

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

February 2024



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Stewardship Report for 2023 Matt Hanson, Chair of Stewardship and Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Some people read the Annual Report page by page. Some people just browse through it. Here is one report I wanted you all to see and read so I have placed it in on the front page this month's Ambassador.



The 2023 Stewardship Theme was "Embody the Word" and we did our best to live out that theme. This past year, despite passing a budget with a \$60,000 deficit we managed to do just that. At the end of 2022 there was \$18,000 and some odd dollars left from the funds we received from the Foundation which was sent to the South Central Wisconsin Synod of the ELCA. With

only \$27,000 in Foundation Funds our committees had little or no budgets, but thanks to Thrivent Seed Action Grants they found funding for their ministries. (Does anybody out there have unutilized Thrivent Seed Action Grants?) CLC still gave away \$20,000 in scholarship thanks to a gift of \$5,000 from Gen Wilberg, \$5,000 from the youth, \$5,000 that the CLC Scholarship Fund held back from the previous year, \$2200 from the Lutfisk Committee, gifts from the Circles and individual contributions. We gave \$3,850 and a lot of food to the Stoughton Food Pantry, \$404 to START, \$265 to ELCA World Hunger plus another \$2,570 to God's Global Barnyard, \$2,428 to Lutheran World Relief Disaster Response and Ladies Night Out raised \$7,815 that was distributed in the following amounts to Seniors in Need (\$1500), START (\$4815) and Stoughton Area Resettlement (\$1500). Stewardship's Harvest Fest raised an additional \$2200 for Stoughton Area Resettlement. We gave away close to \$58,000. That is 14% of our Actual Budget. That is absolutely wonderful! Besides that we sent 28 youth and adults to Puerto Rico to work with the Saint Bernard's Project and Habitat for Humanity. They worked four days rebuilding homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Marie in 2017 and we gave them a gift of \$1500 for their ministry. A sign of a healthy congregation is its outreach. Christ Lutheran refused to spend our time and energy worrying about money. We trusted the Lord to provide and continued to look beyond our own doors and got involved in our community and world. We were God's hands and feet and voice. At the budget meeting the first Tuesday in January and at the council meeting the second Tuesday we took time to thank God and "count our blessings." And while we are "counting our blessings" here is another one. As I said, in 2023 we passed a \$60,000 deficit budget. The 2023 book has been closed. With \$30,000 less in expenditures and \$25,000 more in giving because of that we ended the year with only a \$4,550 deficit. We have something else to thank God for. (Continued on page 2)

February

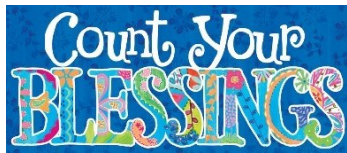
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

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



(Continued from Cover story) The theme for 2024 stewardship program is **“United in Christ: Count Your Blessings.”** The theme is from a verse from one of the best known and loved psalms in the Old Testament, **Psalm 23:5, “My cups brims with blessings.”** As we move into our 150th year as a congregation, we have a multitude of blessings to thank God for in the past, present and looking towards the future.

But in 2024 we are asking the congregation to once again pass deficit budget. A \$49,000 deficit budget. Please take time to look at the 2024 Proposed Budget for 2024. The Foundation is was able to give the congregation about \$9,000 more (\$36,141.35) to distribute among the committees. Congregational giving covers building costs and staff wages and benefits. We have money in savings to cover the deficit, (another blessing we must not forget to count), but we are putting our trust in God and praying that the congregation’s support for our mission and ministry will be generous.

LENTEN SERIES



Lenten Series: And Jesus said, “I Am.”

It doesn’t sound that scandalous to us today, but when he first spoke those words they evoked a strong response. “I AM” is the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush when Moses asked God what his name was. In Hebrew it is “Yahweh.” Yahweh is a verb. Why does God describe Godself as a verb? God is telling Moses, “I am who I am and I will be who I will be.” In other words, “You will get to know me by what I do. And right now I am about to free my people from slavery and I need your help.”

When Jesus said, “I AM” the people who heard him say it knew he was saying “I am God and if you want to get to know God better, stick around, listen, and follow me.” During the Season of Lent we will look at 6 of the 7 “I Am” statements in John’s gospel. Perhaps by the end of Lent you may be able to ask the question, “And who do you say I am?” and come up with one of your own.

Lenten services are at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings with a Lenten Supper served between 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

February 14: Ash Wednesday - “Before Abraham was, I AM” Worship with Ashes and Holy Communion

Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” Jesus identifies himself with the God of Israel, who set God’s people free from slavery in Egypt. This evening we gather to worship Jesus our Savior who sets us free from slavery to sin.

February 21: “I AM the Bread of Life”

You need to eat to survive. But the body needs more than food to survive and truly live. We need Jesus, the Bread of Life.

