

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

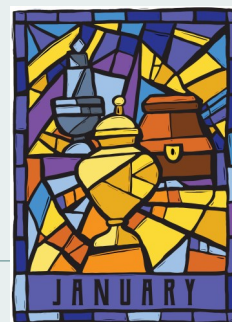
150th Year Celebrations Looking Back on 2024



Well, our 150th Anniversary year has come to an end. It has been a good year. A busy year.

- On Sunday, March 10th Bishop Joy joined us for worship. She preached and after worship sat down with us and enjoyed a good old fashion Potluck. Do you know the church has been gathering for potlucks since the first century.
- On Syttende Mai weekend Pastor Alley and his wife Joan and former intern Dorene King came back for a visit, There was a coffee for them Saturday afternoon and they all worshiped with us at our special Syttende Mai Worship on Sunday.
- We had another one of those good old fashion events – a Pie and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 7th when Pastor Cole Bentley joined us and preached. Pastor Bentley was a member of our church when he was a young middle schooler.
- Rev. Doctor Steve Kersten joined us July 21st and preached. He was one of Pastor Alley's first associates.
- Pastor Margo Martens was with us for the Harvest Fest/Pork Roast Sunday, October 13th. Over 200 people sat down and enjoyed a delicious meal and great fellowship.
- On All Saints Sunday we celebrated our Saints of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. This congregation has been blessed with so many faithful people.
- On Sunday, December 8th we brought back the Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner and Bake Sale with a limited seating of 240 people. It was a lot of work, but reminded us again of how much fun it is to work side by side with other members and to have a chance to get to know them better.

As we move into our next 150 years, I am glad our theme for this coming year's stewardship theme is "Christ's Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" and our theme Hymn is "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." The first verse lyrics are, "O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home." It tells us that with God by our side we can face whatever challenges we meet in the future with confidence knowing we are not alone.



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Sunday Worship is also
Livestreamed on Facebook

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

PHOTOS FROM
YESTERDAY:



Pastor Tolo and his family enjoy the Lutefisk Dinner on November, 9th 1951.



Mrs. Homer Sperle cutting up cod to make Lutefisk.



Mrs. Peter Wersland boiling cod in Cheesecloth bags

DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



January Worship Schedule 2025
One Service at 9:00 a.m. January 5th.
Traditional Worship at 8:00 a.m. and Worship Lite
at 9:15 a.m. January 12, 19 & 26

Sunday, January 5: A Celebration of Epiphany and Holy Communion



We are going to celebrate the tenth day of Christmas with the arrival of the Wisemen on January 6th this year. Their arrival at the manger reminds us once again that the truly wise person seeks out and worships God's Son, Jesus

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, January 12: Worship and a Celebration of Jesus' Baptism and our own



Lutherans have two sacraments. What makes it a sacrament. Jesus did it himself and he told us to continue doing it. Jesus was baptized at the beginning of his ministry and at the end of it, right before he ascended into heaven, he told us to go out into the world and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our second sacrament is Holy Communion. "On the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." He did the same thing with the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me." And that is exactly what we have been doing since the first century.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Guests at 9:15 a.m.: Lion and Lamby

PHOTOS FROM YESTERDAY:

Sunday, January 19: Worship with Holy Communion



In today's gospel reading Jesus turns water into wine. In John's gospel Jesus told his disciples, "I have come that you might have life abundant - life overflowing - life everlasting." Wine was a symbol of life in Jesus' day. In Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, Jesus reveals through this miracle what he has come to offer to each and every one of us.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, January 26: Worship

Jesus goes back to his hometown at the beginning of his ministry. They have heard of his miracles and want to see some for themselves. He disappoints them by refusing to impress them.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

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 will begin collecting food for the Stoughton Food Pantry and continue collecting through Fat Tuesday, March 4th. Lent begins late this year, on Wednesday, March 5, so we should have plenty to reach our goal of 3 tons. Let's "show the love" and start bringing the groceries to church Sunday, January 5th. Thrivent will help us reach our goal by donating 2 - \$250 Seed Actions Grants. On Sunday, March 2nd 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 that is donated is equal to 1 pound of food.



Mrs Andrew Quale,
Mrs. Andrew Becker,
unknown, and
Mrs George Schefelker in
the Pie room.



Mrs. A.T. Smedal, Mrs.
Oscar Nelson and
Mrs Homer Sperle
Serving the meatballs.



Edna Furreboe and Viola
Onsrud serving tables at
the Lutefisk dinner on
October 25, 1979.

