

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Thanksgiving – One Day to “Count Your Blessings”

This is the month we set **one day** aside in the year to gather round the table with family and give thanks for our many blessings. One day out of 365.

We all know the story behind the first Thanksgiving. Back in 1621 – one year after the Pilgrims had arrived - friendly Native Americans shared the “New World” foods with them that they raised and ate. In that part of the world, they included beans, black walnuts, hickory nuts, tomatoes, corn, squash, pumpkins, crab apples, cranberries, onions and turkey. Without their help, I wonder if the pilgrims would have survived. By the first Thanksgiving 75% of them had already perished. But it was a woman, *Sarah Hale*, who helped make it an official annual holiday. She launched a letter-writing campaign in 1846 and in 1863 convinced Abraham Lincoln to proclaim the third Thursday in November a National Day of Thanksgiving. Americans celebrated Thanksgiving on the third Thursday of November until Franklin Roosevelt moved it to the 4th Thursday in 1942. He had started the change in 1939 to encourage Christmas shopping and boost an economy still recovering from the Great Depression. What I find interesting is that despite the Pilgrims incredible suffering and the country being embroiled in a devastating civil war, people somehow still felt blessed and felt a need to thank God for God’s many blessings. It makes me think of our theme song again, “Count Your Blessings.”

**Vs. 1: When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

So why just one day? Why not every day? We are still being “tempest tossed.” If not in our personal lives – listen to the news. As our thoughts and prayers go out to people in the Ukraine, Israel and Gaza we can thank God for the simple blessing of feeling safe when we walk down our streets. When we go to the grocery store and purchase food for our table, we can thank God for the abundance we are surrounded with and not just think about those who are hungry in so many places around our world, but do something to help them. We could donate to ELCA World Hunger. “Counting our Blessings,” will undoubtedly make us more content and possibly more generous.



November

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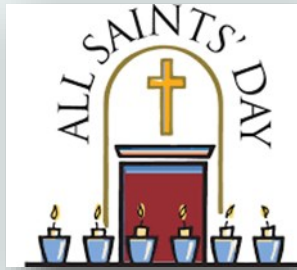
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Insert: November and December Youth Bake Sale Order forms

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchStoughton>



IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL DATES TO REMEMBER FOR NOVEMBER

Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.: Youth Bake Sale Items pick-up.

Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. there is an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service here at CLC.

On Sunday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we celebrate Advent by having an event called Advent Beginnings. This is an event for all ages. There are crafts lead by Jean Johnson and Joy Nelson, Card making led by Sandy Grant, Cookie decorating, and delicious food in the café.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Two worship services at 8:00 a.m. (traditional)
and 9:15 a.m. (Worship Lite)**

Sunday, November 5: All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion

This is the Sunday we remember and celebrate the saints who have passed from this life to the next the past year. This year we have 19, so Pastor Paula will incorporate "The Prayers for the Saints" as part of the sermon. Following the sermon Holy Communion will be celebrated. When we come to the altar and receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we believe the saints past, present and future are kneeling there with us.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

The Saints who passed from this life to the next in the past year.

**Ann D. (Iverson) Nelson
Marshall F. Onellion
Carol Strandlie
Alvin Menninga
Roger Segebrecht
Gregory Frye
Nancy Viney
Elizabeth (Betty) L. Vinje
Monica Reese
Roger A. Knipfer
Thomas J. Hotter
Marlene J. Brummer
Evelyn Kahl
Gerald Green
Gerald Nelson
Patricia A. (Pat) Erickson
Suzanne Hotter
Lorraine Halverson
Patricia (Pat) Ann Cox**

**December 4, 1936 – November 9, 2022
March 16, 1959 – November 20, 2022
May 18, 1950 – December 27, 2022
October 11, 1932 – January 16, 2023
May 16, 1933 – January 22, 2023
January 29, 1952 – April 10, 2023
August 7, 1944 – April 14, 2023
April 4, 1943 – April 20, 2023
September 7, 1959 – May 20, 2023
October 11, 1934 – May 20, 2023
March 11, 1942 – May 27, 2023
February 22, 1938 – June 2, 2023
August 12, 1928 – June 6, 2023
October 14, 1938 – July 12, 2023
May 8, 1942 – July 30, 2023
February 20, 1936 – August 8, 2023
February 7, 1941 – August 17, 2023
December 6, 1931 – August 19, 2023
April 21, 1949 – September 7, 2023**

Sunday, November 12: Worship

November is full of difficult texts and we have one this Sunday. In today's gospel reading Jesus talks about his second coming and the need to be ready at all times.