February 28: “I AM the Light of the Word”

Before God began to create in Genesis 1, the world was a dark and scary place. God created light and the world was no longer such a frightening place. In fact, with the creation of plants and sea creatures and animals and human beings it became absolutely beautiful. In this “I AM” statement Jesus is claiming the same of himself.

LENTEN SERIES (CONTINUED)

March 4: “I AM the Door”

In real life we open a door and find ourselves no longer outside, but find ourselves somewhere different whether it is our home or a school or a church. Jesus claims the same about himself.

March 13: “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”

We usually think of resurrection as something we hope for at the end of this life, but in John’s gospel resurrection and life does not have to wait until the end of this life on earth. Jesus opens the door that will take you there NOW!

March 20: “I AM the Vine”

During storms trees can lose branches. Disconnected from the tree those branches fall to the ground and wither. When Jesus claims “I Am the Vine” he is telling us, “If you want to stay green and lush and alive stay connected to me.”



Lenten Supper Menus for February Supper is served from 5:30– 6:30 p.m.

A minimum donation of \$7.00 is suggested to help cover the cost of food. Food costs have gone up.

February 14

Potato and Bacon Chowder Soup with Swedish Rye Bread
Sloppy Joes
Cookies and Ice Cream
Chocolate and White Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee

February 21

Baked Chicken
Cheesy Potatoes and Baked Potatoes
Vegetable Plate with Ranch Dressing
Swedish Rye Bread
Brownies and Ice Cream
White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee

February 28

Wild Rice or Beef Vegetable Soup with Swedish Rye Bread
Grilled Cheese or Egg Salad
Raspberry Sundaes or Rootbeer Floats
White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee



Wednesdays during Lent 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. In the Gym

During Lent Jen Hoffman and friends will offer a second opportunity to worship for our children. They will meet in the gym and explore the same theme the grown-ups are delving into in the sanctuary. The only difference, they will do it through story, craft and games.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS

Worship Schedule

Christ Lutheran offers two worship experiences each Sunday,
8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship and 9:15 a.m. Worship Lite.

Sunday, February 4: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - Worship with Holy Communion

In the gospel lesson for today everywhere Jesus goes the people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he does. He heals the people of their diseases and their demons, setting them free to live.

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant

Liturgist: Pastor Paula

Sunday, February 11: Transfiguration Sunday - Worship

It is Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday Jesus and three of his disciples climb to the top of a mountain and Jesus' face and clothes light up like the sun. Perhaps the disciples are given this vision to help them through the coming days. We are entering the Season of Lent and on Good Friday Jesus will be crucified. Perhaps this vision helps them from giving up all hope.

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula

Children's Word: Lion and Lambie

Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday of Lent – Worship with Holy Communion

In the gospel reading from Mark Jesus receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at his baptism. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowers Jesus to withstand the tempting of Satan and to go on to proclaim the good news of God's reign. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus, empowers us.

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel and Bell Choirs

Sunday, February 25 – Second Sunday of Lent – Worship

Peter confesses Jesus as Messiah and doesn't like what Jesus has to say when Jesus tells him that he is heading to Jerusalem and the cross. Peter is not the only one who has trouble understanding what Jesus is all about. He is not looking for his own glory. Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula

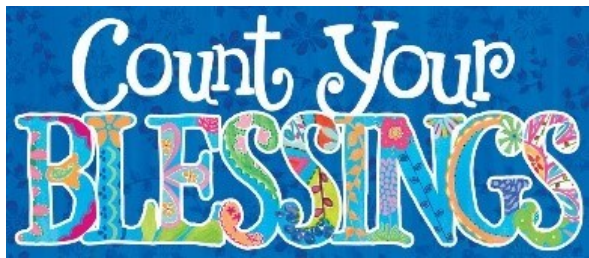
Liturgical Dancer: Mykala Thomas

Special Music: Hope Overflows – Outreach Team from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa

150TH ANNIVERSARY
Celebration

A Year of Guest Preachers

As part of our 150th Anniversary one of the things the Anniversary Committee is planning on doing is sending an invitation to our past pastors to come back and preach. We don't know yet how many will come or when they will preach but the invitation is going out soon. An invitation will also be extended to the bishop of the South Central Wisconsin Synod of the ELCA, Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe. Our theme for the year is "Christ's Church: Past, Present, and Future." One thing the church has enjoyed for years and has been famous for, no matter what denomination, is potlucks. At least a few of these visits will be paired with a Congregational Potluck.



A “Count Your Blessings” Moment

Kyla Betts was our guest preacher on Sunday, January 14. Kyla preached a GOOD sermon. This congregation is blessed with four great lay preachers: Sandy Grant, Dale Gretebeck, Kyla Betts, and Sophie Geister-Jones. Count them as amazing blessing to this congregation. I certainly do. Not only because it gives me a break from preaching, but because it gives all of us an opportunity to hear the good news from a different “see-with.”

