

# New Bethany Lutheran Church Constitution

Over the last few months, you may have heard during announcements that there was a group of people reviewing the Bethany church Constitution. We wanted to provide you with the latest updates as well as the next steps.

## **What is a Church Constitution?**

A church's Constitution plays an important role as the broader body of mutually agreed upon principles and purposeful structure that govern the affairs and action of the church. It reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbors with good news, and share the love of God in the world. It is also the common governing shared model across all our ELCA congregations.

A church's By-laws are a more specific description of the governance and operational activities of the church. More of a day-to-day operation view of how we accomplish the overall ELCA mission

A church's Constitution—unlike its Bylaws—should be difficult to amend, requiring much thought, deliberation, and prayer. These changes generally occur at the ELCA churchwide assemblies, which occur every three years.

Our By-laws will be reviewed, updated, and presented to the congregation for approval in a few months after the Constitution is approved.

## **Reason for Updating Bethany's Constitution**

Our current Constitution was last updated in 2014 and three churchwide assemblies have been held since the last update. Bethany is behind in these updates and we needed to get back in line with the ELCA overall.

## **The Process for Changing Bethany's Constitution**

Pastor Lucy, Mark Hansen, Judy Zobel and Larry Thome were asked to work through the process for getting the Bethany Constitution updated. We started the review process in late August and after reviewing the latest version of the ELCA Constitution, we determined that it was best to use the latest version as our starting point since the Bethany Constitution was nine years behind in changes.

We compared the Bethany Constitution with the latest ELCA version and highlighted the changes and areas we needed to adjust. We also engaged the La Crosse Synod Constitution representative, Pastor Denny Hallemeier (one of our past Supply Pastors) to guide us through the process.

We created the new version of Bethany's Constitution, received approval from the Synod, and presented to the Bethany Council at the December Council meeting. After their review, they approved moving forward to present to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> for a vote of approval.

## **Congregational Review Prior to the Annual Meeting**

The new Bethany Constitution is 30 pages long with 20 chapters. The Constitution will be posted on the Bethany web page, and there will also be paper copies available in the narthex if anyone would like one.

We are also creating a summary document outlining the changes. The majority of the Constitution (16 of the 20 chapters) is required from the ELCA, and there is nothing that can be changed in those sections. We will identify where there are wording changes as well as any governing changes that have been made.

For those interested in seeking additional information, there will also be two meetings, one on January 7<sup>th</sup> and another on January 14<sup>th</sup> after service during fellowship time to review these changes.

**Bethany Lutheran Church, New Lisbon, WI**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Council Members present:** Pastor Lucy Hardie, Mark Hansen, Michaele Korbein, Inger Kirkwood, Glenda Swinehart, Larry Thome, Shane Gesler, Kathie Means, Deanna Smith, Karl Katuin  
**Council members absent:** Christy Toelle, Betty Krotzman

**1. Call to Order:** President Mark Hansen called the council meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**2. Devotions:** Pastor Lucy provided devotions.

**3. Secretary's Report:** Shane Gesler made a motion to accept the November 5, 2023 Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Inger Kirkwood; motion passed 10-0.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** The November financial reports were presented. Bills are current and paid. Also included was a year-to-date budget with the 2023 expenses updated through November 30, discussed under Old Business. Karl Katuin made a motion to accept the November Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Kathie Means; motion passed 11-0.

**5. Pastor Report:** Pastoral visits are going on. She attended a conference meeting. East Lemonweir will have a prime rib dinner January 27 -tickets are \$30, and proceeds are going toward their Outreach efforts. For the March 3 Council meeting, council members should plan for an extended council meeting to include a study of scripture and to look to the year ahead with Pastor Dione. February 17 will be Synod Councils Congregational Retreat near LaCrosse. A Mutual Ministry Committee may be created, with members appointed by Pastor and the Council President.

**6. Committee Reports:**

a. **Education:** Sunday School is continuing. Today there were two students for Sunday School, as well as all three confirmation students.

b. **Evangelism:** The park nativity display is set up. Thank you to Cindy Costello for touching up those plywood figurines! A new sign was purchased and put up at the display.

c. **Long Range Planning:** Nothing new.

d. **Property:** Need to check and make sure the windows are all closed as some have trouble latching. The church water heater will be checked due to issues with heating. Parsonage fireplace chimney was sealed up and the wood-burning insert was removed by four people, to be replaced with a new electric insert.

e. **Social Concerns:** Thanksgiving baskets were distributed.

f. **Stewardship:** No report.

g. **Worship:** December 31 service is being worked on. Ash Wednesday 2024 is on Valentine's Day.

