

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

March 2024



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



150TH ANNIVERSARY Celebration

Bishop to Preach Sunday, March 10
Potluck Brunch to follow in Fellowship Hall
from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bishops are traditionally asked to come to preach when a congregation celebrates an anniversary. A 150th Anniversary is a significant anniversary so the 150th Anniversary Committee invited Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe of the South Central Synod of the ELCA to join us on Sunday, March 10 at the 8:00 and 9:15 worship services.

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was elected in 2020 to serve our synod. She is not new to Southern Wisconsin. In 2018 she served as our Interim Director for Evangelical Mission and in 2017 as an intentional interim pastor at First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. Before coming back to our synod she served as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wis. Previously she served several Wisconsin churches including St. Paul in Mayville, Living Hope in Saukville, All Saints in Oshkosh; and Grace in Tomahawk. Bishop Joy also served as Associate to the Bishop in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin from 2004-2014 and as pastor chaplain of Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Inc.

As part of the bishop's visit, the 150th committee is planning a Potluck. We haven't had one of those for a long time, but they have been part of the church since the first century. The early Christians would meet in homes and following worship would share a meal together. Everyone brought a dish to pass. For our Brunch Potluck the committee will provide the Egg Bake and beverages. We ask the congregation to bring fruit, pastries or a casserole or dessert. It is a Brunch. It is amazing how Potlucks work out. There is always enough food and variety for everyone.

A Free Will Donation will be taken for a family in our congregation who are experiencing some rough times, Kaylie and Dan Anderson and their children Louis (8) and Layla (3). Look inside for more details on their struggles.

March

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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)

MARCH WORSHIP NEWS

We worship at 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

8:00 a.m. is our Traditional Service and 9:15 our Worship Lite.

Times for worship on Easter Sunday are the same: 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 am.

Sunday, March 3: Worship with Holy Communion

In today's gospel lesson, Jesus drives out the money changers from the temple and predicts his own death for the first time.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, March 10: Worship

Nicodemus is one of the few members of the establishment that takes an interest in Jesus and seeks him out to learn more. In today's gospel lesson, Jesus shares with him the fact that his death on the cross will have the power to heal people.

Preacher: Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

Liturgist: Pastor Paula

Liturgical Dancer: Mikayla Thomas

Sunday, March 17: Worship with Holy Communion

We have jumped to John's gospel this week. In the gospel lesson, Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover. It is also St. Patrick's Day, so we will be singing a few Irish tunes.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday Worship

Today we hear the story of Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week. A number of young people and adults will be dressed in costumes to read various parts. The congregation will become the crowd. Palms will be waving and people will be processing around the sanctuary as the worship begins with the singing of "Hosanna."

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Sunday School at 9:15 worship

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and just what that means for our lives. Come, join us, and hear the good news once again! It never gets old.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel Choir at 8:00 worship



Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion with special music from Chancel Choir

Our 4th Graders celebrate their First Communion and participate in worship by stripping the altar

March 29, Good Friday

Noon and 6:30 p.m. Worship with special music from the Chancel Choir at 6:30 p.m.

We will once again use the Tenebrae Service as we have in the past. It's a moving service with absolutely beautiful music.

March 31, Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion with special music from the Chancel Choir.

LENTEN SERIES



Lenten Series: And Jesus said, "I Am."

God's name in the Old Testament was "Yahweh." God's name was so holy that God's people never spoke it and in the bible where God's name was written into the sacred text, they replaced it with Adoni or Lord. Even today, in our Bibles, where Yahweh once appeared we read LORD in capital letters.

What's interesting about the name "Yahweh" is that when you speak it, you breathe in to say the first syllable and exhale to say the second. When you breathe in, you "count the blessing" of yet another breathe of life, and when you breathe out, you send a prayer to God about whatever may be weighing on your mind. Yah Weh is one continuous blessing and prayer.

We continue our series on the "I AM" statements in the New Testament. When Jesus talked about himself that way, he was telling all who heard that he and God were one. It definitely upset the scribes and the Pharisees. It is one of the reasons he ends up on a cross.

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

March 6: "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."



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, crafts, games and so much more.



Lenten Menus for March

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

A minimum donation of \$7.00 is suggested to help cover the cost of food.