PHOTOS FROM TODAY:

Lutefisk Dinner 2024
Sunday, December 8th



Prepping potatoes: Jeff Morgan, John Hanson and Roger Slack.



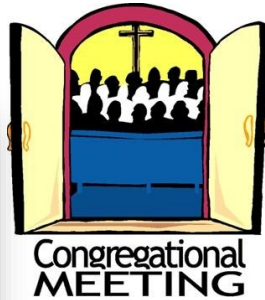
Jenny Hoffman, Alani Estervig and Mary Onsager the three Lutefisk Lena's.



The Norwegian Dancers were a crowd favorite at this year's dinner.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY



Congregational Meeting – Sunday, February 2nd – **Between Services** **Vote to Approve the 2025 Church Budget** **and 2025 Nominating Committee**

A ten-to-fifteen-minute meeting will be held in the café about 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. worship service. Members will have time to get their coffee and treats before the meeting begins.

Two weeks before the meeting, members will be able to pick up copies of the 2024 Annual Report and the 2025 proposed church budget. Members are encouraged to review the materials and contact church officers with any questions. At the meeting a summary of the budget will be followed by time for a few questions culminating in votes to approve the budget and the 2025 nominating committee.

A second congregation meeting of ten to fifteen minutes will be held on a Sunday morning in June to elect church officers.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

In the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 11-28, the accounts of the journeys taken by Peter, then Paul and Barnabas and then Paul with the disciples he took under his wing to be leaders in the many churches established in Macedonia, Crete, Greece, and Syria. There is way too much material to go through in this small article. An entire Bible Study would be required to realize and understand the tremendous work that was accomplished in those years. The number of people's lives that were changed. The hope that was instilled in the hearts and minds of people that were still slaves or extremely poor having people now in their lives who cared about them.

There is a verse in Chapter 20:32 that really stood out to me this time and I thought it appropriate for even today. Paul is in the city of Miletus, preparing to go to Jerusalem, not knowing what lay ahead for him, but sure it was not going to be a picnic. He tells them plainly that they will not see each other again. In verse 32, he says: "Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous God whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends." God's Word is as powerful today as it was back then. Don't waste time, read it now.

YOUR
WORD
IS
TRUTH.

JOHN 17:17





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 Games participants and their families, our Seniors and really anyone is invited. Enjoy an hour of good food and good fellowship.



January 8

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

January 15

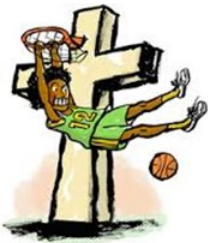
Lasagna, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Cookies and Ice Cream, White or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

January 22

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

January 29

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



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 FROM TODAY:

Decorating the Christmas Tree in the Narthex.

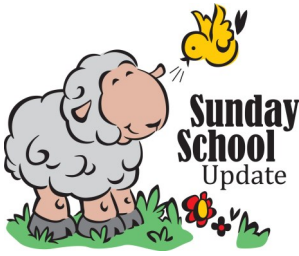


Top: Tracy Becker

2nd Photo: Hannah and Lucas Peterson and Jordyn Hostrawser

3rd Photo: Bob Kluge and Kiersten Hosfeld

4th Photo: Jade Peck, Sydney and Amber Daniels



Special Sunday School/Confirmation notes for January

There will be **no Sunday School on Sunday, January 5th**. Sunday school will begin again on **Sunday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m.** we will meet in the Sanctuary. There will be **no confirmation on Wednesday, January 1st** Confirmation will begin again on **Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m.**

We have planned two special Sunday school lessons in January for our 7th and 8th Graders.

-On **Sunday, January, 12th** we will be watching interviews from some of our oldest church members who share what is important to them about their faith and being part of the church.

-On **Sunday January 26th** we will have a guest Speaker: Cali Salonek who will be talking about the topic, "Enough" (Having it, Recognizing it and Using what we have to get it.)



Our Sunday School Christmas program took place on Sunday, **December 15th** this year at the 9:15 Worship Express Service. The format of this years program had a storytelling style with a lot of humor mixed in as a way to share the traditional Christmas story. We had wonderful attendance from our kids. They were excited and enthusiastic. They performed beautifully and the audience really enjoyed it. I can honestly say as a director it was the most fun I have had while directing a program.

