| The Carillon |
| --- |
| Page 1  |  January, 2024 |

I hope you’re not sick of the holidays yet. There is one more…The Day of Epiphany. On the church calendar, Christmas is a twelve-day long season. December 25 is day one. Epiphany is the thirteenth day. It always lands on January 6. However, January 6, over the years, lands on different days of the week. Whenever it lands on a Sunday or close to a Sunday (Saturday, this year), I like to have a Sunday worship service to celebrate it. It is a day rich in tradition. Scholars suggest it preceded Christmas as a major “Holy Day” for Christians. While in history, the Day of Epiphany has included the celebration of several Biblical events, for us in the modern Western Church, the focus is the coming of the Wisemen

One of the most intriguing aspects of Epiphany is the guiding light of the star. This correlates nicely with our own faith journeys and the mission of congregations. Even though darkness can seem so big and powerful, the light of Christ cannot be overcome. It continues to be a guiding light every day, even if we miss it in our hurried, distracted lives.

In Christian Spirituality there are 5 smaller “guiding lights.” “Lights,” that when taken together lead us to Christ’s light—his will for our lives. The five “lights” are prayer, Scripture, counsel, judgement and circumstances. Our living Lord uses these “lights” to direct individuals and groups into his will. When all these lights point the same way—GO THAT WAY. Our transition task force is using these lights as they prepare the Ministry Site Profile which will introduce CVLC to prospective pastors. As the star guided the wisemen across the desert to the manger, so these lights, used by those humbly committed to Christ, guide the church into its ministry.

The 5 Guiding Lights are also important for individuals as they seek to grow closer to God. Each light gives us part of the picture of where Christ is leading us. Together they form a strong beacon into God’s will for our lives. The question for Epiphany is where is Christ leading you? Are you called to a deeper commitment at this moment in your life? Are you called to share something with the congregation? Is it time to renew your faith and trust in Christ through prayer or service?

Another wonderful aspect of Epiphany is the giving of gifts. The wisemen brought infant Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh. This raises an important question for every member of a church family; what gift can/will you bring to your Christian community? Many times, we think of our connection to church in terms of what we receive. Epiphany calls us to consider what we give to the congregation. This is an important question for CVLC because, as the church moves into the future, it will need many different gifts from many different people; time, talent and treasure. Everything we need is here somewhere. Jesus has given it to us. The Epiphany question is what will we give back?

Another aspect of sharing gifts within a congregation has to do with barriers. Often congregations inadvertently set up barriers for people who want to share their gifts. We as a congregation must always be asking, “are we encouraging people to share of themselves?” “Are we allowing them to use their ideas and expressions of faith?” “Do we give them positive feedback and the permission to fail without condemnation?” This is part of gift giving within a congregation. This is the gracious art of receiving, even when the gift is unexpected or not perfect.

-Continued on Page 2-

-Continued from Page 1-

Here’s a spiritual exercise to help us focus on the light of Christ and consider the gifts we might offer to the congregation in 2024. It’s a perfect fit for Epiphany. Go out after sunset and look to the stars. To the East, moving fairly high across the sky through the evening, will be a single star; brighter than all the rest. You can’t miss it. This “star” is actually the planet, Jupiter. Jupiter will be up there all winter shining brightly. As we gaze upon it let us remember the Day of Epiphany; the wisemen following the star, the “guiding lights” God has given us, the gifts we can present to the Savior through CVLC, and, above all else, the light of Christ which no darkness can overcome.

CVLC TRANSITION TASK FORCE UPDATE

Calling a new Pastor sets us on a spiritual journey honoring where we are as a congregation and, most importantly, seeing God’s path forward for our Church. As part of this process, the ELCA asks congregations to develop a comprehensive ministry site profile. This profile tells pastoral candidates who we are, what we are looking for in a pastor and what our strengths and challenges are. It is the first document potential candidates will study.

The Transition Task Force was formed to complete our Ministry Site Profile. This group is comprised of the following volunteers: Brian Rude, Betty Jorgenson, Nancy King, Karen McGarvey and Sarah Ofte.

