

The Carillon

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April, 2026



I was born into a Lutheran family.
I was raised a Lutheran.
I went to a Lutheran Seminary.

I was ordained a Lutheran Pastor Heck, even in my young atheist phase I was a Lutheran Atheist.

I really believe in and love Lutheran theology.

Just keep all that in mind as you read the rest of my pastor's pen.

Lent is drawing to a close and the great season of Easter is about to begin. Lent is oftentimes thought of a dour and somber, but that was not always the case. In the ancient church, Lent was the season of preparation for candidates who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

The Easter what?

The Easter Vigil for most of the history of the church was THE single most important worship service held. Christians for centuries gathered between the sunset of Holy Saturday and Sunrise of Easter Sunday to experience in story, song, and ritual the entirety of the the faith that Jesus Christ gave. In the early church it was the service when baptisms were done.

And then in the Reformation, it was cast aside. Not by Luther, he never wrote or spoke against it. But under the influence of the reformed christians (those who followed Calvin) lots of babies were thrown out with the bathwater. And for centuries while the Catholic and Orthodox Christians kept the traditions of ancient Christianity alive, Protestants continued on without them.

And that seems to have been a mistake. In a time when people are yearning to connect with

God with their whole being, body/mind/spirit and all their senses. In a time of rational impoverishment, where thinking alone seems insufficient. When a digital age robs so many of their most basic humanity the Great Vigil of Easter calls out from the past with an invitation: Come and join the celebration. Gather with community to build a fire, to light candles, to chant, sing and feast.

I've been to a lot of Easter Vigils over the years and I need to tell you the truth: Catholics do them the best. (Now go ahead and read the opening statement again)

In La Crosse we go to Viterbo every year to celebrate the Easter Vigil. San Damiano is a beautiful chapel, and the college musicians are amazing and Father Conrad leads a beautiful, mysterious, and meaningful service.

And so I, your Lutheran pastor, am inviting you, good Lutherans to go to a Catholic Easter Vigil service this year. Go experience this most ancient of liturgies with the ones who have kept it going for thousands of years. You are most welcome to join me at Viterbo if you wish.

It is not a quick service, you won't be in and out in an hour - they take two to two and a half hours. And they start late, Viterbo's is going to start at 8 or 8:30 (they are not sure yet). You'll get home late, and tired, but also full, and grateful.

And then you'll get up in the morning to come here for our morning service and do most of it all over again. But hey, that's the tradition and good things often take time and effort.

Try it out..you won't know what treasures it holds unless you do.
Pastor Ben

FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

***Finance Committee:** Finance Report was accepted. Jamie and Becky are now signers on the Sunday School account. Sunday School offerings will be counted on Sunday Morning and deposited into the account.

***Education:** The committee is looking for someone to play piano for Sunday School.

***Youth Ministry:** The destination for the youth trip was changed to a canoe and camping trip on the Namekagon River.

***WELCA:** The chair lift has been tabled.

***Men's Club:** Tickets are on sale for the Fish Fry on March 25th.

***Personnel:** Annual reviews were discussed.

***Property & Grounds:** Krause Konstruktion will do the tuckpointing. There are 2 leaks by the door near the sanctuary. Ray Williamson will be checking on the issue.

***Social Ministry:** The Committee helped serve the potluck meal for the Annual Meeting. There will be an upcoming meeting to write birthday and Easter cards.

***Stewardship:** Glen Hoff will lead worship Feb. 22 and speak about the Viterbo Pathways Program.

***Worship:** Julie reported that the committee could use a few more people. They meet once a month.

***Membership, Life & Growth:** Retro Dinner will take place on March 8th.

***Other Discussion Items:**

*Table Together Account approval of account was tabled until more information is available.

*Congregational Council Development Retreat will be held March 14th. Council is welcome to attend.

