



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



Two Former Pastors to Visit Christ Lutheran in July

On July 7th Cole Bentley will join us and preach. To make Cole's visit special, following worship we will have an old fashioned pie and ice cream social. Anyone remember those? Before summer rec programs and traveling teams filled our summer calendars communities across this nation would entertain themselves with Pie and Ice Cream Socials. Practically every church in the town would host one. They gave the community a chance to get together, share some great treats and socialize. My guess is that the women from the different churches competed for who made the best pies.

While Cole Bentley never served Christ Lutheran as pastor he has many fond memories of CLC. He writes of himself: I attended Christ Lutheran from 1987-1994 when I was in elementary school. My parents, Russ and Laurie Bentley, brought me to worship and Sunday school, and I have so many great memories of participating in Sunday school, the Christmas program, the children's choir, and youth activities, as well as worship (our family often gravitated to the balcony). The old church building was a magical space where I first learned about Jesus. There were sermons from the pastor, songs from the choir and the voices and friendly faces of the many faithful witnesses on Sunday morning who shaped my early understanding of Jesus. But perhaps the greatest influence was my Sunday school teachers in the basement of that old church.

My time at Christ Lutheran served as a wonderful foundation for a lifelong pursuit of faith in Jesus Christ. I eventually pursued a call into pastoral ministry, attending Wartburg Seminary, and then being assigned to Western North Dakota in 2012. I spent five years serving in Powers Lake, ND, in a rural parish with five churches, spread out over 50 miles of North Dakota prairie land. I then was called to serve at Metigoshe Lutheran Church in Bottineau, North Dakota. It is a unique and dynamic church that shares space with a bible camp on beautiful Lake Metigoshe. I have been at Metigoshe for the past 7 years. My wife, Carrie, and I have 3 boys, ages 15, 12, and 9.

On July 21st Rev. Dr. Steve Kersten will join us and preach. To make Steve's visit special we will have a good old fashioned hymn sing along with it. You may not know this, but not so long ago Lutherans would known for their ability to sing in four part harmony, My favorite song to this day is "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less." It is the first song I learned the alto part to and whenever it was sung, I sang alto. I must have been ten or eleven. I remember traveling through East Germany back in 1988, before the wall came down, with 56 high school youth and 9 adults. (Continued on the top of page 3).

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It was both a great privilege and lots of fun for our confirmation students to interview our church Elders. Here are Louis and Darlene Halverson

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

The Christ Lutheran Church Brotherhood was an organization for men of the Church. They started holding a Father and Son Banquet in November of 1929. Below is a picture from the 1950 Father-Son Banquet.



(L-R) Mayor Truman Felland, Ronald Felland, Berlyn Erdahl, Birdie Erdahl, Luther Tolo, Leroy Hatzinger, Thomas Christensen, Ingvald Johnson, R.C. Salisbury, Rev. L. Olav Tolo and Robert Tolo.



The Ladies Aid group did the serving at the Father-Son Banquets. (L-R) Mrs. Andrew Quale, Mrs. George Becker, Mrs. Clayton Swerig, and Mrs. George Schefelker.

JUNE WORSHIP NEWS



June Worship News – One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. Coffee before and after worship.

Sunday, June 2: Worship

In the gospel reading for the day Jesus reminds his critics that the sabbath was a gift given by God to God's people so that they might have time to rest, relax and recreate. God did not free God's people from slavery just so they could be enslaved again by working seven days a week.

Pastor Paula will be on vacation so...

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant

Liturgist: Jen Hoffman

Sunday, June 9: Worship with Holy Communion our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following the service..

Jesus in today's gospel is accused of being possessed. He is possessed – possessed by God's Holy Spirit and the desire to do God's will.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, June 16: Worship

Jesus teaches in parables. Parables are simply stories and stories are something we like to listen to and tell. It is an effective way of getting his message across.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, June 23: Worship with Holy Communion

Today the disciples can't decide which scares them more, the storm they find themselves caught in or Jesus' power to calm that storm.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, June 30: Worship

Today Jarius, a respected leader and an outcast has a dying daughter, and a woman with a hemorrhage, both come to Jesus to ask to be healed. Here is a Savior for all people.

