

The Carillon

Page 1

January, 2026



Happy New Year!

It's 2026, still snowy (I hope, I am writing this in December) and we are finally in the New Testament on our journey through scripture. From now until Easter we will be immersed in the Gospel of John, the fourth book that tells us the story and meaning of Jesus Christ.

John is quite a bit different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. While the first three Gospels give us a chronological overview of the life and ministry of Jesus, John works to build a larger, more cosmic story about the Savior. This is why the stories are not in the same order as the other Gospels, and why it just plain reads differently.

And that difference means that as modern people, and English speakers, we can miss some of the major points and themes in John's Gospel, which is a shame because once you can spot them in the text the whole book comes to life in a new and exciting way.

And so, I thought we could try something out together. On **January 4th and 11th after service** we will have an Adult Forum on John's Gospel. Each will last about 45 minutes and lay the groundwork that can be so helpful in understanding the unique message John was inspired to pass on to the Church.

So, grab a cup of coffee, a pastry, and bring your Bible. Let's open up John together and have our faith strengthened and renewed by this amazing book.

Peace and all good,
Pastor Ben



ANNUAL REPORTS

Deadline for Committee's to submit their Annual Reports to Jamie is **Monday**,

January 5th. If you serve on a committee, please be sure to know who needs to prepare a report. Please send to office@coonvalleylutheranchurch in Microsoft Word or PDF format. 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.



ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 25TH

All CVLC voting members (those older than Confirmation youth) are invited to attend our Annual Meeting. Annual Reports will be available in the front of the church or in the office at least one week before the meeting. There will be a **Worship Service on January 25 at 10:00AM. A potluck meal will be served after the Service; if you will be attending the Annual Meeting, please bring a dish to pass.** The meeting will begin when everyone has gone through the food line. Coffee will be served during the meeting. This is a good way to discuss the business, maintenance and the ministry of our church. Please come! Don't forget to bring your Annual Report.

NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS

***Protecting Places of Worship:** CV

Police Chief Philip Welch presented information from the Protecting Places of Worship meeting on Oct. 21.



***Treasurer's Report:** CVLC finances are in the black after several generous donations! The report was reviewed by Council. Report accepted.

Finance Committee: Proposed 2026 Budget will be available soon. Looking for another person to join this committee.

***Ministry Minutes:** Confirmation is going well!

***Education:** The Christmas Program will be Dec. 14 at 9am.

***Endowment:** Thank you cards have been received due to recent distributions.

***Youth Ministry:** 2026 Mission Trip has been registered and will be July 12-17. Total amount per participant will be \$476.

***Men's Club:** Thanks to Ray Williamson for making the lefse, Stockyard for donating meatballs. 192 people were served. \$2,564 was raised and disbursed as follows: \$145-Shepherd Fund, \$145-Bethel Butikk, \$2,564-Parking Lot Fund.

***Personnel:** Employee reviews will be done prior to the Annual Meeting. Pastor & Personnel increases were discussed. Recommendation was made to have a bereavement policy in place for Office Admin.

***Property & Grounds:** An estimate will be obtained for tuckpointing. Boiler room door needs weather-stripping. Deadbolts and a sign were discussed.

***Worship:** New Greeters are in place and going well.

***Membership, Life & Growth:** New member list was viewed. New Member Service is Dec. 7. The next Retro Dinner meeting will be on Jan. 11 after church.

***Other Discussion Items:**

***Come For Supper:** The Committee will continue to gather information. There are 4 churches in our Synod have a community supper. The proposal is to have weekly meals. It will be part of our ministry to host this event.

We will include other churches and groups to participate. Quarterly hunger grants may be available.

***Thanksgiving Eve offering:** Motion passed to give the offering to Bethel Butikk.

***175th CVLC Celebration:** Julie Nelson will chair this event.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hofslien



The Church Office
will be closed
December 22-
January 2nd for

the Holiday Break. We resume normal office hours on Tues. Jan. 5th, Tues. & Wed. 9am-4pm; Thurs. 9am-3:30pm. 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!



