| The Carillon  |
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Dear Church,

I am writing this on a Sunday evening from my home. I missed gathering with you for worship this morning, though I give thanks for the technology that has enabled many of us to gather “virtually” by way of our worship service offered online, recorded on my phone. My heart and prayers are with each one of you.

Normally our Carillon is filled with events, dates and a host of things we will be DOING together as Church. As the world works together to stop the spread of COVID-19, I think we all have begun to think different about many things. The past few weeks have caused me to think about Church less as DOING and more as BEING. Thank you for BEING the Church by caring for your neighbor as you care for yourself.

Though we are not gathering in person, we continue to BE the Church in **Worship and Prayer**:

**Daily Candlelight Devotions at 7:00 p.m.** I have been sharing a brief devotion and prayer from my home each evening, Monday through Friday. Facebook users may join us “Live” each evening. These devotions will be saved on my personal and the Coon Valley Lutheran Church Facebook page to view anytime. We will be working to add these recordings to our website as well: [www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org). If you have not done so, please “like” the Coon Valley Lutheran Church Facebook page.

**Sunday Morning Worship Services: Each Saturday I will record an abbreviated worship service from our Sanctuary.** Each service will contain many of the elements of our “regular” Sunday services except for music and Holy Communion (please read further for a word about Holy Communion in this time).  The worship services will be posted on both the Coon Valley Lutheran Church Facebook page and my personal Facebook page. I will be adding these services to our website as well. I will be talking with Coon Valley Telephone to see if it is possible to air these services on the local television channel. For many more worship and devotional offerings in our synod, please visit our Synod website: [www.lacrosseareasynod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynod.org) and click on “worship in the Synod.” Thank you to Pastor Libby Howe, Assistant to Bishop Arends, for compiling this list!

**Ministry in your Mailbox:** This wonderful idea came from My friend and colleague Pastor Amanda Schultz Garcia of the 3-point parish in Cashton! To receive Ministry in your Mailbox, please call the Church Office at 452-3772 and let us know you would like to participate. Those who would like to will receive my weekly sermon, a Christ in our Home devotional booklet and anything else Jamie and I might send!

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**We continue to BE the Church in our outreach to one another:**

**Cards:**  Our amazing Sunday School teachers and students made 50 cards to be mailed to our members who reside in care facilities or who, due to mobility or health, have been unable to worship with us. Jamie and I will be sending these soon.

**Calls:** As I get into more of a routine, my plan is to begin making phone calls to those who have been on our prayer concerns list and others. Please know that I am available to you for conversation and prayer over the phone. You can reach me by calling me at home: 634-3797.

***These efforts that will join the efforts of yours as so many, like our social ministry and prayer shawl teams, are already sending cards, making phone calls and reaching out to your neighbor in the love of Jesus Christ.***

**We continue to BE the Church in our care for our Community:**

**Lunches for Students:** We are teaming up with the Westby Area School District to provide lunches and a few breakfast items for the following day for students during weekends and Spring Break of the school closure. Lunches will be prepared in our Church’s kitchen and will be distributed by curb-side pickup from 11:30-12:30 at the Coon Valley Village Hall. We are currently scheduled to prepare and distribute lunches March 28 and 29 and through Spring Break, April 6-10. Because of current physical distancing guidelines, we are asking families or those living together to volunteer to serve at the same time. Volunteers are needed to serve the week of Spring Break. Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Julie.



**Our Shepherd Fund** (a fund for people with emergency needs) will be paying for the meals. If you are unable to volunteer at this time, but can assist with a monetary gift, gifts to the Shepherd Fund will be appreciated. Please send checks payable to Coon Valley Lutheran Church with “Shepherd Fund” written in the memo line.

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**We continue to BE the Church and the work of the Church, the Staff, the care of the building and the work of the larger Church continues. Your offerings do make a difference:**

Though we are doing all that we can to keep our costs low, our staff continues to work, the building requires continued care and upkeep, and our benevolence supports the work of our ministry partners at home and around the globe.

Offerings can be mailed to the Church office, given through your bank, given by text or via our website by clicking on the “Donate” button. For more information on how to set up electronic or text giving, please contact Jamie. 608-317-0007

Your offerings are needed all year through. In this time of uncertainty and for many a loss of income, I humbly call upon those who can give a bit more in this time to please do so. Thank you.

**Finally, a word about the Sacrament of Holy Communion:**

Currently there is not a “Church policy” about the practice of Holy Communion in the time of Quarantine. This is an ongoing conversation. What I share with you today is a word from Timothy Wengert. Timothy Wengert is the Professor Emeritus of Reformation History at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He reminds us that the Word of God is the full presence of Christ. Wengert writes, “I want us to remember that [Martin] Luther argued that when the Gospel-book is and preached, we should know that Christ is here, coming to us or we being brought to him, present in the reading and preaching, doing to us now what the [Scripture] text says he did then: forgiving us, healing us, raising us from the dead.”

