



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



Mission and BWCA Canoe Trips Not Just for Youth

I hope you have noticed that on each trip description I write “Youth and Adults.” The Youth Committee is serious about that. These trips can be faith deepening experiences for either age group.

This year’s mission trip is to North Carolina. Mission Trips help to open our eyes to the needs of others. We always get more out of it than we give. This year, we leave Friday, June 13 and return Sunday, June 22. We are driving there and back and doing a little sight seeing both ways. We will be working with Lutheran Disaster Relief from our Base Camp at an ELCA Bible Camp – Lutheridge. Yes, there are Lutherans in North Carolina. Do not let the price tag stop you from signing up. There are funds in the Youth checkbook that could be used for scholarships and if you volunteer for upcoming labor-intensive events – Mardi Gras and our annual Garage Sale/Silent Auction/Bake Sale/Manna Café – you can earn dollars towards the cost.

The same is true for the canoe trip to the BWCA. It is for both youth and adults and the trip routes are adjusted to the interests and abilities of the group. If fishing is your interest, the group will fish. If sitting at a campsite and relaxing is your desire, we will find a five star campsite and relax. If you want to push and see how far your group can travel, that too is a possibility. Whatever your group does, your soul will be fed by the beauty of God’s creation.

Many of our activities at CLC are not just for youth. They are designed to be intergenerational. Those kind of events are so much more fun. The Harvest Fest in October offered Hayrides and a Bounce House for the young people while our older members enjoyed a great pork feed, conversation and a craft. Advent Beginnings in December offers more food and crafts for every age group. Mardi Gras is coming the first Sunday in March and also offers great food, games and crafts for everyone. And like I said above, we always need members of all ages to step up and volunteer their time and abilities to make these events happen. By mid-February there will be sign-up sheets to volunteer for Mardi Gras and the Garage Sale. They both are a lot of work, but one thing I took away from all the activity we had during our 150th Anniversary is that it is fun to work with and get to know other members of CLC. It builds community.

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Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS



February Worship Schedule 2025

Traditional Worship at 8:00 a.m. and Worship Express at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, February 2: Worship with Holy Communion

It is hard to change the opinion of people you grew up around. In today's gospel lesson all the people of Nazareth see Jesus as Joseph's son – or was he really Joseph's son. People have memories like elephants.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, February 9: Worship

This is one of our favorite gospel readings. Jesus takes three fishermen fishing. They push out into deep water and no sooner did they let out their nets and the nets were full of fish, "straining the nets past capacity."

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Children's Word: Jenny Hoffman

Sunday, February 16: Worship with Holy Communion

Who is truly blessed? In our society "blessing" has become synonym with wealth. It should come to no surprise that Jesus would disagree.

Preacher: Sandy Grant

Special Music: Chancel Choir and First Class Ringers

Sunday, February 23: Worship

In the gospel reading for today Jesus encourages us to "love our enemies." Now that is hard to do, but, Jesus would argue, it is the only way for everyone to win.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Children's Word: Jenny Hoffman

Ash Wednesday is March 5th

I am mentioning it now, because your next Ambassador will reach you only days before Ash Wednesday.



There will be a meal on Ash Wednesday. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. with worship at 6:30 p.m. The menu for the first Lenten Supper is Homemade Mac and Cheese, Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Tatter tot casserole, and Veggies with Ranch Dressing, Bread, Rice Krispies, Cookies and Ice Cream, Coffee, Milk and Apple Juice. That offers something for everyone. The suggested donation for this meal is **\$8.00** to cover the cost of the food.

This year, after Ash Wednesday, "Holden Village Evening Prayer" will be the Order of Service. Its music is so beautiful and calming. For the homilies we will look at some of the Old Testament Prophets and their messages to God's people. Their messages contained more than fire and brimstone and they found creative ways to tell God's people God's WORD. We will approach them chronologically, beginning with God's first prophet Moses and move onto Samuel, Elijah, Jeremiah, Hosea, and Jonah. I wish there were more Wednesdays in Lent because there are more prophets I would have liked to include.

THERE WILL BE LENTEN CHILDREN'S CHURCH in the gym, so please plan on attending as a family. The nursery will also be open for the little ones.



Bake Days for Upcoming Garage Sale/Bake Sale/Silent Auction and Manna Café

Our Garage Sale is coming up in March and we need to start baking for the “Bake Sale” portion of that event. Last year was unbelievable. We baked and we baked and we baked more baked goods than ever before and it was almost all gone 2 hours into the garage sale. If you would like to join us in the kitchen and bake, we would love to have you. We buy the flour, sugar, etc. You supply labor and your best recipes.