Our work as a Transition Task Force is guided by our Church’s Mission and a chosen scripture verse from Micah 6:8 “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Our hearts are open to God’s guidance through the Holy Spirit and we ask that our Congregation reflect on our mission and this scripture when completing the survey recently sent out.

The information gathered will help complete two key sections of the profile. The first describes our Purpose, Giftedness and Mission, which are the topics potential pastors often focus on the most. It is here where we describe our reason for being in the light of God’s call to mission and service, what our gifts and resources are and our top three mission priorities. The Mutual Expectations Section describes how we envision the Pastor’s first year of ministry, what areas we need our new pastor to focus on first and how we will support him/her.

Recently, Task Force members Brian Rude and Sarah Ofte met with our Confirmation Class to gather their input on the survey. It was an insightful educational experience for the youth in our church to have a voice and be part of the process of calling a new pastor. We look forward to incorporating this information into our Ministry Site Profile.

Our deadline for having survey responses received is by Christmas so if there are members who have yet to complete it, we ask that you do so very soon. Our deadline is to have the Profile completed and ready for our annual meeting on January 28, 2024.



PLEASE NOTE! BEGINNING JANUARY 7 2024, WE WILL MOVE TO ONE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY AT 9:00 AM. SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONFIRMATION AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP WILL BE AT 10:00AM. THANK YOU!

![MCj03226430000[1]]()NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**\*Treasurer’s Report:** The report was reviewed by Council. Report accepted.

**Finance Committee:** Budget meetings have started. Potential 2023 shortfalls will be discussed.

**\*Ministry Minutes:** Pastor Jim shared his report. Transition Task Force will complete Ministry Site Profile.

**\*Men’s Club:** Fish Fry will be held March 13th. Car wash cards are selling. Meeting will be in January.

**\*Property & Grounds:** Paul will clear the leaves.

**\*Stewardship:** A discussion on current financial status. Motion approved to send out a stewardship appeal drafted by Mike Lusk.

**\*Endowment:** Financial markets are down impacting our endowment fund.

**\*The next meeting** will be December 14th at 6:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Buros

CVLC BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive will be on **Monday, January 15th from 1-6pm**. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Mike Lusk. If you would like to donate you can make an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org or by calling Mike 452-3472. Blood supplies are critically low at this time. Please consider donating.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

**Sunday, January 7,** 9:00 am Worship, 10 am Class

**Sunday, January 14,** 9:00 am Worship, 10 am class

**Sunday, January 21,** 9:00 am Worship, 10 am class

\*Note: Work on seeking names for your luminaries.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Deadline for Committee’s to submit their Annual Reports to Jamie is **Friday, January 5th.** Please send to jamiel@mwt.net in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Reports will be available at the church at least one week before the Annual Meeting for pick up during worship services or while visiting the office. If you would like a digital version sent to your email or a copy mailed to you, please contact Jamie.



WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

**Weekday cancellations:** The cancellation of Committee meetings, Council and other events will be determined by Committee chairpersons, Council President or others in leadership of those events. Whenever possible, cancellation notices will be given 4 hours prior to the scheduled event.

**The church office will be open as possible.**

**Sunday Morning Cancellations:** Sunday morning worship service, Sunday School, coffee fellowship and all other Sunday morning events will be cancelled at the determination of the Council President and Pastor in consultation with council members and/or worship leaders. The decision will be made by 6:30 a.m. that morning and communicated to the congregation as soon as possible. The organist and those scheduled to serve coffee will be notified directly.

For weather-related cancellations, please consult any of the following after 6:30 a.m. on Sundays:

1. WVRQ 102.3 FM and 1360 AM Radio
2. The Church Facebook Page
3. The Church website
4. By Recording on the Parish Office Phone

ANNUAL MEEETING ON JANUARY 28TH

All CVLC voting members (those older than Confirmation youth) are invited to attend our Annual Meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting via Zoom, please contact Jamie. Annual Reports will be available in the front of the church or in the office at least one week before the meeting. There will be **one Service** on **January 28 at 10:00AM**. **A** **potluck meal will be served after the Service, if you will be attending the Annual Meeting, please bring a dish to pass**. The church will provide coffee, water and milk. The meeting will begin when everyone has gone through the food line. Coffee will be served during the meeting. This is a good way to discuss the business, maintenance and the ministry of our church. Please come! Don’t forget to bring your Annual Report.