CHRISTIANITY FOR 2024 BY SOPHIE GEISTER-JONES

One of the things I find comforting as both a Lutheran and a Midwesterner is the concept of seasons. Seasons, especially as we experience them in the Midwest, fulfill the promise that change is inevitable. It is a very clear visualization that death and cold and darkness are not permanent—with every blizzard there is the promise of a warm summer night (though of course not right away), with every torrential August downpour there is a soft December snow that glitters in the streetlamps. There is bad, but there is also, always, good.

My favorite poem, maybe in the entire world, is by a Saint Paul writer, Danez Smith. It is titled “I’m going back to Minnesota where sadness makes sense.”

In this poem, Smith is in California, and he’s looking out onto the ocean and he says, “Too much light makes me nervous, at least in this land where the trees always bear green. I know something that doesn’t die can’t be beautiful.

And then he asks “Have you ever stood on a frozen lake, California? The sun above you, the snow and stalled sea—a field of mirror, all demanding to be the sun. Everything around you is light and it’s gorgeous and if you stay too long it will kill you. It’s so sad, you know? You’re the only warm thing for miles and the only thing that can’t shine.”

I love this poem because it *revels* and finds such comfort in the uncertainty of life, and the fragility of life and the push and pull of brightness and ice. It finds safety in the way that winter provides a counterbalance and context to the other seasons of life. And I think the same way that Danez Smith talks about winter is how Jesus talks about life and how Lutherans talk about faith.

Because all three of those things are juggling the beauty and joy and pain in life and beauty and joy and pain and death and resurrection, the impending endings and transient beginnings of existence.

Smith says “nothing that doesn’t die is beautiful,” and in that he is saying that death is necessary, but that it opens space for another life, another story, a different chapter. Because winter is beautiful too, even though it can kill you. We know that winter always leads to spring, that there is always something more to come.

We are Christians because we believe in the resurrection of Christ, the promise of eternal life, and the gift of grace that God gives us. And that gift of salvation and eternal life is not just shown to us in Jesus’s birth and death and resurrection. It is shown to us in every season that we live. It is promised when we see leaves that die and fall off the trees, and when spring flowers sprout through the snow, in the way tides ebb and flow. It is promised when daughters become mothers and sons become fathers. As one of my college professors said, “the passing through from one place to another is the whole of life.” The promise of eternal life is hand in hand with the promise that nothing is forever—even life, even death. Change is inevitable and change is *promised*. So why do we try so hard to refute and refuse change when flux is woven into existence at the most elemental level?

Author Octavia Butler once wrote “The only lasting truth is Change. God is change” and *that* is a theological sentence I find irrefutable. Even today, we are exiting the season of anticipating the birth of Christ and moving towards journeying with Christ as he is killed and, ultimately, resurrected.

God’s promise of eternal life is a promise of eternal rebirth, not one of stagnancy. We are finite. In many ways, we are just like the scripture readings we listen to every Sunday: passages taken from a larger story and a bigger conversation. Sometimes these passages don’t make sense to us in the way they are presented. We can’t see the end. Maybe we know the beginning, and we may be living the middle, but we do not have all the information. *And that is okay.*

We have survived countless winters. We know that beauty and new growth follows death, that change is exciting and also inevitable. We have lived the promise of life after death in that very physical sense. It is our time to live it in a spiritual and emotional sense. It is our time to embrace the gifts of each new day and embrace our potential that God saw in us when he sent Jesus to be born, that Jesus saw in us when he died on that cross, that the Holy Spirit saw when she made all Christians a temple.



CHRIST LUTHERAN'S FAMOUS LEFSE BY COLIN HARRINGTON

"While sitting at the bake sale table last December, I got a red alarm, arm-waving message out of the kitchen. A man was coming in from Cottage Grove and was panicked that I would shut down the table before he could get to Stoughton. For you see, on that day, he had cash in hand. And apparently He. Needed. Lefse.

I stuck around for an extra fifteen minutes or so and soon after an out of breath gentleman scurried up to my table. "How much for the lefse?" he inquired. I replied that they were in packs of three, six dollars a pack. He then dropped a pair of crumpled twenty-dollar bills in front of me. "Give me as much as this gets me." I gave him the six packs, he waved me off to keep the change, and with that, he scampered off again.

So it goes with the Christ Lutheran Church's famous lefse.

Lefse, a key traditional food of Norwegian heritage, also has a longstanding tradition as part of Christ Lutheran. Articles promoting this can be found in publications reaching locally in the *Courier Hub* and as far away as the *Capitol Times* and *The Milwaukee Journal*. These articles go back decades with photos of generation after generation of congregational members working diligently on batch after batch of lefse. Often the lefse bake corresponded with a lutefisk dinner. Other times it was a separate thing altogether as a treat at bake sales or as a dinner side for outside-the-congregation meals. One example came in a 1962 publication when Christ Lutheran women made lefse for a University YMCA smorgasbord.