Friday, February 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Stop by when you can.

Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Thursday, February 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Stop by when you can.

Saturday, March 1 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mardi Gras prep as well.

Friday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Stop by when you can.

Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon



CHRIST LUTHERAN celebrates “FAT TUESDAY” by collecting 3 tons of food for the STOUGHTON FOOD PANTRY

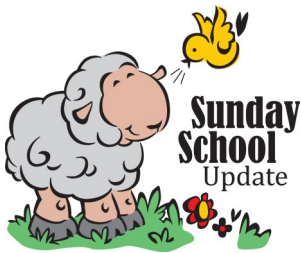
Did you know that “Mardi Gras” is French for “Fat Tuesday”? It comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon the fatted calf the day before Lent, because with Lent came a 40 day fast during which all Christians in the early days, then Catholics following the Reformation, gave up eating meat. Mardi Gras has also been called Carnival and carnival comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning “farewell to the flesh.”

It is not a Lutheran tradition to give up anything or “fast” during Lent. The Ash Wednesday liturgy encourages us to focus instead on “acts of love.” So beginning Monday, January 1 – the first day of the new year - Christ Lutheran has begun collecting food for the Stoughton Food Pantry and will continue collecting through Fat Tuesday, March 4th. Lent begins late this year, on Wednesday, March 5, so we should have plenty of time to reach our goal of 3 tons. Let’s “show the love” and start bringing the groceries to church. Thrivent will help us reach our goal by donating 2 - \$250 Seed Actions Grants. On Sunday, February 23rd our 5th – 8th Graders will make their yearly grocery run to Wal Mart during the Sunday school hour to see who can purchase the heaviest groceries. Our goal is 3 tons or 6000 pounds, but that doesn’t mean we can’t collect more. Each dollar donated equals 1 pound of food.

DURING THE FIRST THREE SUNDAYS OF JANUARY, WE COLLECTED 979 POUNDS OF FOOD.

I just finished reading Paul's letter to the Romans. I have to admit that this time it seemed like I was reading a letter, a very personal letter between two people. This was a letter, the same as what you or I would write. Paul was writing to a "church", a body of believers that found each other and came together in the city of Rome. Paul had never been there and had no part in establishing it. Paul's intent, all along, had been to go there, but as he explained to them, something always seemed to prevent him from getting there to meet and work among them. At the very end of the letter, he sends greetings to an entire listing of people he knows and had worked with in a number of churches over the years. Probably for various reasons, these disciples had relocated and were living in Rome. From the greetings he sends, Paul was certain that church was in good hands. What Paul writes is a wonderful Gospel message to all the people he had yet to meet there. He starts from the beginning where we are all sinners, whether you were a Jew or a Greek, insider or outsider, we all were in the same boat. God sent Jesus to show us who God is and to die for the sins we each had committed and to put us right before God. He gave us the Holy Spirit to keep us close to God and Jesus and change us from the inside out into what God wants us to be.

Paul's original plan was to go to Spain and stop in Rome on his way, but he never got to Spain. Instead, he made it to Rome as a prisoner under Roman guard appealing his case before Caesar because he was a Roman citizen born in Tarsus. Fortunately, the centurion in charge of guarding the prisoners under his charge, recognized Paul was not a dangerous criminal. As a result, when Paul did get to Rome, he was able to stay in a house with one soldier to guard over him. I'm sure as a result, he was able to share and teach many of the people he wrote letters to.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

Special Sunday School/Confirmation notes for February

There is a lot happening at CLC in February for our Sunday School classes.

-February 9th all of Sunday School Kids will take a day out of their lessons to make Valentine's Day Cards for area shut-ins. Last year, we needed 200 valentines and we met that goal (let's see if we can exceed it this year). We are also taking that day to wear our favorite Pajama's to church for **Pajama Sunday**.

-February 16th is invite a friend to Sunday school. Your kids are asked to invite a friend to share in this week's lesson.

-February 23rd our 5th through 8th graders will be shopping for our Stoughton Food Pantry Food Drive. We will go over to Walmart and use grant money from Thrivent to purchase food items. Parents we will need help in transporting kids to Walmart that day.

In addition, to all of the stuff happening above all of our Sunday School classes are having a competition to see which classroom can get the most food weight from items that are donated or cash/checks that are collected for each classroom. The classroom with the heaviest amount of food donated to the food pantry will win a classroom movie day with popcorn and movie treats. Parents please bring all of the food you want included in this to the classrooms and give the teachers or Jenny any cash or check donations that you want included or place in the offering but put a note which classroom competition it is for. An update will be given to the classes weekly. We will be collecting from now until **Sunday, March 2nd**. Good Luck to all of the classes!!!