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!



Thank you to Ray & Renita Williamson for giving a memorial to the General Fund in memory of Betty Williamson to offset the cost of a new office computer!



A TABLE TOGETHER

On November 9, Pastor Ben's sermon on the book of Amos inspired an idea that quickly grew into a new

ministry: *A Table Together.*

The Committee prayerfully chose this name because it reflects our mission to offer free meals and warm fellowship to those in need in our community. *A Table Together* creates a space where people can gather, share, and be fed, in body and spirit, through acts of compassion and love.

We'll begin by hosting a free community meal once a month, with hopes to expand to weekly meals as participation and resources grow. As members of Coon Valley Lutheran Church, we envision *A Table Together* as a place where neighbors connect, friendships flourish, and Christ's love is experienced in meaningful, tangible ways. We'll partner with the community to build a caring network—making *A Table Together* a space where grace is shared, and love is lived out.

A Table Together will share its first free meal on **January 21, 2026 from 5:00-7:00pm**, in our church basement. There are many ways the congregation can support or participate. Foremost, we ask that you keep this ministry in your prayers as we reach those in need. We also appreciate help with meal preparation and serving, as well as donations of food and money. We've applied for a \$500 start-up grant from ELCA World Hunger and are awaiting their response. *A Table Together* ministry also qualifies for Thrivent Action Teams funds.

If you have questions or want to learn more about *A Table Together*, contact Betty Jorgenson or Kara Moilien at meals@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY

LUMINARY ORDERS



Once again, our Confirmation Youth will be making Luminaries in memory of our loved ones, to shine on Ash Wednesday, February 18. You can order by using this form, signing up on the order forms at church, by contacting Jamie, or by ordering from our Confirmation Youth. All orders should be made and paid for by February 8. *Make checks out to "CVLC." Luminaries are \$5 per person. If you want two people named on one Luminary, the cost will be \$10. List both names on the same line if you would like both names on one luminary.

LUMINARY ORDER

FOR _____ FROM _____
\$5

Return by Sunday, February 8 ☺



"SOUPER BOWL" OF CARING ON FEBRUARY 8.
CVLC will again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. On SUPER BOWL SUNDAY a soup kettle will be placed in the narthex to receive monetary donations. 100% of the money given will go directly to the **ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL**. We invite you to put a donation in the kettle on this Sunday. Cash and checks will be accepted (make checks payable to CVLC and write "world hunger" in the memo line) we will send all money to the Synod and they will forward it to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL. During these football festivities please remember **to give!**



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.



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.

IT'S GOOD TO
BE BLESSED.
IT'S BETTER TO
BE A BLESSING.

Thank you to all who gave an offering for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. All offerings collected for this service in the amount of \$728 was given to Bethel Butikk! Thank you for helping us help those in our surrounding communities! Thank you to Julie Nelson for leading this service!

WELCA NEWS

With the Carillon going out early this month, we have not had our WELCA meeting yet. But, here goes

The General Board met to disburse our funds for 2025 and, once again, we were able to give a sizable amount to various ministries and organizations. We will be voting on the final amount and the results will be in the next Carillon. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to offset no Paying Hostesses or Cookie Walk. We are very appreciative of your contributions.

We went through the 2025 yearbook and made changes to the best of our knowledge. If you know of someone who is no longer a member of CVLC or a new member or any phone numbers that have changed or other information, please let Ellie know asap so we can get the information to Jamie.

Please note the article in this issue of the Carillon, written by Kara Moilien, concerning the new "A Table Together" ministry which will be happening soon.

There have been several members who have fallen and other members who have entered assisted living or nursing homes and those who have lost a loved one this year. It would be a good time to let them know that we are thinking of them. Remember that part of our Purpose Statement is to "support one another."

DATE TO REMEMBER

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Thurs., Jan. 15, 10am, WELCA –Program TBA
Hostsess: Carolyn Anderson

Tues. Feb. 10, WELCA hosts South Conference Pastors for coffee and lunch

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 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

Lord,

Whether we leave behind a year of joy or of trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks. Thank you for being with us every day of the year. Thank you for making things new and for giving us the grace of fresh starts.

