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Dear Church,

Our congregational council met virtually last evening. Pam Olson shared with us the May 16 devotion from Christ in Our Home and read Jesus’ words which are recorded for us in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” These words guided our conversation and the decision of our council to “stay the course” and not reopen our building for in-person worship at this time. It is not out of fear, but out of love that our leadership has made this decision. The council made the decision to follow the “In-Person Gathering and Church Building Reopening Recommendations” which have been provided by the Task Force for re-opening the La Crosse Area Synod and based on the state of WI Badger Bounce Back Plan, Stay Home MN, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches document Returning to Church. You can read the read full document provided by the Synod Task Force on our website: [www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org) and also on the La Crosse Area Synod website: [www.lacrosseareasynod.org](http://www.lacrosseareasynod.org). To be clear, the decision to reopen is a congregational council decision and not a decision made by our Synodical or Presiding Bishop. The recommendations put forth by our Synod Task Force have been widely adopted in our Synod, by congregational councils such as ours.

As my colleague Pastor Anna Sorenson has shared with her community of faith, French Creek Lutheran Church, “Though the Wisconsin safer at home order was unconstitutional in its implementation, the information that led to its issuance has not changed.” Please know that your council and church staff will be diligent in looking to the guidance of our public health officials as we seek to move safely and responsibly from Phase to Phase of these guidelines. So, what does this mean for our Congregation?

1. We will not be gathering for in-person worship in our Sanctuary until it is safe to do so.
2. Our worship committee will begin to develop a plan for in-person, outdoor worship. This plan will coincide with the recommendations. Please keep in mind that we are not yet at “Phase One” of the recommendations. Any sort of outdoor worship will be some time in the future. We will begin working on a plan to do this safely so that when we are able, we will be ready. Any and all plans must remain fluid.
3. The Council has given me support to explore opportunities for in-person Holy Communion distribution as it coincides with the recommendations and phases. There is currently no plan for celebrating the Sacrament, but our theology is clear that the Word of God IS the full presence 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. Jesus continues

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to come to you through the waters of Baptism that wash you anew each day and the Word of God proclaimed and received and nothing will separate you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. A Vacation Bible School/Day Camp program is being considered as a possibility for the first week in August. Rather than an in-person Day Camp, all programming would be done in the home. Sugar Creek Bible Camp is offering an at-home Day Camp curriculum including videos from Day Camp leaders, activity and crafts that families would be able to pick up at Church and do at home.

5. The High School At-Home Mission Trip scheduled for August 2-4 and Corn Roast scheduled for August 4 are still tentative.

I give thanks for Casey Brye and our many volunteers who are working hard to recruit volunteers for an At-Home Mission Trip. This and our community corn roast are still tentative. While we continue to make plans, we also must keep in mind that any in-person gatherings hosted by our congregation will need to coincide with the recommendations approved by our council. We want very much to hold these events, but to do so safely. We will share updates as they become available on whether we will be able to hold these events.

There is much that has caused us to grieve as individuals, families, communities, country and world today. As a community of faith, we grieve not being able to gather

in person for worship. We grieve not being able to gather with our neighbors to hear the Word of God, sing our praises and laments, celebrate faith milestones,

share in Holy Baptisms, receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion or surround families upon the death of love ones in ways we would like to do. Yet, as Pam’s devotion reminded us, the peace that Christ has died and risen from the grave to give is with us is not a fleeting, passive peace, but a genuine, active peace that “does not leave us alone in our fear or abandon us in our doubt. When we face challenges or grief, Jesus brings comfort: ‘Peace be with you.’ Always.

Thank you for all the ways you have continued to be the Church. Thank you for your prayers for one another, our staff and for me and my family. Thank you for your support of our council who continue to discern God’s leading through prayer and thoughtful discussion. Thank you for supporting with your time, talents and offerings which give life to ministry at home, in our Synod and around the globe. In April I asked that if you were able to give in this time, to please do so and you have been so very generous and I humbly and sincerely thank you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, prayer concerns or to visit!

With my gratitude and prayers for you,

Pastor Julie

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

The CVLC Council met on April 16th at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx. Council president Karen Rude called the meeting to order.

\*Karen McGarvey led devotions.

\*Treasurer’s Report: Becky Lusk reported that there was a $1,589 shortfall in March and a $8,829 shortfall year-to-date. However, offerings have increased $5,000 from 2019. Report was accepted.

\*Finance Committee Report: Karen McGarvey reported that the Committee and church council officers met via video conference to assess our financial situation during the Safer at Home order.