There is no amount of frequency to Holy Communion that will give us “more” salvation or “greater” eternal life. God in Christ Jesus has defeated sin, death and the devil so that nothing will be able to separate us from the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Though I grieve as I know you do, too, that we are not able to gather for Holy Communion, know that you have received the full presence of Jesus Christ our Lord and nothing will separate you from the love of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

With our order to stay safe at home, I will be working from home for the foreseeable future. Please contact me by calling my home: 634-3797, calling or texting my cell phone: 608-386-8302 or by email: pastorjulie@mwt.net .

 Thank you for BEING the Church!

With my heartfelt prayers for you,

Pastor Julie

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**WORKING FROM A DISTANCE**

This is such a difficult time for all of us. Families are trying to figure out how to work while schools and daycares close, businesses are altering the way they do business, or are told to close, elderly in facilities are not able to see their families, we are practicing social distancing, the list is endless… All of us at the church are doing our best to handle the “business” of the church in the best way possible. I am accustomed to working from home occasionally, but with the recent changes around us, I am working from home for the foreseeable future. Please feel free to contact me at home 608-317-0007 between the hours of 9am-5pm or by email anytime jamiel@mwt.net and I will be happy to assist you.

Thank you and many blessing to you all!

Jamie

**GIVING OPTIONS**

Coon Valley Lutheran Church may not be having worship services due to the concern about COVID-19. But during this time, it is business as usual here at church. We have several options for you to get your offerings to the church. You may simply 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 Give Plus. 3) Use our text-to-give option, simply text a dollar amount to 866-374-6997. There are handouts available that we can email with information on how to use these options. Also, if you plan to do more online shopping through **Amazon** during this time please go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), enter Coon Valley Lutheran Church and **Amazon Smile** will donate a small percentage to our church! If you have any questions anout any of these options, please don't hesitate to contact Jamie on her cell phone 608-317-0007. Thank you!



**HOME MISSION TRIP UPDATE**

While everyone is practicing their social distancing perhaps everyone can take time to start planning the home mission trip? The Home Mission Trip is scheduled to take place August 2-4, 2020.

We will need groups of people to work on the following:

- theme for the week (please include scripture to go over everyday)

- music to sing together

- areas to volunteer (will also set up contacts for these places and coordinate groups)

- food (snacks and 3 meals for about 20 students)

If anyone is interested in helping plan the home mission trip then please reach out to Casey Brye at 608-780-1679 or cjbrye@gmail.com or on Facebook!

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

The CVLC Council met on February 13th, 2020. Council president Karen Rude called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Andrea Stakston had an excused absence.

\*Treasurers Report: Becky Lusk presented the treasure’s report. Report accepted.

\*Finance Committee Report: Karen McGarvey reported that the Committee would like the Nominating Committee to get two more members form the congregation on the Committee who are not Council members. The Committee will be doing an audit once every quarter. Phil Moilien will provide a finance update during worship in May and October.

\*Ministry Minutes: Confirmation students will be attending Lenten Services during Lent. Confirmation students would like to have a lock-in at the church in April.

\*Education: Sunday School kids sang in February. Sunday School will be singing the last Sunday of the month. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 2-4.

\*Youth: Casey Brye and Pastor Julie are discussing an at home mission trip which may include St. Mary’s in Coon Valley and the Westby High School.

\* Membership Life and Growth: This committee may combine with the Stewardship Committee.

\*Social Ministry: 78 people served at the Annual Meeting potluck.

\*Property and Grounds: Insurance would be reduced by $150 with ADT. ADT smoke alarms ring to the fire department. Working on outlets after the fire inspection. The elevator door wasn’t working, Brian was able to fix it. Brian called Krause about the lighted cross on the church. It will cost $800-$1,000 to take down and repair.

\*Stewardship Committee: Will be meeting February 26th at 5:30pm.

 \*Discussion Items: 1) Ray Williamson will join Property and Grounds, Carl Holte will join Social Ministry Committee.

2) The Audit Committee needs a new member

3) Altar Guild is researching Altar Candles. There is $4,913 available for candles.

4) Synod Barn Raising Campaign is raising money for World Hunger. Each congregation received a barn to paint. Each congregation has a goal of raising $715. ELCA has paper barns free of charge that can be ordered. Pastor Julie will look into ordering them.

\*Action items: 1) Synod Assembly is June 12-14 Carl Holte and Sarah Ofte will be voting members.

2) A Ring Doorbell chime would be beneficial to office staff. Motion approves to order 1 or 2 chimes at $30 each.

