

Sundays and Beyond

February 2026
East Koshkonong Lutheran
Church



Friends in Christ,

I shared the following message in the 2025 annual report, but it bears repeating. I feel overwhelming gratitude for your incredible faithfulness and support throughout 2025! Looking back on this year, we have so much for which to be truly thankful: Our worship attendance increased in 2025. Our giving also increased in 2025, demonstrating a generous spirit. Additionally, we welcomed a new member, celebrated two baptisms, and an affirmation of baptism in 2025! We also sent seven of our Confirmation students to Lutherdale's Confirmation Camp. These are wonderful signs, but what fills me with the greatest joy is knowing that, most importantly, we are faithfully serving God! Our participation in God's mission continues through the numerous drives we had to support our local food pantry & jail ministry, the quilts and school kits our congregation assembled and shipped out, and so much more. Additionally, we continued providing pastoral care, as I personally got to perform 179 pastoral visits for members who were homebound, hospitalized, or in need of pastoral care throughout the year and the members of our Befriender's Committee performed numerous additional visits of their own. Finally, we continued following Jesus by worshiping every Wednesday & Sunday, having Sunday School and Confirmation classes, and having our Bible Study on The Chosen tv series. None of this would be possible without your support. So from the bottom of my heart, let me thank you all for your commitment, involvement, and generosity! You are awesome!

Even though 2025 also had some challenges, through it all though, the good news of Jesus continually inspires and propels us forward. While I don't know exactly what the future has in store, I do know that we shall continue participating in God's story and that God will keep empowering us to live out and share the good news of Jesus Christ together for the sake of the world. Because the church isn't buildings or a set of bylaws, rather it's all of us gathered together as a faith community around God's Word and Sacraments, who are then sent out as witnesses to the good news. Thanks be to God!

Shalom to you in Christ,

Pastor Eric.

NOTES/MINUTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING ON

DEC. 9, 2025

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

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

Devotions by Pastor Eric: “Stir up our hearts, O Lord...”

Property Update by Bryar: Two new thermostats that can be operated remotely are now in use. Exterior handrails will go up when weather permits. Plowing arrangements have been made to accommodate our church services & special events, otherwise, the Town of Christiana will plow (EKLC is last on Christiana’s scheduled plow route). Christmas decorations are up. Furnace filters are replaced. For efficiency reasons, each propane tank now has its own ID.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS, REPORTS AND MINUTES:

Discussions: November giving exceeded November expenses. (Yes, there was a bit of cheering.) Overall, we are \$23K over budget, and this is due to significant improvements made in 2025.

We were reminded that Vanco Payment Solutions, Inc. charges a small service fee for transactions.

Ukraine funds of \$979.93: motion made by Peggy, seconded by Amy, and carried to disburse these funds to Natasha.

Pastor’s Report: All is ready for a Blue Christmas Service on the 17th and multiple Christmas services on the 24th. Sunday School Christmas Program is the 14th. Sunday School kids went Christmas caroling on the 7th and the Confirmation kids will carol on the 10th. New youth group initiative will launch on January 3rd at Lake Ripley Lanes. Pastor will use his remaining 2025 vacation time December 26-31.

Motion to approve financial reports made by Amy, seconded by Kreg, and carried.

Motion to approve the Pastor’s Report + November’s Minutes made by Amy, seconded by Denise, and carried.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

1. The 2026 Proposed Budget that was presented to council in November needed a few tweaks, so corrections were made. Motion made by Denise, seconded by Kreg, and carried to accept the revised 2026 Proposed Budget.

2. Exterior Projects: On hold during the winter months.

3. Expense Reimbursement Form: Motion made by Kreg, seconded by Denise, and carried to accept the Expense Reimbursement Policy and reimbursement form. This new document will be included in the upcoming Annual Report.

4. Confirmation photo display stand in the Narthex: Kreg found some options for us to consider, and the council decided to proceed with a display stand that will (more) than meet our needs. This new stand could even be used to combine all past Confirmation pics and many decades of future Confirmation pics. Motion made by Kreg to pay for this \$1,300 photo display stand using Undesignated Memorial monies, seconded by Linda, and carried.

5. Road Signs from the Eikland Family: The three signs (for Hillside Road, Hwy. B, and Hwy. 73) will be paid for out of memorial monies that the family gifted for this purpose. The family also gifted \$1,000 to Pin & Sew in Harriet’s memory.

