

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Stewardship 2025 United in Christ



Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

It's Stewardship Season Again! Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

It's that time of year again – **Stewardship Season**. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have already had our Ministry Fair and Blessings of the Animals and Stewardship Packets will have been mailed out.

Our theme this year is "**United in Christ: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.**" Our theme verse comes from one of Luther's favorite psalm 46: "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold," and our Stewardship song is one God's people have sung since the early 18th century, "O God, Our /help in Ages Past." This past year I have shared a "Count Your Blessings" article in the monthly newsletter. This year I invite you to share your stories with one another.

Here is what is happening the next two Sundays...

Sunday, October 6 is Quilt/LWR Sunday. LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War.

Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year. And our hope is congregations like ours will still have Quilter groups making quilts 100 years from now.



On Quilt/LWR Sunday we focus on how people around the world experience "God with them" through the quilts of Lutheran World Relief. The pews will be covered with quilts our quilters have made over the past year. Up front will be all the School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and Sewing Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will "count" the quilts and kits and let you know how many have been put together. Quilts will once again be on sale for \$40 apiece. Monies from the sale of quilts goes towards getting those quilts where they need to go.

Stewardship cont'd on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Stewardship 2025	2
October Worship News	2
Photos From Yesterday	2/3
Worship News Continued	3
New Member Sunday	3
Quilting at Christ Lutheran	4
Photos from Today	4/5
Go and Tell	5
Book Study	5
Movie Study "Jesus of Nazareth"	5
Sunday School Update	6
Christmas Program	6
Confirmation News	6
Wednesday Night Meals	7
God and Games	7
Trunk or Treat Event	8
Fall/Winter Youth Events	8
Senior Excursions	9
Honoring Our Veterans	9
Senior Luncheons	10
Photos for Tomorrow	10/11
Memorials and Gifts	11
Music in Ministry	11
Poll Workers Needed	BC

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

Youth Hayride 2006. You
Might recognize a few of these
people.



Stewardship cont'd. from page 1



October 13th is our Harvest Fest/Pig Roast/ Burning of the Mortgage

Pastor Margo Martens is our guest preacher and there will be special music, but that is only the beginning of the fun.

After Worship a Pig Roast/Harvest Fest is planned from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This is a 150th Anniversary Event. For years the Men of CLC hosted a pig roast as a fundraiser. Along

with the Pig Roast there will be a **bake sale and crafts for all ages** in the Large Youth Room (Pumpkin Painting and Cookie Frosting), Pumpkin Sumo Wrestling in the narthex, and a Bounce House, a pile of hay to climb on and a Hayride in the backyard.

**A \$12 donation is suggested for Adults
\$7 for those young people between the
ages of 5 and 12**

**Children 4 and under eat free. Hot dogs
will also be served.**

Any profit from the bake sale or pig roast will go towards mortgage reduction.



The menu includes Roast Pork, Cheesy or Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans & Coleslaw, Texas Road House Buns, Swedish Rye Bread, Bars, Cookies and Ice Cream, Milk, Apple Juice and Coffee.

Please sign up at the Information Desk to work the event or provide bars and items for the bake sale (canned goods sell really well!)

We are going to thank the Building Committee from 2005 – 2007 and burn the mortgage. 17 years ago we started with a \$1.2 million mortgage. At this point we owe less than \$5,000. Our goal is to pay it off by the end of 2024. That is amazing.

Please return your Stewardship pledge card by Harvest Fest on October 13.