Preacher: Pastor Paula



Thanks Melissa Peterson
for this beautiful picture

WORSHIP NEWS (CONTINUED):

Sunday, November 19: Worship with Holy Communion

Jesus is talking about his second coming again in the gospel reading. Last week he told us we needed to be ready at all times. This week he adds that those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has given them.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

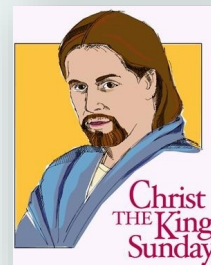
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church

That's right! This year we host, so please come! Together with St. Ann's and Covenant Lutheran we will "count our blessings" and give thanks for the past year. Following worship coffee and treats will be served. The offering this year is designated to START and Stoughton Resettlement. Both help people find housing, an absolute necessity this time of year.

Sunday, November 26: Christ the King Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 9:15 a.m. but NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus is certainly a different kind of king. He sees to the needs of the poor and the hungry and the hopeless. He expects the same of us.

Preacher: Pastor Paula



FINANCIAL UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023



United is Christ: Embody the Word

"We are the church, the body of our Lord,
We are all God's children and we have been restored."

refrain to the song, "We Are The Church"

In an effort to be proactive we want to keep you appraised of our financial situation. We passed a \$60,000 deficit budget in February. We made as many cuts as possible. We have \$60,000 to cover it, but the Council and Stewardship Committee hopes it will not be totally depleted by the end of the year.

It is now October and the year is quickly coming to end. At the end of September our treasurer, Mike Warwick, reported at the last council meeting that we have a \$24,000 deficit. That is not bad. With $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year gone we could be at \$45,000 (75% of \$60,000)

People have responded and we want to thank you for your generosity. If we all contribute just a little extra, perhaps we could complete the year in the black. Please consider helping out.





STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Stewardship 2024

**United in Christ:
Count Your Blessings**

"My cup brims with blessings." Psalm 23:5



We have had a great Stewardship Drive. The committees did a great job on their booths for the Ministry Fair. It was wonderful to see so many people checking out the booths and enjoying the activities and food offered. The following Sunday was Quilt Sunday. I heard a number of people say, "This is my favorite Sunday of the year." People came early to pick out a quilt to purchase. 32 quilts were sold. The third Sunday was our "Count Your Blessings" Fest. The Polka Band sounded great and plenty of people stayed to eat some German food, to craft, play games and take a hayride or two or three around the church yard. \$777.12 was raised for the CLC Scholarship Fund. And the last Sunday people were crafting again, making their own "Count Your Blessings" plaque and enjoying coffee and treats.

Now it's time to get in your pledges. If you have yet to fill out a Pledge Card and Time and Talent Sheet, please do so. The Stewardship Committee will accept them throughout November and December, but ideally would appreciate you handing them in ASAP.

ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING

This fall Christ Lutheran was surprised by a gift of \$660,000 from the estate of Roger Segebrecht. In November the Stewardship and CLC Foundation Endowment Committees will meet together to discuss how best to invest that gift. That gift is an undeniable blessing.

We have had a few large estate gifts in the last 15 years. Fran Jensen left the congregation \$71,648 in 2010. Her gift helped pay off the mortgage. Another gift of \$45,398 was given in 2017. We are not sure who gave it, but we are looking into that. This gift went directly into the Foundation and the Foundation funds helped to pay off \$250,000 of the mortgage and are used to cover many of our programming and benevolence expenses. Merle Lebakken gave a gift of \$139,112. His gift helped pay for the new lighting and sound system in the sanctuary and the \$60,000 left was the cushion we needed to responsibly pass a \$60,000 deficit budget in 2023.

These gifts are truly appreciated and the Stewardship Committee encourages each and everyone of us to consider remembering your church in your estate planning.



SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATES



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts

Here are the numbers 16 Baby Kits, a Box of Baby Blankets, 27 Personal Care Kits, 36 School Kits and 4 Sewing Kits. The Quilters put together 105 quilts. Sold 32 and packed up 73 for LWR. Between free will donations and selling quilts they raised \$1693, more than enough to cover the cost of shipping everything to wherever it is needed in this world and buy more batting and fabric to keep quilting.

What does God's Global Barnyard and the Manger Have in Common?

Answer – cows, goats and chicks. This year during the Season of Advent the congregation will partner with the Sunday School to raise funds for God's Global Barnyard to raise funds to buy a cow, a goat and some chicks. A cow costs \$500. Just one cow can produce as much as five gallons of milk each day. What the family doesn't drink can be sold at market for a steady source of income. Goats cost \$50 each. Their milk is used to produce yogurt and cheese, which not only feeds the family but once again can be sold at market for income. And finally chickens. Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry. Come to worship Christmas Eve and check out the manger. If we have raised \$500 for a cow, a cow will join Mary and Joseph. So will the goats and chicks we are able to purchase.



