



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



Remembering 19 Years Ago

By Pastor Paula

The fire started late on a Tuesday evening, August 17, 2005. By the early morning hours of Wednesday, the church was completely engulfed in flames.

The following day Stoughton was hit by a tornado. Stoughton made the national news. How many communities have had two disasters to deal with so close to each other? Stoughton's Volunteer Fire Department did not rest all week. The following Sunday we gathered in the church parking lot on the east side to worship. Within weeks Skaalen Nursing Home opened their doors and welcomed us in. For the next two years, Church Offices were at the Asbjornson House, meetings took place at Rebecca House and the congregation worshiped in the Skaalen Chapel. Sunday school was in the basement of Skaalen. Our Youth Group met all over town. Over the next two years we voted to relocate from the east side of town to our present location, land was purchased, architects were hired and the church was built. We moved in on Rally Sunday 2007.

We will remember this event during worship on Sunday, August 18. It is an important story to tell. Our theme for our 150th Anniversary is Christ's Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. We learned during that time that God was indeed with us. One of the texts for Sunday, August 18th is Ezekiel's "Dry Bones." God takes Ezekiel to a field full dry bones, bleached by the sun. Those dry bones represent Israel. They have been invaded by a foreign power and were utterly defeated. Their situation was totally hopeless. God asks Ezekiel, "Can these dry bones live?" Ezekiel responds, "Only you know." God told Ezekiel that he was going to cover those bones with muscle and flesh and breathe into them the breathe of life. God told Ezekiel that they would indeed live again. Our church burning down wasn't quite as bad, but we were left grieving. God breathed life back into us and we all learned an important lesson, God's promises are real.

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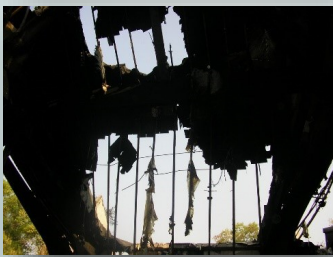
Special points of interest

Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

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



PHOTOS FROM
YESTERDAY:



Pictures from the 2005
Fire and the Sunday
Service afterwards.

AUGUST WORSHIP NEWS

One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee before and after worship.

Sunday, August 4: Worship

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, some who were there press him for a sign of his power. Maybe it was daily manna they wanted. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign – proof that Jesus is for real – Jesus offers himself. He is the bread of life from heaven to give life to the world.

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant

Liturgist: Jen Hoffman

Sunday, August 11: Worship with Holy Communion

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. That kind of language sounds strange to us. We will take a look at that and then celebrate Holy Communion and hear once again, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Preacher: Pastor Paula



Sunday, August 18: Worship with Holy Communion/19th Anniversary of the Church Fire

Scripture readings for this Sunday will focus on God's promise that even when things look the most hopeless, there is hope. Like Christ's death and resurrection. The church fire was a Good Friday event for Christ Lutheran, but putting our trust in God's promise that Easter Sunday follows Good Friday, 2 years later we moved into a new building and our congregation since then has thrived.

Before and after worship members are invited to watch portions of or all the 51 minute video produced by Jake Roth. Some of the most dramatic photos of the fire will be viewed as a Call to Worship. You may also search YouTube for CLC Stoughton church fire 2005 if you would like to view it at home.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, August 25: Worship

In today's gospel reading, many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom shall we go?" Peter asks, "You have the words of eternal life."

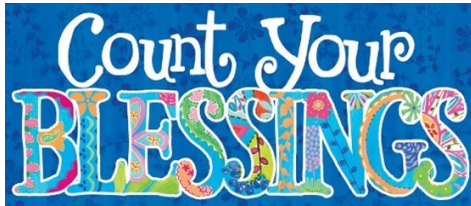
Guest Preacher: Sophie Geister-Jones

Liturgist: Jen Hoffman



Need a Boost?

Seat cushions are now available to for use in the sanctuary. Each cushion will raise the seat height of the chair or pew you choose to sit on in the sanctuary by a couple of inches. A couple of inches can make it much easier for getting up and down. Each cushion comes with a handle making it easy to carry. Cushions are located on the first chair inside the sanctuary to the far left of the doors. Help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.