OCTOBER WORSHIP NEWS



October Worship Schedule

8:00 AM Traditional Worship

9:15 AM Worship Express

10:00 AM Sunday School

Sunday, October 6: Worship with Holy Communion/ Quilt Sunday

In today's gospel lesson Jesus is "the refuge and strength" for women and children. He comes down hard on divorce simply because it was so easy for men to divorce their wives. These women had nowhere to go. Their husbands were condemning them to a life of poverty. And then Jesus' disciples were once again shooing the children away. Jesus was too important to waste his time with them. They just don't get it.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

OCTOBER WORSHIP NEWS CONTINUED

Sunday, October 13: Worship/Pig Feed/Bake Sale and Harvest Fest

In today's gospel lesson Jesus encounters a rich man asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. The man is a good man, but Jesus can see that he loves his wealth more than God. He tells him, "Sell all you own and give it to the poor." The man goes away heavy hearted, for he realizes that his money means more to him than God. Third graders are presented with their Bibles at Worship Express.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Margo Martens

Special Music: Chancel Choir and Handbells

Sunday, October 20: Worship with Holy Communion

Jesus' disciples are fighting over the same old thing. Now they are asking Jesus who will receive seats of honor when he is declared King. Jesus tells them what he has already told them numerous times, his followers "rule" through self-giving service.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, October 27: Worship/Reformation Sunday

We hear once again that to be the church yesterday, today and tomorrow we need to be open to change. We have to always be asking ourselves, "How do we live out the love of Christ in this time and this place?"

Guest Preacher: Katie Luther (Pastor Paula) will once again be joining us to share her wisdom.

Sunday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Affirmation of Baptism



On Sunday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m. 13 of our young people will be saying, "Yes, I want Jesus in my life." When they were baptized their families said that for them. Now it is time for them to say it for themselves. They are: Jakob Dambach, Elena Evenson, Jack Hamacher, Quinlan Harrington, Kylie Horabik, Asia Hoverson, Ella Knoploh, Matthew LePine, Gunder Nelson, Brooks Richter, Kylee Soderling, Cannon Suddeth and Mikayla Thomas. Please keep these young people in your prayers.



New Member Sunday – November 17, 2024

We are having a new member Sunday in November. 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 on Sunday, November 17 at both services. New Member Orientation will be Sunday November 3rd

or Sunday November 10th at 10:15 a.m. in the Conference room off the Narthex. You pick the day that you want to attend based on what works best for you. This is a time to get to know one another and to learn more about the congregation.

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:



PHOTOS FROM TODAY:



QUILTING AT CHRIST LUTHERAN BY COLIN HARRINGTON

Up some stairs, down a long hall, in a cold ten by twelve room, the Quilters would be busy at work. The heater in the room helped, but the hard work and lively conversation kept them even warmer. Overflow often ended up in the fellowship room; sometimes even in the hallways themselves. At any given time, year after year, roughly ten to fifteen folks could be found cutting, ironing or sewing. The end results would lead to 100 to 150 quilts being made each year.



This was how it was for many years in the old church for the Quilting groups. Starting just shortly after World War II, with many war weary folks in need of warmth, aid was needed. Christ Lutheran Church heeded that call and so began the mass creation of quilts. The groups originally met primarily in the winter, when summertime chores would not get in the way and fellowship was needed even more to get through those cold, blustery days. The groups continued to gain membership through the 50s and 60s and stayed consistent through the 70s, 80s and 90s.

It was in the 90s that it was thought to start selling some of the quilts to the congregation. The cost of shipping the quilts to Minneapolis, where Lutheran World Relief was located, was \$2.50 per quilt. By selling a few quilts, the costs of shipping and additional materials could be covered. While it is estimated that 99% of all fabric comes from donations, there is always a need for the little extras. For many Quilters, bargain hunting for that \$2 a yard bit of material is part of the fun. Goodwill, St. Vinny's, Dig and Save, even Walmart might have that elusive perfect fabric for that one particular quilt.

While talking to a few of the modern day quilters, I learned all the above and more. Along with my notes on the conversation, I jotted down the following quotes:

- "When the kids are gone, why not start quilting?"
- "Some years you have three members, the next, twenty. You don't need to get discouraged."
- "I thought, maybe I could do that. That was fourteen years ago."
- "Some come to socialize even if they can't quilt anymore. It's about communication and community."
- "Quilting is addictive."