GO AND TELL

BY ROGER SLACK

I have been reading the prophet Isaiah lately and have to admit I am only halfway through as it is the longest of the books of the prophets, 66 chapters. What I have read so far is a lot of foretelling of doom for both Judah and the surrounding countries that God used to get their attention. It makes me wonder what kind of a man Isaiah was. It must have been hard to keep speaking the hard truths to a people just not listening to God. They were a people who just did not care about other people unless they could get something out of it. Kindness and generosity were not traits that had any value in their eyes. As a result, God took away from them the things they worked so hard to get and clung to, thinking that was their purpose in life. They had to lose all that before they could realize God was their only hope for life. Even then some refused to turn to God and ask for His mercy and saving intervention. It seems hard to imagine why, but egos can stand between us and God and make us blind to understanding. Not everything that Isaiah spoke was gloom and doom. Interspersed throughout the writing are glimpses of hope and prophecies of the coming Messiah, Jesus. I'm sure Isaiah appreciated when he had the chance to preach this word to the people and hopefully get their attention and see them turn back to God. That is what God wanted all along.



The world
and its desires
pass away.
but whoever
does the
will of God
lives forever.

1 John 2:17 (NIV)

Youth Group News



*Youth Note:
Earn Money
towards your
Mission Trip
2024 Fees by
baking for and
selling baked
goods.*

**Saturday,
November 4th,
11th, and 18th
from 9:00 a.m. to
noon:** Baking
mornings for the
Youth Bake Sale.
**Sunday,
November 12th
and 19th from
1:00 p.m. to 4:00
p.m.:** Baking days
for the Youth Bake
Sale.

Sign-up Genius Link:
[https://
www.signupgenius.c
om/
go/409094BADA72
AAoFC1-45562684-
november#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-45562684-november#/)

MISSION TRIP TO BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AREA & GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

GRADES 8TH –12TH AND ALL INTERESTED ADULTS
SATURDAY, JULY 20TH—SUNDAY, THROUGH JULY 27TH
COST: \$1999

The time to sign up is NOW!!!! Our first major fundraising event is the Holiday Bake Sale. Participants will be needed in the kitchen Saturday, November 4th, 11th and 18th and Sunday, November 12th and 19th for some baking on steroids. Sign up to help and you could put a dent in the cost of the trip.

Wondering what to ask Santa for Christmas? If you plan to go on the trip ask Santa for a backpack. The mules will carry the heavy stuff, but we will each be carrying our own personal gear – meaning clothes, sleeping bag, sleeping pad and water bottles.

You can pick up the registration form at the Information Desk at church



Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier Mission Trip Bake Sale Fundraiser

Check out the order form included in this mailing. Share it with your friends. It is also on our website. It has a few unusual items on it for a Bake Sale – like meatballs. And then of course we have included once again your favorites – lefse, fudge, pies, homemade jam and Swedish rye bread. Please have your order forms back to the church by November 17th for pick up on Monday and Tuesday, November 20th or 21st between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or December 17th for pick up on Friday and Saturday, December 22nd and 23rd between 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENUS FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday Evening Meals

Dinner is served from: 5:30– 6:30 p.m.

*A minimum donation of \$6.00 or \$7.00 is suggested.
ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!*

November 1

Tacos
Cheese Quesadillas
Spanish Rice
Cookies and Ice Cream
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

November 8

Baked Chicken
Cheesy or Baked Potatoes
Veggies and Ranch Dressing or Salad
Apple Crisp with Ice Cream or Pumpkin Pie
Milk, Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

November 15

Lasagna
Buttered Noodles
Green Salad
Garlic Toast
Brownies with Ice Cream
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

**November 22: NO SUPPER,
CONFIRMATION OR GOD AND GAMES**

**God and Games Continues Wednesday
Evenings 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

All 3rd – 6th Graders are invited

You can still come. You are always welcome. We meet in the gym at Christ Lutheran at 6:30 p.m. Lannie Estervig would love to meet you. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with some games and fun in the gym.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION NEWS

IMPORTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION/ MILESTONE MINISTRY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 22nd: No Confirmation, No God and Games, and No Wednesday Evening Meal. There is an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at 7:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3rd: 1st Graders and their parents make Advent Logs with Pastor Paula during Sunday school from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Sunday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we celebrate Advent by having an event called Advent Beginnings. This is an event for all ages. There are crafts lead by Jean Johnson and Joy Nelson, Card making led by Sandy Grant, Cookie decorating, and delicious food in the café.

Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon Sunday School Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10th at the 9:15 a.m. service. we will have our Sunday school Christmas program.

It is that time of year again where our Sunday school has to prepare for the fast approaching holidays. This year there are a couple of events that you need to know about. First, is the Sunday School Christmas Program and this year we are going to be doing “**Twas the Night Before...**”. I am sure you are all familiar with the popular poem. This program tells the story of Jesus’ Birth in the same format as this classic poem. All of the kids will be singing a couple of songs, they will each have a line to read and will dress up as part of the nativity scene. We also have over 25 individual speaking parts for this program. The biggest being the two narrators, but smaller parts for other characters in the Christmas nativity scene like the shepherds, the townspeople, the angels and even the evil king Herod will make an appearance. These parts are small and the words will be on the screen in the sanctuary, so if you have a kid that would like a bigger part in the show please let Jenny Hoffman know or your child’s teachers know so that we can assign them a role. Please mark your Calendars for **Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 a.m. to noon** for the full dress rehearsal and **Sunday, December 10th at 9:15 a.m.** for the program. We will have kids then report to their Sunday school classrooms for a short celebration after the 9:15 a.m. service. Our confirmation age students will earn a sermon note for the dress rehearsal and for the Christmas Program.

The following week during Sunday school from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. we will have a Birthday party for Jesus. All of the kids from Pre-K through 8th grade will gather in the Gym to sing some Christmas songs, read the story of Jesus’ Birth, play some games and then have some cake and cookies to celebrate the birth of Jesus (please note that allergy free options will be available). This is an event for all of the children in our church to attend and it will help them to remember the reason for this important holiday season.

Please Note: That **we will not have Confirmation, Wednesday night supper or God and Games on Wednesday November 22nd** and **we will not have Sunday School on November 26th** This is to give our families time to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Please note that if your family attends church on the 26th we are putting up the Christmas tree decorations in the sanctuary and in the Narthex. All members of the congregation and especially the families are encouraged to participate in decorating our Christmas trees. Our Confirmation students can receive a sermon note for helping to decorate. So please consider helping again this year for this fun family activity!



MILESTONE MINISTRY NEWS NOVEMBER

On October 8th, our 3rd graders received their Bibles during the 9:15 a.m. service. The third graders came forward with their parents and parents presented them



with the Bibles fulfilling a promise they made when their child was baptized to give the word of God to their children. Here is a picture of this years third graders receiving their Bibles.

We have another milestone on December 3rd during Sunday school when our 1st Graders and their parents will meet with Pastor Paula for a short devotional and then together you will make an advent log to help you mark the weeks of Advent. So all parents of 1st graders whether you attend Sunday school or not please mark your calendars.

From Left to Right: Amber Daniels, Edwin Alme, Moses Harris, and Clara Harrington.

Advent Beginnings
Sunday, December 3
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 P.M.

Put the date on your calendar.

This is a wonderful event. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas. It is spent preparing for the birth of Jesus. Let's do it together on the first Sunday of Advent. The Youth and Education Ministry Teams host this event for the entire congregation - youth and adults. We will make homemade Christmas Cards (kids Mom and Dad and Grandma and Grampa love to get cards from you!), Christmas crafts with Jean Johnson and Joy Nelson that make great gifts or can be used as decorations, and frost and decorate Christmas Cookies. And of course food will be served. On the menu that day will be both kid and adult favorites. A free will donation will be taken to cover the cost.

Check out the crafts! They will be on display in the narthex, Sunday, November 19th . Kids, instead of buying something for mom and dad and grandpa and grandma, how about making them something?

ADULT EDUCATION NOVEMBER:

Rebecca's Rebels

Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe

Thursday, November 16th

6:30 p.m.

Viking Brew House

Upstairs – in the back room with the couches

Rebecca's Rebels met for the first time this September but the study which covers new materials each month continues. This year we will go through Daniel Erlander's book, "Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe." After over 40 years in ministry this is still my favorite little book. In just 77 pages, it lays out in clear language who God is and what God is all about. We will read through it together, taking our time to ask questions and discuss. And of course, we will enjoy one another's company and conversation. All women, no matter what your age, are invited.