 “SOUPER BOWL” OF CARING ON FEBRUARY 11.

CVLC will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. On SUPER BOWL SUNDAY a soup kettle will be placed in the narthex to receive donations. 100% of the money given will go directly to the **ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL**. We invite you to put a donation in the kettle on this Sunday. Cash and checks will be accepted (make checks payable to CVLC and write “world hunger” in the memo line) we will send all money to the Synod and they will forward it to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL. During these football festivities please remember **to give!**



LENTEN DINNER

We are seeking people to provide and serve Lenten meals! If you or your ministry team, Circle, or Committee would like to provide and serve a Wednesday meal, please contact Jamie! Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY LUMINARY ORDERS

Once again, our Confirmation Youth will be making Luminaries in memory of our loved ones, to shine on Ash Wednesday, February 14. You can order by using this form, signing up on the order forms at church, by contacting Jamie, or by ordering from our Confirmation Youth. All orders should be made and paid for by February 4. \*Make checks out to “CVLC.” Luminaries are $5 per person. If you want two people named on one Luminary, the cost will be $10. List both names on the same line if you would like both names on one luminary.

--------------------------------------------------------

LUMINARY ORDER

FOR FROM $5

Return by Sunday, February 4 ☺

**WELCA NEWS**

Brunch is served – and it was delicious.

Seventeen members enjoyed Farmer’s Strata,

muffins, and fresh fruit prepared by the

General Board at our Dec. 14 meeting.

Following the brunch the Christmas Story was

read and Christmas carols were sung, led by

Pam Olson and Jamie Thomas. It was a very

pleasant morning and put us all in the

Christmas spirit.

Thank you to all the faithful members

who showed up every third Thursday of the

month to support our mission. It would be

wonderful to double the number of attendees

for next year. As I’ve mentioned countless

times, we would welcome you with open arms.

Our Cookie Walk was a great success

and a HUGE thank you goes out to all who

brought cookies and Norwegian pastries.

Several new Cookie Walk bakers donated and

we were so happy to have them join our sale.

We realized a profit of close to $700 – up from

last year.

Thank you to Larry and Rachel

Strangstalien for donating the Christmas tree in

the dining room and to all who helped decorate

it.

Thank you, also, to the quilters who

displayed their quilts in church and to Becky

Lind for telling us about their important

ministry. It is good for everyone to know what

the women of the church do for our

congregation, the community and global. So,

thank you again quilters!

Jamie will be printing the year book

after Christmas and they will be available in

the dining room and the back of the church for

you to pick up. Thank you, Jamie, for always

going above and beyond!

Just a reminder that our January

meeting will be installation of officers.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Mon., Jan. 1, 2024 – Happy New Year!

Thurs., Jan. 18, 10 am, WELCA – Installation

Of Officers. Server: Margaret Lee; Paying

Hostesses: Barbara Williams, Cathy Ofte,

Corrine Weimar, Erin Glennie, Brook

Strangstalien.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Thurs., Feb. 15, WELCA – Birthday Month

Servers: General Board; Paying Hostesses:

Renee Ames, Kristi Olson, Denise Bakkum,

Janelle Berg, Kelly Strangstalien.

Wed., Feb. 21, 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper,

Servers to be announced.

Wed., Feb. 28, 5:30 pm – Lenten Supper,

Servers to be announced.