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



COON VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week Worship

March 29 **Palm Sunday**
9:00a

April 2 **Maundy Thursday**
7:00p

April 3 **Good Friday**
7:00p

April 5 **Easter Sunday**
9:00a



MEDICAL LEAVE

Jamie will be on medical leave from Tuesday April 28th-May 5th. Please contact Pastor Ben for any needs during this time 608-406-1556. The return to normal office hours will be announced at a later date. During recovery Jamie will work from home and be in the office 1 day a week. During this

time, please contact Jamie via email: office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org, personal phone: 608-317-0007 or by message on the church voicemail: 608-452-3772. Thank you for your patience during this time.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.- James 1:17

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hofslie



8th GRADE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, May 3, our 8th Grade Students will affirm their Baptisms in the Rite of Confirmation. Please join us

in presence and prayer as we support and celebrate our Confirmands as they make affirmation of their Baptism. Our 8th Grade Confirmands are:

Rayah Rose Klum

Tyler John Marsh

Jaxon John Nelson

Riley Ray Strangstalien

Alexis Rae White

Dylan Thomas Wiedemann



QUILTING HELP!

For years our quilting group has donated quilts to Bethel Butikk that are then given to local families at Christmas time. We also give quilts to the

Vernon County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization that makes beds for children. We also give baby crib quilts to Door of Hope to support families. We currently have only 3 quilters! Although helpful, knowing how to sew isn't at all necessary. Quilting experience isn't required- we will teach you all you need to know! We meet the 2nd and last Wednesday of each month at 9:00am in the church dining room. For more information call Judy Koula at 608-632-6953 or Becky Lind 608-632-4566 or Margie Bendel 608-386-8132. Again, we need your help to continue His important mission!



May the power of the Risen Christ bring you joy and peace this Easter Season. Blessings from the CVLC Staff.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH!

Thank you to our Confirmation Students who

crafted over 170 beautiful luminaries which surrounded us in worship on Ash Wednesday! Each luminary held the name of a loved one who is among the Saints in Light. Thank you to all who purchased the luminaries in support of the Youth Fund!



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.
- TABLE TOGETHER MEALS**-Funds to cover food and other costs associated with this meal ministry.

thrivent[®] TRIVENT CHOICE
Eligible clients with membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds by directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including CVLC. Consider directing your choice dollars to your church!

Our church kitchen has been busy this month! Enjoy a few photos from our big events!



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!



Bruce King frying pancakes for the WELCA Pancake Breakfast!



Retro Dinner Committee



A Table Together servers

WELCA NEWS

Fourteen members attended our Thurs., Mar. 19 meeting and we opened with the business meeting, spending time on making plans for the Sat., Apr. 18, La Crosse Area Synod WELCA Convention. We planned morning coffee and lunch and designating helpers for the day. We are hoping for a good turnout which has been dwindling the last few years. Bishop Emeritus, April Larson, will be the main speaker and Pastor Ben will preside at a morning church service, including communion. Registration to attend is \$20 and the deadline is Apr. 3. We also decided on where we want a portion of the offering to go and members will be bringing an in-kind gift to go to the charity of our choice.

Deb Holen purchased a label maker so we can label all the cupboards and drawers in the kitchen. Now that more groups are using the kitchen, it will be very helpful to know where things belong.

The new Christ in our Home booklets are out for April, May and June so be sure to pick one up if you haven't already done so. Also, there are still some yearbooks left, as well.

It's a new year and we are once again asking members to make a donation in lieu of paying hostesses and the Cookie Walk. Last year was very successful and we are hoping you will continue to support us in this project.

We combined coffee and the program following our business meeting. Nancy Ofte served a delicious lunch while we answered questions from the Conversation Cards that the Ruth Circle provided. We all chimed in on the worst thing we ever had to do on our job, to what is the saddest song you've ever heard. Thank you to Nancy Ofte and the Ruth Circle for a pleasant morning.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 3 Good Friday
Sunday, April 5 Easter
Wednesday, April 15, 5-6:30pm – "A Table Together" – All are welcome
Thursday, April 16, 10am, WELCA – General Board presents program. Hostess: Ellie Brye
Saturday, April 18, 8am-Registration and Fellowship; 9am-Worship; 2:30pm-Closing – La Crosse Area Synod WELCA Spring Convention, here