\*Ministry Minutes: Pastor Julie reported that Sunday services are being recorded and posted to the Facebook and website. Jamie is sending sermons and resources to members. Pastor will be making phone calls to members to reschedule Confirmation. The church has been providing lunches to students with funds from Westby Coon Prairie’s backpack programs. Food and a $15 gift card were dropped off for students who are food insecure on Fridays. There were two deaths in our congregation during lockdown, Delaine Erickson and Marianne Stellner.

\*Social Ministry: Pam reported that Easter and Birthday cards were sent to those in facilities and the homebound.

\*Worship Committee: Karen Rude reported that they were waiting for direction from the Governor and ideas for maintaining social distancing during worship are being discussed.

\*Property and Grounds: Brian reported that the roof over the vestry has been repaired and John Galstad helped repair the drywall in the vestry. Sink holes in the yard have been fixed with some fill. Chaseburg Cenex donated the grass seed for the yard. The parking lot will soon need attention. The roof over the sanctuary is in good condition. The lighting in the parking lot needs to be replaced. Jason Hellwig is using the ground next to the lower cemetery for pumpkins. The lawn mower is being prepared for the season.

\*Stewardship: Karen Rude discussed a letter to be sent to the congregation.

\*Discussion Items: Karen R. thanked everyone for their extra efforts during this difficult time. Pastor Julie, Jamie and Becky for keeping the office running smoothly and responding to everyone’s needs. Mike Lusk for managing the blood drive, the blood drive broke the previous record for donations. Carl Holte for playing hymns on Sunday in the parking lot Easter Sunday. Brian for fixing the roof issue. Deb Holen and Glen Hoff for their work on the church yard.

-Synod Barn Raising: there has been $216 raised. The goal is $714 from every church in the synod.

-Senior recognition ideas have been discussed. Mary Westphal has made all the blankets to be given to the seniors.

-COVID-19: Tracy will do some deep cleaning in the church. The church is limiting the number of people in the office due to COVID-19. The new procedures will be posted on Facebook and on the church door.

-CARES Act: Karen Rude reported that our church is eligible to apply for CARES Act funds. She said that four churches in our synod have applied for funds. The first round of funding has been dispersed and the funds are now depleted. Our available resources of the CD interest and Memorial Fund were discussed. Motion was approved to have the CARES Act paperwork ready.

\*The next Council Meeting will be on May 14th.

\*The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

~Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Ofte, Secretar![MCj02119730000[1]]()y

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Dear Members of Coon Valley Lutheran:

 Your Church Council has been holding virtual meetings and would like to share some comments with the congregation.

 First, we miss seeing you in person and being together for worship and all our church activities! This has been an exceedingly difficult time for all of us, and not having opportunities to gather has been disappointing for us all.

 We owe great thanks to Pastor Julie for her work to keep us involved and united in faith. Thanks to her for Sunday services, Wednesday devotions, honoring our seniors, and continuing her pastoral duties in these challenging times.

 Thanks also to Jamie and Becky for keeping the business work of the church going and supporting Pastor Julie and all the leaders of the congregation.

 Thank you to the entire congregation for your stewardship. We appreciate the various ways this stewardship continues to be shown, through regular financial donations, special contributions, projects around our church, the blood drive and many untold acts of kindness. Although separated, we see signs of goodness around us.

 Working with the ELCA La Crosse Synod guidelines we are continuing to plan the opening of our church. Our objective is to protect and care for each other. For now, we will not gather. Please be assured we will do things as quickly as possible but also as safely as possible. We will also continue to explore ways to expand our mission and have more of an impact for our members, our community and the wider world.

 Our congregation is strong and continues to support the work of Christ and His church. For this we say thanks be to God.

Church Council

H.S. SENIOR FLEECE BLANKETS

Thank you to Mary Westphal for all the hard work and time put into making the fleece blankets for our H.S. Graduating Seniors!

TREASURER RECEIVES NEW COMPUTER

Our Treasurer Becky Lusk has a new computer! Our old computer had no longer met certain security requirements needed. The old computer was a gift from Teri Tomten in memory of her late husband Carl Maxwell. Teri and her husband John offered to buy a new computer in memory of their late spouses, Carl Maxwell and Andi Tomten. Thank you to John and Teri Tomten for this generous gift to our church!

PASCHAL CANDLE

This Easter we unveiled our new Paschal candle. This candle is a gift from Ellie Brye in memory of her late husband Kenny Brye. The candle was lit on Easter Sunday and will also burn during funerals and baptisms. It is a sign of Christ’s light and presence among us. The hand-carved cross is an eye-catching and ancient symbol for the Holy Trinity. The year and Alpha and Omega adorn the front of the candle in gold. We thank Ellie for this beautiful gift.

