

# The Carillon

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December, 2025



I love Advent. I always have.

I remember sitting at St. Philip Lutheran in Trenton, Michigan, my home church, as the candles were lit, and the litany around the candles was spoken. Singing O Come O Come Emmanuel with its haunting melody raising the hair on my arms as a shiver went down my spine. It all felt so ancient and mysteries and holy.

I remember when I was 19 and going through a particularly hard time. Young people often try on a form of rebellion, mine was atheism. For a reason I still cannot explain, I woke up early on a Sunday morning and went to the local Lutheran Church, Immanuel. It happened to be advent. Candles, hymns, communion, it felt like coming home.

And now, as we come together as a community to light candles and sing, we center our lives around hope, peace, joy, and love. We are reminded that these are the gifts of the presence of Christ in our hearts and lives. We are

called to bring these with us into the world, to lift up these virtues for each other.

May your Advent bring you blessings, connect you with each other and God, and make Christ known in the world.

In hope, peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Ben



JOIN US FOR  
WORSHIP THIS  
ADVENT AND  
CHRISTMAS  
SEASON!

**November 30: 10:30a.m.** Worship with Pastor Meg Hoversten

**December 7: 9:00 a.m.** Worship with Holy Communion

**December 14: 9:00 a.m.** Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School Christmas Program

**December 21: 9:00 a.m.** Worship

**December 24: 4:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Worship by Candlelight

**December 25: 9:00 a.m.** Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

**December 28: 9:00 a.m.** Worship

## OCTOBER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**\*Ministry Minutes:** Pastor discussed gave an update about recent funerals, an upcoming baptism and wedding. Confirmation is going well with the Sunday evening time working well.

**\*Endowment:** Distributions were approved (distributions are listed on page 2) with a new motion that was approved to recommend that \$9,600 be put in the non-designated Building Fund.

**\*Youth Ministry:** 2026 Mission Trip deposit will be made soon. Sign-ups will take place for a mentorship program. There are 16 kids in Confirmation currently.

**\*Men's Club:** Meatball dinner will be Oct. 19.

**\*Personnel:** Employee reviews will be carried out in November.

**\*Property & Grounds:** Deadbolts installation, a leaky faucet in the kitchen, loose plexiglass above the front entrance door and an event sign were all discussed.

**\*Worship:** A greeter meeting will be held Nov. 2 to talk about the role they will have.

**\*Membership, Life & Growth:** New member gathering will be on Nov. 9. A Retro Dinner meeting will be on Nov. 16. The Dinner will be on March 8.

**\*Mission and Vision:** What Bible story tells our story at CVLC? Council members shared the Bible story that they felt was the best comparison for the current time. More discussion will be at the next meeting. This will lead to working on a vision for CVLC.

\*The meeting adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hofslie



## 2025 ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTION

The Endowment Committee made a recommendation for the distribution from the Endowment Fund. Our Church Council approved this distribution at the October meeting. We have \$24,000 available to use for a distribution from the interest. The committee is recommending we take a distribution of \$24,000 from the Endowment fund and it be distributed the following ways:

- **40% for Capital Improvements**
- Debt reduction via deposit into the Building Fund **\$9,600**
- **20% for Ministry of the ELCA**
- **\$4,800** to Bethel Butikk
- **40% for Community Outreach/Youth**
- **\$4,800** to Sugar Creek Bible Camp
- **\$4,800** to Westby School District Delinquent Lunch Accounts



## FARMER'S MARKET

Our Farmer's Market came to a close on Oct. 26. This season, because of the work and organization of Sarah Lieurance and many others, \$647 was raised and given to Bethel Butikk! Thank you to all

members who donated and purchased from the market!



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

So if you have not been faithful with the unrighteous money, who will trust you with what is genuine?

Luke 16:11



## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

On **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM**, during our worship service our Sunday School Youth, ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, will be presenting their Christmas Program. Kids should come at **8:30am** this day and meet downstairs before the Service. **This Service is for the whole Congregation! See You there!**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> our Sunday School class will begin at 10:15am and end at 12:30pm. During this time kids will practice their program and have a **Christmas Party with a pizza lunch!**



## CVLC GIVING TREE

This year, through our Social Ministry Committee, we will once again participate in the "Giving Tree" project. This provides gifts to low-income families. If you wish to participate, please take a tag from the Giving Tree and bring back a wrapped gift with the tag attached. We are also accepting monetary donations if you do not wish to shop. Please mail donations, put them in the offering plate or bring to the office. Gifts and monetary donations will need to be at the church by December 14. The tree will be on display in our Narthex on and after the Thanksgiving Eve service. Stay tuned for the date at which gifts need to be returned. Thank you for your generosity!



## THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

"The Road to Bethlehem" is being held at Sugar Creek again this year! Celebrate the reason for the season with this drive-thru event!

The Road to Bethlehem is being held on December 6 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, 13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Road, Ferryville, WI.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Nominating Committee will be looking for

volunteers to fill several vacancies in the role of ushers, council members, finance committee members, Stewardship and many more. Part of membership of a church is to help where you can. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help CVLC!







## QUILT BLESSING

On Sunday, November 9 our Quilters showcased the 60 quilts on display that they will be sending to Bethel Butikk, our local food pantry and

thrift shop and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. In worship we blessed the quilts and quilters who have given their time and talents to make these quilts!



## YEAR END OFFERINGS

All offerings need to be received in the church office no later than **Sunday, December 28** to be

counted toward your 2025 Giving Statement. All offerings received after this time will be included for 2026. Thank you for your continued support of CVLC!

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Deadline for Committee's to submit their Annual Reports to Jamie is **Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you serve on a committee, please be sure to know who needs to prepare a report. Please send to [office@coonvalleylutheranchurch](mailto:office@coonvalleylutheranchurch) in **Microsoft Word or PDF format, please no hand written reports**. 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.



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes will be available mid-December at the church during office hours, Tues., Wed. & Thurs, 9am-4:00pm or during Sunday services. If you are able to pick

them up for yourself, family or neighbors please do so. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact Jamie. Thank you!



The Church Office will be closed December 22-January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Holiday Break. Thank

you for allowing us this time away with family! In the event of an emergency please contact Pastor Ben. Merry Christmas from all of us at CVLC!!



This year our Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 25 at 11:00am**. Please join us this day for a

worship service at **10am** followed by a pot-luck meal. Then join us for the meeting! Stay tuned for more updates about this important Congregational meeting!



## 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. The Church Facebook Page
2. The Church website
3. By Recording on the Parish Office Phone
4. By email and or text message. (If the office has your current information and you have opted-in to receiving text messages from CVLC.

## **WELCA NEWS**

Our Thurs., Nov. 20 meeting opened with coffee served by Rachel Strangstalien. Thank you, Rachel.

Our business meeting opened with our Purpose Statement. Our first agenda item was a request for pies to be donated to the Westby Community Thanksgiving Dinner. We also reminded members to sign up for a pie for our Thanksgiving Eve service and pie fest.

The Retro Dinner to be held on March 8 of 2026 was brought up and plans are being finalized for this fund raiser. It will be a potluck style dinner so be thinking about what you remember eating at your grandma's or what you had at home. Also, you are encouraged to wear something retro if you are lucky enough to have an item somewhere in your house or your grandma's house.

A Come for Supper Ministry is in the planning stages and, hopefully after the first of the year, we will begin serving meals to anyone who would like to join us for a hot meal, fellowship and a welcoming atmosphere.

More information to follow.

This letter seems to be focusing on food and one more opportunity for food and fellowship will be our annual potluck at our Dec. 18 WELCA meeting. Please join us for our Christmas program, sing carols, and enjoy the fellowship of your WELCA sisters.

In the first week or so of December, we will be meeting to disperse our funds for 2025. It has been a good year for WELCA and one item that has been brought to our attention is the need for a chair lift to get from the office entrance to the dining room for those who have trouble navigating the stairs. This, too, is in the planning stage and lots of research needs to be done to see if it is feasible.

Deb Holen opened our program with a Thanksgiving prayer followed by our Thank Offering. This money is forwarded to the churchwide organization to support various ministries, including leadership development, grants and scholarships, World Hunger, disaster relief and other causes.

On a light hearted note, we played several games of Thanksgiving bingo and each member took home a small prize.

It is time to update information for our 2026 yearbook. Please let us know if your phone number has changed and any other changes, additions or deletions for your Circle or committees.