Wednesday, March 6

Chicken and Vegetable Alfredo, Spaghetti with Meat Sauce or Buttered Noodles

Lettuce Salad

Garlic Toast

Apple or Cherry Crisp with Ice Cream

Chocolate or White Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee

Wednesday, March 13

Chicken Spaetzle Soup or Chile

Grilled Cheese or Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

Cookies and Ice Cream

Chocolate or White Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee

Wednesday, March 20

Lasagna or Buttered Noodles

Lettuce Salad

Garlic Toast

Rootbeer or Orange Floats and Ice Cream

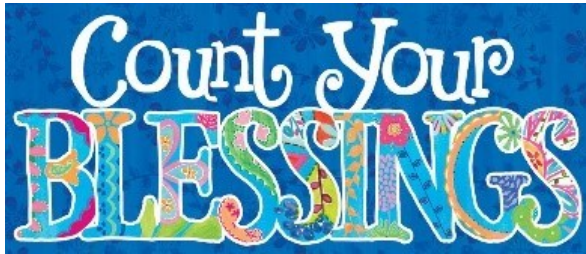
Chocolate or White Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee



New Member Sunday – May 5, 2024

WE are having another new member Sunday just in case there are folks we missed in January. It is May 5th. That is a great Sunday to welcome new members. That is Sunday school Family Olympic Sunday. There will be food and games and other family oriented tournaments, relays and a trivia contest.

Are you interested in joining Christ Lutheran? Do you know anyone who is? If so, talk to Pastor Paula, Jen Hoffman or contact the church office at 608 – 873 – 9353. New members will officially be received into our faith community of on **Sunday, May 5, 2024 at both services**. New Member Orientation will be the two Sundays beforehand. You pick one to attend. On **Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, April 28 join us in the Conference Room off the narthex immediately following the 9:15 Worship Lite Service**. We ask that those interesting in joining attend. It is just a time to get to know one another and to share information about the congregation.



A Count Your Blessings Moment”

An 8 minute Annual Meeting is the blessing I want to count this month. I have colleagues that share horror stories of annual meetings lasting 3 hours. That three hours is spent looking at the budget and questioning each and every penny budgeted. I hope that 8 Minute Annual Meeting is an affirmation of the fact that the budget is available for people to

look through 2 weeks early, members are encouraged to ask questions beforehand and committees and council members are responsible and committed to making each dollar count. Committees take time to review their budgets in the fall and request only what they think is necessary to faithfully carry out their ministries. The Executive Committee determines salaries. They try their best to compensate our staff with fair market wages. And as far as pastor’s compensation, the congregation has a long standing policy of paying synod guidelines.

We passed a \$49,000 deficit budget. A late pledge came in which lowered that deficit to \$39,000.

Last year we came in just \$4550 shy of a \$60,000 deficit. That was due to \$30,000 less in expenses and \$25,000 more in giving.

Free-Will



On March 10th we will gather to share a potluck together as part of one of our 150Th Anniversary Celebrations. It begins with a visit from our Bishop: Joy Moretensen-Weibe . We are asking for a Free-Will donation which will be given to the Kaylie and Dan Anderson family.

Kaylie is the daughter of Pete and Kari Bartelt. Kaylie grew up in Christ Lutheran Church and was an active member as a youth both teaching Sunday school and chaperoning both youth and boundary waters trips. Her and her husband Dan have two wonderful children Louis (7) and Layla (3).

Offering

You may remember Kaylie and her family from a few years back. Both Kaylie and her daughter were struggling with the health issues that required surgeries and a lot of rehabilitation. Lyla was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor that was causing seizures. Doctors were planning to remove the tumor in March of 2023. During that same time Kaylie found out that she was pregnant with their third child. She had a lot of complications in her pregnancy and in February, a month before her daughters brain surgery was supposed to take place Kaylie got really ill and had a miscarriage. The miscarriage resulted in her body shutting down due to septic shock. After emergency surgery and almost losing her life Kaylie shocked the medical teams that worked with her by walking out of the hospital 14 days later. She continued to need care at home through Home health and had to learn all over again how to do daily tasks. Layla has since that time had two brain surgeries to remove almost the entire tumor and she will need future surgeries as she to help with her continued seizures. Donations are greatly appreciated and will help the family to recover from past and future medical bills.

Direct your
**Thrivent Choice
Dollars**
Today!



Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have Thrivent Financial Investments or Insurance policies you may have Choice Dollars you can use. Please consider donating them to Christ Lutheran. You must request them before **March 31. Thanks to everyone that has donated their choice dollars in the past. It is appreciated.**

Don't miss the first Garage Sale of the Season!