Count Your Blessings

I am thankful for all the storage space in this church. When it was built Robert's construction told us, "We have never built a church with so much storage." We have the storage space off the gym, the 840 feet above the bathrooms and 6th grade classroom, a good size space above the usher/acolyte room and cabinets in every classroom. We have all kinds of places to put things "just in case we might need them someday."



150th Anniversary Celebration

Christ's Church:

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Wish List

Christ Lutheran is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. 150 years ago a small group of Norwegian Lutherans decided a congregation was needed on the east side of Stoughton. Some of their names are still familiar in our community. Some have probably been changed to make them easier to pronounce; 2 Andersons, 2 Pedersons, 2 Asjes, Janson, 2 Olsons, 2 Eriksens, Mikkelson, Tellefson, Ludvigdatter, Jamsgaard, 2 Wettlesons, 2 Bjornsons, Tostonsdatter, Bellington, Gjermusndsdatter, Gunderson, Mennes, Nieldatter and Hamsdatter. Each name represented a family, but yet, that was not a lot of people. This small group of individuals were a generous lot. In a span of two years, they not only built a church, but a parsonage as well.

As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we want to give the congregation the opportunity to match the generosity of our founding church members.

Below is our **Wish List**.

- 55" HD televisions for the Manna Café and Upstairs Youth Room - \$400 each
- 2 new VCRs - \$150 each
- Cricut Machine - \$250
- Laminator - \$250
- Spiral Binder - \$250 (With a Binder and Laminator we could produce our own Cookbook using recipes we have received from you all)
- \$22,000 for organ repair (The actual cost is \$84,000; the congregation has \$60,000 already in savings to put towards the project.)
- \$200,000 new roof for the church
- \$500,000 parking lot repair and resurfacing

If you are interested in donating to any items on our Wish List you can make a donation and indicate that it is a designated gift and put in the memo what wish list item you are interested in putting your donation towards.

PHOTOS FROM TODAY:



Brady Estervig at the lectern, Pastor Paula at the table and Jason and Darla Estervig holding the flags for baseball Sunday.



Some fun and games during service on Baseball Sunday. The balls were tossed out for the crowd to keep in the air.



Enjoying pie and ice cream on July 14, Baseball Sunday. Front couple Roger and Joyce Uttermark, Middle Couple Louie and Darlene Halverson and back couple Norval and Barb Morgan.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE WINDOW OF HISTORY BY COLIN HARRINGTON

In researching for articles over the past few months that celebrate Christ Lutheran Church's 125th Anniversary, I've made myself more familiar with our library. There are many wonderful books, but I've dealt deepest into the direct histories of the church itself. Probably my most "go to" point of inspiration has been the volumes of collected history binders. This was a passion project for the church for an overall arc called "From the Ashes."

I've been passing through one binder in particular: Chapter 15, Miscellaneous History. Inside those pages are a hodge-podge of the curious windows of things often forgotten. The first page lists the church's directory from 1946, when area codes didn't exist yet. It was also stated that in 1926, with the expense of telephone technology, the church's phone was replaced with a pay phone, to help cover the costs of its operation.

Further in, discussions of inflation were a hot topic, where in 1930 it was debated whether the church should raise the prices of their lunches to thirty cents. (The measure passed, 37 to 17.)

In 1934, a great discussion ran rampant regarding the availability of Norwegian spoken services, and whether they should continue. A resolution followed, allowing for such services to be held in the afternoon of the first Sunday in February, March and April. Further debate came with what constituted "afternoon." The decision finally fell: 2:30 p.m.

One of my favorite sections includes church etiquette. In 1950, a "fine hat rack" was built so the men would refrain from putting their hats on the window sills. It was also in 1950 that men, if the temperature is unpleasant, would be allowed to remove their suit coats. Before this, I imagine, a proper church gentleman would just have to sweat it out. As for the greater family, in 1938, a general list of churchgoing Christian values were listed. Included in those suggestions were "speak a cheery word especially to strangers" so they feel "at home." "Never put on your wraps during the closing hymn" and there should be no "loud talking or jesting after the services are over. Remember you are in the house of God."