The recipe for lefse was included in this article:

- 1 cup cooked, riced potatoes
- ¼ cup melted lard
- ¾ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon salt

Add melted lard to potatoes while warm. Cool potatoes, then add flour and salt, stirring until well mixed. Make balls about one inch in diameter; chill at least two hours before rolling with grooved lefse pin. Bake on lefse grill. Makes 10 to 12 lefse.

I would like to note at this juncture that this would hardly be a start for most of the batches made at Christ Lutheran. It was stated in another article that often for the lutefisk dinners, over two thousand lefse would be needed, and frankly, eaten.

I've seen this appetite for lefse myself this past fall working the bake sale table. While each Sunday I sold my share of rye bread, jams, fudge, and other treats it usually always came back to one consistent request:

"A couple packs of lefse, please."

To summarize, I feel it fitting to borrow and reframe The Masters quote from Jim Nantz, speaking of the famous golfing tournament he is noted for. I feel it covers our congregations' connection to lefse in a similar way.

"A tradition like no other. Christ Lutheran Church's Famous Lefse."



GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK



The Old Testament Prophet Daniel is a favorite of mine. I wish I could have known him. He comes on the scene when Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonian empire, lays siege and captures Jerusalem around 606 B.C. and takes Judah's King Jehoiakim and a group of the brightest and best people to be trained for positions of authority within the Babylonian empire. Among this group was 4 youths, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. They were renamed Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego respectively. Part of me thinks Nebuchadnezzar was pretty shrewd with this policy of incorporating the nations he conquered into his regime as a means of having people who knew the people and land. All four of these young men were exceptional and were noticed in their training. Even as captives of a foreign country, God had plans for them. Nebuchadnezzar, with the best intentions, wanted each of the large group of captives to be fed the same food as the king did. It apparently included food that Jews were not allowed to eat, so Daniel proposed a test where the four were fed only vegetables and water for ten days and then a comparison made. The four looked better and more robust than all the others and so were allowed to stay on this diet. At the end of their training, the king found them far superior to all the other prospects and incorporated them into his regime. Just as Joseph was able to interpret the Pharaoh's dream in Egypt, God showed Daniel both the dream and the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Because of their positions within the government, when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego disobeyed the King's decree for everyone to kneel and worship the huge gold statue he had made, the king was furious. He had them thrown into a furnace 7 times hotter than normal. God did the impossible and spared their lives. When they were brought out, they didn't even smell of smoke. Daniel was later thrown into the lion's den, when Darius was king of Persia, because he continued to pray to God rather than just king Darius. God again did the impossible and shut the mouths of the lions and Daniel was lifted out without a scratch. In both instances, God was declared publicly by the kings of Babylon and Persia to be the God of all gods, having accomplished the impossible, what no man could ever imagine. Little did they know what God would do when Jesus came to do the ultimate impossible for each of us in the form of forgiveness and life eternal.



Hope Overflows

College Outreach Team to Visit Christ Lutheran



On Sunday, February 25 "Hope Overflows" an Outreach Team from Wartburg College will provide special music at both services. There will be a guitar, bass, piano, and drum set along with about 10 vocalists. Why the "Blast from the Past" logo? 30 – 40 years ago there were all kinds of groups like this traveling out to parishes from the different colleges on the weekends. Often times they provided programming and staff for church lock-ins. "Hope Overflows" has added a new twist to an old idea. They are a service-oriented worship group that aims to spread

the hope and love of Christ through service and leading others in worship. They are all students at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and rehearse throughout the year in preparation for their annual service trip, where they volunteer their time in different communities throughout the Midwest."

They will join us for worship on Sunday, February 25. On Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night we will provide them with a place to sleep and some night time snacks. When we built the church 17 years ago we hoped we would have just this kind of opportunity. Our own Mission Groups have been blessed by the hospitality of congregations in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Phoenix and Kalispel. It will be great to provide that hospitality to others.

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATES



Food
Pantry



+

2 Tons



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Action Teams

Pictures from 2023 when the kids brought back food purchased at Walmart and Aldi's using the Thrivent Grants to be weighed for the food collection for Fat Tuesday.



CHRIST LUTHERAN celebrates "FAT TUESDAY" by collecting 2 tons of food for the STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY

Did you know that "Mardi Gras" is French for "Fat Tuesday"? It comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon the fatted calf the day before Lent, because with Lent came a 40 day fast during which all Christians in the early days, then Catholics following the Reformation, gave up eating meat. Mardi Gras has also been called Carnival and carnival comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to the flesh."

