

The Carillon

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May, 2026



Beloved in Christ,

By the time you read this, there is a good chance that Confirmation has already happened. Our young adults

have taken a big step in their faith life and have affirmed the promises made in Baptism. When a child is baptized we, the church, make promises on their behalf. Among them is that we will teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments.

We just finished up the Commandments with the students. It was really interesting to line up these ten concepts that God handed down 3,500 years ago with our hyper modern lives. While some of the language doesn't exactly line up, I generally don't covet my neighbors donkey, I do find myself coveting. I'd like to think we live in a world without slaves, but I know this computer I am typing on was built in some horrific conditions by people who do not have a sabbath.

What surprised me, talking with our students is how much the Commandments are needed today. I am not talking about this strange insistence that we place them in public places and coerce people into reading them (which upon inspection is a breaking of them). But on truly revisiting them and thinking about how they work in our modern world. So, I am thinking that I'd like to use the next round of newsletter spots to do just that.

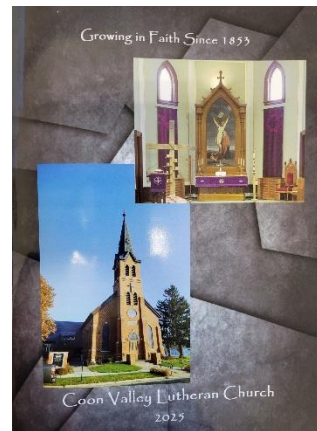
But before we go there, I would encourage you to spend some time with it. One really great thing Augsburg Fortress did when they published the ELW (the cranberry hymnal) was to include Luther's Small Catechism in the back. Next time you are sitting in church and

maybe a little bored (before service, during the sermon) flip to the back and find it. Refamiliarize yourself with them. And pay close attention to Luther's explanation. He begins each part with the question *Was its das?*. Then reading how Luther frames it, ask yourself the same question, and ask how does this apply to my life now.

The Commandments are really charges that God gives the people. They are ways of organizing life with the goal of thriving in right relationship. In a world unmoored in so many ways, you might just find that 3,500 year old writings have a lot to show us today.

Peace and all good,

Pastor Ben



PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

Directories have arrived! You can pick up your copy on Sunday mornings after 9am worship. You may also pick them up on Thursday's in the office from 9am-2:15pm. Please note the office

will be closed on Thurs. April 30th. Those that had their picture taken with Universal get a free copy. If you did not have your picture taken, or submitted your own picture you will need to pay \$10 per copy.



CLINTON BAGSTAD'S 90th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Join us on Saturday May 30th from 2:00-4:00p in the church dining room to celebrate the 90th birthday of Clinton. Cake and coffee will be available!

MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ***Treasurer's Report:** The report was reviewed by Council. Report accepted.
- ***Finance Committee:** Motion passed to open a savings account for A Table Together
- ***Education:** Sunday School will sing on Palm Sunday.
- ***Youth Ministry:** Camp Amnicon on the Namekagon River 5 day trip.
- ***WELCA:** CVLC will be hosting the WELCA Spring Convention on April 18th.
- ***Men's Club:** Tickets sold out for the Fish Fry on March 25th.
- ***Personnel:** No report.
- ***Property & Grounds:** Tuckpointing will take about 2 weeks to complete.
- ***Social Ministry:** There was a meeting to write birthday and Easter cards.
- ***Stewardship:** No Report
- ***Worship:** Schedule reviewed.
- ***Membership, Life & Growth:** No Report
- ***Other Discussion Items:**
 - *Motion passed to approve Becky Lusk and Jamie Thomas as signers on A Table Together savings account.
 - *Motion passed to open up the church for a summer, Mennonite wedding, possibly in June.
 - *Looking for 3 Synod Assembly Voting Members for our congregation. Assembly is on June 6 at Stoney Creek with Synod Wide worship at Riverside Park on June 7.
 - ***Mission & Vision:** Pastor Ben lead a discussion about the Council working on what today and tomorrow will look like for our Congregation.
 - *The meeting adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Cade, Patty Nelson and Laura Hofslie



Thank you!

Thanks to **Steve Pauloski** for setting up and taking down our cross in the sanctuary during Lent!