Preacher: Pastor Paula



Please plan to attend the Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 9, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. in the Café Following the 9:00 a.m. service

Election of Officers – Church Council and Christ Lutheran Church Foundation Board

Open Positions for 3-year terms are Treasurer, Education Board, Evangelism Board and Fellowship Board The Christ Lutheran Church Foundation Board nominates the following officers: Todd Tupper – second, three-year term Mike Warwick – first, three-year term. Mark McCoy, Eric Folz, and Mike Daniels – First terms ending in June, 2026. Each began their terms during 2023.

Additional nominations from members will be accepted.

The next congregational meeting will be held during early 2025 to approve the 2025 church budget.

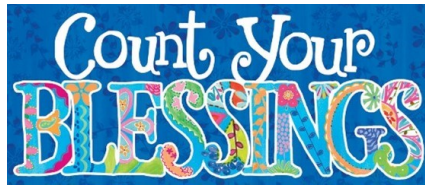
Two Former Pastors to Visit Christ Lutheran in July (Continued from the Front Cover)

Everywhere we went they assumed we were a choir from the U.S. touring. Yes, whenever we sang, we sang in four-part harmony. As Garrison Keillor once wrote, It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony, We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you are singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all 200 of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

Rev. Dr. Steve Kersten served as an associate pastor of Christ Lutheran with Pastor Alley from 1983-1986. He is married to Dr. Judy Kersten, who attended the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine in Madison while they were living in Stoughton. They now live in Bradenton Florida, but they spend the summer in Muskego Wisconsin. They have two children, Heidi Noel Bisog and Eric Kersten, who both attended Martin Luther Christian Day School. Steve and Judy have three grandchildren: Cristy, Victor, and Ash Bisog who live near Muskego Wisconsin

Steve served as pastor at Peace-Elias Lutheran Parish in Tilleda, Wisconsin prior to his arrival here at Christ Lutheran Church. In 1986, Pastor Steve relocated to Iowa City, Iowa where he served Christ the King Lutheran Church and where he completed a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois.

Pastor Steve and his family moved to Muskego Wisconsin in 1992 where he was pastor for 16 years at Bethel Lutheran Church. He then concluded his ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha where he retired from active ministry. He is currently a member of Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego and an associate member of Peace Presbyterian Church in Bradenton Florida. He remains active in the church, leading small group ministries.



A "Count Your Blessings" Moment

Pastor Bob Alley and his wife Joan joined us this past weekend for Syttende Mai. He noticed all the volunteers helping out and said, "Christ Lutheran has always been like that. People are willing to help." That is the blessing I would like to thank God for this month. People at CLC are willing to volunteer and get involved in the ministry and mission of this congregation.



Stewardship Update

We fell \$6,000 behind last month. \$3,000 of that was an unanticipated increase in insurance rates. We passed a \$39,000 deficit budget. \$4,000 of that deficit was for the mortgage. That deficit will be covered. The youth paid for the 150th Anniversary Mugs, so every mug sold covers \$25 of that deficit. If all 150 mugs are sold that will be \$3750. We held a small bake sale as part of Syttende Mai. That has raised an additional \$1,000. Thank you to the Lefse makers and those who baked Krumkake, Rosettes, Spritz Cookies, Fattigmann, Almond Cake, Fudge, Strawberry Rhubarb Jam, etc.

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

The men of the church also had a Dartball Team. This league competed against other area churches. Here are some photos of the 1957 Dartball team.



(L-R) Cliff Halverson, Adolph Bredeson, Roger Uttermark, Back row: Lowell Sherwin, Rev. Anderson, Morris Trow, Thrond Holtan Harry Hougan, Ted Cook, and Sanford Gjermo.



(L-R) Ted Cook, Adolph Bredeson, Sanford Gjermo, Rev. Anderson, Hugh Jensen, and Thrond Holtan.