Amen

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

11/23 – 9a: 100; **Offering:** \$3,343.27
11/26 – 7p: 30; **Offering:** \$448.00
11/30 – 9a: 34; **Offering:** \$1,975.37
12/7 – 9a: 97; **Offering:** \$4,339.12

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

11/23-8; 12/7-13

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

General Fund Balance: 11/30/25: \$52,371.27
Memorial Fund Balance: 11/30/25: \$65,187.35
Building Fund Balance: 11/30/25: \$65,359.82
CD Interest Balance: 11/30/25: \$28,807.53
Shepherd Fund Balance: 11/30/25: \$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, Rita Erlandson, Gloria Galstad, Kira Hoff, Becky Ihle, Donna Ihle, Ray Ihle, Eddie Kanieski, Todd King, Margaret Lee, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Aaron Marx, LuEtta Nelson, Mike Nelson, Romaine Nelson, Sandra Onshus, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Heidi Saupe, Mary Schultz, Billie Slater, LaVonne Stendahl, Krin (Dreves) Stendalen, Joyce Temp, Teri Tomten, Maggie Traastad, 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), Ellen Runice, Bob & Evelyn Schulze

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

† **Family and friends of members**

† **Local Military:** Alex Hendrickson

YEAR-TO-DATE BALANCE

| 2025 | November | 2025 YTD |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Total Offerings | \$24,454.79 | \$192,213.00 |
| Expenses | \$18,098.63 | \$192,121.14 |
| Balance/Shortfall | \$6,356.16 | \$91.86 |
| Parsonage Int. | | |
| Fund Transfer | \$0 | \$0 |
| Building Fund | | |
| Transfer | \$0 | \$8,372.00 |
| Memorial Fund | | |
| Transfer | \$0 | \$2,164.73 |

MEMORIALS

Betty Williamson

Office Computer: \$900.00

Evelyn Dahlen

Memorial Fund: \$25.00

Sherman Olson

Memorial Fund: \$922.50
Endowment: \$20.00



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!



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available at the church during office hours, Tues., Wed. 9am-4:00pm and Thursday 9am-3:30pm, 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!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

WEEK OF JANUARY 4

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| SUNDAY | Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147 Wisdom 10:15-21 John 1:1-19 | <i>Joy as God's scattered flock gathers Passing God in Zion Praising the holy name God with us</i> |
| MONDAY | 1 Kings 10:1-13 | <i>The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon</i> |
| EPIPHANY | Isaiah 60:1-6 | <i>Nations come to the light</i> |
| TUESDAY | Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 | <i>All shall bow down The gospel's promise for all Christ revealed to the nations</i> |
| WEDNESDAY | 1 Kings 10:14-25 | <i>The wealth and wisdom of King Solomon</i> |
| THURSDAY | Luke 13:31-35 | <i>Receiving or rejecting Christ</i> |
| FRIDAY | Micah 5:2-9 | <i>The promise concerning Bethlehem</i> |
| SATURDAY | Ephesians 3:14-21 | <i>The power and riches of God</i> |

WEEK OF JANUARY 11

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| SUNDAY | Isaiah 42:1-9 | <i>The servant of the LORD brings justice</i> |
| BAPTISM OF OUR LORD | Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17 | <i>The voice of the LORD upon the waters Jesus' ministry after his baptism Christ reveled as God's servant</i> |
| MONDAY | Genesis 35:1-15 | <i>God calls and blesses Jacob</i> |
| TUESDAY | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | <i>God calls Jeremiah</i> |
| WEDNESDAY | Matthew 12:15-21 | <i>The words of Isaiah applied to Jesus</i> |
| THURSDAY | Isaiah 51:7-16 | <i>God saves the people through water</i> |
| FRIDAY | Acts 8:4-13 | <i>Philip preaches and baptizes</i> |
| SATURDAY | Psalm 89:5-37 | <i>God anoints David to be a son</i> |