6. Parsonage: Nothing at this time.

7. Livestream Volunteers: Anders agreed to help out. More volunteers are welcome, too.

8. Office Manager: We may have a possible candidate!

9. 2026 Church Council Candidates & Synod Assembly Reps: We need two people to replace outgoing council members + two representatives to attend the annual Synod Assembly in mid-May.

10. Decorating: Discussed expectations and general guidelines.

11. Outdoor Nativity: Dave Repyak donated a new outdoor nativity set for the front of the Lower Church.

12. A date for February’s Annual Meeting: In the interest of getting everyone home before roads iced up, it was decided to set a date via email.

Motion to adjourn at 7:10 made by Denise, seconded by Amy. We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting: January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Luther, Recording Secretary



Sunday School will sing during worship **February 1** with inter-generational BINGO to follow during fellowship.

Our Bible Study on The Chosen will resume **February 3** and will continue Tuesday morning at 10 am until Holy week.

Copies of the budget will be available on Sunday, **February 8** Council member & Judy Lund will also be available for any questions.

Worship Committee will meet after worship Sunday, **February 8**.

Annual Meeting will be after worship **February 15**. Please submit all items for the annual report by **February 1**. Council members will meet immediately following the meeting to elect council positions.

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, **February 18**. We will have Ash Wednesday worship here at **7 PM**.

**2025 noisy offering donations made through ELCA World
Hunger;**

1 Clean Water Well System, 1 Family Farm, 2 Community Vegetable gardens, 2 Fruit Tree farms, & 4 Honeybees.

Thank you for your generosity!

Lenten Schedule and Theme

A most important part of the church year begins on February 18th...Ash Wednesday. The five weeks following that will use the theme: Conversations With God. These services are at 7 p.m. and will feature a short skit each week, a Bible verse relating to each week's message, hymns and prayers. These services will be about 30 minutes long. Come and prepare yourself for the highlight of the season, Holy Week.



SOUP SUPPERS



There will be five soup suppers each Wednesday starting on February 25th. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. The host needs to make soup and set up bowls, spoons, napkins, crackers and water, serve the soup and clean up after. The suppers begin around 6 p.m. shortly after the 5:30 service is finished. The soup needs to go into the 10 quart crock pot early afternoon to be warm enough for serving.

Ukraine Update

January 7, 2026 Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday time, and I hope your 2026 will be better than 2025. It has been a while since I sent some updates on Ukraine. I didn't have much to post, but now I have a summary of things that have happened. Well, here are the updates.... Before the school year started, I talked to my sister and my mom, and I found out that there were only three kids going to the first grade in our village. So, we decided to buy all school supplies, including school backpacks for those kids. My sister contacted the first-grade teacher and asked for a list of supplies needed, and she purchased everything. The parents, teachers, and kids were very happy and thankful. It was a nice relief for parents, especially during this time. My mom explained that they were able to provide this help because of people in the USA, who care. Of course everyone was extremely thankful. During the fall and the harvest season, my parents were harvesting the produce from the garden (some of which Anna and I helped to plant in the springtime). They did a lot of canning as well. Also, they donated some produce to be sent to the east where the war is going to those who are in need. The collection and support are done on a regular basis, as we always have some volunteers going to those areas. Every time they go, my parents and my sister make sure to send some food and medicine to those in need. As cold weather approached, the refugees that live in our village were struggling greatly with getting wood for burning in their furnace. They are having issues with finding a job and getting to work. There are no jobs available at our village, but there are some in the neighboring village. When it was warmer, a man was riding a bike to work, but when it got colder, it was hard to get there by bike. Therefore, I sent some money that had been donated so that family could buy a nice supply of wood. They were very happy and pleasantly surprised as they did not expect it at all. My parents explained where the money came from and the family was very thankful to the people who care and help. Of course, there was some bad news as well. There were a few guys - soldiers- brought home who were killed. One of them was my parents' neighbor. The other guy was missing and everyone had hopes for finding him alive, but he was found killed and was brought home. These guys were in their late 20s-early 30s. Very sad. All the village mourned. We also sent some money to help with funerals. I wish no more deaths were happening, but I know it's not possible during the war. I can say that every other day someone/s body is being brought home in our region. And it's not only in our region, but how many regions in Ukraine? Someone's son, dad, husband, brother is not going to be with them anymore. How many casualties are there? Innocent people are dying. Sad, very sad. There have been several strikes on the power plants, and before Christmas the electricity was available only for 6-8 hours per 24 hour day. In the village where my parents live, and in the town where my sister lives, they were getting electricity from 2 am to 6 am, and then from 2 pm to 6 pm. At least they knew when the electricity was going to be on. It is tough to plan your day especially when you work, but it is what it is. They consider themselves to be lucky because some people did not have electricity for 5 days. I talked to my friend who lives in Odesa (in the south of Ukraine), and that is what happened to them. She lives in an apartment building on the 11 floor and has an electric stove. She said it was tough to keep food frozen in the fridge, but luckily it was colder outside so she could leave some food on the balcony. She said that she had a small portable gas stove that she used for cooking. I guess people try to adapt to their situation and survive. What else can you do? Everyone is trying to cook, do laundry, charge phones, etc. when they have electricity. During the holidays, they had more hours with the electricity on, but it's already changing back to the on and off times.