Please note that there will be **no Confirmation or Wednesday Activities on Wednesday February 26th. Ash Wednesday is March 5th** all confirmation students will be expected to attend Lenten services in the Sanctuary. We will have Children's church in the Gym where we will have games, stories and crafts from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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.



February 5

Baked Chicken
Cheesy or Baked Potatoes
Green Salad
Swedish Rye Bread
Brownies and Ice Cream
While or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

February 12

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

February 19

Homemade Chicken Spaetzle or Chile
Grilled Cheese or Egg Salad Sandwiches
Apple Crisp with Ice Cream
White or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

February 26

No Confirmation, God and Games or Wednesday Evening Meal.



God and Games Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Grades 3rd – 6th

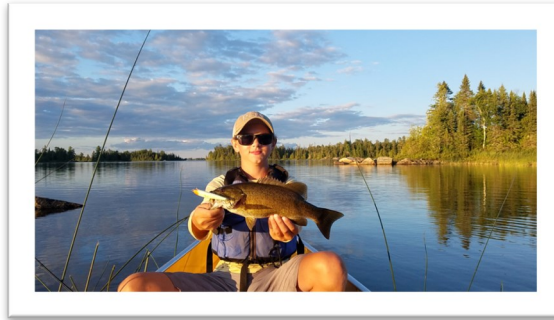
It doesn't matter if you are a regular or not, you are always welcome. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant would love to meet you. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with fun and games.

CLC VOLLEYBALL STARTING IN FEBRUARY



We are starting up a new group activity here at CLC—Volleyball. CLC Volleyball will start on **Saturday February 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Middle School Kids through High School Kids are invited to attend. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant will be hosting this new group. We plan to have this event once a month. We will plan future dates at this first event.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2025

Monday, July 14 – Sunday, July 20

**Youth in Grades 7-12 and
ALL INTERESTED ADULTS**

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

As always, to keep our costs down, we pack our own food and tents and provide as many of our own Duluth packs as possible. We have 15. The Outfitter provides the canoes, paddles, life jackets, a few Duluth packs, bunkhouse accommodations for Monday, July 14, breakfast the following morning and a shower when we come off trails. We come off trails the morning of Sunday, July 20, shower and head home. We usually arrive home about 10:00 p.m. For youth who can drive, parents may want to leave a car in the church parking lot. We have permits for Seagull Lake and one for Sag Lake. One group at least will focus on fishing.

We leave early Monday, July 14. By early I mean at 6:00 a.m. That means you need to be at the church by 5:30 a.m. to pack. Why so early? We have 500 miles to travel. Bring food to snack on in the vehicles. We stop at Duluth harbor for lunch. Bring a packed lunch if you like, but food can be purchased there. We will hang out in Grand Marais once we reach it. Sven and Ole's Pizza is once again open on Mondays, so we will stop for a few hours for supper and to look around once we get there. After eating we finish the trip up the Gunflint to Voyageur Outfitters. The cost of that meal is part of the trip.

What do you do in the Boundary Waters? You paddle, portage, cook your meals over an open fire, swim, fish, enjoy the wilderness and the people you are with. Bring a book to read and some small portable games. We come off the water between 7 - 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, shower, pack up and leave for home. The cost of the trip covers breakfast/lunch at the Mid Trail Cafe about 30 miles south of the Outfitters on the way home as well.

The people who sign up will help determine what the trip looks like, whether we focus on fishing or moving or just sitting around the campsite and enjoying the peace.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE INFORMATION DESK IN THE NARTHEX

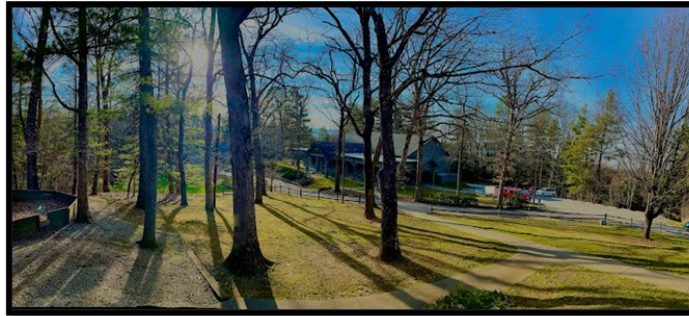


Inner tubing at Cascade Mountain

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.