JUNE & JULY CARILLON

Please note that we will have one combined newsletter for the months of June & July 2026. The deadline for article submission will be May 15th. We hope you have a great summer from everyone at Coon Valley Lutheran Church!



OFFICE HOURS

Please note the change in office hours for the month of May! Jamie will be in the office on Thursdays from 9:00am-2:30pm. Jamie will continue to work from home and can be reached by phone 608-317-0007; 608-452-3772 or email office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org. Thanks for your patience with our limited office hours during this time.



CVLC BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive will be on **Monday, June 15 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 at 452-3472.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ-

Colossians 3:23-24



LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents, please note that the last day of Sunday School is **Sunday, May 10th**. The children will sing during the 9:00am

service. Please have your children at church by 8:45am and attend on this important and fun day! We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all of our Sunday School staff, Amy Stakston-Wiedemann, Renita Williamson, and coordinator-Maggie Traastad. Thank you also to all the parents for bringing your children to Sunday School!



MEN'S CLUB COOKOUT
Sunday, June 28th the Men's Club will host a cookout. We will have outdoor worship at 10:00am at the Coon Valley Park with the cookout at the park to

follow. Stay tuned for more details!



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE BLESSING

Please join us for Worship on **Sunday, May 17 at 9:00 a.m.** as we bless our High School Seniors. When babies

are baptized, we wrap them in baby quilts made by ladies in our church, as a sign of our care for them. Likewise, we wrap our young graduates to let them know that they stay in our prayers and our hearts as they go out into a larger world. We will celebrate them with cake and coffee fellowship! Thank you to Jean Gronvold and Pam Olson who have crafted each of the blankets our High School Seniors will receive this year. Parents, please have your graduate attend this service so that we can honor them! Congratulations to:

Ava Berg
Brisha Briseno
Grady Evenstad
Lydia Leisso
Chase Quellhorst



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of the many funds you may wish to give to.

GENERAL FUND- Church operating expenses.

BUILDING FUND -Building and grounds projects, currently includes the Parking Lot Fund.

MEMORIAL FUND-Used for the life and ministry of the church as determined by Council.

SHEPHERD FUND-Funds for church & community members in need.

CEMETERY-Maintenance of the grounds.

WELCA-Woman of the ELCA includes Quilting and Kitchen funds.

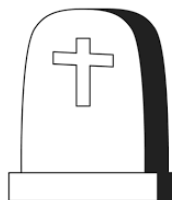
SUNDAY SCHOOL-Teaching materials

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY-Supplies for the making of prayer shawls and prayer squares.

YOUTH FUND-Funds to pay for Mission Trips

ENDOWMENT-Only interest income may be used for community outreach, missions of ELCA, Capital Improvements.

RUDIE BIBLE FUND-Supply Bibles to youth.



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The committee requests that all winter decorations to be removed as soon as possible. This helps to keep our cemetery looking well kept. Thank you!



MARY SCHULTZ FUNERAL

On May 2 we will honor the life of Organist Mary Schultz. Visitation will be from 10am-Noon with the funeral service beginning at Noon. Join us in remembering Mary at a lunch in the church

dining room. Blessed be the memory of Mary Schultz.



2026 PASCHAL CANDLE
 During this Easter season we unveiled our new paschal candle. This candle is a gift to our church in memory of Verlin Ihle from his family. This candle depicts the Ascension of Christ from Mount Olivet to His home in Heaven. The disciples gaze from below. The angels celebrate from above. The candle will be lit during

funerals and baptisms and was lit on Easter Sunday. We thank the Ihle family for providing us with this beautiful candle.

**SIGN UP TO
 SERVE SUMMER
 COFFEE
 FELLOWSHIP**

Throughout the Summer months we invite you to sign-up to serve coffee fellowship! If you would like to serve outside (what we call sidewalk fellowship) or inside, it is completely up to you! If you would like to sign-up to host coffee fellowship this Summer, please let the Office know so that we may be sure to add it to the calendar. If you have questions about serving, please contact the office 452-3772 or office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org



Thank you to Deb Holen for her continued work keeping our church landscaping looking beautiful. She has faithfully pruned shrubs, weeded and refreshed the mulch in our church lawn!

Thank her when you see her.



JOIN US FOR EXPLORER DAY at SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP!