## **DATE TO REMEMBER**

Thurs., Dec. 18, 10am, WELCA – Christmas program and potluck.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Thurs., Jan. 15, **2026**, WELCA – Program TBA  
Hostess: Carolyn Anderson

## **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE**

Dec. 7	New Member Coffee
Dec. 14	No Coffee
Dec. 21	No Coffee
Dec. 28	No Coffee

## **2026**

Jan. 4	Kari Coaty, Sharon Holte
Jan. 11	Linda Peterson, Stephanie Marshall
Jan. 18	Heather Wichman, Jan Verse
Jan. 25	No Coffee (Annual Meeting)

God Bless, Ellie Brye, President

*A very Blessed and  
Merry Christmas  
from the General Board*

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

**10/26 – 9a:** 82; **Offering:** \$2,603.27

**11/2 – 9a:** 121; **Offering:** \$4,140.42

**11/9 – 9a:** 102; **Offering:** \$13,475.77

**11/16 – 9a:** 116; **Offering:** \$3,699.07

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

**10/26-9; 11/2-10; 11/9-10; 11/16-10**

**\*\*Approximately \$4,365.00 a week** is needed to meet operating expenses.

**General Fund Balance:** 10/31/25: \$45,271.07

**Memorial Fund Balance:** 10/31/25: \$64,662.16

**Building Fund Balance:** 10/31/25: \$65,169.84

**CD Interest Balance:** 10/31/25: \$28,807.53

**Shepherd Fund Balance:** 10/31/25: \$2,567.55

## 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

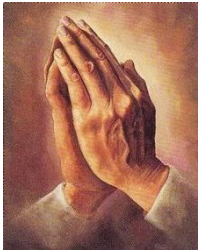
Bakkum, Herby Cornell, Marie Egge, Gloria Galstad, Kira Hoff, Becky Ihle, Donna Ihle, Ray Ihle, Todd King, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Aaron Marx, LuEtta Nelson, Mike Nelson, Romaine Nelson, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Mary Schultz, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Krin (Dreves) Stendalen, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten, Dave Verse, Jan Verse, 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), Orrin Stakston,.

† ***Those who grieve:*** Family and friends of Mike Kellogg

† ***Family and friends of members***

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



## YEAR-TO-DATE BALANCE

2025	October	2025 YTD
<b>Total Offerings</b>	\$16,356.31	\$167,758.21
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,384.71	\$174,022.51
<b>Balance/Shortfall</b>	<b>-\$28.40</b>	<b>-\$6,264.30</b>
<b>Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Building Fund Transfer</b>	\$0	\$8,372.00
<b>Memorial Fund Transfer</b>	\$0	\$2,164.73

## BAPTISM

11/16 Brooks Michael Thornton

## FUNERALS/BURIALS

11/15 Mike Kellogg

## MEMORIALS

**Betty Williamson**

Office Computer: \$400.00

**Evelyn Dahlen**

Endowment Fund: \$40.00

**Pauline Moilien**

General Fund: \$25.00

Endowment: \$50.00

WELCA: \$50.00

**Mike Kellogg**

Memorial: \$25.00

Parking Lot: \$20.00

Shepherd Fund: \$180.00



## 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!

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

### **WEEK OF DECEMBER 7**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	<i>A ruler brings justice and peace The righteous shall flourish Living in harmony Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Isaiah 24:1-16a	<i>Judgment is coming, yet glorify God</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>A voice crying in the wilderness</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Matthew 12:33-37	<i>A good tree bears good fruit</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Genesis 15:1-18	<i>God's covenant with Abraham</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Acts 13:16-33a	<i>Paul preaches about John the Baptist</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Psalm 21	<i>God comes with judgment and strength</i>

### **WEEK OF DECEMBER 14**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 <i>or</i> Luke 1:47-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	<i>The desert blooms God lifts up those bowed down My spirit rejoices in God my Savior Patience until the coming of the Lord The forerunner of Christ</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Isaiah 29:17-24	<i>The infirm will be healed</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Ezekiel 47:1-12	<i>The wilderness will flower</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34	<i>Jesus heals</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Zechariah 8:1-17	<i>God's promises to Zion</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Acts 5:12-16	<i>Many people healed by the apostles</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Psalm 42	<i>Hope in God</i>

### **WEEK OF DECEMBER 21**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	<i>The sign of Immanuel Show the light of your countenance Paul's greeting to the church at Rome Our God near at hand</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Genesis 17:15-22	<i>God promises Sarai a son</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Genesis 21:1-21	<i>God saves Hagar and Ishmael</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Matthew 1:1-17	<i>Matthew's genealogy</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Genesis 37:2-11	<i>Joseph dreams</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Galatians 3:23—4:7	<i>Paul writes of Jesus' birth</i>