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 10 Mother's Day
Thursday, May 14, 10am, WELCA – Naomi Circle presents program and coffee fellowship
Monday, May 25 Memorial Day

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE SERVERS

April 5 Easter
April 12 Nancy Ofte, Gloria Galstad
April 19 Rachel Strangstalien, Jackie Jorgenson
April 26 Sara Lieurance, Jamie Thomas
May 3 Janelle Berg, Jana Urbanek
May 10 Men's Club
May 17 Deb Holen, Nancy King
May 24 Worship Committee-Senior Sunday
May 31 No Coffee

Coffee Resumes in September

God Bless, Ellie Brye, President

*May the Miracle of Easter
Bring you Peace and Joy*

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

2/25 – 7p: 65; **Offering:** \$2,325.73
3/1 – 9a: 134; **Offering:** \$5,079.03
3/4 – 7p: 46; **Offering:** \$357.00
3/8 – 9a: 103; **Offering:** \$3,342.83
3/11 – 7p: 43; **Offering:** \$402.00
3/15 – 9a: cancelled; **Offering:** \$1,576.06
3/18 – 7p: 46; **Offering:** \$366.00
3/22 – 9a: 122; **Offering:** \$3,507.07

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

3/1-6; 3/8-3; 3/15-canceled; 3/22-10

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

General Fund Balance: 2/28/26: \$40,751.89
Memorial Fund Balance: 2/28/26: \$66,178.23
Building Fund Balance: 2/28/26: \$71,556.81
CD Interest Balance: 2/28/26: \$28,814.79
Shepherd Fund Balance: 2/28/25: \$2,544.75

MEMORIALS

Sherman Olson
Building: \$12,441.00



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	February	2026 YTD
Total Offerings	\$16,173.93	\$29,017.65
Expenses	\$28,132.94	\$45,586.01
Balance/Shortfall	-\$11,959.0	-\$16,568.36
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, 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, Orrin Stakston

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

† **Family and friends of members**

† **Local Military:** Alex Hendrickson

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

WEEK OF MARCH 29

SUNDAY	Matthew 21:1-11	<i>Jesus enters Jerusalem</i>
PALM SUNDAY	Isaiah 50:4-9a	<i>The servant submits to suffering</i>
	Psalms 31:9-16	<i>I commend my spirit</i>
	Philippians 2:5-11	<i>Death on a cross</i>
	Matthew 26:14-27:66	<i>The passion and death of Jesus</i>
	*John 19:16b-22	<i>The crucified messiah</i>
MONDAY	John 12:1-11	<i>Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus</i>
TUESDAY	John 12:20-36	<i>Jesus speaks of his death</i>
WEDNESDAY	John 13:21-32	<i>Jesus foretells his betrayal</i>

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	<i>The Passover of the LORD</i>
Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	<i>The cup of salvation</i>
1 Corinthians 11:23-26	<i>Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes</i>
John 13:1-17, 31b-35	<i>The service of Christ: footwashing and meal</i>
*John 19:23-30	<i>Jesus' last words</i>

GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13—53:12	<i>The suffering servant</i>
Psalms 22	<i>Why have you forsaken me?</i>
Hebrews 10:16-25	<i>The way to God is opened</i>
<i>Or</i> Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9	<i>Jesus, the merciful high priest</i>
John 18:1—19:42	<i>The passion and death of Jesus</i>
*John 19:31-42	<i>Jesus the Passover lamb</i>

HOLY SATURDAY

Job 14:1-4	<i>Hope for a tree</i>
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WEEK OF APRIL 5

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34-43	<i>God raised Jesus on the third day</i>
<i>Or</i> Jeremiah 31:1-6	<i>Joy at the restoration of God's people</i>
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	<i>On this day the LORD has acted</i>
Colossians 3:1-4	<i>Raised with Christ</i>
Matthew 28:1-10	<i>Proclaim the resurrection</i>
<i>Or</i> John 20:1-18	<i>Seeing the risen Christ</i>