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE SERVERS**

Jan. 7 Kari Coaty, Sharon Holte

Jan. 14 Linda Pederson, Stephanie

Marshall

Jan. 21 Heather Wichman, Ellie Brye

Jan. 28 Annual Meeting – No Coffee

Feb. 4 Denise Bakkum, Rachel Pederson

Feb. 11 Rachel Strangstalien, Suzanne

Strangstalien

Feb. 18 Jan Verse, Margaret Lee

Feb. 25 Sunday School

God Bless, Ellie Brye, President



**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2023** | **November** |  | **2023 YTD** |
| **Total Offerings** | $12,998.96 |   | $158,892.82 |
| **Expenses** | $24,719.37 |   | $190,746.71 |
| **Balance/Shortfall** | **-$11,720.4** |  | **-$31,853.8** |
| **Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer** | $0  |  | $1,750.00 |
| **Building Fund Transfer** | $0 |  | $1,000 |
| **Memorial Fund****Transfer** | $0 |  | $0 |

**11/22 – 7p:** 36; **Offering:** $250.00

**11/26 – 9a:** 48; **Offering:** $1,606.89

**12/3 – 8a:** 50; **10a:** 52 = 102

**Offering:** $5,993.02

**12/10 – 8a:** 49; **10a:** 75 = 124

**Offering:** $4,913.89

**12/17 – 10a:** 137; **Offering:** $5,558.07

**Additional General Fund Donations: $16,610.00 Thank you!**

**\*\***Approximately **$4,280.00 a week** is needed to meet operating expenses.

**General Fund Balance:** 11/30/23: $3,034.17

**Memorial Fund Balance:**11/30/23: $52,924.67

**Building Fund Balance:** 11/30/23: $38,351.00

**CD Interest Balance:** 11/30/23: $18,371.57

**Shepherd Fund Balance:** 11/30/23: $892.19

Sunday School Attendance

**12/3**-19, **12/10**-19, **12/17**-25

MEMORIALS

**Frances Hutson**

Memorial Fund $20.00

**Judy Denison**

Memorial Fund: $75.00

 General Fund: $25.00

**Harold & Lorraine Johnson**

Memorial Fund: $1,353.88

ONLINE GIVING

 There are several ways you may get your offerings to the church. You may mail it to the church office, P.O. Box 280. Or use one of our eGiving options. 1) You may go to our website and click the Donate button at the top. 2) Give through the mobile app Vanco Mobile. Please let Jamie know if you need assistance in any way. Thank you for your support!

**YEAR-TO-DATE BALANCE**

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group continues to pray for the church, the congregation and our extended family and friends.

**† *Our church staff***

**† *Our members*:** Corrine Appleman, Beverly Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Brian Berg, Richard Brose, Herby Cornell, Jeanne Ebli, Kira Foster, Phyllis Galstad, Jeri Harbaugh, Bonnie Holey, Becky Ihle, Donna Ihle, Verlin Ihle, Todd King, Jim Knutson, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Larry Lichtie, Aaron Marx, Bud Miyamoto, Marianne Mhyre, LuEtta Nelson, Monte Nelson, Romaine Nelson, Sandy Nelson, Cathy Ofte, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Mary Schultz, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten.

**† *Our members who are currently in health care facilities & Assisted Living*:** Tip Bagstad, Inez Beck, Rachel Berg, Evelyn Dahlen, Joanne Fletcher, Erma Graupe, Lenore Henley, Carl Holte, Bob Moilien, Irene Nestingen, Annie Olson, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Betty Sanders.

**† *Those who grieve:*** Family and friends of Judy Denison; Mark Hutson in the death of his mother Frances Hutson

**† *Family and friends of members***

**† *Local Military***

**† *All those affected by the COVID-19 virus***

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 7**

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

 **SUNDAY** Genesis 1:1-5 *God creates light*

Psalm 29 *The voice of the LORD upon the waters*

Acts 19:1-7 *Baptized in the name of Jesus*

Mark 1:4-11 *Jesus revealed as God’s servant*

 **MONDAY** Genesis 17:1-14, 23-27 *Circumcision a covenant sign*

 **TUESDAY** Exodus 30:22-38 *Anointing a sign of holiness*

 **WEDNESDAY** John 1:29-34 *John’s account of Jesus’ baptism*

 **THURSDAY** Isaiah 41:14-20 *God gives water in the desert*

 **FRIDAY** Acts 22:2-16 *Paul Describes his own baptism*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36 *God will save through water*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 14**

 **SUNDAY** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] *The calling of Samuel*

 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *You have searched me out*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 *Glorify God in your body*