I was also informed that post fire, our present day church set up a special place in the Sunday School classrooms with extra closet storage for the quilters. Presently, the group tends to meet starting in March through early November, every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m..

If you are interested in learning more about Quilting, all are welcome, from the curious and new to the experienced master hand. It is a true Christ Lutheran tradition with a great history and, hopefully, a tradition that will continue.



Go and Tell

By Roger Slack

I don't remember if I have ever shared with you a technique to reading the Bible, in particular, the Gospels, where Jesus is speaking and dealing with individuals, one on one. When you read these accounts, find a quiet spot and read it slowly and aloud. This incorporates two of your body senses: your eyes as you read the words and your ears, as you hear the words read aloud. I get a lot more understanding by doing this as I don't just blitz through the words, which is how we tend to read our texts, emails and newspapers (I included the last one for all us "old schoolers"). The objective is to get to know who Jesus is, to become close friends that we can share our lives with, our joys, our fears, our disappointments and our thanksgivings John 17:3 says "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only one true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." Our eternal life begins right here and now and then continues on when we pass.



Book Study to Start up
Thursday Morning, October 10th, 17th, and 31st
Sunrise Restaurant
9:30 a.m.

I have heard that a number of you who have participated in the past have suggestions of books we could read.

Bring your suggestions with you to this gathering and we will make a decision. **In October we will meet October 10th, 17th and 31st.**

JESUS OF NAZARETH



"Jesus of Nazareth" directed by Franco Zeffirelli
Thursday evenings – October 17, November 21,
January 16, February 20, March 20 and April 10.
6:00 p.m.
Soup and Sandwich

The mini-series was released in 1977, but I still think it is one of the best. The director set out to film the life of Christ with a \$12 million budget for an on-location production in Morocco and Tunisia. He took over two years to prepare before filming began in September of 1975. A panel of Distinguished theologians and Biblical scholars served as his advisors and helped Zeffirelli not only aim for, but achieve, a high degree of historical accuracy—not only in the period of sets and costumes, but in the many, many details that distinguish this version of Jesus life on film from any other ever made.

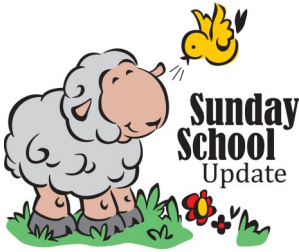
We invite anyone who would like to join us to come to church on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m., view a portion of the film and discuss it. Soup and Sandwich will be provided. A free will donation will be taken to cover the cost of food. If you would like, bring a side dish or dessert.

October 17: The Beginnings of Jesus' Ministry
November 21: The Middle Years of Jesus' Ministry
January 16: Who Do People Say That I Am
February 20: The Opposition Grows
March 20: The Last Supper, Betrayal and Trial of Jesus
April 10: The Crucifixion and Resurrection

PHOTOS FROM TODAY:



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS FOR OCTOBER



This fall we are continuing with our VBS theme of cultivating our faith on the farm. You will see hints of that in the lessons and crafts and games we play during Sunday school this Fall. Isn't Fall a perfect time to think of life on a farm? The harvest is happening. A new season brings with it crisp apples that our older kids peel and prepare for use in pies and crisps. We have our Harvest Fest where kids can paint pumpkins that are grown on Jerry Graffin's farm. We go on hay rides and enjoy wonderful fall foods, crafts and games. There are many important dates in October that we want all Sunday school parents to be aware of.

Important dates in **October** for parents of Sunday School Students.

Sunday, October 13th we have a Milestone Ministry Event. All **3rd Graders** will receive their *Adventure Bibles* at the 9:15 a.m. service. In addition, we have our 150th Celebration Pig Roast/ Bake Sale/Harvest Fest immediately following Sunday School. There will be food, games, crafts, hayrides and a bouncy house.

On **Sunday, October 27th** we will have a special Lesson during Sunday School for all 3-K through 6th Graders. The lesson is called Pumpkin Palooza and celebrates God's creation and his abundant blessings during the fall season through engaging activities, pumpkin-themed games and diverse learning experiences.