It is not a Lutheran tradition to give up anything or "fast" during Lent. The Ash Wednesday liturgy encourages us to focus instead on "acts of love." So we began collecting for the Stoughton Food Pantry on Monday, January 1 – the first day of the new year – and we will continue collecting through Fat Tuesday, February 13. Lent begins early this year, on Valentine's Day, February 14. Let's "show the love" and start bringing the groceries to church to help reach this goal. Thrivent will also be helping us reach our goal by donating 2 - \$250 Seed Actions Grants. On Sunday, February 4th our 5th – 8th Graders will make their yearly grocery run to WalMart and Aldi's during the Sunday school hour to see who can purchase the heaviest groceries. With less time to donate our goal is to collect 2 tons or 4000 pounds, but that doesn't mean we can't collect more. We have done it before, we can do it again!



God's Global Barnyard Final Numbers

On Christmas Eve we had three cows, one goat, and two chickens at the manger welcoming our newborn Savior. We could have had 5 cows, 1 goat and 1 brood of chickens or 4 cows and 14 goats or 3 cows, 17 goats and 20 broods of chickens. During the month of December the Sunday school and congregation donated \$2,570 to God's Global Barnyard. That is good news – gospel – to those families who be receiving those animals. It means food and income to the moms and dads and the possibility of school to the children. What makes it even better is that during the month of December all donations to God's Global Barnyard were matched by another brother or sister in Christ doing their best to help other brothers and sisters less fortunate.



A cartoon illustration of various items for sale, including golf clubs, a lamp, a teapot, a broom, and a vacuum cleaner, arranged around the large text "GARAGE SALE".

CLC Youth Mission Trip to Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park

Christ Lutheran Members may start bringing items for the Garage Sale on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sunday, March 5 from 1 – 5 p.m. If you need anything picked up please let Nina Milbauer or Pastor Paula know.

There will also be plenty opportunities for the congregation to volunteer to help out with the event. It really is quite the event. The gym, four classrooms and the hallways are filled with items for sale, the narthex has 8 or more tables filled with baked goods to sell, there are three tables full of Silent Auction items (We are always looking for things to auction off. Do you have a treasure at home you no longer need and would like to donate?) and the Manna Café has a select menu of delicious food to purchase. This is one of the youth's major fundraisers for their Mission Trip. Last year we cleared over \$8500.



Youth Group News



Highlighting Our Youth: Moses Harris

One of our own youth members, Moses Harris was honored on January 15th at the 40th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Recognition Breakfast put on by the Urban League of Greater Madison. He was awarded the Outstanding Young Person award. This award is given to nominated middle and High School Students for carrying out the positive mission of MLK in the form of academic excellence and service to the community.

You will remember Moses Harris around here because you have seen him volunteering before as a reader during our parking lot services, as an usher, as a lector, as a helper during vacation Bible school or Lenten services, he has been a worker in the Kitchen many times over the last 4 or 5 years, in addition to being a volunteer in the gym during events. Moses was one of the High School students that participated in last years Mission Trip to Puerto Rico and he is planning to go on the mission trip again this year.

His mother wrote to thank CLC for giving him many opportunities to serve here at church. He lists the Mission trip to Puerto Rico as "the best trip of his life" and that he had so much fun.

Congratulations Moses on an Award well deserved. We know that you will continue to grow and achieve many great things.



Wednesday Night Confirmation Supper Menus

Supper is served from 5:30– 6:30 p.m.

A minimum donation of \$\$7.00 is suggested to help cover the cost of food. Anyone and Everyone is invited to come.

February 7

Spaghetti with Marinara or Meat Sauce/ Buttered Noodles,
Garlic Bread, Lettuce Salad, Brownies with Ice Cream,
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

For the rest of the month we will be offering Lenten Suppers before our Lenten services. You can see the menus for those meals on page 3.



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. In the middle of winter, it is nice to have a chance to run off some of that pent up energy. We meet in the gym at Christ Lutheran at 6:30 p.m. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant would love to meet you. An additional treat is sometimes you get to spend the time with Cocoa who is a trained therapy dog and her handler Erin Conant. Cocoa likes the

prayer at the end. She often holds hands with her neighbor when she prays and can even be seen bowing in prayer. She and her dog mom are an amazing addition to God and Games. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with some games and fun in the gym.



Mardi Gras

Sunday, February 11

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



We will begin serving food immediately following the 8:00 a.m. worship service and continue to 12:30 p.m. The menu includes Chicken and Sausage Gumbo over Rice, Cornbread, Buttered Noodles, Pancakes with Strawberries and Whipped crème, Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes, Strawberry Shortcake, Floats and Coffee and Milk. The food will be priced reasonably. We are just trying to cover our costs.