Friday, March 8th 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, March 9th 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Garage Sale/Silent Auction/Bake Sale

Christ Lutheran in Stoughton!

700 County Road B

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

A gym, 5 classrooms and hallway full of stuff!

FOOD FOR SALE IN THE MANNA CAFÉ!

Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Soups, Egg Salad,

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and much more!

This event is a fundraiser for the

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

Christ Lutheran Members and others that are interested may start bringing items

for the Garage Sale on Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sunday,

March 3 from 1 – 5 p.m. If you need anything picked up please let Jenny Hoffman or

Pastor Paula know.

There will also be plenty opportunities for the congregation to volunteer to help out with the event. WE NEED YOUR HELP. A sign up sheet is out in the narthex. It really is quite the event. The gym, five classrooms and the hallways are filled with items for sale, the narthex has 8 or more tables filled with baked goods to sell, (Do you want to donate some baked goods? They are always appreciated.) and 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 raised \$10,000.



Sunday, March 31, 2024

Menu...

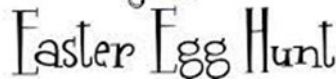
Cheddar Cheese Sausage/Bacon Egg Bake

French Toast with Strawberries and Whipped Cream

A Variety of Breads

Coffee, Juice and Milk

**To help cover our costs and support our Youth Mission Trip
please consider a minimum donation of \$5 per person.**



MEET IN THE NARTHEX AT 9:00 A.M.

7

OUR KID FRIENDLY CHURCH BY COLIN HARRINGTON



It has been thirteen or so years since my family and I have become members of Christ Lutheran Church. Our reasoning to join this congregation over other options around town came on the advice that it was “the kid friendly” option. This finalized our decision since we were joining around the time of my son’s baptism. If we were to be part of a new Christian family, it might as well be one that would be the most welcoming to my son, (and eventually down the road, my daughter as well.)

Over the following years, I’ve found this “kid friendliness” to be true. While in other churches I’ve witnessed children being an afterthought, or worse, just tolerated, at Christ Lutheran they are celebrated. Between the excellence of our Sunday School and summer programs, the child friendly choices of music and the ever adorableness of Lion and Lamby, examples overflow.

This feeling is even built into the church itself. I often look on Sunday mornings to the stained glass window of Christ surrounded by children. He set the example that to do right by God, you must do right by his children.

In doing some research for this year’s articles, I’ve found many points where the very beginning for this church truly embraced the community’s children.

On December 3, 1873, a meeting of Stoughton families came together to decide if another Lutheran church was needed. At that meeting, Pastor J. A. Ottesen said “I have been coming to Stoughton since March, 1863. I have not been able to do my best, especially in aiding in the religious education of your children, about whom I am deeply concerned.” He then concluded, “Now is the time when you must take over responsibility of a new church. You must make up your minds today. You are the ones to decide. I pray to God that your decision will be to build a new church.” The families there that evening voted unanimously to build that church. That church was a predecessor of the Christ Lutheran Church we have today.

One of the families that was present for that vote was Gjermund and Rebecca Skaalen. While they didn’t have any children of their own, they had great concern for children. In this era, many children were left orphaned by parental death either by disease or death in childbirth. The Skaalen’s, seeing this need in our community, donated 120 acres of land that would become the Martin Luther Children’s home.

These children were welcomed by Christ Lutheran Church. All went to services, some were baptized and all confirmed. In the earliest days of this home, the children had to walk to services on their own. In the following years, other members arranged to provide transportation for the children in their own cars. When the need continued to grow, the Men’s Brotherhood at Christ Lutheran Church spearheaded a drive to buy the home their own bus.

This home continued into the mid-70s, after which it was decided that the youth would be better served in small group homes.

To keep this abridged, I have just one more story to tell. In the earliest days of the church, it was not uncommon for children in the Stoughton area to be either first or second generation Americans. Many spoke only basic, if not slightly broken English. Many others could not speak or understand English at all, but only spoke their native Norwegian. To help remedy this difficulty, and to make sure no child was left out of God’s word, Sunday School classes were offered in English, Norwegian, and sometimes a combination of the two. Be it in English or Norwegian, Christ Lutheran Church found a way for all of the children in their congregation to know God’s word, love and grace.

These traditions have trickled down throughout the years into the very fabric of Christ Lutheran Church’s DNA. They were there at the very beginning and continue today, 150 years later.



