Christ Lutheran Church 700 County Highway B December 2024

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24

3:30 p.m.—A Children's Christmas Eve Service with Special Music, Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus, lots of Critters Holy Communion and Candle Lighting

5:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Worship with Special Music, Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus and lots of Critters Holy Communion and Candle Lighting

6:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Worship Special Music, Communion and Candle Lighting



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December worship News	_
Photos From Yesterday	2/3
Past Christmas Programs	3
Judgement	4
Photos from Today	4/5
Go and Tell	5
Sunday School Update	6
Christmas Program	6
Confirmation News	6
Wednesday Night Meals	6
Mission Trip to North	
Carolina	7
God and Games	7
Fall/Winter Youth Events	7
Bake Sale-	8
Bethel Circle Selling	
Washcloths	8
"Jesus of Nazareth"	
Movie Study	8
Photos for Tomorrow	8/9
Senior Luncheons	9
Senior Excursions	9
Elizabeth Circle—New Fur Coordinator	neral 9
Bake Sale Order Form	10
Baptism	11
2024 Confirmation Class	11
Music in Ministry	11
Help Needed for the Lutef Dinner	isk BC

Sunday Worship is also Livestreamed on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/ ChristLutheranChurchStoughton

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

Christmas Programs

Past

Christmas Program 2006 at Skaalen









Christmas Program 2008



DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Traditional Worship at 8:00 and Worship Express at 9:15 a.m. December 1, 8, 15, 22 One Service at 9:00 a.m. December 29

Sunday, December 1: The First Sunday of Advent - Worship with **Holy Communion**

We start counting down to Christmas by lighting the first candle of the Advent Wreath. The litany for the lighting of the first candle says it all. We are to wait, to stay awake and expect God to show up in our lives unexpectedly.

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Sunday, December 8: The Second Sunday of Advent - Worship We continue our countdown to Jesus' birth by lighting the second candle of the Advent Wreath. From his prison cell John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is the long expected Messiah. Jesus' coming is God trying yet again the reach out to God's people. God is trying something totally new and

different. God trying again gives us all the courage to try again.

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant Liturgist: Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Sunday, December 15: The Third Sunday of Advent - Worship with Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. - We are getting closer and closer to Christmas. As we light the third candle of the Advent wreath we are told once again that God knows all our joys and sorrows and has the power to send our sorrows and sighing fleeing.



Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula Geister-Jones 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Christmas Program Christmas would not be Christmas without a Sunday school Christmas Program. All are invited to come and enjoy! This year's program is, "A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN"

Sunday, December 22: The Fourth Sunday in Advent - Worship.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we celebrate the fact that soon God will be among us in flesh and blood. A birthday party for Jesus will be held in the gym for all kids from Pre-K through 8th Grade during 10:00 a.m. Sunday School.

Preacher and Liturgist: Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Sunday, December 29 - The First Sunday of Christmas -



Worship with a Christmas Carol Hymn Sing at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas music is off the radio the day after Christmas, but the church celebrates the season until January 6, Epiphany. 10 days after Christmas tradition says the Wise Men finally showed up in Bethlehem to worship the new born king.

PAST CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS BY COLIN HARRING-

As we put to a close Christ Lutheran Church's 150th Anniversary, December brings with it one of the church's most cherished traditions: The annual Christmas program. Each year, the youth of the church come together, all costumed up from head to toe to play stars, mice, angels, and of course Mary and Joseph. The day of the show always is led up to by a bit of chaos, a bit of too much fun and a lot of kids being a bit shy about singing in front of the whole congregation. Maybe the wise man's beard is too itchy, or the person playing the donkey comes down with the flu. Some of the kids (usually the four to six year olds) sing with the confidence that astounds; others, barely can't wait until they can get their hands on the after show cookies.

It's been said that the show usually looks like it can barely hold together, but on the Sunday of showtime, it always comes out brilliantly. As it was said, every show is a Christmas miracle in itself.

As far as I could find digging into the church's history, it appears that as long as the church has been in existence, there have been some type of variation of a children's program. One of my favorite things I came across were family names crossing several generations, where as kids they would sing new and traditional classics. It wouldn't be hard to imagine someone seventy years ago singing the same song that their great grandchild might sing this year.