The activities this year include past year's favorites... In Jail with Paul and Silas, Bible Bingo, Some Awesome Crafty Jacob Crafts, Esther's Face Painting Beauty Parlor, Fishing with the Disciples, Resurrection Bean Bag Toss. **Check out the Crafts.** Jean Johnson always comes up with something really neat. There will be a **Hallway of Games** like Twister, Giant Jenga and Giant Yatzee. **And YES – we will be adding new games. Jen is a genius when it comes to coming up with new games.**

Tickets will be sold for **Cross the Red Sea with Moses Cake Walk. Once again we will need cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, cookies etc. for the Cake Walk.** If you haven't signed up yet to bring a cake, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the Information Desk. **Please, come and enjoy the fellowship and support your youth at the same time.**

**MISSION TRIP TO BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AREA &
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

GRADES 8TH -12TH AND ALL INTERESTED ADULTS SATURDAY,
JULY 20TH—SUNDAY, JULY 27TH

COST: \$1999

5:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20th: Meet at church and depart for Madison Airport. Flight departs Madison at 8:39 a.m., arrives in Denver for a 1-hour layover, departs Denver for Spokane, Washington and arrives at 12:36 p.m. (2-hour difference)

2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 20th: we should be on our way to Northridge Lutheran Church in Kalispell, Montana 4 ½ hours away. Northridge looks a lot like our church with a gym and large youth room as well as a fully equipped kitchen and nice yard. There is a 1-hour difference between Spokane and Kalispell. We will stop and eat on the way, so between 8 and 9 p.m. we will arrive at the church where we settle in for a good night's rest. Twin size air mattresses have been ordered for everyone and there are several rooms we can spread out and sleep in.

7:00 a.m. Sunday, July 21st: We are up early to make breakfast and get ready for church. There are 2 showers per gender.

9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 21st Worship with the folks of Northridge Lutheran Church

Details have yet to be worked out, but this is the day we go white water rafting and find a Cowboy Cookout. **After a day full of fun, we return to the church and hit the hay.**

6:00 a.m. Monday, July 22nd We are up early to eat breakfast and pack up. We need to be out of the church by 7:00 a.m. We drive to trail head where we will head out on trails. We are now in the hands of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. They will provide guides so we don't get lost. The first and the last day of this mission trip we hike in and hike out 5 to 10 miles to the place we will be doing our work. Good news!!!! Pack mules will carry the heavy stuff. All we have to carry are our clothes and sleeping bags. Our work will be trail maintenance and perhaps even a little building,

Friday, July 26 return to Northridge Lutheran Church sometime after 6:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27th: Breakfast at Northridge Lutheran Church. Depart for the West Entrance of Glacier National Park by 8:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. we board a Red Bus for our Red Bus Tour on Going-to-the-Sun Road over Logan Pass. We stop at the top and get out to experience the Continental Divide. Pick up lunch at the only convenience store on the road, go back over the Continental Divide and complete our ride where we began, at the West Gate into Glacier roughly 7 hours later. We drive into the park and enjoy the beach at McDonald Lodge and maybe eat at the historic lodge. We return to the church to pack for the following morning.

7:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 28: Depart Northridge Lutheran Church, which means we are up by 6:30 a.m. The drive back to Spokane is 4 ½ hours plus we gain an hour going west, so we will arrive in Spokane around 11:00 a.m. The group will be dropped off. Drivers will return vehicles and Uber back to the airport. Our flight departs Spokane at 1:42 p.m. There is a layover on the way back so we will arrive in Madison at 9:15 p.m. =



**REGISTRATION
FORMS ARE ON THE
INFORMATION DESK
IN THE NARTHEX**



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2024

A GREAT GIFT for yourself or someone you love.

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2024

Monday, June 24 – Sunday, June 30

Youth in Grades 7-12 and ALL INTERESTED ADULTS

Cost: \$450 \$400 after \$50 campership

Youth Note:

Earn Money towards your Mission Trip 2024 by volunteering for events at the church. Keep your eyes posted for opportunities throughout the year.

"This is an adventure you will never forget. The Boundary Waters trip is always filled with lots of nature, time to fish, time to enjoy the scenery, and time away from the business of modern life. If you love the outdoors this is a great trip at a very reasonable price."



**REGISTRATION
FORMS ARE ON THE
INFORMATION DESK
IN THE NARTHEX**

As always, to keep our costs down, we pack out our own food and tents and provide as many of our own Duluth packs as possible. We have 15. The Outfitter provides the canoes, paddles, life jackets, a few Duluth packs, bunkhouse accommodations for Monday, June 24, breakfast the following morning and a shower when we come off trails. We come off trails the morning of Sunday, June 30, shower and head home. We usually arrive home about 10:00 p.m. For youth who can drive, parents may want to leave a car in the church parking lot. We have permits for Seagull Lake and one for Sag. One group at least will focus on fishing, the other on seeing just how far they can go.