**7. Old Business:**

a. **Constitution Committee:** The proposed new constitution was sent to council members for review. Discussion. Karl Katuin made a motion, seconded by Kathie Means, to present the proposed constitution to the congregation for approval; motion passed 10-0.

b. **2024 Budget:** Some items and figures were adjusted in the proposed 2024 budget compared to 2023. Connecting the TV to the sound system, having a link to bulletins for services so they can be followed while viewing services online, and updating the website are just three future wish-list items.

**8. New Business:**

a. **Budget meeting with East -Dec 13 @ 5:30pm:** This joint meeting with East will be held December 13 at 5:30pm, just after the Advent dinner starts but before worship that evening.

b. **Annual meeting date -January 21:** Annual meeting to be January 21 toward end of service that day. An audit checklist will be used by the Audit Committee for reviewing the 2023 financial records. Annual Reports will be due by January 1 to give Betty enough time to get the annual report booklets done.

c. **Nominating Committee:** Larry Thome, Kathy Means, and Betty Krotzman are going off council, so they are part of the Nominating Committee who will be looking for new council members.

d. **Christmas Gifts:** Inger Kirkwood and Michaele Korbein were asked to step out and close the door so the rest of the council could have a discussion, after which they were invited back in.

e. **Fire Department:** Discussion only on a request from the New Lisbon Fire Department for funds to help with fire education.

**9. Next Meeting:** Next Council meeting will be January 7, 2024 at 12 noon, with Christy Toelle providing devotions. She will also have Sunday announcements for the month of January.

**10. Adjourn Meeting/Closing Prayer:** Karl Katuin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 11-0. The Lord's Prayer was prayed in closing. The meeting adjourned at 1:36pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michaele Korbein, Council Secretary

# Offering + Giving

Bethany	November	YTD
Offerings+other Income	\$ 13,898.69*	\$ 139,746.25
Expenses m	\$ 8,104.64	\$ 148,911.13

\*includes two months reimbursements from East.

Amount needed monthly for only Bethany's part of the budget:  
\$9,534.91

## W-ELCA News

December has provided so many opportunities in our church to celebrate and share the joy of the Christmas season: Teacher of faith: by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. As we await the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas Brunch, Silent Christmas Stocking auction, assembled and delivered fruit-cookie baskets to our shut ins and served a meal before one of our Advent services. WHEW!! It is a blessing to have our women give so generously of their time, talent and resources. Thank you to everyone who was able to help in any way, you made a difference.

The *gather* Bible study for Winter-Spring 2024 is "Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. This four-session Bible study explores how biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people and our beloved earth. Our January study is Weather: Powerful force for change. We can't control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today.

### Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rachel Circle meets in the conference room @4:00

February – W-ELCA first meeting of the new year. Time and date to be determined.

A thought: Believe in miracles.



**East Lemonweir Lectors**

1/7 – Audrey Scholl

1/14 – Dawn Nelson

1/21 – Diane Clark

1/28 – Kathryn Pitcel

**Bethany Worship Assistants**

1/7 –

Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl

Reader – Barb Parker

Altar Communion – Barb Parker  
& Confirmation Student

Ushers – Tim Parker & Karl  
Katuin

1/14 –

Assistant Minister – Larry Thome

Reader – Ross Hardie

Altar Communion – Michaele  
Korbein & Confirmation Student

Ushers – Mark & Debby Hansen

1/21 – Bethany Annual Meeting

Assistant Minister – Mark  
Hansen

Reader – Sheila Stark

Continuous Communion – Inger  
Kirkwood, Betty Krotzman, Mark  
Hansen

Ushers – Mike & Lori Esser

1/28 –

Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss

Reader – Angie Krizan

Continuous Communion – Keith  
Korbein, Beth Preuss, Galen Lingl

Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome



# Prime Rib Dinner

**Saturday  
January 27  
2024**

5:00 PM — Doors Open

Appetizers

Purchase of Raffle Basket Tickets

6:00 PM— Dinner

Sponsored by the  
East Lemonweir Lutheran Church  
Cty. Hwy. S between  
New Lisbon and Elroy off Hwy. 80

*“The Little White Church  
on the Hill”*

**Cost: \$30.00** per person

*A limited number of tickets will be sold*

# B-I-N-G-O

@

## Bethany

## January 14th

X marks the spot; find out what this is all about!