Some things obviously have changed over the years. For example, the amount of "stage room" has easily doubled since the previous churches. This of course after the fire, and a brief few years of performance at Skaalen. Also, due to the fire, all the costumes worn at the shows today had to be remade. Now, with the assistance of a lot of talented people, there are closets full of costumes again; enough for everyone to have something special to wear.

There have even been years where the show wasn't performed live, but recorded "movie style" and shown on an evening screen. Definitely a significant change of pace.

In itself, this fits the spirit of what Christ Lutheran is about: progressive, inventive yet steeped in tradition. We as a church are willing to try new songs, new costumes or new technologies, it is still in the faith of telling "The greatest story ever told."



Christmas Program 2023





PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

Christmas Program 2008





Christmas Program 2017







PHOTOS FROM TODAY:

Honoring our Saints Past, Present and Future on Sunday, November 3rd by having kids dress in period costumes from important historical years for our church.











JUDGEMENT BY AARON KNOPLOH

Judgment. Such a heavy word. A concept and practice I feel dominates our society. Today's cancel culture would not exist were it not for judgment. Judgment happens to be at the heart of a bible passage that influences me daily. Yeah, sorry, no sunshine and roses here. Just judgment.

Matthew 7:1-6

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get."

We've all heard it and perhaps even heeded its warning on occasion. But hey, sometimes we can't help but be a little catty and cast sassy judgment towards unsuspecting victims. Of course it's about much more than simply refraining from judgment. It also necessitates that we ourselves be held to the same criteria. To strengthen this message, the passage goes on in a rather humorous way, in my opinion, that I was not familiar with.

"Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

A log in our eye! It's presented in such a hilariously obvious way. Refraining from judgment is a struggle in itself, but to avoid being a hypocrite requires a whole other level of self-awareness and personal reflection. That self-awareness is indeed where we all probably struggle the most and, at times, seems to be completely lacking in our society. How often do we see people casting judgment and criticizing people while being completely ignorant to the fact that they themselves are guilty of those very transgressions? Hypocrites.

The image that flashes my way as I walk past a mirror is that of quite a sexy stud, (I'm moving pretty fast), but if I pause for a moment, the blemishes, wrinkles, bulges, and asymmetrical features all rear their less favorable head. It doesn't do much for the ego, for sure, but I feel finding those flaws certainly helps stave off casting ugly judgment.

If we can all manage to ease off the judgment and practice a little self-reflection, then perhaps we can come out on the other side with a little better understanding of each other and practice more forgiveness. Unfortunately, forgiveness is often a pretty tall order and proves to be more than we can manage, but if that's the case, perhaps we can take the advice of one of my all-time favorite TV characters—Ted Lasso. There's a great scene where a domineering prick challenges him to a game of darts. They strike up a hefty little wager and Ted's opponent, having little respect for him, smirks in confidence as he pulls out his professional set of darts. Much to everyone's surprise, Ted goes on to beat him and offers a wonderful piece of advice at the end. We should try to be more curious instead of judgmental. If his opponent had been curious enough to get to know him, perhaps he would have learned that he used to play darts with his dad almost every week. Instead, he judged him as being an unworthy opponent, and to a greater extent, a lesser person.

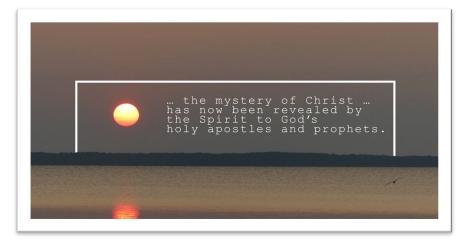
So let's be more curious about each other and leave the judgment to our laws and those that enforce them. Liars and thieves can face their consequences with the legal system and we should do our best to live a life in His image. In doing so, perhaps if we're lucky modeling that behavior might rub off on others.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

The Acts of the Apostles continues on from the Gospels, where Jesus taught and demonstrated the power He had from the Holy Spirit to His Disciples, to now the disciples being directed by the Holy Spirit to carry on Jesus' ministry to the world. I had to kind of laugh in chapter 1, when the disciples needed to find a replacement for Judas Iscariot to have 12 apostles. They picked two disciples who had been followers from the beginning and were going to draw straws asking God to pick His choice. I couldn't help but think God was thinking, "They are going to what? They are going to draw straws? I could have sent Michael or Gabriel and it would have been much more majestic, but I can work with drawing straws." Maybe drawing straws was more significant than I realize in their world.