So much history, from "the great miniature golf course scandal of 1930-31" (which really wasn't so much a scandal; the church just didn't want a miniature golf course to open next door) to the great lost cause of the temperance and ladies leagues battling the evils of hard liquors finding their way into Stoughton. On and on and I look forward to the next binder and more treasures of Christ Lutheran Church's history just waiting to be rediscovered.



More Photos from Today:

(Left) Rev. Cole Bentley who was a former member of Christ Lutheran from 1987 – 1994 preached on Sunday July 7th. He is the current pastor of Metigoshe Lutheran Church in North Dakota.

(Right) Rev. Dr. Kersten and his wife Judy visited Christ Lutheran on July 21. Rev. Dr. Kersten preached the sermon and administered communion in Pastor Paula's absence. Rev. Dr. Kersten served as an associate pastor of Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor Alley from 1983-1986.



For a 150th Anniversary Gift to the Church... Let's repair the organ.

Christ Lutheran Church is blessed with a pipe organ that has been used for many years. Originally built in 1927 (by an organ company started in 1897), the organ was moved from the original church building to the building on Main Street that burned in 2005. Miraculously, the organ survived the fire that destroyed the church building and sanctuary. After the fire, the organ was carefully dismantled and stored to be reinstalled in our current location. While in storage and during the reinstallation, several crucial repairs and updates were planned to keep the organ functioning.

Unfortunately, full reinstallation was never completed because of the extensive work (and expense) that was required. Throughout the years the church prioritized basic maintenance and repairs to ensure the instrument would be available for regular Sunday worship services but other maintenance, repairs and upgrades have been delayed in lieu of other church projects and needs.

The maintenance, repairs and upgrades that have been “kicked down the road” are very big ticket items – the air pneumatic pipe chests -- and we have now come to a time when these parts of the organ are wearing out and need to be replaced. These pipe chests are literally the pumping heart of the organ. When these chests wear out (and they will like anything with moving parts) the organ will no longer function.

The full cost of this repair is \$84,000. A gift from the estate of Paul Nelson will cover \$62,000, leaving \$22,000 that we need to raise. Once we raise the cash, it won't take long to have the repairs completed (the repairmen could be here in four weeks to do the work). The repairs could still get done in 2024!

This beautiful pipe organ is not only a wonderful part of our heritage, it is a valuable asset to our church and congregation. We have the responsibility to keep it well maintained and the privilege of having it continue to be a part of our regular worship.



Upstairs Storage is Clean – Hallelujah!

On Wednesday, July 10th we had 9 volunteers – young legs and older legs – help clean up the 840 square feet of storage above the bathrooms and 6th Grade Sunday School room. It was a miracle. With that many hands and feet we got it done in 3 hours. To celebrate we feasted on pizza. Tours will be offered to anyone who is interested.

It is amazing what you will find when you clean up a space. We found a box full of Christ Lutheran cookbooks published for the third time in 2009. It was first printed in 1993. This vintage cookbook is on sale for \$15.00. **What a deal!** For the 150th anniversary there was some talk of producing a new cookbook, but production costs have gone up. The same cookbook today would cost \$50 each.



Pastor Paula will be gone...

August 2-10 I will be in the BWCA with my adult children. It was their idea and gift to their mom for mother's day.

August 20-31 I will be on a Road Scholar trip visiting and learning about a number of national parks in the U.S. and Canada.

While I am gone a few pastors will be covering for me in case of emergencies. Pastor Wendy Moen of Covenant from August 2-4, Pastor Ellen Stelzle of Saint John's in Oregon from August 5-10 and August 26 – 31. Jen Hoffman will cover from August 20-25. Please contact the church office and Vicki will put you in contact with the right person while I am away.



GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

There were times when Jesus' disciples just did not understand what Jesus was talking about. I fully imagine they looked at Jesus in terms of him making Israel/Judah into the world power they longed for and God's "Kingdom" that would put all the old kingdoms—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome—to shame with God's Glory and Power on display and run by Jesus and thus setting the world right once again. Jesus did come to bring God's Kingdom to earth, but not in the form that His disciples envisioned.

