



## CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



**Pastor Paula Geister-Jones**

My son came home for a few precious hours this weekend. Scott and I absolutely love it when any of our grown children show up at our doorstep, come into our home and eat at the table. Luke was on his way to Milwaukee for a Rugby Tournament this weekend. He brought three of his friends with him. They arrived around 9:30 p.m., they sat at our dining room table and we fed them, enjoyed their company and conversation for a few minutes and then they were off to bed. They were tired and knew they would be up early and out of the house by 5:45 a.m. They needed to be at the field by 7:30 a.m.

I did what any mom would do in preparation for such a visit. I changed all the bedding in the bedrooms upstairs, dusted and vacuumed the rooms, cleaned the bathroom, bought and prepared way too much food and waited in expectation for their arrival. They were driving down from Minneapolis.

I suppose I learned from my parents what you do to get ready for company. I remember when I was a child, when company was expected there was always a mad rush to clean the house from top to bottom. My mom cooked for days and there was always more food than our guests could ever eat.

For the last month the gospel lesson from John has been something like this: "I and the Father are one. When you see me, you see the Father." We are created in God's image. Perhaps it was not my mother, but God Godself who teaches us how to welcome guests, whether they are family, friends or strangers. We do all we can to make them feel welcomed. Isn't that what cleaning house is really all about? It is a way to honor your guests. And as far as the food, mothers have been cooking more than enough food since the beginning of time and encouraging their guests to "Eat! Eat! Eat!" If a mom says it three times, it is rude not to take another helping.

God does the same for us each and every Sunday. You walk into the church and it is clean. (Thank you Jake and Brian.) Parish Fellowship has prepared coffee and has a spread of food for you to enjoy as you enjoy one another's company. In worship we hear the life giving Word of God and at the table of Holy Communion God offers us food for our souls, the bread and wine of Holy Communion. And we remember all God has done for us to welcome us into the church, God's house for now, and one day into our heavenly home.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

July Worship News	2
Raffle for Organ Repair	3
Mallards Game	3
Guest Preachers	3
Go and Tell	4
Pictures May/June	4
Open Gym—Coffee Chaos and Community for Pre-K through 3rd Grade Kids and Parents	5
Stewardship Update	5
LWR Kits	5
Vacation Bible School	6
2025 CLC High School Graduates	7
2025 Scholarship recipients	7
July Book Study	8
Senior Excursions	8
Elizabeth Circle	
Missionary Update	9
Baptisms/Funerals	
Memorials and Gifts	9
Pictures from Lock-in BC	

**Anyone wanted to support Christ Lutheran Church can make a donation using the website or Q.R Code Below:**

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



**Sunday Worship is available to Livestream on Facebook**

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

## JULY WORSHIP NEWS



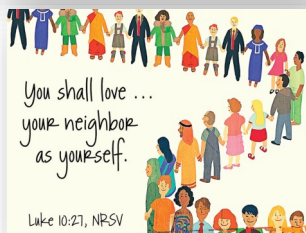
**We have one service on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee and Fellowship in the Cafe before and after worship.**



### **Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>: Worship with Holy Communion**

Jesus tells his disciples, "the harvest is plentiful." All he needs is disciples willing to go out and do the harvesting.

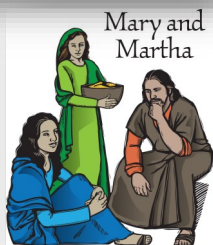
**Preacher:** Pastor Paula



### **Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>: Worship with Holy Communion**

The greatest commandment of all is "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Just how do we do that?

**Preacher:** Pastor Paula



### **Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>: Worship**

This Sunday we find Jesus is in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Martha is so concerned about being the perfect hostess that she is missing out on the company of her guests.

**Guest Preacher:** Sandy Grant

**Liturgist:** Jen Hoffman



### **Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> Baseball Sunday**

Families with children, this service is for you!!! It will keep the kids entertained. The service begins with our country's national anthem and first pitch and continues with a Hula Hoop Hustle, Beach Ball Bounce, Dance Cam and Seventh Inning Stretch with Peanuts and Cracker Jacks. Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite team's jersey! Immediately following worship a Baseball Brunch will be served – brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, beans, orange and rootbeer floats. There will be Baseball themed games in the hallways, narthex, Manna Café and outside.