Yes, the Christmas Program has been selected. "**A Christmas to Believe In**" is a wonderful traditional story told with a cast of characters including a narrator who has doubts about Christmas and another narrator that says: whether you believe it or not... it's still true! You get to watch as our doubting Thomas of a narrator becomes more engaged in the story and finds that this really is "A Christmas to believe in." There are many speaking and non-speaking parts. If your child is interested in a speaking part please let Jenny Hoffman know. Parts will be announced on **October 6th**. Please note that we will be practicing during part of our Sunday school classes each week. So we hope your child can be here as much as possible.



Important dates in October for all parents of **7th and 8th Grade Confirmation students**

- On **October 6th** during Sunday School from **10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.** students will be packing Lutheran World Relief Kits. This is their first opportunity to earn a service hour.
- On **Saturday, October 12th** and **Sunday, October 13th** Confirmation students can earn service hours by signing up to help out at the Harvest Fest/Pig Roast. They can help with set-up, prepare or serve in the kitchen or help on games, crafts, etc...

Important dates in October for parents of **9th Grade confirmation students**

- **Sunday, October 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Confirmands will be making their stoles. This is an important activity; in addition to making their stole, they will learn about their role at the confirmation service, and they will meet their final requirement for being confirmed. They will be presenting what they learned from their 8th Grade Confirmation project. They need to bring with them their one page summary of what they learned from their project. Then as a group they will talk about their project and share what they learned with their fellow students.
- **Sunday, October 27th at 1:00 p.m.** This is a special service for all confirmation students, their families, sponsors and friends. Please have your child at church no later than **12:30 p.m.** so that they can dress in their robes and have group pictures taken.



Wednesday Evening/ Confirmation Dinners

Dinner is served from **5:30– 6:30 p.m.** A minimum donation of **\$8.00** is suggested to help cover the cost of food. Confirmation students and their families, God and Game participants and their families, our Seniors and really anyone is invited. Enjoy an hour of good food and good fellowship.

October 2

Homemade Mac and Cheese and Tator Tot Casserole
Swedish Rye Bread
Brownies and Ice Cream
While or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

October 9

Lasagna
Green Salad
Garlic Bread
Cookies and Ice Cream
While or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

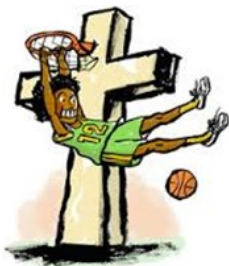
October 16

Homemade Chicken Spaetzle or Tomato Soup
Grilled Cheese or Egg Salad Sandwiches
Apple Crisp with Ice Cream.
While or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

October 23 No Confirmation No Wednesday Night Meal or Activities Today

October 30

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



God and Games

Wednesday evenings

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Grades 3rd – 6th

It doesn't matter if you are a regular or not, you are always welcome. If September finds you busy with soccer – come in October. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant would love to meet you. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with fun and games inside and out.

Here are some special things going on at God and Games in October

October 2nd – An outside Campfire with a devotion, games and SMORE'S

October 30th – Wear your Halloween Costumes. We will play Halloween Games like Ghost in the Graveyard.





New this year...

Events are planned for youth in Grades 5-8.

We ask that you sign up at the Information Desk at least a week prior to the event, so we can make plans in a timely manner.

Check it out!



Schuster's Farm – Haunted Forest

Friday, October 25th

6:15 – 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$25

We meet at church to load up the cars. Parents willing to drive and help chaperone are needed.



Church Shut-In

Friday, December 27th

9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20



We will go Cosmic Bowling at the Stoughton Bowling Alley, enjoy pizza back at church, have a nerf gun war and more.



Inner tubing at Cascade Mountain

Friday, February 28th

Cost: \$42

We will leave from the church parking lot at 11:00 a.m. , inner-tube from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. and return home by 3:30 p.m. If you need help covering the cost, there are \$15 camperships available.