Chapter 2 deals with Pentecost; the sound of the howling wind that brought everyone in town running to find out what was going on. The Holy Spirit rested on all the believers in the room causing them to Speak in foreign languages that were not their own. Within the crowd that gathered were men and women from all over the Middle East and southern Europe recognizing these Galileans speaking in their native tongues "describing God's mighty works". I once thought about the greatest barrier to the Disciples spreading the Gospel message of Jesus and realized people not being able to understand what was being said in both directions. God took care of that for them.

Chapters 3 thru 10 contain accounts of other miracles God did. Peter healing the man crippled from birth giving him a chance to preach to the crowd that gathered. The angel lead the apostles out of the jail right past the guards into the Temple so that they could continue speaking to the people. Stephen's face appearing like that of an angel when testifying before the high priest and mob before being stoned; The rise of the young man, Saul and the persecution of the members of the new church causing the believers to flee Jerusalem and proclaim the Gospel message where ever they ended up; The appearance of Jesus to Saul on the road to Damascus and in an instance, changing Saul into Paul and making him one of the greatest witnesses for Christ ever seen.



PHOTOS FROM TODAY:



Pastor Paula Geister-Jones burning the Mortgage on October 13.



On October 13 former CLC Pastor Margo Martens came back to celebrate our 150th at the Harvest Festival and she did both the children's Word and Sermon.



Honoring Our CLC Veterans on Sunday, November 10th.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS FOR DECEMBER



Sunday

Special Sunday School/Confirmation notes for December

There will be **no Sunday School on Sunday, December 1st** and **29th.** Or on **Sunday January 5th.** There will be **no confirmation on Wednesday, December 25th and January 1st.**

This years **Christmas program** "*A Christmas to Believe In*" is a wonderful traditional story told by a cast of characters including two narrators-one who has doubts about Christmas and one who 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." We are practicing the music for each class on December 8th and our Characters who have speaking parts will run through their lines in the Sanctuary as an additional practice to our dress rehearsal. Please also practice any speaking parts at home in preparation for our dress rehearsal on December 14th. Online Links to versions of the songs that the kids are singing were emailed to you back in October please use them to practice the kids music at home or in the car. Dress Rehearsal will be on **Saturday, December 14th**

from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the Program will be Sunday, December 15th during the 9:15 a.m. Worship Express Service. Cookies, and treats will be served in the café following the Christmas Program. Parents please bring some treats to share!

Sunday, December 22ndat 10:00 a.m. during Sunday school we will have an all-school celebration of Jesus' Birth. Kids in Pre-K through 8th grade will meet in the Gym. Get ready to celebrate the story of Jesus's birth with games, crafts, balloons, and cake. For those of you that have allergies we will have a cake for you as well!! Per birthday party tradition don't forget your goody bag on the way out. It will have fun Christmas related items that you can use for those long car rides or during those days when you are off of school for the holidays.



Confirmation/Wednesday Evening 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.



Wednesday, December 4

Chicken Spatzle Soup or Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese or Egg Salad Sandwich Cookies and Ice Cream, Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

Wednesday, December 11

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, December 14

Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Raspberry Jell-o with Raspberries, Homemade Applesauce, Swedish Rye Bread, Apple Crisp with Ice Cream, Chocolate or White Milk, Apple Juice and coffee

December 25: IT'S CHRISTMAS - NO SUPPER, CONFIRMATION OR GOD AND GAMES

January 1: IT'S NEW YEARS - NO SUPPER, CONFIRMATION OR GOD AND GAMES

North Carolina Mission Trip 2025



North Carolina Mission Trip 2025 Friday, June 13 – Sunday, June 22 Youth who have completed Grade 8 - Adults Cost: \$1600

If you help out with the fundraisers you can actually earn a good share of the cost.

This year we are going to North Carolina to help out with the state's recovery from Hurricane Helena. Back in late September Helena not only did major damage to Florida, but dropped 15 to 30 inches of rain on western North Carolina. People living on the top of mountains lost their homes from flooding. 103 people lost their lives from drowning, collapsing homes and landslides.

We will stay at Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center Sunday - Friday. Lutheran Disaster Response has made a three year commitment to stay and help the people of North Carolina recover from the devastation. LDR has partnered with the camp in this mission - the camp provides food and housing and LDR provides the work sites. Some of our quilts and relief kits were sent to this area this year and I am excited to see firsthand the impact CLC and the Lutheran Church has in this world.