Monday, June 15 we will be joining our friends from Middle Coon Valley

Lutheran Church for Explorer Day at Sugar Creek Bible Camp near Ferryville. Explorer day is for ages 1st-5th grade, younger children are welcome with an adult chaperone and includes fun games, nature time, swimming or creek stomp, crafts, pony ride and Bible story time. Our Sunday School will cover half of the cost of each student from CVLC for the day. Cost to families for each child will be \$17.50. Confidential scholarships are available, please talk to Pastor Ben.

We will leave from Middle Coon Valley church parking lot at 8am and return at 4pm. To sign up please visit:

<https://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/enroll-now> to fill out the online registration information.

You also need to fill out a CVLC registration/health form available on our website www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org under the Youth tab or copies are available in the Narthex (entrance) or in the office. Talk to the office if you are willing to chaperone and/or drive to camp. Deadline to sign up is June 7th.



SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 2-5 2026

You may register by accessing forms on our website coonvalleylutheranchurch.org under the Youth tab. Stay tuned for more information about VBS this summer!



A TABLE TOGETHER

Our next meal is on May 20th from 5:00-7:00pm. The menu will include a Cheesy hame & rice casserole, veggies, dinner roll, desserts and drinks. Volunteers and cooks are always needed to help with the meals! Look for sign-up sheet in church or email meals@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org for more information. Please join us!

WELCA NEWS

Our Thursday, April 16 meeting opened with coffee served by Ellie. Pastor Ben then presented a program on his stoles. He told us how the tradition of wearing stoles began and he brought the stoles he wears – from his orientation to the one Mary Schultz made for him to wear at her funeral (plus two other stoles she made). If you haven't really looked at the stoles he wears, please pay attention as they are works of art, are worn at different seasons of the year and have very meaningful symbols on them. Many thanks to Pastor Ben for sharing this extremely fascinating, personal and at times emotional program with us. This program is a prime example of why you should join us for a morning of fellowship and excellent programs to enlighten, entertain and learn from.

At our business meeting, it was decided to have Lynn Curtis come and clean the silver in our china cabinet. She has a silver cleaning business and is very efficient and thorough. If you ever look in the cabinet, you will agree that our silver needs cleaning. The last time it was cleaned, Gene and Elaine Proksch did it several years ago.

Next month, at our May meeting, Ruth and Dave Amundson will present a program on the history of the church. The Naomi Circle is in charge of the program and coffee – so be sure to join us for another great program and a bowl of rommegrot and other goodies.

Saturday, April 18, our WELCA unit hosted the La Crosse Area Synod WELCA Convention and we received rave reviews on our morning coffee, lunch and hospitality. This was all due to the great team that prepped and prepared the food and provided warmth and smiles for all the guests. They even commented on the super job of peeling the mandarin oranges for morning coffee. (Thank you, Patty Nelson!)

And many, many thanks also to Jean Gronvold, Ainsley Lichtie, Rachel Strangstalien, Deb Holen and Karen Rude. You are appreciated!

Bethel Buttik was very happy to hear that we collected bathroom tissue as our in kind gift at the convention and that we designated them as the recipient. Joy Moser thanked us profusely for a much needed item in their pantry. Thank you to everyone who generously donated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun., May 10 - Mother's Day

Sun., May 17 - Syttende Mai

Thurs., May 21, 10am, WELCA – Naomi Circle presents program and coffee

Mon., May 25 – Memorial Day

LOOKING AHEAD

Thurs., June 18, 10am, WELCA – General Board presents program. **POTLUCK**

Sun., June 21 – Father's Day

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Sun., May 3 Janelle Berg, Jana Urbanek

Sun., May 10 Men's Club

Sun., May 17 Worship Committee – Senior Sunday

Sun., May 24 Deb Holen, Nancy King

Sun., May 31 No Coffee

Coffee resumes on Sun., Sept. 13, 2026

God Bless, Ellie Brye, President

*All that I am
or ever hope to be
I owe to my
Angel Mother*

Abraham Lincoln

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

3/25 – 7p: 68; **Offering:** \$455.00
3/29 – 9a: 122; **Offering:** \$4,303.73
4/2 – 7p: 55; **Offering:** \$548.00
4/3 – 7p: 52; **Offering:** \$463.00
4/5 – 9a: 200; **Offering:** \$6,697.27
4/12 – 9a: 79; **Offering:** \$3,058.66
4/19 – 9a: 87; **Offering:** \$7,177.38

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

3/29-8; 4/12-5; 4/19-4

Approximately **\$4,665.00 a week is needed to meet operating expenses.

