral notebooks, 70 sheets, wide or narrow ruled, boxes of crayons, 16 or 24 count, 12 inch rulers, unsharpened pencils, and pens with black or blue ink. These things will go on sale again likely in June, and we can find the best prices then. Thanks for all of your help. Also, if you have cardboard boxes of medium size, we can use these for packing. If you have a paid reservation for the Christian Fish Fry at the Fireside on May 6, please arrive at 10:30. Look forward to a fun afternoon. We are responsible for our tips, and the amount suggested is between 3 and 5 dollars.

Thanks for your participation in the pie auction to supply scholarships for Confirmation students to attend camp at Lutherdale. Watch for other events to be scheduled for summer, and we will continue to Pin and Sew on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month. May 7 is next, as is Community Cafe which we will serve that Thursday. It's a busy week!

God Bless you.

Communicator Carolyn

**The end of the Sunday School year is upon us!**

**The Sunday School kids will be hosting Youth Sunday on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**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 13<sup>th</sup>!**

**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!**

**a wonderful and safe summer, and we'll see you in the fall!!**

**In God's Peace,**

**The Education Committee**



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

March 2026 Income \$37,546.60  
March 2026 Expense \$25,735.94  
March 2025 Income \$24,197.94  
March 2025 Expense \$55,148.72  
YTD 2026 Income \$85,423.36  
YTD 2026 Expense \$93,342.20  
YTD 2025 Income \$85,655.32  
YTD 2025 Expense \$142,905.52

### ***Cambridge Memorial Day Celebration***

**May 25, 2026**

6:30am-Noon: The Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department starts the day with breakfast at the fire station.

10:30am: Parade procession down Main Street.

There will be a memorial service in Veteran's Park following the parade. Pastor Eric will offer the opening prayer. Then a duck race on Koshkonong Creek.

We will then celebrate with the Lions Club for the Memorial Day Celebration & Picnic in Veteran's Park





Thank you to everyone who contributed, helped assembled and loaded up the supplies for the Blue Jay Backpacks and Easter Baskets. Your generosity comes through in every single donation. These photos capture just a glimpse of the kindness within our congregation.

**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

Joan Kaare ~ Home Again 308 England St., Cambridge, WI 53523





**May 31, 2026**  
**We will recognize**  
**our High School**  
**seniors who've**  
**Graduated in 2026**

We are updating our 2026 Member Directory. Please let us know if you have moved or if you have a different phone number. Even if you have dropped your land line. Thank you so very much for helping us keep our information updated and correct.




Our church will once again be hosting the Cambridge Community Meal. We will be hosting a little earlier this year, it will be on Thursday, May 7th, at the Cambridge High School. The meal is served from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. In addition to helping 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



  
**Handbell Concert**  
 Sunday, May 3 at 2p.m.  
 Central Lutheran Church  
 100 W. Rollin Street, Edgerton, WI  
Free Admission

Dear EKLC Kids,  
 Thank you so much for the cards and the special book marker. I read a lot so it is extra special.  
 Thanks again for thinking of me.  
 Nancy Walheim



**Bunad Request**  
 Do you have a Norwegian Bunad you would share for a short time? Bonnie will be conducting several tours of our churches this summer, so we are updating our History Display area in Friendship Hall. We plan to include some samples of the traditional outfits worn by Norwegians who came over and settled here. If you have something we could display and if you have a story of the region it represents, we would love to hear from you. You may leave a message at the office or contact one of us directly.  
 Thank you.  
 History Committee  
 Bonnie Ehrke, Marilyn Gunderson,  
 Linda Hanson, Judy Taylor