One instance when the disciples were totally mistaken was in Matthew 19:13-15, where presumably some mothers brought their little children to Jesus for Him to lay His hands on them and pray for them. We do the same thing with our baptism today. The disciples thought Jesus had much more important things to deal with if He was to establish the new world order they were expecting rather than dealing with some little kids. The mothers were wasting His time in their minds. Jesus stopped them saying "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's Kingdom is made up of people like these." The disciples didn't realize that we can be a citizen of any one of the countries around the world and also be a citizen in God's Kingdom; a child in God's family.

There are people who think Jesus was Mary's only child, even today. Mark 6:3 tells us differently. Early in His ministry, Jesus returned to His hometown and spoke in the meeting place one Sabbath. The people were very impressed but some soon began berating Him because they knew Him as a kid. "He's just a carpenter—Mary's boy. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude and Simon, and his sisters. Who does He think He is?" Jesus was not an only child, but rather a big brother to at least six siblings, the children of Mary and Joseph. A large family was considered a blessing from God, not only back then, but also in this country just a few generations back. It was their Social Security System. The children took care of their parents when they could not take care of or feed themselves. That was the tragedy of the widowed mother going to bury her only son until Jesus stopped the procession and gave her son back to her, restoring her means of life. During Jesus' early years growing up, I can imagine Mary asking Jesus numerous times to take his little brothers hand on the trip to Passover in Jerusalem so he doesn't get distracted and wander off or to give His little sister a piggyback ride as her legs are tired. Learning early on the dependency of a little child makes more sense to what Jesus says in Matthew 18:3, "I'm telling you once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you are not going to get a look at the Kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's Kingdom." We can still be adults, but fully know that our lives, here and now, and our life yet to come depends entirely on God's mercy and grace and His provision.

CONFIRMATION DISPLAY BY MARY SIME

You may have noticed the large display of confirmation pictures at the start of the Sunday School hallway. This display was originally spearheaded by Genevieve Wilberg for the 125th anniversary of the congregation in 1999. It was to include the pictures and names for each class confirmed at Christ Lutheran Church. Once completed, the pictures and names were displayed in the church building on Main Street. Unfortunately when the church burned in 2005, most of the confirmation pictures were lost along with the names of the children in the pictures. Genevieve and I started another display in the current church, finding pictures once again.

At the Syttende Mai celebration a former congregation member identified five members of her family in the pictures, making us realize we have a tremendous resource to help us with this project — you! I'm asking all church members to look at the pictures and help identify the people. As part of our 150th celebration, we are hoping to complete our display with pictures and names for each class confirmed at CLC. The display begins with year 1920 with some pictures up until 1938; however, most confirmands are not identified. From 1939-present, all pictures are identified correctly.

Please take a few moments to look at the pictures currently on display. Do you recognize anyone? Do you know someone who was confirmed in one of the missing years who might have a picture of the class tucked away in an album? Please contact me at msime@charter.net or (608) 873-9290 if you can help.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: FAITH ON THE FARM



Vacation Bible School is in full swing, but we welcome any new attendees. Our 2024 Vacation Bible School Theme is Faith on the Farm-Faith that Grows. We will be meeting with kids from 3 years-old to 6th grade on the following Wednesday Nights: 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. So go ahead and invite a friend to join you!

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. There is **no fee to register or participate**. 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. We hope to see you all there.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / CONFIRMATION NEWS

It is that time of year again. Pastor Paula and I met a couple weeks ago to start planning for the 2024 –2025 Sunday School/Youth School year.

Because of early planning, we can already share two important dates in September. **Rally Sunday will be the Sunday, September 8th.** Rally Sunday is the start of our fall schedule which includes the Worship Lite Service 9: (Family Express service at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday school following Worship on Rally Sunday at 10:00 a.m.) Children from Pre-K through 8th Grade will meet in the Sanctuary for their Large Group Opening. They will be introduced to their teaching staff and welcomed by our entire staff before breaking up into their individual groups to get better acquainted with their fellow classmates and teachers. Please register early on the website <https://clcstoughton.org/Sunday-school-registration-online/> or fill out a registration form and turn it in at the office. Registration forms will be located in the Sunday School Hallway on the Information Bulletin Board or at the office. They can also be printed from the Youth tab on the Website: <https://clcstoughton.org/christian-edyouth/>.