Christ Lutheran Church is participating in this year's downtown Stoughton Trunk or Treat. The event is on **Saturday, October 19th from 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at 1740 E. Main Street in Stoughton.** All families are encouraged to attend. We will have treats for the kids, kids will be able to decorate a cookie and have their face painted at our stop. Plus there will be many other vendors from town there with games, treats , etc... We are looking for donations of peanut free candy to give out; drop off candy donations in the church office by Wednesday, October 16.



Senior Excursions

Sunrise Orchards – Gay Mills

Friday, October 18th

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

It is a two hour drive, but at this time of the year it will be a beautiful one. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. and drive to the orchard, check out the store and perhaps buy some apples, find some cute out of the way place for lunch and return home. Some of our seniors just might have a suggestion. The sign-up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex.

Fireside Theater

Miracle on 34th Street

Friday, December 13th

Cost: \$85 (Includes Gratuity)

Based on the beloved Christmas movie, MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET is a big brassy Broadway musical with a heart. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade needs a new Santa. Enter Kris Kringle – a sweet and jolly old man who claims that he is the real Santa Claus. Thus begins this funny, warm, tuneful, and inspirational musical as Kris has to prove his claim in court and teach his cynical neighbor and her daughter to believe in the goodness and love that is Christmas. Written by Meredith Willson, the creator of THE MUSIC MAN, this is an unforgettable musical version of a classic Christmas tale.

Menu... Butternut Squash Soup Garnished with Fresh Chives Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery Chicken and Ribs Our Signature Lean Pork Back Ribs glazed with our special Barbecue sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone. Accompanied by our Buttermilk Marinated Southern Fried Baked Chicken Breast. Steak Diane Medallions of Roast Beef Tenderloin in the Classic Sauce. Seared Duck Breast Tender Duck Breast seared until crisp and blushing, sliced and served with a reduction of Port Wine and Tart Red Cherries. The perfect blend of sweet and savory. Garlic Whipped Potatoes and Romanesco. Mississippi Mud Cake (A rich Chocolate Cake with Pecans, topped with Marshmallows and a Chocolate Drizzle). Coffee, Tea and Milk.

We leave from the church at 10:00 a.m. and return home around 4:30 p.m. **Sign up by November 13th at the Information Desk.**

Calling all Veterans, family members of Veterans and church members. We need your help in identifying all of the Veterans of Christ Lutheran Church. We will be honoring our Veterans during our **8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, November 10th**. If you are or if you know of a Veteran here at Christ Lutheran Church please sign them up on the information sheet in the Narthex. We are looking for pictures both current and from their time in the service. The information sheet will request the following: name, rank, branch of service and years served. Please provide Jenny Hoffman with pictures and she will scan them in and return them.



PHOTOS FOR TOMORROW:



Senior Luncheon Monday, October 28st 11:30 a.m.

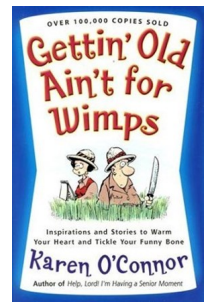
Cost: \$12

Program: Getting' Old Ain't for Wimps

Those of us who are getting older know it is true. After lunch we will read some of Karen O'Connor's humorous stories of antics and adventures of getting older and her "conversations with God."

Menu

Barbecue Ribs or Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Rye Bread
Strawberry Rhubarb, Cherry or Pecan Pie with Ice Cream
Coffee and Milk



Senior Luncheon Monday, November 18th 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

Program: "God in America"

We will be summarizing portions of PBS's first episode of "God in America." Specifically how the pilgrims understood themselves and how they viewed the native population. Our menu will be packed with "new world" foods.