For more information and registration forms check out the Information Desk in the narthex. Young people in grades 8-12 will have an information and a registration form mailed out to them.



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. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant would love to meet you. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with fun and games.

Lock-In Friday, December 27th 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20 (Kids that help at the Lutefisk Dinner will not have

to pay this fee! So sign-up in the Narthex.)



Looking for something fun for your kids to do over the holiday break? There will be a Church Lock-In for youth in grades 5-8 on Friday, December 27th from 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. Activities include cosmic bowling with fries and cheese curds, pizza, games, a nerf gun and more. Your kids can invite a friend! All 5th through 8the Graders are welcome. Sleep is optional. Breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday; parents can pick up at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday. Sign up in the Narthex.



Inner tubing at Cascade Mountain Friday, February 28th Cost: \$42

We will leave from the church parking lot at 11:00 a.m., innertube 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.

PHOTOS FOR TOMORROW:

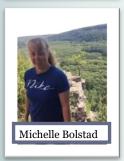
3rd Graders receive their Bibles on October 13th.

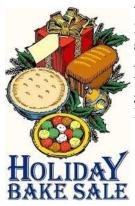


From Left to right: Levi Wendorf, Royson Yellow Bird, Emma Annen, Annika Hays, Liam Hays, and Jade Peck.









We are once again having our Holiday Bake Sale. Monies from this sale last year went towards scholarships and purchasing the mugs for the 150th Anniversary. This year we are planning a mission trip to North Carolina. That mission trip is open for youth going into 9th grade and up including adults. Information about that trip is in this newsletter.

Order forms for the bake sale may be found on the Information Desk, on our website or Facebook page and at Nordic Nook.

BETHEL CIRCLE UPDATES:



Bethel Circle will once again be selling dish cloths on **Sunday, December 8th** in the Narthex. The dish cloths are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All Proceeds will be donated to either the CLC Scholarship Fund or the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Check out the handmade Christmas Cards on display in the Narthex. These are beautiful handmade cards done by Sandy Grant and at \$3.00 each are a steal. Custom Cards are also available on request. Contact Sandy Grant for more information.

JESUS[™]NAZARETH



"Jesus of Nazareth" directed by Franco Zeffirelli Thursday evenings 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.

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

Senior Excursions/Luncheons



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, Freshly Baked Breads, Chicken and Ribs, Steak Diane or seared Duck Breast, Tender Duck Breast, Garlic Whipped Potatoes and Mississippi Mud Cake. Coffee, Tea and Milk.

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



Senior Luncheon Monday, December 16 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 Madrigal's 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, Milk and Coffee

Elizabeth Circle News Elizabeth Circle has a new funeral Coordinator. The new funeral coordinator will be Vicki Sperle. She will be replacing Patsy Day. Patsy will help with the transition. Thanks to both of these wonderful members. This service is provided for all Christ Lutheran members and non-members.

PHOTOS FOR TOMORROW:



Highlighting Our Youth Zach Thomas

Through a job fair at Madison College Zach joined an apprenticeship program with Fleet. The program offers students hand-on training from experienced veterans in the field of Maintaining City vehicles. Zach Thomas became their first-ever apprentices to be hired as full-time Fleet Technician. Congratulations Zach on this accomplishment and on using your gifts and talents! You have a bright future ahead!

1st Graders Made Advent logs on November 24th



Katie Daniels and her mom Molly



Ellis Sime and her mom Amber, Finlay Alme and his Teacher Nora Knoploh

Christ Lutheran Church 700 County Road B.	Check Planned pickup date			
Stoughton, Wi. 53589 (608) 873-9353	Friday, Dec 20			
Name:	Saturday, Dec 21			
1.				