John 1:43-51 *The calling of the first disciples*

 **MONDAY** 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8 *Samuel anoints Saul king*

 **TUESDAY** 1 Samuel 15:10-31 *Samuel rebukes King Saul*

 **WEDNESDAY** Luke 18:15-17 *Jesus blesses little children*

 **THURSDAY** Genesis 16:1-4 *Hagar sees God and is blessed*

 **FRIDAY** 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1 *Believers are called out*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 86 *Walking in God’s way*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 21**

 **SUNDAY** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 *Repentance at Nineveh*

 Psalm 62:5-12 *In God is my safety and my honor*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 *Living in the end times*

Mark 1:14-20 *The calling of the disciples at the sea*

**MONDAY**Genesis 12:1-9 *God calls Abram to go to Canaan*

 **TUESDAY** Genesis 45:25—46:7 *God calls Jacob to go to Egypt*

 **WEDNESDAY** Mark 3:13-19 *Jesus appoints the Twelve*

 **THURSDAY** Proverbs 8:1-21 *Wisdom calls the people*

 **FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 *Live the life assigned*

**SATURDAY**Psalm 46 *The God of Jacob is our stronghold*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 28**

 **SUNDAY** Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *The prophet speaks with God’s authority*

Psalm 111 *The beginning of wisdom*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 *Limits to liberty*

Mark 1:21-28 *The healing of one with an unclean spirit*

 **MONDAY** Numbers 22:1-21 *King Balak asks Balaam to cure Israel*

 **TUESDAY** Numbers 22:22-38 *An angel speaks God’s word to Balaam*

**WEDNESDAY** Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus heals a man with a demon*

**THURSDAY** Jeremiah 29:1-14 *Jeremiah speaks God’s word*

**FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 *Paul on marriage*

**SATURDAY** Psalm 35:1-10 *God is our salvation*

Please use our correct mailing address when sending us mail.

P.O. Box 280

Thank you!

Visit our website: coonvalleylutheranchurch.org to sign-up to receive our newsletter via email!

 **THE CARILLON**

 VOL. 53 January 2024 No. 1

 Coon Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA 1005 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 280

 Coon Valley, WI 54623

 Office Phone (608)452-3772

 www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org

 Interim Pastor: Jim Scaife, 608-452-3772

Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, jamiel@mwt.net, Office: 608-452-3772

Cell Phone: 608-317-0007

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Treasurer: Becky Lusk, treasurer1005@mwt.net

Organist: Mary Schultz

Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner

Church Council President: Glen Hoff

Vice President: Steve Pauloski; Secretary: Amanda Buros

Paul Bahr, Janice Bender, Debbie Holen, Mark Hutson, Mike Lusk, Ron Moilien

 **Worship Schedule**

**9:00 a.m. (see the calendar for change in service times)**

**Sunday School**

**10:00 a.m.**

|  |
| --- |
| January 2024  |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **1** | **2****10:00a-**Ruth Circle | **3**  | **4****9:00a-**Naomi Circle**6:00p-**Rebecca Circle | **5****Annual Report Deadline** | **6** |
| **7****9:00a-**Worship with Holy Communion**10:00a-**Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship; Confirmation**10:00a-**Finance Committee | **8** | **9****5:00p-**Worship Committee | **10****9:00a-**Quilting | **11** **6:00pm-**Church Council | **12** | **13** |
| **14** **9:00a-**Worship with Holy Communion**10:00a-**Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship; Confirmation**Carillon Deadline**  | **15** **1:00-6:00p­-**CVLC Blood Drive | **16****4:00p-**Special Council Meeting | **17**  | **18****10:00a-**WELCA | **19** | **20** |
| **21** **9:00a-**Worship with Holy Communion**10:00a-**Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship; Confirmation | **22** | **23** | **24**  | **25** | **26** | **27**  |
| **28****10:00a-**Sunday School**10:00a-Worship****11:00a-Annual Meeting & Potluck** | **29** | **30** |  **31**  **9:00a-**Quilting |  | **Office Hours:** **Tues., Wed.,****Thurs. 9:00a-4:00p** |     |