Lion and Lamby at Mardi Gras

CHRISTIANITY FOR 2024: BOUDICA BY SOPHIE GEISTER-JONES



The Boudiccan Destruction Horizon is a layer of the earth, deep in the ground, that is all that is left of British cities that burned at such an extreme heat in 60 CE. It includes melted glass, blacked pottery, and a level of destruction that is remarkable in its uniqueness. It was, according to historians, Queen Boudica's last act of revenge against the Romans after they killed her husband and assaulted her daughters.

It's a little bit crazy, isn't it? The inertia of a single woman, millennia ago, caused something so permanent and irrevocable. No records of her, other than what the Romans wrote down, lasted the test of time, but her actions etched themselves into the earth. A topographic signature of her fight and of her pain and of her anger.

Something I've thought about a lot lately, as this planet spins around itself and the screams and pleas of people begging for *their* fight, *their* pain, and *their* anger to be heard keep going, is how humanity exists in this push and pull of what we are. We are small and relatively weak and only one of seven billion. We are also capable of changing geography, of ending life on this planet, of bringing animals to extinction and back from the brink of it. Sometimes I wonder if that is what is meant when we are told we're made in God's image. God promised to never flood the earth again, but God knew we would do it ourselves.

Maybe that's why God sent their son. God knew what it was to be God, but what was it like to be human? To be made in God's image, to have free will, to be capable of such good and wonder and yet so much destruction and evil?

Alok Vaid Menon, a trans poet and scholar, said "the journey of transition that the world sees in me is that I went from being assigned male at birth, to being trans feminine, but that's not the true transition. The true transition was I went from being a body to a soul. Transness, for me, was chiefly and fundamentally about reconnecting with my spirituality, reconnecting with ancestry and ecology. Being able to recognize that my body is part of a divine continuum and is precious and sacred."

To be human is to be precious and sacred and part of a divine continuum. To be human is to create, to dance in God's image and to choreograph a world we hope to live in. If a single human wielded the power to cause such destruction that thousands of years later is still indelible to the earth, imagine the impetus for healing we could create.

Someone asked, once, if Jesus, son of Joseph the carpenter, smelled the wood of the cross and thought of home. I wonder if Boudica, when she lit that first flame, thought of the candles that flickered as she watched her newborn daughters' breath during the night. I wonder if in those moments they knew what they were doing, or if they just hoped, somehow, that their action be lasting.

How *human*, isn't it? To have a smell transport you to a memory. But they both were that: human.

The immensity of what we are as humans walks hand in hand with how inconsequential we are. We have traveled through the stars, we have seen Earth as just a floating rock in space, we have begun, *barely*, to comprehend the incomprehensibility of the universe. Some may say we have barely begun to understand the Trinity as well. God is creator. Jesus is redeemer. The spirit is sanctifier. If we are made in God's image, are we not also that to each other? What is the love we give to one another if not a recognition of the holiness we hold? And what does it mean, I wonder, when we greet another person and withhold that love? In what power are we acting then, when we hear the pain of another and remain silent?

SOCIAL CONCERNS UPDATES



Food Drive for Stoughton Food Pantry 2024

FYI – as of Sunday, February 25, Christ Lutheran has collected about 3400 pounds of food for the Stoughton Food Pantry. Our goal is two tons so we are almost there. We will continue to collect until March 29. Who knows, with those extra weeks to donate, we may collect more than 2 tons. We did last year!

Youth Group News

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.

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



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 20: 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 20: 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 21: We are up early to make breakfast and get ready for church. There are 2 showers per gender.

9:30 a.m. Sunday, July 21 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 22 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 27: 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. =

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

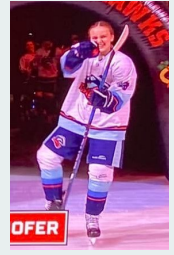
Cost: \$450 \$400 after \$50 campership

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 7:00 a.m. - 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.



Highlighting Our Youth: Evey Kellnhofer

I remember first meeting Evey at 8th grade Confirmation. Her mom told me that she would not be able to be at confirmation every week, but, that she would work on it at home and she would make sure that she got all of her requirements met. She not only did that but she exceeded what she needed to do. She completed everything. Why was she not always there? Evey had a goal. She wanted to some day be a Badger Girl's Hockey Player. To make this dream come true would mean working on it through both school and club sports. Sometimes that meant practices and games on Wednesday Nights.