Holiday Bake Sale Order Form

Item		Price	Quantity	Cost
CLC's Meatballs with Gravy	1 pint (8 meatballs)	\$10.00		
CLC's Meatballs with Gravy	1 quart (16 meatballs)	\$18.00		
Scandinavian Almond Cake	half cake	\$6.00		
Scandinavian Almond Cake	whole cake	\$10.00		
Mini Bread Loaves	Banana Bread	\$4.00		
Mini Bread Loaves	Banana Nut Bread	\$4.00		
Lefse	3 sheets	\$6.00		
Swedish Rye Bread	1 loaf	\$5.00		
Cookies				
8 Christmas Cutouts/Frosted or Unfr	osted - specify - December	\$6.00		
Variety Pack (1 sheet of lefse, 2 Krumka Rosette, 1 large bun loaf of Swedish Rye, ar	\$10.00			
6 Date Filled Sour Cream Sugar	a contrar coonica	\$8.00		
6 Rosettes		\$6.00		
6 Krumkake		\$6.00		
Mom's Frozen Pies				
Apple Pie	9-inch pie	\$12.00	1	
Apple Pie	personal size	\$7.00		
Strawberry Rhubarb	9-inch pie	\$12.00		
Strawberry Rhubarb	personal size	\$7.00		
Cherry Pie	9-inch pie	\$12.00		
Cherry Pie	personal size	\$7.00		
4 Berry Pie	9-inch pie	\$12.00		
4 Berry Pie	personal size	\$7.00		
Pecan Pie – Baked and Frozen	9-inch pie	\$15.00		
Pecan Pie – Baked and Frozen	personal size	\$8.00		
Fudge				
Jack Daniels		\$5.00		
Amaretto		\$5.00		
Captain Morgan		\$5.00		
Delicious		\$5.00		
Homemade Chunky Apple Sauce	1 pint	\$5.00		
Homemade Strawberry Rhubarb Jam	8-ounce jar	\$4.00		
Homemade Raspberry Jam	8-ounce jar	\$4.00		

Total Cost

For December pick-up order forms are due by Wednesday, December 18th.

Orders can be picked up on the dates above between 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Payment is due at pick-up (cash or check).





November 10th— Charli Jo Briggs. Parents Sam and Colleen Briggs



2024 Confirmation Class: Left from Front to Back—Asia Hoverson, Cannon Suddeth, Gunder Nelson, Brooks Richter, Jack Hamacher, Matthew LePine, Right from Front to Back—Jakob Dambach, Elena Evenson, Kylee Soderling, Mikayla Thomas, Ella Knoploh and Quinlan Harrington.

Music in Ministry

December Hymn Nerds

Sheep scattered around, the shepherds settled in for another quiet night, probably swapping stories as they watched the flocks. Then, in a divine moment, God burst into the night. Angels appeared, singing songs and speaking of the Savior's birth. And suddenly, the shepherds' ordinary lives were transformed-becoming part of a story that's lived for thousands of years.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" reminds us of this amazing night. Christ's birth certainly was good news to those simple shepherds. The Savior changed their lives forever. And God still loves to speak to ordinary people and transform their lives into something extraordinary through his grace.

Many years ago shepherds in the hills of southern France had a Christmas Eve custom of calling to one another, singing "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," each from his own hillside. The traditional tune that the shepherds used may have been from a late Medieval Latin chorale.

As we sing of the angels' great announcement, "Gloria in excelsis Deo" (Latin for "Glory to God in the highest"), let's remember that God still wants to announce this good news today, using people like you and me.

Through our words and actions, we can show that Jesus still lives. So in this Christmas season, and all through the coming year, let's continue the angel song. Let's tell the world all about Jesus, and how he's changed our lives forever.

"Gloria in excelsis Deo"

"So we are ambassadors for Christ..." -

2 Corinthians 5:20



Help Needed for the Lutefisk Dinner



We are looking for people to help with both prep work, baking, and various serving roles for the Lutefisk Dinner that is being held on **Sunday, December 8th**.

Baking Days:

Tuesday, December 3rd from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m and Friday, December 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food Preparation Day:

Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Then we will need help from people on **Sunday**, **December 8th** with various roles in prepping and serving the food and cleaning up. You can find times and jobs on the board in the Narthex or on Sign-up genius using the link below.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-52651162-lutefiskmeatball

Christ Lutheran Church 700 County Highway B Stoughton, WI 53589

$RETURN\ SERVICE\ REQUESTED$

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry Administrator

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CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

CLC Facebook: https:// www.facebook.com/ ChristLutheranChurchStoughton

Staff:

Vicki Ballweg, Office Administrator Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary NON-PROFIT ORG.
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"Christ in Our Home" daily devotional booklets for December in small and large print are available for pick up.