PHOTOS FROM TODAY:



Ben Foltz performs his first solo for the congregation on the organ on Sunday May 5th. He just started learning how to play the organ this year.



Dana Ross enjoying the Bouncy house at the family Olympics



Phyllis Gullickson, Berly Teigan, King and Queen Joe and Erin Conant and Gerry Ross all meet up at the Syttende Mai Quilt Show.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH REMEMBERING THE FIRE BY COLIN HARRINGTON

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” — 1 Peter 1: 6-7

Over the past few months I’ve tried to find a proper way to convey in concept a meaning behind one of the congregation’s most pivotal moments: to many, it is simply referred to as “the fire.” I keep circling back, thinking about Pastor Paula’s wish to burn the completed and paid-for mortgage for our present church in this anniversary year. Fire, in turn, will be used to celebrate our church that is a replacement for a church lost to fire. Symbolic indeed I find that it is a show of our understanding that not everything is easy or easily understood. Fire in itself can be a destructive force. It can also be rejuvenating. As a farmer might burn their fields to begin anew, so did our church. Its heat can bring about devastation as often as it can bring comfort and warmth.

Either way, fire is an agent of change, for good and for bad.

I myself was not a member of the congregation at the time of the fire. I have, however, been around to hear the stories of the before and after. I have seen evidence of its wake in the scorched items boxed away to be preserved as testaments to the past. A few have made their way to the history wall. Each slightly toasty, but still holding strong.

The one survivor that I find myself most intrigued by is the previous Jesus altarpiece, often referred to as “Burnt Jesus.” A few parishioners I’ve mentioned this figure to find it as curious as I do. Others, perhaps fairly, find it a bit creepy.

A few weeks back, I got to see this “Burnt Jesus” for the first time. As an art form, it still resembles the altarpiece that we have today. However, being an item composed of wood, it is now defined by its charcoal exterior. Still, as I looked at its fingers and toes, its calm and deep feeling eyes, I came away not repulsed, but introspective. Faith, like fire, is an agent of change. It also, while knowable, can also be difficult to understand.

In this way, as paradoxical as it may sound, it takes faith to have faith. And as we continue to celebrate this anniversary, I wish us all to find our faith to burn as bright as any fire we’ve had to overcome.



150th Anniversary Celebration Mugs

Jason Brabender, a CLC member, and Art Teacher at the high school is making mugs with our logo and slogan on them. He has thrown 150 of them. We are so excited! Jason does beautiful work.

Mugs can be purchased for \$25.00 each. Profits will go to help cover our final year of mortgage payments, but it will not cover all the deficit. If more mugs are desired Jason will go back to work and throw some more.



We are planning to make a new Church Directory and photographers will be here on **October 17, 18, and 19**. We will alert you when we have everything ready for you to set-up appointment times.

It has been six years since the directory has been updated. We are hoping to have as many of our members participate in this special 150th Anniversary directory will include some pages about the history of the church. The directory will be provided free to all members that have their pictures taken or members that provide photos for placement in the directory. The company that we are working with does not do any hard sales and all people that get their photo taken at church will receive a free 8 by 10. So please help us make this the best 150th celebration and plan to participate in updating our Directory !

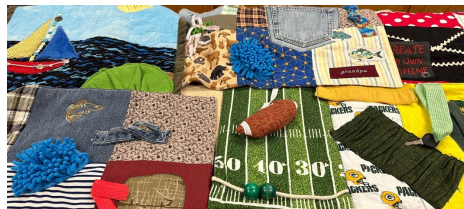
For the 150th we have a few more activities planned for the fall:



We did not have enough time to edit all of the wonderful videos for our 20 eldest church members, so on **Sunday November 3rd** we will play a short video at both the 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. services, highlighting some of the wonderful answers we received when we conducted interviews. The original interview, which has several hours of footage, will be kept as part of the churches archives and will be used as information that is shared with our confirmation students. So please join us on November 3rd to watch the videos that honor our church elders.