WEEK OF JANUARY 18

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| SUNDAY | Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42 | <i>The servant brings light to the nations Doing the will of God Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth Christ revealed as the Lamb of God</i> |
| MONDAY | Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28 | <i>The Passover Lamb</i> |
| TUESDAY | Isaiah 53:1-12 | <i>The one like a lamb</i> |
| WEDNESDAY | Matthew 89:14-17 | <i>Christ, the bridegroom, the new wine</i> |
| THURSDAY | Isaiah 48:12-21 | <i>God saves the people through water</i> |
| FRIDAY | Acts 8:26-40 | <i>Philip teaches about the lamb</i> |
| SATURDAY | Psalm 40:6-17 | <i>Not sacrifice, but divine mercy</i> |

WEEK OF JANUARY 25

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| SUNDAY | Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:1-0 Matthew 4:12-23 | <i>Light shines for those in darkness The LORD is light Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth Christ revealed as a prophet</i> |
| MONDAY | Judges 6:11-24 | <i>God calls Gideon to lead the people</i> |
| TUESDAY | Judges 7:12-22 | <i>God leads Gideon to victory</i> |
| WEDNESDAY | Luke 1:67-79 | <i>Christ, the light dawning</i> |
| THURSDAY | Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26 | <i>Judah, Zebulon, Napthali blessed</i> |
| FRIDAY | Philippians 2:12-18 | <i>Call to shine like stars</i> |
| SATURDAY | Psalm 27:7-14 | <i>God, our light, our victory</i> |

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Coon Valley, WI 54623
Permit No. 2



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

VOL. 55 January 2026 No.1
Coon Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA
P.O. Box 280, 1005 Central Ave.
Coon Valley, WI 54623
Office Phone (608)452-3772
www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org

- Pastor: Rev. Benjamin Morris, 608-406-1556; pastor@coonvalleylutheranchurch.org
- Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, 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
 - Organist: Mary Schultz
 - Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner
 - Church Council President: Steve Pauloski
- Vice President: Ray Williamson; Secretary: Laura Hofslien
- 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.

January 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Office Hours: Tues., Wed., 9a-4:00p; Thurs. 9a-3:30p | | |  | 1 <u>Office Closed</u> | 2 <u>Office Closed</u> | 3 |
| 4 <u>9:00a</u> -Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:15a</u> -Coffee Fellowship <u>6:00</u> -Confirmation | 5 Annual Report Deadline <u>9:00a</u> -Naomi Circle | 6 <u>9:00-Noon</u> -Pastor's Text Study <u>10:00a</u> -Ruth Circle | 7 | 8 <u>6:00p</u> -Rebecca Circle <u>10:00a</u> -Bible Study | 9 <u>Pr. Ben's Sabbath</u> | 10 |
| 11 <u>9:00a</u> -Worship with Holy Communion <u>10:15a</u> -Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship; <u>10:15a</u> -Finance; Audit, Endowment, Retro Committee Meetings | 12 Carillon Deadline | 13 <u>9:00-Noon</u> -Pastor's Text Study | 14 <u>9:00a</u> -Quilting | 15 <u>10:00a</u> -WELCA <u>6:00pm</u> -Church Council | 16 <u>Pr. Ben's Sabbath</u> | 17 |
| 18 <u>9:00a</u> -Worship <u>10:15a</u> -Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship; <u>6:00</u> -Confirmation | 19 | 20 <u>9:00-Noon</u> -Pastor's Text Study | 21 <u>5:00-7:00p</u> -A Table Together Community Meal | 22 <u>10:00a</u> -Bible Study | 23 <u>Pr. Ben's Sabbath</u> | 24 |
| 25 <u>10:00a</u> -Sunday School <u>10:00a</u> -Worship <u>11:00a</u> -Annual Meeting & Potluck | 26 | 27 <u>9:00a</u> -Winter Theological Conference | 28 <u>9:00a</u> -Quilting | 29 <u>10:00a</u> -Bible Study | 30 <u>Pr. Ben's Sabbath</u> | 31 |