If you have a 7th or 8th Grade student, the **Confirmation Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents is on Wednesday September 18th at 6:00 p.m.** Please make sure you can attend, we will go over all requirements for Confirmation and register all of our confirmation students for the 2024-2025 session.

SENIOR EXCURSION

Wednesday, August 14th

The date of our Senior Excursion into Amish Country has been changed from Thursday, August 15th to Wednesday, August 14th. We found out the bakery is closed on Thursdays and that is definitely one place we want to stop. We were also told you need to get to the bakery early if you want to find anything left to purchase so we will be leaving from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. More good news, during the summer there are also auctions on Wednesdays.



The sign up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex. We are an inclusive group. Anyone can sign up.

SOCIAL CONCERNS: LWR COLLECTION STARTS IN JULY



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need. You can donate complete kits or bring some of the items listed on the kits below and our Confirmation students will assemble the kits from all of the donations we receive when they start confirmation in September. LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations. Summer is the season for Garage Sales, so when you are out and about in the coming months keep in mind that we are now collecting for items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. Garage sales are an excellent place to look for items gently used (in new or like new condition: no rips, stains, wear, or missing buttons or snaps). [What we'll need](#)

Baby Care Kits



TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
TWO pairs of socks ONE hand towel, dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Personal Care Kits



ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging *
Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

School Kits



FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
ONE pencil sharpener
ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons ONE 2 1/2" eraser
ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

Memorials

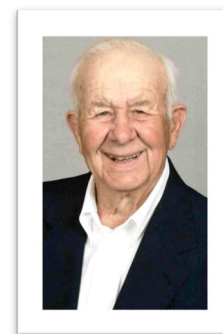
From	In Memory of
Barb Entwistle	David Skavlen
Nancy Fuller	David Skavlen
Ruth Furseth	David Skavlen
Brad and Darcy Fuller	David Skavlen
John and Carolyn Hanson	David Skavlen
Dan and Diane Matson	David Skavlen
Randy and Donna Olson	David Skavlen
Gerry Ross	David Skavlen
Mike and Brenda Sherry	David Skavlen
Susan Slinde	David Skavlen
Eric Smedal	David Skavlen
Gene and Debra Whitford	David Skavlen
Mark and Renee Wilberg	David Skavlen
Keith and Judy Onsrud	John Onsrud
Ellen Russell	John Onsrud
Kevin Maerz	John Onsrud
Doug and Patricia Peterson	John Onsrud
Scott Amera	Ann Amera



Baptism June 15—Layla Anderson, daughter of Kaylie and Daniel Anderson (This was announced last month but we are now updating with a photo).



In Sympathy



June 28—John A. Onsrud

Endowment Gifts

From	In Memory/Honor of
Nancy Holzhuter	John Onsrud
Gloria Hayne	John Onsrud
Myron and Mary Sime	John Onsrud
Dennis Erfurth	John Onsrud
Sandra Maerz	John Onsrud
Glenn and Janice Lokken	John Onsrud
Daniel and Catherine Furseth	John Onsrud
Don and Carole Moe	John Onsrud
Nancy Holzhuter	In honor of Margaret Arneson's 101st birthday

“So we are
ambassadors for
Christ...” -
2 Corinthians 5:20



We selected “We Come to the Hungry Feast” (ELW #479) as the hymn to focus on for August to pair with the Gospel of John readings that teach us about Jesus as the Bread of Life. Ray Makeever’s text reflects our need to keep coming regularly to be fed through Jesus Word and through Holy Communion. We need this daily bread, every single day to sustain, transform and satisfy us.

Ray Makeever’s music speaks directly to the Christian heart through his gentle easy to sing folk-style. He has written hundreds of songs that encourage community singing - in worship, at camp settings, conferences or in small group meetings.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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STOUGHTON, WI

“Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklets for July, August and September in small and large print are available for pick up.