On **Sunday November 10th** we will be honoring another group in our church. Just in time for Veteran's Day, we will honor all former or current members of the military from our congregation. Our Evangelism team will provide homemade Cards that will be passed around a few Sundays before the event for members to sign and add notes in. Please help us identify the congregation members that served or are still serving in our military so that we can interview them and make sure that they are all honored. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex on the Information desk.



Do you have a sewing machine and a few scraps of fabric? Do you have a creative mind and some spare time? Our Evangelism team is looking for a few people that would be interested in creating sensory lap pads. These are often used with people that have Alzheimer's or Dementia. They have lots of things on them to help keep people's hands busy and some of our friends in senior care facilities would appreciate getting one. The dimensions for these are about 24" by 24". They should include a variety of textures and things for people to do like: button a button, zip a zipper, maybe a pocket or a scrubby. Everything on the lap pad must be securely attached. See the pictures above as examples. Contact Sandy Grant for more information.

PHOTOS FROM TODAY:

Gloria's Retirement after 46 Year's of Faithful Service to the Church!



Gloria receiving a gold medal and Gift Card in honor of her years here at Christ Lutheran Church.



PHOTOS CELEBRATING TOMORROW:

Sunday School Classes from the first week of the 2023/2024 School Year. We want to thank students and teachers for your participation in this year's program!



PreK through K



1st through 2nd Grade



3rd through 4th Grade



5th through 6th Grade



7th through 8th Grade

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: FAITH ON THE FARM



Our 2024 Vacation Bible School Theme is: Faith on the Farm. We will be meeting with kids from 3 years-old to 6th grade on the following Wednesday Nights: July 31st, August 7th, 14th and 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to join including friends from the community that are not members. We ask that you register each child that will be attending even if they cannot come each week. Supper will be served in the café from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. then all kids will meet in the sanctuary for their large group gathering. At that time kids will be broken up into two groups based on their ages. 3 year olds through 1st grade will meet as one group and 2nd through 6th grade will meet as another group. Kids along with their teachers will rotate through two other stations: an Art/Science station and a games station. These two group sessions will reinforce the lesson that is taught during the large group gathering and each session will be geared towards the ages of the kids in each group.

The lessons are taught to reinforce cultivating a Faith that Grows. The large group gathering will have our friends Lion (otherwise known as Ollie MacDonald) and his trusty sheep. Ollie has just bought a farm. We will start the gathering out with a skit that will have the kids join Ollie, Lamby and friends as they learn the ins and outs of farm life. Along the way, they will also learn the ins and outs of living in faith and seeing the faithfulness of God. Each week will be a new lesson so kids who cannot come each week will not feel lost. Please join us. Registration forms are available in the Narthex on the Information Desk, in the Sunday school hallway in front of the bulletin board, and on the website. If you have any questions please reach out to JennyH@clcstoughton.org or call 608-719-9680. We hope to see you all there.

P.O.P.S.: PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS

If you are a parent who has kids in pre-school or younger we are starting a new group just for you. We thought it would be nice for you to have a chance to meet other parents of pre-school age kids who are members here at Christ Lutheran. We are hoping to set-up several programs throughout the year just for you. Our first program will be about health, fitness and faith. We will be meeting on Sunday June 16 at 11:00 a.m. to noon in the conference room off of the sanctuary. We will have Gavin and Brianne Binger who are members here that own two fitness bootcamps. They will be sharing with you a program about health and faith. Pastor Paula will be serving up some egg bakes and brunch food for you to enjoy during the program and daycare will be available in the nursery during the program. We hope you will join us.