\*You can donate prizes to the Bingo Basket, if you want. Hope to see and hear you on the 14th!

### **B I N G O**

12	25	41	51	63
3	30	37	54	66
7	21	FREE	56	74
1	26	35	50	69
10	17	45	47	64

MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY  
Springfield, Massachusetts





## January 2024 Celebrations

*Have A  
Blessed  
New Year!*

### BIRTHDAYS

#### Bethany

Shanda Sletten - 4

Fred Wehman - 6

John Van Meter - 7

Penny Wehman - 7

Kenneth Adams - 9

Julie Zobal - 13

Katherine Means - 30

#### East Lemonweir

Betty Johnson - 11

Heinrich Hummelbeck - 12

Jennifer Sarnow - 18

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Bethany

Pete & Deanna Smith - 21

John A & Christina Krotzman - 24

Tim & Barb Parker - 28

### East Lemonweir-No Anniversary Celebrations

If your name is missing on the Birthday and Anniversary page, please call the Church Office (#562-3807), and let us know. Thank you!

## Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Parish

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Worship @Bethany 10:30am Worship @ EL	<b>1</b> Office Closed <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 4:00pm Rachel Circle 6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir	<b>3</b> 9:00am Quilting	<b>4</b> 9:00am Adult Class @ Bethany 6:30pm AA/Bethany Betty Off	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Altar Communion <b>Bethany Council Meeting</b>	<b>8</b> Office Closed	<b>9</b> 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir	<b>10</b> 9:00am Quilting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Adult Class @ Bethany 6:30pm AA/Bethany	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Altar Communion <b>East Lemonweir Council Meeting</b>	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b> 9:00am Pastor Conference Mtg. 6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir	<b>17</b> 9:00am Quilting	<b>18</b> 9:00am Adult Class @ Bethany 6:30pm AA/Bethany	<b>19 Beacon Articles Due 9am</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Continuous Communion <b>Bethany Annual Mtg</b>	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b> 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir	<b>24</b> 9:00am Quilting	<b>25</b> 9:00am Adult Class @ Bethany 6:30pm AA/Bethany	<b>26</b>	<b>27 East Lemonweir Prime Rib Dinner 5 pm Doors Open, 6 pm Dinner</b>
<b>28 East Lemonweir Annual Meeting</b> Continuous Communion	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> 9:00am Pastor's Text Study 6:30 PM AA/East Lemonweir	<b>31</b> 9:00am Quilting			



## Addresses of those Unable to Attend Worship

Fran Benson  
Onalaska Care Center Room 315  
1600 Main Street  
Onalaska WI 54650

Lorraine Schultz  
Tomah Care Center  
1505 Butts Ave  
Tomah WI 54660

Marlene Fish  
Crest View Nursing Home  
612 View Street  
New Lisbon WI 53950

Dennis Stark  
Villa Pines Living Center  
Room 304  
201 S Park Street  
Friendship WI 53934

Edna Hansen  
Crest View Nursing Home  
612 View Street  
New Lisbon WI 53950

Anna Kirkwood  
Fair View Nursing Home  
Toom 602  
1050 Division Street  
Mauston WI 53950

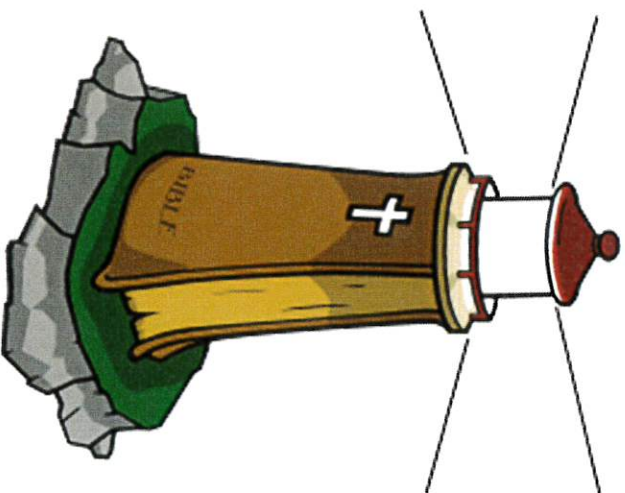
Arlene Krotzman  
Crest View Nursing Home  
612 View Street  
New Lisbon WI 53950



Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches  
618 West River Street  
New Lisbon, WI. 53950  
RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

# The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish  
January 2024



Isaiah 40:30-31: "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength."