



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

How Far Would God Go for Us?

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

By the time you read this article the group going to the BWCA will have already driven the 500 miles up to the Outfitters at the end of the Gunflint Trail and returned. Why do we drive a total of 1000 miles to spend 6 days in the wilderness? What can I say, I really love the Boundary Waters. To me it is a holy place. It is good for my soul and I hope each year that the people who join me experience the place as holy as well. So the miles are not an issue. We usually stop at MacDonald's in Eau Claire for Breakfast, the harbor in Duluth for lunch and Ole and Sven's Pizza in Grand Marais and before you know it, we are driving that gravel road into Voyageur Outfitters.

If you think I can put the miles on without giving it a second thought, let me share a story about my two oldest children. A few years back, when Matt was going to college in Moorhead, Minnesota and Sophie was at Augustana in Sioux Falls, South Dakota Luke had a wrestling tournament at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Matt drove down to Sioux Falls – 244 miles – then the two drove to Madison, Wisconsin – 434 mile – a total of 678 miles – to watch Luke wrestle on a Saturday and the following day – Sunday – drove home. They put on 1356 miles that weekend just to be there for their little brother. They did not think twice of it. Matt and Sophie must love their little brother dearly if they were willing to drive that distance just to be there for him.

One of my favorite books to read to our children before bed when they were young was, "Guess How Much I Love You?" It is now labeled a "classic" written by Sam McBratney. In the book, Big Nutbrown Hare is putting little Nutbrown Hare to bed and they are sharing with one another just how much they love each other. One of Little Nutbrown's answers – just before he closes his eyes and falls asleep – is "I love you right up to the moon." Big Nutbrown Hare responds, "Oh, that is very far – very far." Then he kisses his Little Nutbrown Hare, who has closed his eyes, and says, "I love you to the moon and back." The moon is 238,855 miles away and to the moon and back is 447,710 miles. That is a lot of loving.

How much does God love us? God sent God's one and only Son to this earth because God loves us. How far is that? I have no idea. From here to the end of the universe? 93 billion light years. (googled it.) That is really-really far. That is how much God loves us. God created this earth with all its creatures and plants and God loves it. As the BWCA is holy to me, earth is holy to God. And it was God who got down on God's knees and molded us out of the dirt of the earth and breathed into us the breathe of life, so God loves each and every one of us. God would do anything for us and God did. God watched as God's only Son died on a cross so that we might live.

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<https://clestoughton.org/giving/donate/>

Sunday Worship is available to Livestream on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheran->

AUGUST WORSHIP NEWS



**We have one service on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship in the Cafe before and after worship.**



Sunday, August 3 – Worship

In today's gospel lesson, Jesus reminds us we are not the sum total of our possessions. That is a good thing to be reminded of. What matters most is our relationship to God. Pastor Paula is in Wales this week so we have a guest preacher. This congregation is so blessed to have a number of great lay preachers.

Guest Preacher: Kyla Betts



Sunday, August 10 – Worship with Holy Communion

Jesus encourages disciples of every age to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. We have no trouble doing that with our pastimes. How many of us live to play golf and can't get enough of following our favorite baseball, football, soccer, hockey, etc. team on T.V. But can we do that with our faith? Kjell Bakken is our guest preacher today. He has been a guest preacher before and he is back by popular demand.

Guest Preacher: Kjell Bakken



Sunday, August 17 - Worship with the Vacation Bible School Children

The VBS Kids have been getting together on Wednesday evenings to discover how, even when things get messy, God's love is always there for us. They watched a skit, enjoyed some messy snacks, made messy crafts and played some messy games. On August 17 they will share with the congregations some of the things they have learned.

Guest Preachers: Jen Hoffman and VBS



Sunday, August 24 – Worship with Holy Communion

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath and of course, he upsets the religious elite. He broke the sabbath laws. "But what is more important?" Jesus ask. "What do you think matters more to God? That these laws are kept or that a person is freed from the bondage of illness?"

Preacher: Pastor Paula



Sunday, August 31 – Worship – Hymn Sing

For this hymn sing some songs will be chosen ahead of time and others will be suggested by the congregation. The hope is that the congregation will spend a few extra moments and focus on the lyrics of the hymn. These hymns are rich in their proclamation of the gospel and its meaning for our lives.



Baby Care Kits

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins



A canvas tote bag filled with school supplies. Visible items include a wooden ruler, several spiral-bound notebooks in purple and yellow, a black pencil case, a box of 24 crayons, and a pair of scissors.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK



There are times in our lives when we get to see what God has done personally in our lives. This is one of my stories that I love to tell.

I was single and farming with my Dad and Brother since 1977. Around the fall of 1985, at the church I grew up in, I was at a weeknight Bible Study that the Lutheran Church had developed. I remember that it was pretty good and I enjoyed being with the people there as they were like family and close knit friends. One guy, that was in our small group, was a man named Tommy Bolstad. He and his wife's marriage were one of four couples that I had admired as I grew up in that church. They had so much fun together as well as those around them. After one of the studies, Tom said to me privately, "Man, you need to start praying for a wife". I think

he felt like he had crossed the line, so he left it at that and I went home thinking "Maybe he's right". So I asked God to find me a wife. I had no more than said it when I thought, "What did I just do? I'm no more a husband than the Man on the Moon."

Farming had left me frustrated and I figured I never would get married if I stayed there, so I began making plans to sell out to my brother. I had a degree in agriculture, so I was going to go into the Peace Corp and help out somewhere that needed me. I thought maybe I would meet a nice girl to boot.

In the months prior to me actually going, I was still farming and one February morning I noticed a loose bolt on the drawbar hitch on my tractor. It was an awkward spot under the tractor in the snow and because my gloves were wet, I did not feel the wrench turn in my hand as it rotated and hit me on the tip of my front tooth. It didn't damage the front, but blew the enamel off the back side of the tooth. I remember being surprised that it didn't hurt, but I knew it was going to. I then remembered the dentist that I had gone to as a kid had had a heart attack and died the New Years eve before. I began calling 5 or 6 dentists and was not able to get in for 3 weeks. Finally I called another and he agreed to see me on an emergency basis. He told me I needed to have my teeth cleaned. I didn't tell him how long it had been.

That is when I met Geri. She had only worked for him for about a year and was new to the area with two little kids, so her social life was really limited as well. Her co-workers told her "Don't bother, he's too quiet". Thankfully she didn't listen and after one of the dental sessions I had to have to get ready for the Peace Corp, she told me to call her. That surprised me as she knew what my plans were. I never did go to the Peace Corp (Tunisia specifically) and four months later we were married. That was 39 years ago this month.

I still sit back in awe of all the little details that God had to work out in both of our lives just for our paths to cross. There really wasn't any reason why we would have ever met. Even in hard times, God still sees to the details. If we are looking, it is an awesome thing to look back and see what He has done. Please let me hear your favorite God moments/blessings.

Note: We would love to share your favorite story of how God has impacted you and all of the blessings that you have received. We would love to publish some of those stories. We know that there are many of them. Please reach out to JennyH@clcstoughton.org.



CLC OPEN GYMS IN AUGUST



Open Gym here at CLC - Coffee, Chaos and Community.

(Families with little ones we will also have the nursery open and staffed)

What: Free Open Gym for kids and Families

When: Thursday, August 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Who: This is open for kids from Pre-K through 3rd grade.

We have snacks including Coffee and treats for the parents/grandparents/caregivers. We read a story each month. This month we will read, "Horton Hears a Who" by Dr. Seuss. We will make a Horton themed craft. We will play games like: The One Fish Two Fish Relay, How many who's can Horton help stacking game, and many more. As always we will have lots of things for the kids to independently play along with organized games for the kids to play together. If the weather is nice, we will spend part of the time outside using things like bubbles, sidewalk chalk, kids bowling, and an obstacle course. It will be fun for all.



Craft time for our Coffee and Chaos Program in June. We had 15 kids participate and the kids created artwork to give to their father's for Father's Day.



You should have received your quarterly statements sometime in July. We wanted to let everyone know that we will be making a change to the designation category for what was previously known as Mortgage Reduction but is now Capital Improvement. Capital Improvement was the category that was listed on everyone's Pledge cards, but unfortunately that was not changed in our system. Several of you pointed that out, after receiving your statements. We appreciate you reaching out to let us know so that we can correct the problem. This will be updated in our system and you will see the correction in your quarterly statements that you will receive in October. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION NEWS



It is that time of year again. Pastor Paula and I met a couple weeks ago to start planning for the 2025 –2026 Sunday School/Youth School year.

Because of early planning, we can already share two important dates in September. **Rally Sunday will be the Sunday, September 14th.** Rally Sunday is the start of our fall schedule which includes the Worship Lite Service :**(Family Express service at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday school will begin in the Large Youth Room at 10:00 a.m. for all students)** This is a change from last year where we met in the sanctuary.

They will be introduced to their teaching staff and welcomed by our entire staff before breaking up into their individual groups to get better acquainted with their fellow classmates and teachers. Please register early on the website <https://clcstoughton.org/Sunday-school-registration-online/> or fill out a registration form and turn it in at the office. Registration forms will be located in the Sunday School Hallway on the Information Bulletin Board or at the office. They can also be printed from the Youth tab on the Website: <https://clcstoughton.org/christian-edyouth/>.

Parents we have many special events each year for our kids. These events are called **Milestone Ministries**. These are special occasions meant to help link parent, child and the Christian faith with our Church. These Milestone events start at age 3 and go all the way through High School Graduation. When you register your child for Sunday School and/or confirmation you will receive a poster with dates for each event. This will also be shown on your calendar that you will receive both in your registration packets and are listed in the announcements at church, in the Ambassador and we also send out post-cards , emails and or letters to remind you of these special upcoming events.

Here are the milestone events each year:



3 Year-olds- receive their first Bible

1st Graders- Make a Advent Log

2nd Graders- make a Lenten Cross

3rd Graders- receive their Adventure Bibles

4th Graders-have their first Communion Instruction Classes and receive their First Communion

7th and 8th Graders- start their Confirmation Classes

9th Graders- Affirm their Faith and become adult members of the Church

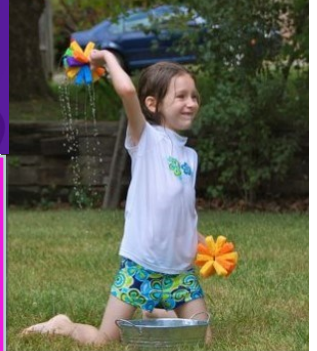
12th Grade Graduates- are celebrated at a Baccalaureate Service



If you have a 7th or 8th Grade student, the **Confirmation Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents is on Wednesday September 17th at 6:00 p.m.**

Please make sure you can attend, we will go over all requirements for Confirmation and register all of our confirmation students for the 2025-2026 session.

Confirmation classes will begin the following week with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and class from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 7th Grade students will have to set up a time to meet with Mary Onsager to train on being an acolyte. They will work with our 9th graders during the first month to get fully ready to acolyte in a team. Mary Onsager will be organizing schedules with parents for acolytes and for training so please watch your emails for communication from Mary.



What a Mess VBS”
Vacation Bible School 2025
When: Wednesday evenings from
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Continues
August 6th, 13th and 20th. Kids can
still join the fun!

“Who Can Attend: Kids from 3 years old through 6th Grade. We will have different groups for different ages and they will have age focused lessons and crafts. This is not exclusive to church members so invite your friends.

Schedule: Kids will share a meal with their family and friends in the café then move to the sanctuary for our large group opening.

What is the focus: Each week we will have a short skit to examine how, even when things get messy, God’s love is always there for us. Kids will make messy snacks, and messy crafts and they will play messy games. Plus each week has a dress up theme and competition. Kids can join for all or some of these weeks. If they miss dinner, it is ok if they join in later. Just make sure that they check in with a staff member so that they can join their class..

Please make sure to register even if your child can only attend one week so we can have enough supplies for all of the kids attending.

SENIOR EXCURSIONS

August Senior Excursion

The trip to Decorah has been replaced by...

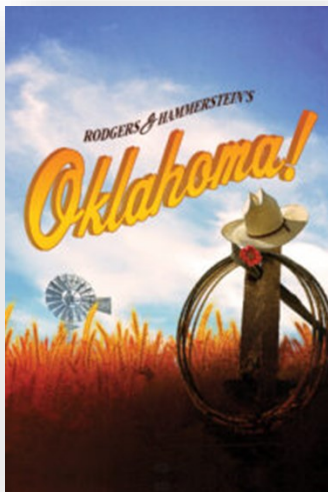
The Original Duck Boat and Ishnala Supper Club

Friday, August 22nd

We did this same trip a few years ago, but it was so much fun it is worth repeating. The boat ride is \$30, and Ishnala Supper Club can be a little spendy. Entrees are between \$30 and \$40. More if you want steak or seafood. I hope that won't keep you from signing up.

We will depart from church at 12:15 p.m., Boat Ride at 1:30 p.m., arrive at Ishnala at 3:00 p.m., depart at 6:30 p.m., return home by 7:30 p.m.

Sign up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex.



Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma! At the Fireside in Fort Atkinson

Friday, October 10th

Cost: \$79 (Includes Tip)

It's an American classic! It's the show that first introduced the immortal writing team of Rodgers and Hammerstein! It's the show that ushered in the Golden Age of American Musical Theatre! It's OKLAHOMA! This bright, brassy, boisterous musical comedy is filled with colorful costumes, breathtaking dancing, side-splitting humor, and a musical score featuring such hits as "People Will Say We're In Love," "Surrey With the Fringe On Top," and the rousing title number "Oklahoma!" The original production won a Pulitzer Prize and various Broadway revivals have won multiple Tony Awards. Now The Fireside presents a fresh, new, not to be missed telling of this time honored musical.

Entree Choices: Chicken Florentine, Almond Crusted Cod, Beef Short Rib, Vegetarian Manicotti.

Sign up at the Information Desk in the narthex by September 3. We meet at the church on Friday, October 10 to pool rides at 10:00 a.m.

AUGUST SENIOR LUNCHEON



Tuesday, August 19

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12

Program: Madlen Breckbill of Samtalä

Madlen grew up in Stoughton and has pursued a career in classical music. After studying violin performance at UW Madison, she studied at the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto, and then trained with a full-time orchestra in Berlin, Germany. In 2019 she founded the Stoughton Chamber Music Festival, and this year they have changed their name to Samtalä | Musicians in Dialogue to allow for their growth beyond the summer season and Stoughton itself. The group is right now in the midst of their preparation for their concert entitled "Sonder" on August 22nd and 23rd. They have rehearsed in our building, Christ Lutheran Church, since 2019 and it has been so enjoyable getting to catch a snippet of their music as they practice. Linda Kunz is a member of their board and she suggested Madlen as a guest for this senior luncheon.



Menu: Spinach Strawberry Salad, Chicken Pasta Salad, Potato Bacon Chowder, Dinner Roll or Swedish Rye Bread, Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream or Almond Cake with Raspberries and Whipped Cream, Coffee and Milk.

Sign Up Sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex.

AUGUST ADULT EDUCATION

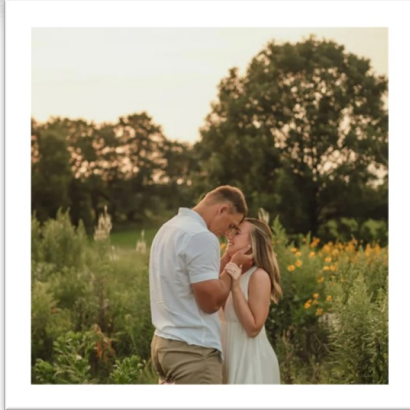


Book Study
August 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
Sunrise Restaurant
9:30 a.m.

I don't know what we will be reading, but the Sunrise Restaurant will be open for business again and we will be meeting. All are welcome to join!

Ladies Night Out Pictures from 2025





Brooks Empey and Makenzie Devore were married on 6/22/2025 in Mount Horeb.



Sadie Soderling –6/29/2025
Daughter of Jason and Kristin Soderling. Also pictured her sister Kylee Soderling.



Lois Dybevik—7/10/2025



Sadie receiving her quilt made by the CLC Quilters.



Given by:	In Memory of:
Norval and Barbara Morgan	Lois Dybevik
Carolyn Slaney	Lois Dybevik
Joann (Quale) Anderson	Lois Dybevik

August Hymn Sing

**"So we are
ambassadors for
Christ..." -
2 Corinthians 5:20**

On August 31st we will be doing another Hymn Sing. If you have not attended a Hymn Sing before how it works is Linda our Music Director asks the congregation to provide the page number of their favorite hymn and then asks the person who suggests it why that hymn has special meaning to them.

So this will be an opportunity for "you" our congregation to share a hymn that has a special meaning. Either a memory of a time when it was used in worship or a text or phrase from the lyric that has touched you or deepened your connection with God. So take some time between now and then to think about what songs we play at church have extra meaning for you and identify what page they are on in our hymnal.

You can reach out to Linda if you have any special requests or have a special story you would like to share about a song so that she can make sure to ask you for your song during worship. This is a great opportunity for us to learn more about each other and to share music and memories together.



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