Menu

Turkey and lots of Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Green Beans and Squash, Pumpkin or Apple Pie with Ice Cream
Milk and Coffee



Senior Luncheon Monday, December 16th 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: Stoughton's Madrigal Singers

This has become a tradition and a great one at that. On Monday, December 16th the Stoughton High School Madrigals will be here to perform following lunch. They will come dressed in their middle age costumes and perform Christmas music from then and now accapella. Come! Enjoy their wonderful music.



Menu

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

Memorial

From	In Memory of
Colby and Rosanne Smith	Their mom, Joan Smith, and child, Elizabeth (Kevin) Pasqualone
Rita Johnson	Gladys Thompson
Dave Thomas Family (Mike, Andrea, Zach and Mikayla Thomas, Kevin and Jean Johnson)	Their father and grandfather, Dave Thomas
David and Jennie Gasner	Dave Thomas
Wendy Olson	Dave Thomas
Tom Fendrick and Shelley Moffatt	Dave Thomas
Myron and Mary Sime	Dave Thomas



A Mighty Fortress Is Our God is a hymn we always sing on Reformation Sunday which is celebrated this year on October 27. Martin Luther, lived and taught theology in Wittenberg, Germany, where he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church to challenge the Catholic Church's sale of indulgences. His ideas, derived from Scripture, advocated for a personal relationship with God over reliance on priests, which shifted the power from the Church to the common man.

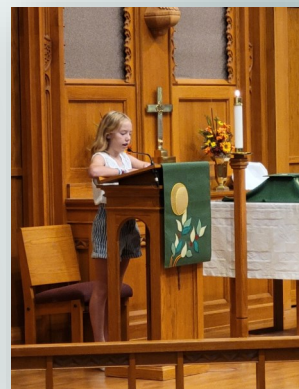
Luther is well known for his passion for each believer to experience a personal relationship with God, and one of his key proposals for such a relationship involved music. Luther proclaimed, "music is a gift and grace of God, not an invention of men. Thus it drives out the devil and makes people cheerful," and, "The Devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God."

Luther had a great influence on the development of hymnody and liturgical music in the Protestant tradition. He composed this hymn between 1527 and 1529, naming it EIN FESTE BURG from the first line of the text. Luther was a skilled musician who played the lute and the flute, and wrote many hymns to express his faith and encourage congregational singing. The oldest surviving hymnal that contains the hymn was printed in 1531. This hymnal was part of Luther's effort to promote congregational singing and to provide a collection of hymns in German for the reformed liturgy.

The hymn's title and themes are inspired by Psalm 46, which in Luther's German Bible translation states: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott). The hymn paraphrases concepts from this psalm about God being a stronghold and refuge for His people amid life's trials.

In the 16th century when Luther wrote this hymn, fortresses and castles were common strategies for military defense. A fortress provided safety and protection for a town or city from attacking forces. The "mighty fortress" metaphor draws on this context. It conveys the idea of God as an impenetrable stronghold defending believers against the attacks of the devil and all evil. Just as a fortress shields a city from harm and prevails against siege, God provides an unflinching refuge for His followers amid life's hardships and trials.

PHOTOS FOR TOMORROW:



**“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)

Poll Workers Needed: There is a shortage of poll workers in many poll places. A lack of poll workers can lead to confusion and long lines. As part of our participation in ELCAvotes, the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin is helping to recruit poll workers.

Did you know that you can legally take off work in Wisconsin and be paid for being a poll worker? Did you know if you are 16 and older and in Wisconsin have a 3.0 grade point average you can take off of school and be paid to be a poll worker?

Adults, if you are interested in learning more or would like to let us know that you signed up to be a poll worker, please contact cynthia.crane@elca.org or go to <https://elections.wi.gov/node/1012>. Student can go to <https://elections.wi.gov/poll-workers-observers/working-polls/high-school-election-inspectors>.

“We understand that Christians are called to be stewards of our common life through serving as faithful and active citizens.” –Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (ELCA Civic Engagement Guide)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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“Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklets for October, November and December in small and large print are available for pick up.