### **WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE**

Isaiah 9:2-7	<i>A child is born for us</i>
Psalm 96	<i>Let the earth be glad</i>
Titus 2:11-14	<i>The grace of God has appeared</i>
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	<i>God with us</i>

**THURSDAY CHRISTMAS DAY**

Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

*Heralds announce God's salvation*  
*The victory of our God*  
*God has spoken by a son*  
*The Word became flesh*

**FRIDAY**  
**SATURDAY**

Psalm 97  
Titus 2:11—3:7

*Light dawns on the righteous*  
*The life of those reborn*

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 28**

**SUNDAY**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

*Israel saved by God's own presence*  
*God's splendor is over earth and heaven*  
*Christ frees humankind*  
*The slaughter of innocent children*

**MONDAY**

Hosea 11:1-11

*God's care for Israel*

**TUESDAY**

Jeremiah 31:15-22

*God's care for Ephraim*

**WEDNESDAY**

Matthew 13:54-58

*Jesus rejected*

**THURSDAY**

Exodus 1:15—23:10

*God saves Moses from Pharaoh*

**FRIDAY**

Hebrews 11:23-28, 32-40

*By faith Moses was saved*

**SATURDAY**

Psalm 71:1-16

*Prayer for deliverance*



**Coon Valley Lutheran Church**  
**P.O. Box 280**  
**1005 Central Ave.**  
**Coon Valley, WI 54623**

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

Visit our website:

[coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://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. 54 December 2025 No.11  
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- ☐ Pastor: Rev. Benjamin Morris, 608-406-1556; [pastor@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org)
- ☐ Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, [office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org),  
Office: 608-452-3772; Cell Phone: 608-317-0007
- Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm; Thursday 9:00am-3:30pm
- ☐ Treasurer: Becky Lusk, [treasurer@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org)
- ☐ Organist: Mary Schultz
- ☐ Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner
- ☐ Church Council President: Steve Pauloski
- Vice President: Ray Williamson; Secretary: Laura Hofslie
- Paul Bahr, Kimberly Cade, Mark Hutson, Julie Nelson, Patricia Nelson,  
Amy Stakston-Wiedemann

**Sunday Worship at 9:00am**  
**Sunday School 10:15-11:30**  
**See calendar for changes in worship & Sunday**  
**School times.**

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b><u>9:00a</u></b> -Naomi Circle	<b>2</b> <b><u>9:00a</u></b> -Pastor's Text Study <b><u>10:00a</u></b> -Ruth Circle	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b><u>10:00a</u></b> -Bible Study	<b>5 Pr. Ben's sabbath</b>	<b>6 <u>2:00-5:00p</u></b> - The Road to Bethlehem Event Sugar Creek
<b>7 <u>9:00a</u></b> Worship with Holy Communion; New Member Service <b><u>10:15a</u></b> -Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship, Nominating Committee <b><u>6:00-7:30p</u></b> Confirmation	<b>8</b> <b>Carillon Deadline</b>	<b>9</b> <b><u>9:00a</u></b> -Pastor's Text Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b><u>10:00a</u></b> -Bible Study	<b>12</b> <b>Pr. Ben's sabbath</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 <u>9:00a</u></b> Worship with Holy Communion; <b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b> <b><u>10:00a</u></b> -Finance Committee <b>Giving Tree Gifts Due</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b><u>9:00a</u></b> -Pastor's Text Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b><u>10:00a</u></b> -WELCA Christmas Brunch <b><u>6:00p</u></b> -Church Council	<b>19</b> <b>Pr. Ben's sabbath</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 <u>9:00a</u></b> -Worship <b>No Coffee Fellowship</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b><u>4:00p</u></b> -Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b><u>9:00a</u></b> - CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP with Holy Communion	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Pr. Ben's sabbath</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 <u>9:00a</u></b> Worship <b><u>10:30a</u></b> -Pr. Ben @ Middle CV <b>No Sunday School</b> <b>No Coffee Fellowship</b> <b>Last day to submit offerings for 2025</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	
					<b>Office Hours:</b> <b>Tues., Wed.,9a-4:00p</b> <b>Thurs. 9a-3:30p</b>	