North Carolina Mission Trip 2025
Friday, June 13 – Sunday, June 22
Youth who have completed Grade 8 - Adults
Cost: \$1,600

*You can earn a good share of the cost by helping with fundraisers. Scholarships are also available.
Do not let the cost hold you back.*

This year we are going to North Carolina to help 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 to flooding. 103 people lost their lives from drowning, collapsing homes and landslides.

Registration forms are located at the Information Desk in the Narthex. Fill one out and return it to the church office ASAP with a \$150 nonrefundable deposit written out to CLC Youth.

YOUTH AND ADULTS NEED TO SIGN UP BY MARCH 15.



Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped with the Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale and there were many of you. It was truly a congregational effort. The profit for the event was designated to the Scholarship Fund and I am happy to report we netted nearly **\$5,000**. **Thank you to Thrivent for covering the cost of some of the items we used in the meal and baked goods for this event.**

ADULT EDUCATION FOR FEBRUARY



The CLC Book Study

Thursdays, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sunrise Restaurant.

I'm not sure what we will be reading. Bring your suggestions with you to this gathering and we will choose a book. **In February we will be meeting on the 6, 13, 20 and 27.**

JESUS OF NAZARETH



“Jesus of Nazareth”
directed by Franco Zeffirelli
Thursday evenings –
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 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 Sandwiches will be served. A free will donation will be received to cover the cost of food. If you would like, bring a side dish or dessert to share.

February 20: The Opposition Grows

March 20: The Last Supper, Betrayal and Trial of Jesus

April 10: The Crucifixion and Resurrection

SENIOR LUNCHEON



Senior Luncheon

Monday, February 17th

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

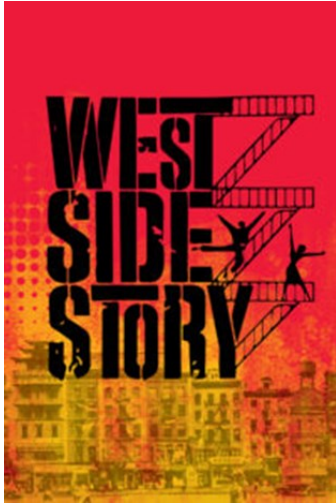
Menu: Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodles, Green Salad, Popovers or Butter Rolls, Angel Food Cake with Strawberries or Raspberries and Whipped Cream

Program: “How do I love thee, let me count the ways”

One of the most quoted lines from Elizabeth Barret Browning's poems is "How do I love thee, let me count the ways." Elizabeth

wrote those words to the man she loved. For our February program, this month as we celebrate Valentine's Day, we will count the ways God loves us.

SENIOR EXCURSION



West Side Story – Friday, April 11

Cost: \$85 (Includes Tip)

Menu Options: Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup with your choice of Sliced Pork Tenderloin, Coconut Chicken, Seared Halibut, or Vegetarian Stuffed Bell Peppers. For Dessert you will be served Cherry Crisp with Homemade vanilla Frozen Custard. Coffee, Tea and milk are included.

From the first notes to the final breath, WEST SIDE STORY is a theatrical event not to be missed. Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet is transported to modern-day New York City as two young lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs. Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence, and prejudice is one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching, and relevant musical dramas of our time. Broadway legends Arthur Laurents, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Jerome Robbins created a show that is both ageless and as fresh as tomorrow’s headlines. Join us for this landmark musical and epic tale of love eternal.

Sign up sheet may be found on the Information Desk in the narthex. We leave the church at 10:00 a.m. and return home around 4:30 p.m. Please sign up by March 11th.



February Hymn Nerds

God of Grace and God of Glory, our hymn of praise for February, is a prayer, in which we ask for God's wisdom and courage to face the problems of our day. We beg for God's power, confess our fear and pride, and affirm a desire to seek social justice. This text is set to one of the beautiful Welsh tunes in the hymnal. The tune, CWM Rhondda, was written for a celebration in the Rhondda valley in southern Wales. This tune is also known as the “Welsh Rugby Hymn” and is often sung by the crowd at rugby matches, especially those of the Wales national rugby union team.

The CLC Crafters Club

All are welcome! The club will meet for the first time on **Sunday, March 30th**

Where: Large Youth Room in the Sunday School hallway

When: from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Cost: Will be listed on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Each Craft will be selected ahead of time and a fee will be announced. Please sign-up no later than **March 15th** so that the crafts supplies can be purchased. Our first craft will be a Wooden Easter Bunny and a Jute Easter Basket. See examples in the Narthex on the Information desk next to the sign-up sheet.

Endowment Foundation Gift
AJ Kohlhoff
Memorial
DuWayne and Marilyn Teigen in memory of August Bjugstad



Baptized on December 29:
William Bernard Smedal, son of Stephanie and Trevar Smedal.