We leave early Monday, June 24. By early I mean at 6:00 a.m. That means you need to be at the church by 5:30 a.m. to pack. Why so early? We have 500 miles to travel. Bring food to snack on in the vehicles. We stop at Duluth harbor for lunch. Bring a packed lunch if you like, but food can be purchased there. We will hang out in Grand Marais

once we reach it. Last year we had supper at Mid Trail Café, about 30 miles up the Gunflint Trail. After eating we finished the trip up the Gunflint to Voyageur Outfitters. The cost of that meal is part of the trip.

What do you do in the Boundary Waters? You paddle, portage, cook your meals over an open fire, swim, fish, enjoy the wilderness and the companionship of your fellow canoers. Bring a book to read and some small portable games. We come off the water between 7 - 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, shower, pack up and leave for home. The cost of the trip covers breakfast/lunch at the Mid Trail Cafe about 30 miles south of the Outfitters on the way home as well.

The people who sign up will help determine what the trip looks like, whether we focus on fishing or moving or just sitting around the campsite and enjoying the peace.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

Parents of 6th through 8th Grade Sunday School Students; we could use your help. On **February 4th** our 6th through 8th graders will be traveling to either Walmart or Aldi's to purchase food for our Stoughton Food Pantry Drive. We will have two grants from Thrivent that we will use to purchase the food. So what do we need from you? We need help with transporting students to and from these locations. We will meet in the Narthex at 9:40 a.m. to head over to each of these locations. Each group will be given one grant to work with. Parents we will also need help with hauling and weighing the food. Our goal is to get the most amount by weight of food items from the list of items needed that will be provided to us from Food Pantry volunteers. The 5th and 6th graders will be competing with the 7th and 8th graders to see who can collect the most using their grants. Food and other items requested by the food pantry will be judged on total weight. We hope you can join us for this wonderful event that provides an opportunity for teamwork, problem solving and service to others.

Reminder parents that all of the classes are working to collect food for the Stoughton Food Pantry as part of our congregation wide collection. The classroom that collects the most food poundage via bringing in food items to the classrooms or donating money and indicating which classroom gets the credit will win. (This does not include the food purchased with the above mentioned grants). This year the winning class will get a movie day, or game in the gym day with popcorn and other favorite treats. The last day to donate food towards the classroom competition will be Sunday February 11th. The class that wins will have their party on Sunday February 18th.

We will celebrate Mardi Gras on February 11th in the Gym starting right after Sunday school. This celebration is complete with food, games, face painting, and gnome crafts or mask making crafts. You can see examples of the crafts in the Narthex and more details on this event on page 10 of this publication, in our weekly announcements and slideshow, and on our Facebook page.

We will once again be making Valentines for area shut-ins, meals on wheels participants and area senior living facilities on **Sunday, February 4th** for Pre-K through 4th grade and on **Sunday, February 11th** for 5th through 8th grade.



4th Grade 1st Communion Classes will begin on February 25th in the Large Youth Room at 11:00 a.m.

Parents of 4th Graders: Our 4th Grade 1st Communion classes will begin on Sunday **February 25th**. This class is 4 weeks long and will be held starting on February 25th and will continue on March 3rd, 10th and 17th. Kids will bake bread on March 27th at 3:30 p.m. and their First Communion will be held at our Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday March 28th at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions please reach out to Jenny Hoffman.





SENIOR LUNCHEONS AND OUTINGS:

February Senior Luncheon

Monday, February 19

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

and a tip, if you would like, for the musician

Menu:

Beef Stroganoff with Noodles, Green Beans, Lettuce Salad
Swedish Rye Bread, Pecan, Apple, Strawberry Rhubarb and Cherry pie
with Ice Cream, Milk and Coffee

Historian and musician Andreas Transø is of mixed Scandinavian and Celtic heritage and grew up in the hills near Boscobel, Wisconsin. An active educator and performer, he runs sea shanty sings throughout the region, always finding more songs to add to the repertoire. From lumberjack songs to Great Lakes sailor songs, Scandinavian shanties, slave songs, laments and party pieces, he enjoys learning about and sharing this music in schools and pubs, libraries, at summer camps, and wherever people can gather to sing!"

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! THIS EVENT PROMISES TO BE GREAT FUN!