The narrators were great! They had beautiful expressive voices and they really embraced their characters. The angel Gabriel did a masterful job and I could go on and on about all of the kids big part or small who made it a wonderful program to watch. Thanks to all of the parents (because without your support the program would not happen) to the teaching staff (who help with practice each week, who encourage the kids). Special thanks to Alani Estervig and Linda Kunz for helping the kids with their music each week and for playing the songs and guiding the kids with music throughout the program. Also, to Tom Lehr for help with setting up the sound and mics and running the tech booth for both the practices each week, the dress rehearsal and the final performance. Please enjoy the pictures included in this ambassador on pages 8 and 9 and the back cover.

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.



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 out 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. 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 was 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

PHOTOS FOR
TOMORROW:

Christmas Program 2024



3K, 4K and Kindergarten entering the church with Libby their Teacher.



All the kids waiting to enter the sanctuary.



Quinlan Harrington as the angel Gabriel and Clara Harrington as Mary. Shepherds in the foreground.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR DECEMBER



**Book Study Starts up again Thursday Morning, January 9th
Sunrise Restaurant**

9:30 a.m.

I'm not sure what we will be reading. Bring your suggestions with you to this gathering and we will make a decision. **In January we will meet January 9, 18 and 25.**

JESUS OF 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 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.

January 15: 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



Senior Luncheon
Monday, January 20
11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Beef Stew, Lettuce Salad, Swedish Rye Bread, a Variety of Pies with Ice Cream and Beverages

We will make extra so you can take a second meal home.

Program: What is a Prophet?

A lot of people think prophets tell the future. God is much too down to earth for that kind of thinking. After lunch we will move into the sanctuary and have a 30 minutes Bible Study and discussion on the subject. Every time we do that we end up having great conversations.



PHOTOS FOR TOMORROW:



Anna Foltz who played Elizabeth and the Townspeople.



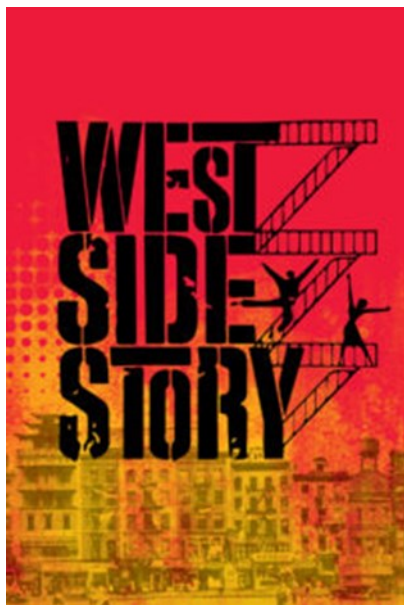
1st and 2nd Graders singing their class song.



Wiseman: Genevieve Annen, Ella Pavlonis and Sydney Daniels, Camel: Autumn Wendorf.



Joseph: Carter Swain and Mary: Clara Harrington.



West Side Story – Friday, April 11

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. Please sign up by March 11th.

1st Garage Sale of the Season!



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

A gym, 4 classrooms and two hallways 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 need anything picked up please let Jen Hoffman or Pastor Paula know.

**There will also be plenty of opportunities for the
congregation to volunteer to help out with the event.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

A sign up sheet is out in the narthex.

It really 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. Last year we cleared \$10,000.



December 15: Olivia Sue Stout, daughter of Kristi Lueschow and Evan Stout.

**BETHEL CIRCLE will celebrate
with a Holiday Luncheon
On Tuesday, January 28th at 11:30 a.m.
They will meet at the Sunrise Café in Stoughton**

A note to all Bethel Circle members . For our January meeting we will meet at the Sunrise Café in Stoughton at 11:30 a.m. Please note that we are not bringing gifts. We will enjoy a luncheon to celebrate the holiday season. We hope to see you all there!



Music in Ministry

January Hymn Nerds

In the hymn “I want to walk as a child of the light” we feel the spirit of Epiphany unfold.

Kathleen Armstrong Thomerson wrote the hymn during the summer of 1966 during a visit to Houston, Texas, the location providing the origin for the tune name HOUSTON.

The first-person perspective of the text invites the singer to join Christ, the Light of the World, in discipleship – a journey of faith. And each stanza adds greater luminosity to our walk as we are transformed in the image of Christ. Each of the verses reference light making it perfect for Epiphany.

The folk-like melody and the simplicity of the music and text does not imply a simplistic faith. “I want to walk as a child” reminds us of one of the paradoxes of our faith, that we need to become as a child to fully understand the realm of God (Matthew 18:2-4).

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



3rd and 4th graders and the Angels singing



5th and 6th Graders Singing.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