 CVLC CELEBRATES PASTOR JULIE’S 20 YEARS OF ORDINATION!

Pastor Julie started as our Interim Pastor in November of 2018. From the moment I met her and started to work with her, I could see that she was a perfect fit here at CVLC. Since that time, I have seen this congregation fall head over heels for her. We were so blessed to have her become our full-time pastor in October of 2019!

This month Pastor Julie will be celebrating 20 years of ordination! Because of our current situation we are unable to publicly celebrate this anniversary with Pastor Julie. We hope to plan a celebration once we are all able to gather. For the time being, let us shower Pastor Julie with cards! If you are able please send a card to her home, or our church address. Contact Jamie if you would like her mailing address. Let’s show Pastor Julie how grateful and blessed we are to call her our pastor.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive our newsletter via email? This saves the church money on the cost of office supplies and postage. If you would like to subscribe visit our website at [www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org) scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your full name and email. That’s it! Thank you!

WORKING FROM A

DISTANCE

The staff at CVLC are continuing to work primarily from home. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you may need anything. You can contact me via email jamiel@mwt.net or by cell phone 608-317-0007. I will be taking about a week off from June 2-11th. In that time please email me and I will respond as I am able. You may also contact Pastor Julie with any concerns.

Thank you! Jamie



BLOOD DRIVE

Our next blood drive will be Monday, August 17 from 1-6pm. You can schedule and appointment by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). During this time blood donation is especially needed, supplies are low. Volunteers are always needed to help with the drive. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Mike Lusk at 452-3472. We thank Mike for his efforts to put together these blood drives, especially in times like this. Thank you, Mike!

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WELCA NEWS

 Dear WELCA Sisters,

It’s hard to believe that we haven’t had a WELCA meeting for three months and it doesn’t look like we’ll be having one in June either.

 As I stand on my deck looking out over the land, I see two Sandhill Cranes with their fuzzy colt (term for baby cranes), geese nesting in the alfalfa fields, yearlings running will-nilly after being kicked out by their moms (my neighbor encountered a fawn while bending down in his asparagus bed) and watching for activity in a large nest in the hill-we think it’s an Eagle nest. Perennials are growing, leaves are on the trees and, of course, the weeds are growing like mad. All of this appears to make the world seem normal but we know that’s not the case. In some way or another, we are all affected by COVID-19 and our world is anything but normal.

 I pray every day for your safety and that you are taking good care of yourselves and are able to connect with family and friends. Please know that myself and other WELCA members are here for you if there is anything that you need.

 “I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love, even when I am alone. I believe in God, even when He is silent. Even in the midst of tragic circumstance God is still present, even when it is hard to see or perceive Him.” (Writing on the wall at Auschwitz Concentration Camp).

 God Bless, Ellie Brye, President

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL

Every quarter our church receives several Christ in our Home devotionals, thanks to WELCA for providing this important resource for our members. In these times when we cannot gather one may find themselves in need of a devotional. We shall be receiving the new books sometime before July. Some have requested these devotionals. Stay tuned to our Facebook page on a way to receive this book via pickup at the church. Some may be delivered to homebound members. They can simply leave the book at your doorstep. Please contact Jamie via email jamiel@mwt.net or by phone to request a book.



GIVING OPTIONS

 Coon Valley Lutheran Church may not be having worship services at this time. But 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. Please let Jamie know if you need assistance in any way with these options. Thank you for your support!

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**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

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| **2020** | **April** |  | **2020 YTD** |
| **Total Offerings** | $17,754.00 |   | $56,393.33 |
| **Expenses** | $14,636.49 |   | $62,105.16 |
| **Balance/Shortfall** |  **$3,117.51** |  | -**$5,711.83** |
| **Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer** | $0  |  | $0  |
| **Building Fund Transfer** | $0 |  | $1,300.00 |

**4/26 –** **Offering:** $1,928.35

**5/3** **– Offering:** $8,415.65

**5/10 – Offering:** $2,088.35

**5/17 – Offering:** $3,882.94

**\*\***Approximately **$3,800.00 a week** is needed to meet operating expenses.

**General Fund Balance:** 4/30/20: $17,748.15

**Memorial Fund Balance:**4/30/20: $33,823.57

**Building Fund Balance:** 4/30/20: $2,263.29

**CD Interest Balance:** 4/30/20: $17,138.82

MEMORIALS

 **Joanne Hutson**

Memorial Fund: $100.00

 **Delaine Erickson**

 Memorial Fund: $50.00

 **Jim Lee**

Memorial Fund: $20.00

FUNERALS

 Jim Lee

 Delaine Erickson

 Sheryl Ebli

 Lillian Jothen

BUILDING USE

At this time only church staff and officers are permitted in the church building. If you are there during office hours please ring the doorbell and Jamie will assist you at the door. Thank you for understanding. We hope to all be able to gather together again someday 😊



Doing your shopping on **Amazon**? Please go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), enter ***Coon Valley Congregation*** do your shopping and **Amazon Smile** will donate a small percentage to our church!