Her hockey team has worked for several years together and this year they received a much deserved win! Evey's hockey team won the 2024 Northern Illinois Hockey League Tournament. Evey has a drive you see only once and a while and with her positive attitude I have no doubt we will continue to see things like this win in her future. Congratulations to Evey and her teammates!

Mardi Gras Pictures



HEROES: GERI SLACK BY BRENDA ZARTH



I like writing about heroes. Heroes are an example of how to do things right. Heroes inspire, motivate, give us energy, and make us want to be our best self too. We all need heroes.

Geri Slack is a Hero. Jenny Hoffman asked me to write about Geri and then passionately gave me a couple pages of material!

Geri taught Jenny how to run a Sunday School Program. Jenny said, “she taught you what to do and then backed you up until you figured it out. She provides support, dedication, and strength.” She came in early every Sunday, never late, with her big Gulp cup of Diet Coke, a powerhouse of energy, strength, and positivity, in a dependable petite package!

Geri helped make sure all the teachers were here, and helped on church boards and committees, she was on several church committees and has always helped where she could.

She helped provide consistency.

Jenny admitted that her first year of doing the Christmas program she was a little nervous doing it herself. When she confided this to Geri, she was told “There’s always a Christmas miracle, it will seem like the program is full of problems and you will imagine all kinds of failures but then it will all fall into place with the Christmas Miracle.”

Geri was a Sunday school teacher, assistant director, she organized the ushers for 2nd service every Sunday, she recorded student birthdays every week and counted the offerings following services.

Geri is a wonderful lady and Jenny wants her to know she is appreciated for all of the hard work she has done, and that she has left an impact and legacy with the youth. As the youth become adults and pass on what they know to their children, the impact of Geri’s dedication shines through to the next generation.

Dan Matson knew Geri from Church Council, he said:

“I first got to know Geri when she joined the Church Council as the representative for our Education department. Geri was the most prepared person at each council meeting and always had a full report on education activities. What many members didn’t know was the incredible amount of work that went into preparing for Sunday School. Those of us without children in Sunday school did not see the effort that went into budgeting, ordering supplies, preparing rooms and trying to communicate with parents. Imagine planning for kids of all ages never knowing until Sunday School started the exact number of pupils you would have not to mention the late registrations during the year. And much of this planning took place while many were on Summer vacation. Geri never missed a beat and never complained. An unsung and unrecognized hero.”-Dan Matson.

Thank You Geri for all your hard work and dedication, we loved having you on the Social Concerns Committee too, you always said “just tell me what you need me to do”.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MARCH

March is a busy time for our church. Every Wednesday night we offer a Children's Church service in the Gym starting at 6:30 p.m. This follows the same theme that the adults are learning about the I am statements of Jesus only in a child friendly way. It is funny because the first two weeks the kids were so involved in what we were working on that they were a little disappointed when it was time to leave. In fact, it was a little bit hard for us teachers as well because we wanted them to get through all of the fun things that we planned for them. So far we have played games, made bread which was then shared on Sunday with the congregation. Created prayer boxes and even sun catchers to place in the kids windows at home. These items were made to remind our students that Jesus is the bread, the light and so much more. We hope your children can join us for this fun expansion to our Sunday school classes.

Reminder that we will have an all Sunday School Lesson in the Gym on Sunday March 24th for Holy Week. We will not have Sunday School on March 31st because of Easter, but we will have an Easter Egg hunt on that day at 9:00 a.m. meet in the Narthex. This Easter Egg Hunt only takes about 10 minutes so make sure you are here in plenty of time to have your kids join the fun. Kids who turn in one or more Easter eggs will get a goody bag full of crafts, stories, activities, and treats.

CONFIRMATION NEWS FOR MARCH

Reminder that all Confirmation students should be attending the Wednesday Evening Lenten services and they should be taking sermon notes each week. They should also should plan to attend either the Maundy Thursday service on March 28th at 6:30 p.m. or the Good Friday service at either 12:00 Noon or 6:30 p.m.

Please note that status update letters for each students progress on their confirmation requirements will be going out the first week in March. Please review them with your child and let Jenny Hoffman know if you have any questions.

MILESTONE NEWS FOR MARCH

March has several important Milestones. First, our 4th Graders will continue their First Communion Classes which culminate in their First Communion on Thursday March 28th at our Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m. (See more specifics below)

Second, we have 2nd Graders meeting with Pastor Paula on March 17th during their Sunday School hour to make Lenten Crosses. Make sure that your child is there. It is a wonderful lesson that they will then share with the congregation on Sunday March 24th, Palm Sunday at the 9:15 a.m. service.