MONDAY	Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21	<i>Israel crosses over the Sea</i>
TUESDAY	Joshua 3:1-17	<i>Israel crosses into the promised land</i>
WEDNESDAY	Matthew 28:1-10	<i>Matthew's account of the resurrection</i>
THURSDAY	Song of Solomon 2:3-15	<i>The song of lovers in the garden</i>

FRIDAY Colossians 3:1-17
SATURDAY Exodus 15:1-18

The new life in Christ
The song of the sea

WEEK OF APRIL 12

SUNDAY Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

God fulfills the promise to David
Fullness of joy
New birth to a living hope
Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

MONDAY Jonah 1:1-17
TUESDAY Jonah 2:1-10
WEDNESDAY Matthew 12:38-42
THURSDAY Judges 6:36-40
FRIDAY 1 Corinthians 15:12-28
SATURDAY Psalm 114

Jonah saved from the sea
Jonah's praise for deliverance
Jesus speaks of the sign of Jonah
Gideon and the sign of the fleece
Paul teaches the resurrection
God saves through water

WEEK OF APRIL 19

SUNDAY Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35
*Acts 9:1-19a

Receiving God's promise through baptism
I will call upon God
Born anew
Eating with the risen Christ
Paul's Conversation

MONDAY Genesis 18:1-14
TUESDAY Exodus 24:1-11
WEDNESDAY John 21:1-14
THURSDAY Proverbs 8:32—9:6
FRIDAY 1 Peter 1:8-16
SATURDAY Psalm 134

Abraham and Sarah eat with God
Moses and the elders eat with God
Jesus eats with the disciples
Wisdom serves a meal
A holy life
Praise to God

WEEK OF APRIL 26

SUNDAY Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10
*Acts 16:16-34

The believers' common life
The LORD is my shepherd
Follow the shepherd, even in suffering
Christ, the shepherd
Paul and Silas

MONDAY Ezekiel 34:1-16
TUESDAY Ezekiel 34:23-31
WEDNESDAY Matthew 20:17-28
THURSDAY Jeremiah 23:1-8
FRIDAY 1 Peter 2:9-17
SATURDAY Psalm 23

God, the true shepherd
God will provide perfect pasture
Jesus came to serve
God will gather the flock
Live as God's people
God, our shepherd

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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!

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

THE CARILLON

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- Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, office@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org,
Office: 608-452-3772; Cell Phone: 608-317-0007
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am-3:30pm
- 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.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>No Worship</u>	2 No Bible Study 7:00p -Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion	3 7:00p -Good Friday Worship	4 10:00a -Sugar Creek Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch
5 9:00a Easter Worship with Holy Communion No Sunday School or Coffee Fellowship	6 9:00a -Naomi Circle	7 9:00-Noon- Pastor's Text Study 10:30a -Ruth Circle 2:00p -Bethel Home Ann.	8 9:00a -Quilting	9 10:00a -Bible Study	10 Pr. Ben's sabbath	11
12 9:00a - Worship with Holy Communion 10:15a -Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship, Finance Committee	13 Carillon Deadline	14 9:00-Noon- Pastor's Text Study	15 5:00-7:00p -Table Together Community Meal	16 No Bible Study 10:00a -WELCA 6:00p -Church Council Jamie off	17 Pr. Ben's sabbath	18 9:00-3:30 -WELCA Spring Convention @ CVLC
19 9:00a -Worship 10:15a -Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship 3:00p -Pre-Assembly Caucus @ Our Savior's West Salem	20	21 9:00-Noon- Pastor's Text Study	22	23 10:00a -Bible Study Jamie off	24 Pr. Ben's sabbath	25
26 9:00a -Worship 10:15a -Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship	27	28 9:00-Noon- Pastor's Text Study 5:00 -Worship Committee Jamie off	29 9:00a -Quilting Jamie off	30 10:00a -Bible Study Jamie off		Office Hours Tues., Wed., Thurs., 9:00a- 3:30p