Another nice thing my parents did was to buy Christmas gifts for all the children in the school and pre-school. There are not that many kids in the school, around 50. Of course, they purchased the best packages with chocolates and handed them to all kids. The kids, their parents and teachers were very thankful to all of you. Also, the teachers mentioned how much kids like to read the books we gave them last spring when we were in Ukraine. The teachers truly appreciate that kind gesture. Also, my parents didn't forget the people with disabilities, and Christmas gifts were given to them as well. My parents make sure to tell everyone who they should truly thank – the people who care and support – you! Because of you, we are able to help those in need and make some people and kids happy.

Thank you! Natasha

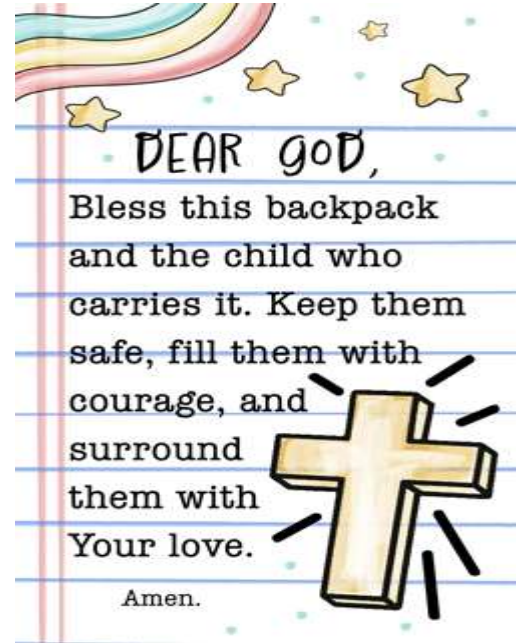


"Thank you" card from the refugees (translated): Dear church, Norwegian community, and all people who care, From the bottom of our hearts and from the depths of our souls, we express our boundless gratitude for your kindness, mercy and care. At a time when things are so difficult, your support for our family has become not only material help, but it has become a ray of light, hope, and faith in humanity. Every day we thank God for the fact that you – people with a big heart and a sincere soul – appeared on our way. Your care warmed us in a difficult moment, gave us the strength not to give up, believed that we are not alone, that there are those who take someone else's grief as their own. We bow low to you for every good deed, for every kind word, for every penny of help given to us. May the Lord bless you abundantly, and be paid back for all the good that you bring to the world. May peace, health, prosperity and God's grace reign in your homes. We will always remember your support and will carry this kindness forward in prayers, in deeds, in hearts. With respect, deep gratitude and love, Our family – Nadya, Pavlo, Mykola

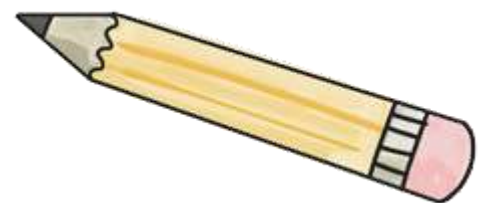
Backpacks for kids with school supplies



A picture of kids at the ceremony on the first day of school (in Ukraine first day of school is more of a welcome ceremony and no classes)



My mom presented the backpacks to kids on the first day of school





Distribution of gifts

Christmas gifts for all kids

*Money to help with the
funeral expenses of soldiers who
died from our
village*



Fallen soldiers from our village





News from the Church Basement:



You can never second guess the weather here in Wisconsin... first it was warm and raining, and then snowing and cold! We have not been meeting for sewing in January, but hopefully we can begin again in February. We are scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 5, from 8 AM to noon. We break for coffee and business meeting around 9:30. Please come and join us. We also usually meet to sew on the third Thursday morning, same time, same station!