General Fund Balance:3/31/26: \$41,158.57
Memorial Fund Balance:3/31/26: \$66,262.54
Building Fund Balance:3/31/26: \$84,112.96
CD Interest Balance: 3/31/26: \$28,821.89
Shepherd Fund Balance: 3/31/25: \$2,554.33

MEMORIALS

Mary Schultz

Memorial: \$250.00



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!



CHURCH CALENDAR

Please inform Jamie of any church related meetings or gathering so that it may be included on our calendar. It is helpful to know when a group is using the church so that we may coordinate building use requests. Please contact Jamie to have your meeting added to the calendar. 452-3772, 317-0007, office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org
Thank you!

YEAR-TO-DATE BALANCE

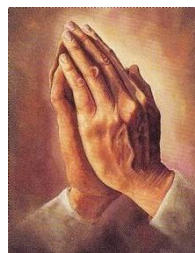
2026	March	2026 YTD
Total Offerings	\$19,564.68	\$48,582.33
Expenses	\$21,913.40	\$45,586.01
Balance/Shortfall	-\$2,348.72	-\$20,018.12
Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer	\$0	\$0
Building Fund Transfer	\$0	\$0
Memorial Fund Transfer	\$0	\$201.04

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, Herby Cornell, Marie Egge, Rita Erlandson, Gloria Galstad, Kira Hoff, Becky Ihle, Donna Ihle, Ray Ihle, Todd King, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Aaron Marx, LuEtta Nelson, Romaine Nelson, Sandra Onshus, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Heidi Saupe, Orrin Stakston, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Krin (Dreves) Stendalen, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten, Renita Williamson.

† ***Our members who are currently in health care facilities & Assisted Living:*** Tip

Bagstad, Rachel Berg, Carl Daffinrud, Jeanne Ebli, Carl Holte, Bob Moilien, Irene Nestingen, Geri Nestingen, Cathy Ofte, Annie Olson, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Elaine Proksch, Ellen Runice, Bob & Evelyn Schulze

† ***Those who grieve:*** Family and friends of Mary Schultz

† ***Family and friends of members***

† ***Local Military:*** Alex Hendrickson

† ***Those who are recovering from recent storms***

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*Denotes reading taken from the narrative lectionary that Pastor Ben may preach on for Sunday.

WEEK OF MAY 3

SUNDAY	Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14 *Acts 16:16-34	<i>The martyrdom of Stephen I commend my spirit God's chosen people Christ, the way, truth, and life Paul and Silas</i>
MONDAY	Exodus 13:17-22	<i>God leads the way</i>
TUESDAY	Proverbs 3:5-18	<i>God, the truth and life</i>
WEDNESDAY	John 8:31-38	<i>Jesus, the truth of God</i>
THURSDAY	Acts 6:8-15	<i>Stephen is arrested</i>
FRIDAY	Acts 7:44-60	<i>Stephen's martyrdom</i>
SATURDAY	Psalm 102:1-17	<i>Prayer for deliverance</i>

WEEK OF MAY 10

SUNDAY	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21 *Acts 17:16-31	<i>Paul's message to the Athenians Be joyful in God, all you lands The days of Noah, a sign of baptism Christ our advocate Paul's Sermon at Athens</i>
MONDAY	Deuteronomy 5:22-33	<i>Moses delivers God's commandments</i>
TUESDAY	Deuteronomy 31:1-13	<i>Moses promises God's presence</i>
WEDNESDAY	Acts 17:32—18:11	<i>God promises to be with Paul</i>
THURSDAY	Acts 1:1-11	<i>Jesus send the apostles</i>
FRIDAY	John 8:21-30	<i>Jesus speaks of going to the Father</i>
SATURDAY	Psalm 93	<i>Praise to God who reigns</i>