***It's time for some Spring clean up outside***

Grab your rake  **CHURCH**  Grab your shovels  
**CLEANUP**

**May 2, 2026 from 9:00a.m.– 12:00p.m.**  
 (Rain date May 9th)




# Worship Helpers for May 2026

**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)

May 3 ~Sunday School Service—Youth Led

May 10 ~ Kyle Durkee

May 17~ Holly Loomis \* Upper Church\*

May 24 ~ Carolyn Lien

May 31~ Vicki Schuh

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

May 3 ~ Sunday School Service– Youth Led

May 10 ~ Holly Loomis

May 17~ Jane Furseth \* Upper Church\*

May 24 ~ Anders Amundson

May 31~ Barb Klemp

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

May 3 ~ Sunday School Service - Youth Led

May 10 ~ Hank Wierzba

May 17~ Tess Marchant \*Upper Church\*

May 24 ~ Lena Skjolaas

May 31~ Caitlin Terland

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

May 3 ~Holly Loomis

May 10 ~Rosenthal Family

May 17~Kurt & Barb Klemp \* Upper Church\*

May 24 ~Buddy & Beverly Lien

May 31~ Karen Hayes

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

May 3 ~Frodel Family

May 10 ~Curt & Linda Hanson

May 17~Henry Furseth Family \* Upper Church\*

May 24 ~Bjorn & Elizabeth Kaashagen

May 31~ Peggy Luther & Brenda Schroeder

**Offering Counters~**

May 3 ~ Jean Lehr, Cheryl & Eric Nuenthal

May 10 ~Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl & Diane Ash

May 17~Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen \* Upper Church\*

May 24 ~ Jean Lehr, Cheryl & Eric Nuenthal

May 31~ Brenda Schroeder, Leila Carl & Diane Ash

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

May 3 ~Sunday School

May 10 ~

May 17~Upper Church

May 24 ~Joy Circle

May 31~ Worship Committee

## Church Council

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Kurt Klemp

VICE-PRESIDENT: Denise Rockney

SECRETARY: Amy Hensel

TREASURER: Anders Amundson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Kreg Gruben,  
Diane Ash, Cal Reuterskiold

If you need to speak to a council member please call the church office to leave a message and they will return your call. 608-423-3017

Join Us on May 3rd, for our  
youth lead  
worship  
service followed by  
coffee hour with  
intergenerational bingo



# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Church Grounds Cleanup</i> 9a.m. -12p.m
3 <i>Youth Led</i> 9:00 Worship Service 9:40 Coffee & Fellowship & Bingo	4	5	6 5:30p.m. Worship Service	7 <i>Pin &amp; Sew</i>  <i>Cambridge Community Meal</i> 5:30pm -6:30pm	8	9 <u><i>Rain Date</i></u> for <i>Church Grounds Clean Up</i> 9am-12pm
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00 Worship Service 9:40 Coffee & Fellowship Worship Meeting	11	12	13 5:30p.m. Worship Service	14	15 <i>South Central Synod Assembly</i> Janesville, WI	16 <i>South Central Synod Assembly</i> Janesville, WI
17 <u><i>Upper Church</i></u> 9:00 Worship Service	18 <i>Information due for newsletter</i>	19	20 5:30p.m. Worship Service	21 <i>Pin &amp; Sew</i>	22	23
24 9:00 Worship Service 9:40 Coffee & Fellowship	25 <i>Memorial DAY</i> 	26	27 5:30p.m. Worship Service	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship Service 9:40 Coffee & Fellowship Honoring Graduating						

# 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

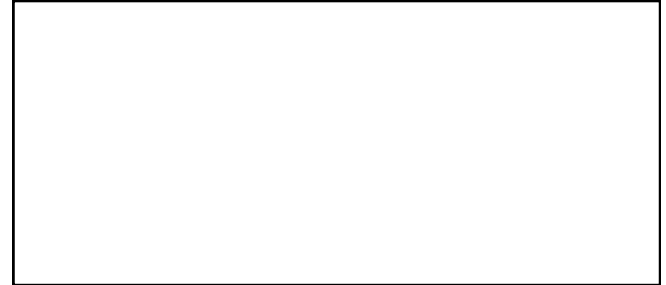
## SUNDAY MORNINGS

- ⇒ 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 - Wednesday  
608-423-3017

**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)

**GIVE PLUS**  
A VANCO COMPANY

**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.