Thanks to Peace Circle for serving duties in January, and to Joy for February.

In other news, Women of the ELCA will meet for the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa ,

July 16-19. Please consider attending. There will be a bus going, at a fair price, and leaving from the Madison Park and Ride. There are already three of us planning to attend. For more information, see welcatg.org. You can register there online, also. There is also info on that bus in the Synodical Women's newsletter The Trumpeter. Subscription set ups for that newsletter are available at welcatrumpeter@gmail.com.

Thank you to our loyal Meals on Wheels delivery folks. You are so appreciated. Our next schedule is weekdays, March 23 to April 3.

Hang in there, folks, winter will be over soon!

God Bless you.

Communicator Carolyn



Our congregation's public prayer list is a way in which we support one another in times of need. In order to continue this commitment, we ask anyone who has requested that an individual be added please also update the office once they feel that the time of need for public prayer has ended. Thank you for helping to keep our ministry of public prayer meaningful and focused!

GIVE PLUS!

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, you may set up recurring donations or make a one-time donation.

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.

As the new office manager I would like to let you I will be in the office Monday–Wednesday. I look forward to getting reacquainted with some of you and getting to know the rest of you.

~ Raegan Hromatko

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



Treasurer's Report

December 25 Income \$34,607.47

December 25 Expense \$31,476.53

December 24 Income \$44,287.79

December 24 Expense \$35,302.08

YTD 25 Income \$388,020.71

YTD 25 Expense \$436,997.83

YTD 24 Income \$400,509.42

YTD 24 Expense \$423,087.53

please note, 2024 numbers reflect

information related to the Upper Church Restoration
Project in addition to normal offerings and expense



Welcome to our newly baptized
member

Waylon John Lynch

Who was baptized on 1-18-2026

New Hire

Amy McCutchin—Cleaning Service

She will be here every other week.

WELCOME AMY!!!!



South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin

Save the Date for the 2026 SCSW Synod Assembly Mark your
calendars!

The 2026 SCSW Synod Assembly is May 15 and 16, 2026 at
the Woodmans Center in Janesville, WI.

The Assembly will open on the evening of Friday, May 15
and will continue through the day on Saturday, May 16.

Worship Helpers for February 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)

February 1 ~ Trudy Spike

February 8~ Kyle Durkee

February 15~Vicki Schuh

February 18~ Ash Wednesday Holly Loomis

February 22~ Carolyn Lien

Lay Readers~ (Contact Person: Holly Loomis)

February 1 ~ Trudy Spike

February 8~ Bobbie Rawinski

February 15~Barb Klemp

February 18~ Ash Wednesday Jane Furseth

February 22~Anders Amundson

Acolytes~ (Contact Person: Pastor Eric)

February 1 ~ Sammy Sable

February 8~ Mia Frodel

February 15~Lena Skjolaas

February 18~ Ash Wednesday Jayley Wagner

February 22-Tess Marchant

Greeters~ (Contact Person: Judy Rusch)

February 1 ~ Terland Family

February 8~ Janalee Wagner

February 15~Carolyn Lien

February 18~ Ash Wednesday Ken & Marge Stach

February 22 Kurt & Barb Klemp

Usher~ (Contact Person: Vicki Schuh)

February 1 ~ Frodel Family

February 8~ Don & Eileen Hoehn

February 15~ Carolyn Lien & Jane Furseth

February 18~ Ash Wednesday Terland Family

February 22 ~ Buddy & Beverly Lien

Offering Counters~ (Contact Person Joy Graffin)

February 1 ~ Brenda Schroeder & Andy Christensen

February 8~ Jean Lehr, Cheryl & Eric Nuenthel

February 15~Joy Graffin, Leila Carl & Diane Ash

February 22~ Joy Graffin & Andy Christensen

Coffee Hour~ (Contact :Sign up in Kitchen)

February 1 ~ Sunday School

February 8~

February 15~Annual Meeting

February 22~ Joy Circle

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Worship</p> <p>Sunday School Sings</p> <p>9:40 Bingo coffee and fellowship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 Worship</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pin & Sew</p> <p>8:00-12:00</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Worship</p> <p>9:40 Coffee Fellowship & Worship Committee meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30 Worship</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>YOU ARE LOVED</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING</p>	<p>16</p> <p></p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p></p> <p>5:30 Worship</p> <p>6:00 Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pin & Sew</p> <p>8:00-12:00</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>9:40 Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>Befrienders Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 The Chosen Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 Worship</p> <p>6:00 Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

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 - Wednesday

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