Book Study continues in November – Lab Girl

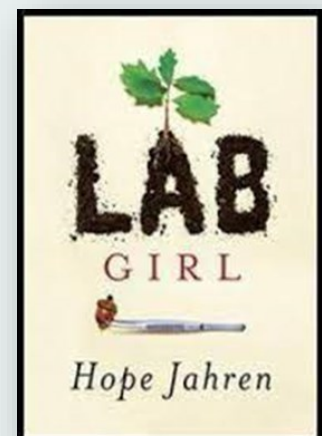
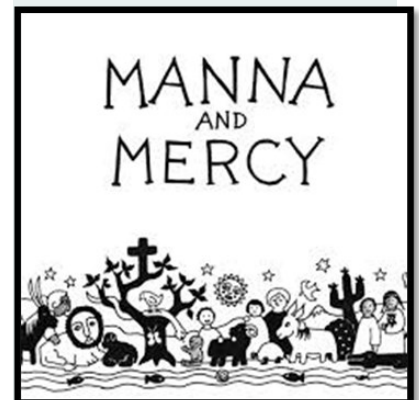
Thursday, November 2nd , 9th, 16th, and 30th

9:30 a.m.

Sunrise Café

Hope Jahren in her award-winning, bestselling memoir Lab Girl tells the story of a young woman who finds friendship in odd places, battles bipolar disorder, perseveres through setbacks and relishes hard-earned triumphs, and becomes a respected scientist and passionate observer of the natural world.

This is the book that a number of people on my trip to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in August said was an absolute must to read. Copies will be on the Information Desk.



SENIOR LUNCHEONS AND OUTINGS:

Monday, November. 20

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: Colby Smith's Summer Travels

We could be visiting Isle Royale National Park or some place on the west coast. The man gets around with his boat. Wherever he takes us, we will get a chance to enjoy the beauty of this land we call home.

Menu: Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Beans and Squash, Pumpkin or Apple Pie and Ice Cream, Milk and Coffee.

Monday, December 18

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: Stoughton's Madrigal Singers

This has become a tradition and a great one at that. On Monday, December 18th the Stoughton High School Madrigal's will be here to perform following lunch. They will come dressed in their middle age costumes and perform Christmas music from then and now acapella. Come! Enjoy their wonderful music.

Menu: Meatballs and Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Squash, Lefse and Swedish Rye, Rommegrot and Krumkake, Coffee and Milk.

Fireside Theater: The Musical "Scrooge"

Friday, December 15

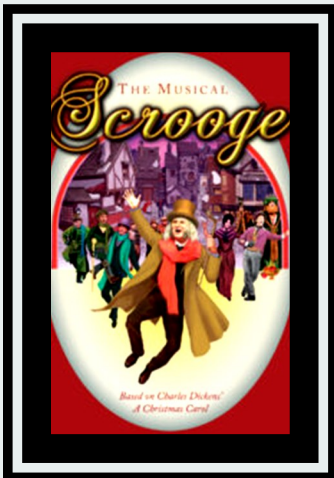
Cost: \$83 (Includes Gratuity)

Sign up by November 15th

Join us for this merry, Broadway musical version of the world's most beloved Christmas story – Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Based on the popular musical movie starring Albert Finney, SCROOGE THE MUSICAL tells this time honored tale of redemption and love as only The Fireside can. If you have to choose only one Christmas show this season you must come see SCROOGE THE MUSICAL at The Fireside.

The main course on the menu that day is Roast Beef Tenderloin, Grilled Atlantic Salmon or Supreme Chut Chicken Breast. You indicate what you want to eat when you sign up. **Please pay for your ticket by November 15th.** Write the check out to "Christ Lutheran Church" and on the memo line write "Fireside."

We leave from the church at 9:45 a.m. to pool rides to reach the Fireside by 10:30 a.m. There will be time to do a little shopping before the show begins. The sign-up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex.



BAPTISMS:

October 15, 2023

Madden Marie Fuller,
daughter of Maxwell and
Gabrielle Fuller.



Memorials

In Memory of:

Gregory Frye

Gregory Frye

Lorraine Halverson

From:

Gloria Hayne

Barbara Elmer

Fred & Phyllis Johnson

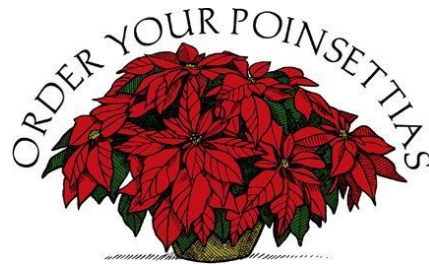
memorials
& gifts

OCTOBER MEMORIES IN PHOTO FORMAT:



**"So we are
ambassadors for
Christ..." -**

2 Corinthians 5:20



If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant this Christmas Season, they are available for \$19.00 each. Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church and return to the church office by December 17.

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator**

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**CLC Facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/
ChristLutheranChurchStoughton](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchStoughton)**

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Gloria Hayne, Office Administrator

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary

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