SENIOR OUTING JUNE:



Thursday, June 13th

We will go on a Train ride at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom then we will enjoy Supper at Ishnala Supper club in the Dells

Our departure from the church will be at 11:30 a.m. with a one hour train ride starting at 1:00 p.m. and dinner to follow at Ishnala around 4:00 p.m. Train tickets are \$22 for seniors and \$24 for everyone else. Food at Ishnala is a bit spendy, but it is so good. The sign up sheet is located at the Information desk in the Narthex.

memorials & gifts

Memorial

From	In Memory of
Marilyn Vandrell	David Skaavlen
Richard and Cheryl Shea	David Skaavlen
Louis and Darlene Halverson	David Skaavlen
Tom and Sandy Luther	David Skaavlen
Eddie and Gayle Dyreson	David Skaavlen

Endowment Foundation

From	In Memory of
Nancy Holzhuter	David Skaavlen
Gloria Hayne	David Skaavlen
A.J. Kohlhoff	
William and Sharon Vike	Geri Slack

may BAPTISMS



May 12 Elizabeth Ann Melby, daughter of Dana Schiele Melby and Justin Melby



Honoring Our Youth: Graduating Sunday School Teachers.
Emma Ballweg, Brenna Dalsoren, Hailee Kellnhofer and Lauren Model.

Normally I write this about one individual, but this month I want to honor four wonderful young women who have worked so hard to serve our church over the last 4 years. Brenna, Hailee and Lauren were so dedicated to serving our Sunday School kids that they not only came in during Covid to record lessons for kids to watch online they also came in on Sundays to teach the kids that wanted to learn in person. All four of these girls came in each week prepared to teach kids and taught at all different age level. They greeted the kids who came each week. Helped them with the weekly music in the Sanctuary, practiced the Christmas program with their students and made sure that the kids felt welcomed each week. Congratulations to all of you on your graduation we look forward to seeing what you all do as you move forward to the next phase of your lives.

Music in Ministry



We have all probably heard some of the history to Amazing Grace written by John Newton. As I (Linda) was researching our early June trip to Northern Ireland, I discovered we will spend our first night near Lough Swilly in County Donegal. Looking forward to walking in the footsteps of the lyricist to one of the great hymns in our tradition.

Newton wrote: "We saw the island of Tory and the next day anchored in Lough Swilly in Ireland. This was the 8th day of April, just four weeks after the damage we sustained from the sea. When we came into this port, our very last victuals was boiling in the pot; and before we had been there two hours, the wind began to blow with great violence. If we had continued at sea that night in our shattered condition, we must have gone to the bottom. About this time I began to know that there is a God that hears and answers prayers."

This was the turning point of Newton's life. He stepped ashore a changed man. The crew received a warm welcome from the local villagers on the shores of Lough Swilly. Carpenters went to work repairing the ship. (See <http://www.amazinggrace.ie/the-story.html> for more information)

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

Special points of interest

Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

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



**First 50 tickets are 2 for 1 and sold
ONLY at Christ Lutheran beginning
Tuesday, May 28 at 9:00 a.m.
Limit - 2 per person.
Christ Lutheran: 608-873-9353**

**Christ Lutheran is hosting their 10th...
Stoughton's 2024 Ladies Night Out
Thursday, June 20th • 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Come early! Enjoy all the stops! Registration opens at The Chorus Public House at 3:00 p.m. and Vik'ing Brew Pub at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each.

Tickets may be purchased prior to the event at Nordic Nook, The UPS Store, McGlynn's Pharmacy or Christ Lutheran (873-9353) or the day of the event at The Public Chorus House or Vik'ing Brew Pub.

"A Good Time for a Great Cause"

- Over 30 Downtown and Stoughton Stops – each with a promotion. Earn up to 5 raffle tickets when you visit the businesses.
- Over 50 businesses donating 70 plus raffle prizes. You need not be present to win.
- A Goody Bag full of coupons
- Dinner Specials at Vik'ing Brew Pub, BBG's, and Tailgaters

This event is organized by Christ Lutheran Church to support the ministry of Stoughton's local helping organizations



**SENIORS
NEED**



**STOUGHTON
RESETTLEMENT**

Proceeds from Ladies Night Out will be donated to Seniors in Need, START (Stoughton Area Resource Team) and Stoughton Resettlement.

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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**"Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklets for June in
small and large print are available for pick up.**