Third, our 3 year-olds will receive their A Child's First Bible during the 9:15 a.m. service on Palm Sunday.

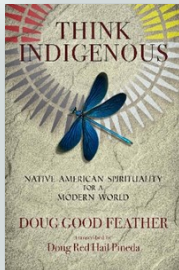
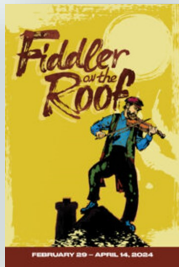


4th Grade 1st Communion Classes will continue this month on March 3rd, 10th and 17th in the Large Youth Room at 11:00 a.m.

Parents of 4th Graders: Our 4th Grade 1st Communion classes 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.

Mardi Gras Pictures





SENIOR LUNCHEONS AND OUTINGS:

Senior Luncheon: A Late Celebration of Saint Patrick's Day Monday, March 18

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Corn Beef with Cabbage, Potatoes and Carrots
Irish Soda Bread and Swedish Rye, Bread Pubbing
with Rum or Lemon Sauce, Coffee and Milk

Program: Uke Fellowship

Our own Uke Fellowship is going to join us and sing us some Irish tunes. They will also invite us to join in, but don't worry, if you don't want to sing you don't have to. You can just sit back and enjoy. They are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.



Reminder to all that signed up that Our Senior Outing is on Friday, March 22. The Cost is: \$82.00 (which includes tip) For "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Fireside Theater

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

**March 7th, 14th, and 21st 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.

Hymn Nerds: Jesus Loves Me

By Linda Kunz

In March we will be singing "Jesus Loves Me". I know this is a favorite for many of us from the time we were very young. Gert Christianson shared that she was raised in an orphanage and when she was seven years old she went to church for the first time with her temporary foster family. It was then that she heard this song and learned who Jesus was. It has been special to her ever since. Can you remember the first time you sang this hymn?



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN ENGSTROM, ZAMBIA

Words from our Missionary Sponsored by the Elizabeth Circle: Greetings my siblings in Christ from green green Zambia,

It is rainy season here in Zambia. Even though the rains came a month late and seem to have paused for a couple weeks, it is still green or emerald season, as it is called here in Zambia. We hope that the rains will start again and continue for at least another month, so that the farmer's crops will keep growing and we will all have food to eat. I am happy to share with you my February 2024 Newsletter .



Ubuntu Youth & Young Adult Tree Project

For the first time in the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia, the young adults applied and received a project grant from the Lutheran World Federation. For this Climate Justice Project, the young adults chose to focus on environmental education and tree planting. This is especially important in Zambia which has the highest rate of deforestation in the world.

The Tree Project Team worked with youth in two congregations to develop relationships with their local leaders and schools. Then, once everyone was on board, the Project Team and local youth hosted environmental education workshops after Sunday worship and at the local schools, followed by intergenerational tree planting. In total, 90 indigenous trees were planted with the participation of about 100 people.



Endowment Foundation

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Gladys M. Thompson	Carolyn Slaney

Memorials

Gladys M. Thompson	Sharon Vik
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Easter Flowers Order Form



The following plants are available for Easter: Lily-\$16, Tulip-\$12, Daffodils-\$14.00, Rhyder Begonias-\$14 or Kalanchoe-\$14.

Given by: _____

In Memory of/or In Honor of: _____

Kind of Plant: _____

Orders are due March 15

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



The Christ Lutheran Quilters will begin their 57th year starting **Wednesday March 6th** making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In records, it was found that the quilters date back to 1967 .

With the generous donations that we receive from congregational members, their friends, and the sale of quilts on Quilt Sunday we are able to purchase fabric and batting. I remember when I joined the Blanket Makers, as they were known back then Elizabeth Wersland was the leader. The blankets were made from donated clothing any thing from outgrown kid's clothing- women's dresses -to men's pants and shirts. Flannel and used blankets were used for batting and sheets were used for the backing.

Elizabeth would top stitch all of the fabrics together to make the top and then the rest of the ladies would tie them together using a 10 1/2 inch sq of cardboard to map the placement of the yarn that they used to tie the quilts together.

Come and join us as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church. No experience is needed and yes, we will teach how to thread the needle with yarn. We meet on **Wednesdays** starting on **March 6th at 9:00 a.m.**

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