Senior Outing

Friday, March 22

Cost: \$82.00 (includes tip)

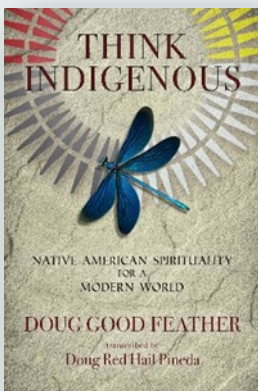
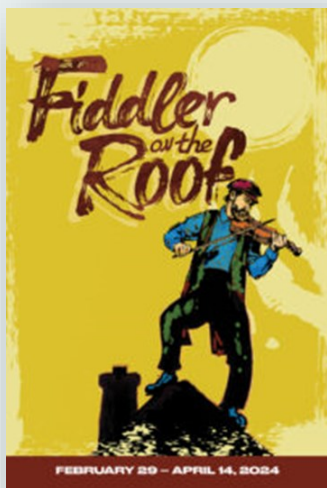
"Fiddler on the Roof" at the Fireside Theater

"A fiddler on the roof, sounds crazy, no?" Yet millions of people every year fall in love with Tevye, the long-suffering dairyman who struggles to find a balance between his traditions and his family. Now celebrating 60 years, The Fireside is proud to present a brand new revival of one of the most popular shows in our history. The show's universal theme touches everyone, leaving audiences crying tears of both joy and sadness. Including such iconic songs as "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is the perfect mix of audience-pleasing humor and heart.

Entree Choices: Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Almond Cod.

The sign- up sheet is on the Information Desk. You need to sign up by February 22.

We meet at the church at 9:25 a.m. to pool rides to the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson.



ADULT EDUCATION JANUARY:

Thursday Morning Book Study

February 8th, 15th, 22nd and the 29th meet at 9:30 a.m.

at the Sunrise Restaurant

The group enjoyed Kent Neuburn's books "Neither Wolf nor Dog," "The Wolf at Twilight" and "The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo" so much that we are going to continue delving into Native American spirituality. (Those books are in the library if you would like to borrow them.) We know who we are. We are Northern Europeans and Lutheran, but that doesn't mean our faith cannot be enriched by other traditions.

Rebecca's Rebel

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

Thursday, February 15th

6:30 p.m.

Viking Brew House

Upstairs – in the back room by the couches

We had a great group in October. IT would be nice to see you all again in January. We will continue our study of 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.

Endowment Foundation

In Memory of:

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

From:

Norval and Barbara Morgan

Bonnie Ossmann

Roger & Joyce Utermark

Memorials

In Memory of:

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

Gladys M. Thompson

From:

Rodney & Linda Trunzo

Phyllis Gullickson

Reta Smith

Lana Schulz

Steve & Alice Hendrickson

Dan & Diane Matson

Nancy Holzhter

Gerry Ross

Myron & Mary Sime

Bob Kluge

John & Carolyn Hanson

Reta Smith

Friends & Family

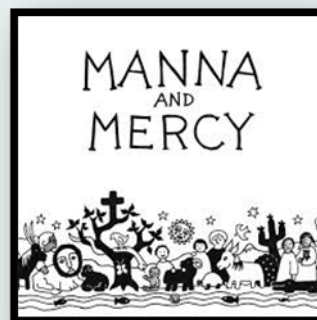
Music in Ministry

A Little History on "Beautiful Savior"

By Linda Kunz

We learned last year that "**Beautiful Savior**" is a favorite of Eileen Stacey and I suspect is near the top of the list for many of us. I grew up knowing this as the "Crusaders Hymn", but I've done a bit more research that seems to be a myth rather than fact.

The words were first printed in 1677 in a German hymnbook and were paired with a folk song sung by haymakers from the district of Glaz in Silesia (Central Europe that lies mostly within Poland, with small parts in the Czech Republic and Germany). "Schönster Herr Jesu", the German text was translated into English as "Beautiful Savior" by Joseph A. Seiss (with the original family name of Seuss), of Moravian descent born in 1823 at Graceham, Maryland. After becoming a Lutheran pastor in 1842, he served several congregations in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. He was known as an eloquent and popular preacher and a prolific author.



Funeral: January 4th-
Gladys M. Thompson



Baptism – January 14
Carson John Anderson,
son of John Anderson
and Chloe Arnould

**"So we are
ambassadors for
Christ..." -
2 Corinthians 5:20**



**Christ Lutheran is going into the Valentine Making Business
Sunday, February 4 and 11**

Be prepared to be part of the action on the first two Sundays of February. It doesn't matter if you are a Sunday school student or just sitting in the café enjoying a cup of coffee, you will be asked to make a few valentines. Material will be provided. All we need is your own unique creative touch. We are making hundreds of Valentines to give to the folks who receive Meals On Wheels, all the Senior Living facilities in town and our own Shut-ins. Literally hundreds are needed. Why are we making Valentines? To let all those folks know that someone has remembered them and that is a good thing!

Newly Baptized in 2023 Kids and families who
came to celebrate The Baptism of Our Lord

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator

Phone: 608.873.9353
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Email: pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
JennyH@clcstoughton.org
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CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

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

Staff:

Gloria Hayne, Office Administrator

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary



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**"Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklets for January,
February, and March in small and large print are available for
pick up.**