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



Garage Sale/Silent Auction/Bake Sale/Manna Cafe
Christ Lutheran in Stoughton!
700 County Road B

A gym, 4 classrooms and a hallway full of stuff!

FOOD FOR SALE IN THE MANNA CAFÉ!
Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Soups,
Corned Beef and Cabbage, Egg Salad,
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and much more!

Friday, March 14th 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, March 15th 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

This event is a fundraiser for the
CLC Youth Mission Trip to North Carolina
to work with Lutheran Disaster Response

Christ Lutheran Members may start bringing items for the Garage Sale on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sunday, March 9 from 1 – 5 p.m. If you have items you need to get out of the house immediately we do have some storage room. If you need anything picked up please let Jen Hoffman or Pastor Paula know.

There will be plenty of opportunities for the congregation to volunteer to help out with this event. WE NEED YOUR HELP. A sign up sheet will be out in the narthex by mid February. It is quite the event. The gym, four classrooms and the hallways are filled with items for sale, the narthex has 8 or more tables filled with baked goods to sell, there are three tables full of Silent Auction items (We are always looking for things to auction off. Do you have a treasure at home you no longer need and would like to donate?) and the Manna Café has a select menu of delicious food to purchase. This is one of the youth's major fundraisers for their Mission Trip.





Mardi Gras
Sunday, March 2
10:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We begin serving food immediately following the 8:00 a.m. worship service and continue to 12:30 p.m.

The menu includes...

Chicken and Sausage Gumbo over Rice with Cornbread
Buttered Noodles
Pancakes with Strawberries and Whipped Crème
Meatballs and Mashed Potatoes with Swedish Rye
Raspberry or Strawberry Shortcake
Floats
Coffee & Milk.

Food is reasonably priced

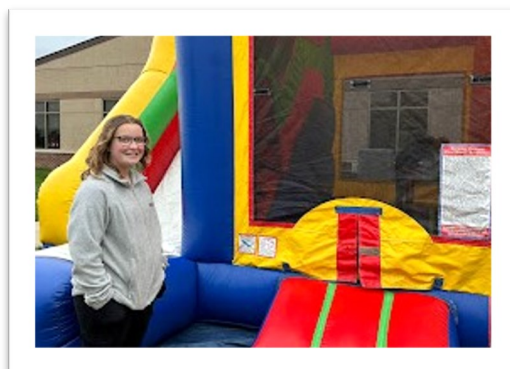
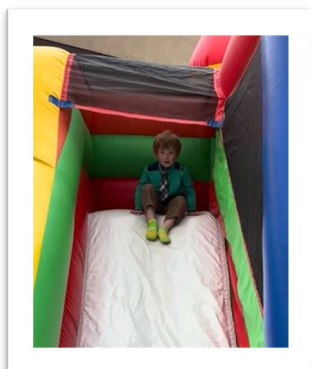
New Games this year include “Take a Chance with Jonah” Human Slot Machine and “David and Goliath” Nerf Gun Target Practice. Of course there will be prizes. Other activities include past year’s favorites... “Cross the Red Sea with Moses” Cake Walk, “In Jail with Paul and Silas”, Bible Bingo, Bible Trivia, some awesome crafts with Crafty Jacob Crafts, Esther’s Face Painting Beauty Parlor, Fishing with the Disciples, a Hallway of Games and Resurrection Bean Bag Toss.

THERE WILL BE A BOUNCE HOUSE IN THE LARGE YOUTH ROOM!!!! YEAH!!!!!!

Tickets will be sold for **Cross the Red Sea with Moses Cake Walk and In Jail with Paul and Silas. 3 for \$1.00**

Sign up to bring cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, cookies etc. for the Cake Walk. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the Mardi Gras Table. We also need people to help run the event.

Come, have a great time and enjoy some wonderful fellowship!



“So we are
ambassadors for
Christ...” -

2 Corinthians 5:20



CLC is hosting a Family Game Night

Wednesday, March 26th
Stoughton Spring Break Week!

Immediately following the 6:30 p.m. Lenten
service in the Café.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Please join us for a fun night with the family
playing board games and card games with fellow
CLC families.

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator

Phone: 608.873.9353

Email: pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
JennyH@clcstoughton.org
office@clcstoughton.org

CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

CLC Facebook: [https://
www.facebook.com/
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Staff:

Vicki Ballweg, Office Administrator

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STOUGHTON, WI

**“Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklets for January,
February and March in small and large print are available for
pick up.**