**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, Inez Beck, Kay Bjornstad, Evelyn Dahlen, Judy Denison, Jack Fletcher, Joanne Fletcher, Kira Foster, Alan Haakenson, Lucy Hardie, Bonnie Holey, 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, Elaine Proksch, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Aaron Stakston, Terri Stakston, Orville Stendahl, Nancy Stuempges, Jamie Thomas, Ray Williamson.

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

**† *Those who grieve:*** Gary Erickson and family in the death of Delaine; Jeanne Ebli and family in the death of Sheryl Ebli; Family and friends of Lillian Jothen

**† *Family and friends of members***

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

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

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**WEEK OF JUNE 7**

 **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*

**WEEK OF JUNE 14**

 **SUNDAY** Exodus 19:2-8a *The covenant with Israel at Sinai*

Psalm 100 *We are God’s people*

Or Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7] *God appears to Abraham and Sarah*

Psalm 116:1, 10-17 *I will call upon the name of the LORD*

Romans 5:1-8 *While we were sinners, Christ died for us*

Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23] *The sending of the Twelve*

 **MONDAY** Joshua 1:1-11 *God calls Joshua*

 **TUESDAY** 1 Samuel 3:1-19 *God calls Samuel*

 **WEDNESDAY** Luke 6:12-19 *Jesus chooses the apostles*

 **THURSDAY** Proverbs 4:10-27 *Choosing the way of wisdom*

 **FRIDAY** 2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5 *The life of those chosen by God*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 *God saves the chosen people*

**WEEK OF JUNE 21**

 **SUNDAY** Jeremiah 20:7-13 *The prophet must speak*

 Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 *Draw near to me*

Or Genesis 21:8-21 *The rescue of Hagar and Ishmael*

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  *Have mercy upon me*

 Romans 6:1b-11 *Buried and raised with Christ in baptism*

Matthew 10:24-39 *The cost of discipleship*

 **MONDAY** Jeremiah 26:1-12 *Jeremiah prophesies against Jerusalem*

 **TUESDAY** Jeremiah 38:1-13 *Jeremiah imprisoned and released*

 **WEDNESDAY** Matthew 10:5-23 *Jesus speaks about persecutions*

 **THURSDAY** Micah 7:1-7 *The corruption of the people*

 **FRIDAY** Revelation 2:1-11 *Enduring patiently*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 6 *Prayer for deliverance*

**WEEK OF JUNE 28**

 **SUNDAY** Jeremiah 28:5-9 *The test of a true prophet*

 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 *I sing of your love*

 *or* Genesis 22:1-14 *The testing of Abraham*

 *Psalm 13* *Give light to my eyes*

 Romans 6:12-23 *No longer under law but under grace*

Matthew 10:40-42 *Welcome Christ in those he sends*

 **MONDAY** 1 Kings 21:1-16 *Ahab and Jezebel sin against Naboth*

 **TUESDAY** 1 Kings 21:17-29 *The prophet Elijah confronts Ahab*

 **WEDNESDAY** Matthew 11:16-24 *Jesus prophecies against the city*

 **THURSDAY** Jeremiah 18:1-11 *Jeremiah at the potter’s wheel*

 **FRIDAY** 1 John 4:1-6 *Testing the spirits*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 119:161-168 *Loving God’s law*



**Moving? New contact information? Please update the church office.**

**Thank you!**

 **THE CARILLON**

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

 Coon Valley, WI 54623

 Office Phone (608)452-3772

Pastor: Rev. Julie Wollman, pastorjulie@mwt.net, Home phone 634-3797

Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, jamiel@mwt.net, Cell Phone: 608-317-0007

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00am-1:30pm

Treasurer: Becky Lusk, treasurer1005@mwt.net

Organist: Kailee Simon; Aaron Stakston

Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner

Choir Director: Mary Westphal

Church Council President: Karen Rude

Vice President: Karen McGarvey; Secretary: Sarah Ofte

Carl Holte, Nancy King, Pam Olson, Andrea Stakston,

 Brian Strangstalien, Ray Williamson