



2026

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." – *Philippians 4:4*

We have spent this past month dwelling in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. As I noted last month this is when the world sees Jesus at his weakest, but we (as Christians) see Jesus at his strongest. In some ways, a strange thing to say, but it's true because of what we learn this month in our worship readings. We know it's true because on the cross Jesus defeated death once and for all and rose again on Easter morning!

On March 15, we had to cancel worship because of a snowstorm. It's just one of those things we deal with because of where we live. Winter is very real. Thankfully, it should be over soon. Winter, while I generally like it, reminds many of death because the trees are barren and animals either hibernate or head south. There is a starkness to the season.

Yet, as the calendar rolls over to April there is something special about the time of year. The tulips will soon begin to emerge from the ground. The robins will soon be arriving at our feeders. There will be new life emerging from the death of winter. And we are reminded that death does not have the final say.

One of the traditions we have started here, to remind us of the joy of the season is Holy Humor Sunday. As part of our Easter Celebration we will worship on April 12 with jokes, laughter, and joy. It is our yearly reminder that the devil doesn't have the last laugh, Jesus does. So, please, come and join us Easter Sunday, Holy Humor Sunday, and all throughout the Easter season as we celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection!

Blessings,

Pr. Brad <><





ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL

ALTAR CARE: Carlene Zaremba, Liz Pierce, Sherrie Spolum

CHURCH CLEANING: Carlene Zaremba, Liz Pierce, Sherrie Spolum

PRAYER LIST

Glenn Mariott, Laura Chambers, Norm Peterson, CarolAnn Peterson, Marcy Bell, Family and Friends of Jim Loehr, Family and Friends of Peggy Finstad, ALL THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, MILITARY – and all loved ones serving overseas.

ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL

USHERS: Mike Macrafic

READER: Nancy Lauden

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: JoAnn Salava

PREPARE COMMUNION: Hazel Ritchart, Tanya Wilkinson

FEBRUARY FINANCES

<u>St. Stephen's</u>		<u>St. Peter's</u>	
General Fund Income	\$ 5,859.03	Income	7,644.30
Expenses	5,178.16	Expenses	5,213.16
Balance of Funds		Balance of Funds	
General	1,416.38	General	5,212.58
Building	3,033.22	Memorial	9,047.95
Memorial	12,117.91	Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage	9,634.35	Parsonage – Savings	12,878.23
		Checking	3,532.71
		Sabbatical Reserve Fund	2,263.61

Need \$ 7,112 Monthly

Need \$ 1,641 Weekly to Meet Budget



ST. PETER'S WELCA NEWS

Women of the ELCA--NEW IDEA--will meet on Sunday, April 12th, right after church service, 10:30 a.m. Michelle N. will have devotions. There will be a discussion on ideas for fall raffle sale, spring fling, rummage sales, etc. We welcome all women to check out our mission for 2026.

Men and Women's Breakfast held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Perkins, 9:30 a.m. Each group sits separately, orders and pays dutch. This month, it will be held April 8th.

La Crosse Area Synod Spring Convention is Saturday, April 18th, at Coon Valley Lutheran Church. If interested contact Leslie or Carlene for pre-registration.

"DEEP" Spring Cleaning at St. Peter's on Wednesday, April 22 and Saturday, April 25th, 9:00 am until noon. Men, women and children are encouraged to help.

St. Peter's Spring Cemetery Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 2nd at 9 a.m. Bring your specialty tool/s. Many hands make the task easier.

SPRING FLING will be held Sunday, May 31st, after church service. Men, women, and children are welcome. More details to come.

Yes, CLEAN, USEABLE items may be donated for coming rummage sale/s. **NO ELECTRONICS**, please.



St. Stephen's Council

Spring cleanup set for April 11 with April 18 as a backup date.

Please continue to support the local food pantries.

Looking ahead:

May 16 Armed Forces Day Parade

August 15 food booth at Nelson Park for 1840's reenactment.

Hope everyone has a great Easter season.





Registration Open Sugar Creek Bible Camp



Outdoor Adventures K-12 Youth & Families

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Scan the QR Code or visit

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(608)734-3113

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Fundamental Characteristic of Camp #1

Camp is Relational - Impacts of this include improved social competency, increased self-confidence, and more positive attitudes toward Christian communities.

sacredplaygrounds.com

La Crosse Area Synod
Women of the ELCA

Spring CONVENTION

APRIL
SATURDAY | **18** | 8:00AM
2026

Coon Valley Lutheran Church
1005 Central Avenue, Coon Valley, WI 54623

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
BISHOP EMERITA,
THE REVEREND DR.
APRIL ULING LARSON

8:00AM REGISTRATION & FELLOWSHIP
9:00AM WORSHIP WITH
REV. BEN MORRIS AND
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
REV. DIONE STEPANEK
10:00AM-2:30PM CONVENTION

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 (S)Kaitlyn Schroeder (P)Carter Brieske	3	4 (S) 9:00 Quilting (P)Connor Blaschke
5 EASTER 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/ HC	6 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word (S) KariBeth Noe (P)Destiny Wal- temath	7 (P) 5:30 Quilting	8 9:30 Women's Birthday Breakfast 9:30 Men's Break- fast (S)Peggy Lauseng (S)Chad Stickney (P)Bryan Courtney	9	10 (P) 4:00 pm Craft Day (S)Colton Stickney	11 (S) 9:00 Quilting (P) 9:00 am Craft Day
12 HOLY HUMOR 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/ HC (P) WELCA – following worship	13 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word	14 (P) 5:30 Quilting (P)Andrew Peterson (P)Marcus Wilson	15 (S) 1:00 pm WELCA Bible Study 6:30 Confirma- tion @ Peace (S) Hazel Ritchart	16	17 (S)Dorothy Bennett (S)Kayla Macrafic (P)James Hayward, Sr	18 (S) 9:00 Quilting WELCA Spring Convention—Coon Valley Lutheran Church (P)Mark Matthias
19 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/ HC (P)Rick Shisler (P)Nickolas Wal- temath	20 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (S)Kevin Gerdes, Sr. (S)Kayla Schleif	21 (P) 5:30 Quilting (S)Danielle Mills (P)Judy Grilley	22 (P) 9:00 Spring Cleaning 6:30 Confirma- tion @ Peace (S)Kevin Gerdes, Jr. (S)Jacob Steele- Hedblom (P)Rebecca Handy (P)James Hayward, Jr	23 (S)Geniece Schroed- er	24	25 (S) 9:00 Quilting (P)Chad Verhagen
26 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/ HC (S) 6:00 Council Mtg (P) 6:00 Council Mtg @ (S) (P) 7:00 Joint Council (P)Lynn Schroeder	27 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word (P)Dave Fisher (P)Gary Pierce	28 (P) 5:30 Quilting	29 6:30 Confirma- tion @ Peace	30	(P) Cemetery Clean up May 2 @ 9:00 am 	