WEEK OF MAY 17

SUNDAY	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11 *Philippians 1:1-18a	<i>Jesus' companions at prayer Sing to God God sustains those who suffer Christ's prayer for his disciples Partnership in the Gospel</i>
MONDAY	Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24	<i>High priest Aaron offers sacrifice</i>
TUESDAY	1 Kings 8:54-65	<i>King Solomon offers sacrifice</i>
WEDNESDAY	John 3:31-36	<i>the Son and the Father</i>
THURSDAY	Numbers 16:41-50	<i>The high priest Aaron makes atonement</i>
FRIDAY	1 Peter 3:21—4:11	<i>The baptized life</i>
SATURDAY	Psalm 99	<i>The priests and people praise God</i>

WEEK OF MAY 24**SUNDAY**

Acts 2:1-21

*Filled with the Spirit**Or* Numbers 11:24-30*The spirit and the elders of Israel*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Renewing the face of the earth

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

*Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit**Or* Acts 2:1-21*Filled with the Spirit*

John 20:19-23

*The Spirit poured out**Or* John 7:37-39*Jesus, the true living water*

*Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7 Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord

MONDAY

Joel 2:18-29

*God promises the spirit***TUESDAY**

Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29

*God promises the spirit***WEDNESDAY**

John 7:37-39

*The coming of the Holy Spirit***THURSDAY**

Numbers 11:24-30

*All the elders receive the spirit***FRIDAY**

Romans 8:14-27

*The life of the Holy Spirit***SATURDAY**

Psalm 104:1-9, 24-35

*God's spirit throughout the earth***WEEK OF MAY 31****SUNDAY**

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

The creation of the heavens and the earth

Psalm 8

How exalted is your name

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul's farewell

Matthew 28:16-20

*Living in the community of the Trinity***MONDAY**

Job 38:1-21

*The creation story from Job***TUESDAY**

Job 38:34—39:4, 26—40:5

*More of Job's creation story***WEDNESDAY**

John 14:15-31

*The Father, the Son, the Spirit***THURSDAY**

1 Kings 8:10-13, 22-30

*Solomon's prayer to God***FRIDAY**

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

*The spirit in the community***SATURDAY**

Psalm 29

Praise the glory of God

Coon Valley Lutheran Church
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Coon Valley, WI 54623

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Return Service Requested



Moving? New contact information? Please update the church office. Thank you!

Visit our website:

coonvalleylutheranchurch.org

To sign up to receive our newsletter via email!

Please use our correct mailing address when sending us mail.

P.O. Box 280

Thank you!

THE CARILLON

VOL. 55 May 2026 No.5
Coon Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA
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- Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org,
Office: 608-452-3772; Cell Phone: 608-317-0007
Office Hours: Thursday 9:00am-2:30pm
- Treasurer: Becky Lusk, treasurer@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org
- Organist:
- Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner
- Church Council President: Ray Williamson
Vice President: Amy Stakston-Wiedemann; Secretary: Laura Hofslie
Kimberly Cade, Kevin King, Julie Nelson, Patricia Nelson, Brian Pederson,
Cody Strangstalien

Sunday Worship at 9:00am
Sunday School 10:15-11:30

See calendar for changes in worship & Sunday School times.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office Hours Thursday 9:00a-2:15a		1 Pr. Ben's sabbath	2 10:00-Noon- Mary Schultz Visitation & Funeral
3 9:00a -Worship with Holy Communion; 8 th Grade Confirmation 10:15a -Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship	4 9:00a -Naomi Circle	5 10:00a -Ruth Circle	6	7 10:00a -Bible Study 6:00p -Rebecca Circle	8 Pr. Ben's sabbath	9
10 9:00a -Worship with Holy Communion; Sunday School Sings 10:15a -Sunday School Last Day & Coffee Fellowship	11	12	13 9:00a -Quilting	14 10:00a -Bible Study Carillon Deadline	15 Pr. Ben's sabbath	16
17 9:00a -Worship with H.S. Senior Recognition; Baptsim- 10:15a - Coffee Fellowship- Worship Comm.	18	19	20 5:00-7:00p -A Table Together Community Meal	21 No Bible Study 10:00a -WELCA 6:00p -Church Council	22 Pr. Ben's sabbath	23 Westby Graduation 
24 9:00a -Worship 10:15a -Coffee Fellowship 10:30a -Pr. Ben worship at Middle Coon Valley	25 Memorial Day	26	27 9:00a -Quilting	28 10:00a -Bible Study	29 Pr. Ben's sabbath	30 2:00-4:00p - Clinton Bagstad 90 th Birthday Celebration @ CVLC
31 9:00a -Worship						