3) A request was made to rent the church kitchen for food prep for a wedding at Norskedalen in July. Ray Williamson will be available to open and lock up for this. An agreement will be drafted for them to use the kitchen. Motion was approved for kitchen use request

4) A motion was approved to allow the Men’s Club open a checking account. Officers are: Mike Lusk, President, Ray Williamson, Vice President, Glen Hoff, Treasurer, and Mike Fencl, Secretary.

5) Pastor Julie’s insurance needs have changed. Motion approved to add Caya and Katie Wollman to Pastor Julie’s health insurance policy effective immediately.

\*Next Council meeting will be March 12th at 6:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

 Sarah Ofte, Council Secretary

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**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

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| **2020** | **February** |  | **2020 YTD** |
| **Total Offerings** | $12,428.23 |   | $25,613.33 |
| **Expenses** | $19,037.21 |   | $32,873.98 |
| **Balance/Shortfall** | **-$6,608.98** |  | -**$7,260.65** |
| **Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer** | $0  |  | $0  |
| **Building Fund Transfer** | $0 |  | $0  |

**3/1 – 8am/**119; **10:30/**45 = 164 total **Offering:** $3,634.35

**3/8 – 8am/**60; **10:30/**78 = 138 total

**Offering:** $3,844.35

**3/15 – 8am/**59; **10:30/**46 = 105 total

**Offering:** $2,662.35

**3/22—Offering:** $1,542.70

**Wednesday Lenten Services**

**2/26**—**7pm/**87 **Offering:** $784.00

**3/4—7pm/**78; **Offering:** $570.00

**3/11—7pm/**70; **Offering:** $680.00

**\*\***Approximately **$3,900.00 a week** is needed to meet operating expenses.

**General Fund Balance:** 2/29/20: $11,887.85

**Memorial Fund Balance:**2/29/20: $33,285.31

**Building Fund Balance:** 2/29/20: $1,897.94

**CD Interest Balance:** 2/29/20: $16,629.99

Average Weekly Attendance March 2020: 136

Average Attendance Year-to-date 2020: 135

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

**3/1**-29; **3/8**-20; **3/15**-11

MEMORIALS

 **Esther Blair**

Memorial Fund: $220.00

 Sunday School: $20.00



I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers while recovering from my recent hospital stay. I am slowly regaining my strength and hope to return to work soon. Thanks again for all your love and support.

Carl Holte

**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*:** Beverly Bagstad, Eleanor Bagstad, Tip Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Kay Bjornstad, Evelyn Dahlen, Judy Denison, Jack Fletcher, Joanne Fletcher, Kira Foster, Alan Haakenson, Bonnie Holey, Carl Holte, Verlin Ihle, Jim Knutson, Elizabeth Larson, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Sarah Leisso, Gerri Leum, Becky Lind, Aaron Marx, Skyler Midtlien, Romaine Nelson, Elmer Ofte, Tim Ofte, Sherman Olson, Steve Pauloski, Edie Peterson, Eunice Quast, Melanie Role, Jojo Satona, Aaron Stakston, Terri Stakston, Nancy Stuempges, Ray Williamson.

**† *Our members who are currently in health care facilities*:** Delaine Erickson, Lenore Henley, Lillian Jothen, Sylvester King Jr., Irene Larson, Irene Nestingen, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Beatrice Olson (Leonard).

**† *Those who grieve:*** Tom Gibbons and family in the death of his mother Joan Gibbons, Patty Helgerson & family in the death of her brother Charles. Becky Stakston & family in the death of her sister Esther Blair.

**† *Family and friends of members***

**† *Local Military:***Austin Holen, and John Nelson

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

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**WELCA NEWS**

 Our Thursday, March 18 meeting was canceled so the Ruth Circle will plan to present the program at our June meeting. More to follow.

 Thanks, Serving Committee, for another successful Pancake Breakfast. I heard many comments on how good the food was, how organized it was, and everyone appreciated our youth helping out – good job!

 Cookie Wednesday is also on hold since the colleges will be doing online classes for a while after Spring Break.

 We are tentatively planning to have WELCA in April and the South Ridge Circle will have Dave and Ruth Amundson present a program on “One Room School Houses.” Please plan to bring any pictures, report cards, memories of a favorite teacher or any other memorabilia you may have.

 I have received info stating that as of May 1, 2020 LWR will no longer accept full-sized fleece blankets. The reason for this change is because of the fleece’s effect on the environment. When fleece is washed microfibers are released into the environment. The older the fleece gets, the more it sheds. This can have a negative impact – particularly on water resources. In the United States we have wastewater treatment plants that aid in reducing the amount of microfiber build up in our water sources, but we still find a build up of microfibers here in the US. Many of the communities we serve, however, don’t have the same resources to assist with cleaning the water so the microfibers are continuing to accumulate.



**ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tues., Apr. 14, 6 pm – WELCA serves Confirmation Banquet

Thurs., Apr. 16, 1:30 pm – WELCA – South Ridge Circle presents program, “One Room School Houses.” Servers: LuEtta Nelson, Jean Gronvold. Paying hostesses: Kelly Role, Lillian Jothen, Arlene Townsend, Elizabeth Ofte, Karn Ofte-Schroeder

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Thurs., May 21, 1:30 pm – WELCA – Naomi Circle presents program. Pastor Adolf Quast will talk about his trip to Mongolia and Russia.

Servers: WELCA members, **POTLUCK**. Paying hostesses: Candice Herman, Jackie Jorgenson, Ruth Driscoll, Lauri Schultz, Briena Schultz

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE SERVERS**

Apr. 5 Amanda Buros, Kari Buros, Ashley Sacia

 12 Easter

 19 Confirmation

 26 Youth

May 3 Shana Berg, Becky Lusk

 10 Carl Holte, Monte Nelson

 17 Denise Bakkum, Mary Bakkum

 24 No Coffee

 31 No Coffee

***֍ COFFEE RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER ֍***

God Bless,

 Ellie Brye, President

Take care and stay well. Reach out to

someone who is homebound, to your neighbor,

and keep in touch with your family and friends

during this trying time.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**WEEK OF APRIL 5**

 **SUNDAY** Matthew 21:1-11 *Jesus enters Jerusalem*

**PALM SUNDAY** Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 *Open the gates*

 Isaiah 50:4-9a *The servant submits to suffering*

Psalm 31:9-16 *I commend my spirit*

Philippians 2:5-11 *Death on a cross*

Matthew 26:14-27:66 *The passion and death of Jesus*

 **MONDAY** John 12:1-11 *Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus*

 **TUESDAY** John 12:20-36 *Jesus speaks of his death*

 **WEDNESDAY** John 13:21-32 *Jesus foretells his betrayal*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 *The Passover of the LORD*

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 *The cup of salvation*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *Proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 *The service of Christ: footwashing and meal*

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Isaiah 52:13—53:12 *The suffering servant*

Psalm 22 *Why have you forsaken me?*

Hebrews 10:16-25 *The way to God is opened*

 *Or* Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 *Jesus, the merciful high priest*

John 18:1—19:42 *The passion and death of Jesus*

**HOLY SATURDAY**

Job 14:1-4 *Hope for a tree*

**WEEK OF APRIL 12**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

 Acts 10:34-43 *God raised Jesus on the third day*

 *Or* Jeremiah 31:1-6 *Joy at the restoration of God’s people*

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *On this day the LORD has acted*

Colossians 3:1-4 *Raised with Christ*

Matthew 28:1-10 *Proclaim the resurrection*

 *Or* John 20:1-18 *Seeing the risen Christ*

 **MONDAY** Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 *Israel crosses over the Sea*

 **TUESDAY** Joshua 3:1-17 *Israel crosses into the promised land*

 **WEDNESDAY** Matthew 28:1-10 *Matthew’s account of the resurrection*

 **THURSDAY** Song of Solomon 2:3-15 *The song of lovers in the garden*

 **FRIDAY** Colossians 3:1-17 *The new life in Christ*

 **SATURDAY** Exodus 15:1-18 *The song of the sea*

**WEEK OF APRIL 19**

 **SUNDAY** Acts 2:14a, 22-32 *God fulfills the promise to David*

 Psalm 16 *Fullness of joy*

1 Peter 1:3-9 *New birth to a living hope*

John 20:19-31 *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

 **MONDAY** Jonah 1:1-17 *Jonah saved from the sea*

 **TUESDAY** Jonah 2:1-10 *Jonah’s praise for deliverance*

 **WEDNESDAY** Matthew 12:38-42 *Jesus speaks of the sign of Jonah*

 **THURSDAY** Judges 6:36-40 *Gideon and the sign of the fleece*

 **FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 *Paul teaches the resurrection*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 114 *God saves through water*

**WEEK OF APRIL 26**

 **SUNDAY** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 *Receiving God’s promise through baptism*

 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 *I will call upon God*

1 Peter 1:17-23 *Born anew*

Luke 24:13-35 *Eating with the risen Christ*

 **MONDAY** Genesis 18:1-14 *Abraham and Sarah eat with God*

 **TUESDAY** Exodus 24:1-11 *Moses and the elders eat with God*

 **WEDNESDAY** John 21:1-14 *Jesus eats with the disciples*

 **THURSDAY** Proverbs 8:32—9:6 *Wisdom serves a meal*

 **FRIDAY** 1 Peter 1:8-16 *A holy life*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 134 *Praise to God*