**Preacher:** Pastor Paula



### **Play Ball Organ Repair Raffle**

**1 ticket for \$10**

**We are raising funds to Help pay for the Organ Repair.**

**Buy a ticket**

**and support the effort**

**#1: 4 tickets for Milwaukee Brewers Game from Gunderson Funeral Home**

**#2: Madison Mallards Game – 2 Duck Blind Tickets  
from Sport's Treasures and Steve Schmidt**



**#3: 4 Madison Night Mare Softball Game tickets  
from Sport's Treasure's and Steve Schmidt**

**#4: 18 Holes of Golf for 4 with Carts from Coachman's**

**Drawing takes place Sunday, July 27th, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at CLC**

**Tickets go on sale Sunday, July 6th. Our goal is \$86,000**



### **Tailgate and Mallard's Baseball Game**

**Friday, July 25th**

**Tickets - \$16 (includes a free hat)**

For those who love baseball, we have a fun outing planned for the congregation. We will be going to a Mallard's Baseball game on Friday, July 25th which begins at 6:35 p.m. We will meet at the church to pool rides at **3:30 p.m.** Arrive at the ball park and tailgate in the parking lot and then make our way into the ballpark to enjoy a baseball game. The Mallards are playing the Fond du Lac Spiders. Sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on the Information Desk.

### **Guest Preachers in July and August**



#### **Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>: Sandy Grant**

Pastor Paula will be on her way home from the BWCA, so Sandy Grant has once again so graciously agreed to preach.

#### **Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kyla Betts**

Pastor Paula will be in Wales watching her youngest son play Rugby, so Kyla has agreed to preach. She always does such a good job.

#### **Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>: Seminarian Kjell Bakken**

Pastor Paula is coming home August 8<sup>th</sup> for Tracy Becker's wedding Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, so Kjell Bakken is preaching on the 10<sup>th</sup>. He has preached for us before and many of you really enjoyed him. He is finishing up his internship and studies and will be home the first part of August. I jumped at the opportunity for him to preach at Christ Lutheran.





## GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

I still look forward to talking with each of you and hearing your stories of things you have experienced or heard other people tell of the things they have seen God do, here and now. That was the whole intent of “Go and Tell” to encourage one another that God does still work wonders in peoples lives today.

There are people in each one of our lives that has had a special impact on us in some way, either as a youngster or as an adult. One man in my life was a man by the name of Duane Bundt that I met as a freshman in College. Duane grew up in western Iowa and loved finding out someone had a horse that needed to be saddle broke. He started a Bible Study on campus with some kids he had met, including myself. I remember being impressed that when he spoke of God’s Love, it was something he knew personally and I wanted that. I had grown up in the Lutheran Church, 12 years of Sunday School, Confirmation in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but I had failed to understand what God had done for me in Jesus. Being a student, I had it in my head that I needed to get straight A’s in life for me to be good enough for God to want in Heaven. The trouble was, on a good day, in my eyes I might get a B. In reality, I wasn’t even that close. It was very frustrating and depressing to want something that I knew I didn’t have a “snowballs chance” of ever getting. Duane helped me and a lot of other kids to understand that Jesus came to do that which was impossible for me to do by myself. What a relief that was to finally grasp the Good News of the Gospel message.

I found out a few years later that Martin Luther had a very similar story to tell. A frustrating life of never being good enough to satisfy, what he understood to be God’s demands on him. Then he read the Bible for himself and came to understand the freedom and inner peace God wanted him to have all along. He translated the Bible into the language of his people because it was that important to him. He wanted them all to be able to read for themselves and understand for themselves God’s message of salvation through Christ.

## More Pictures from Baccalaureate Sunday, May 25th



Sandy Washes John’s Hanson feet as part of her sermon on June 1st.



## Double Baptism on June 8th



## CLC ACTIVITIES IN JULY

### Coffee, Chaos, and Community– Open Gym here at CLC

**What:** Free Open Gym for kids and Families

**When:** Thursday, July 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

Kids will have a snack then head into the gym to hear a story, play games either in the gym or in the backyard depending on the weather. This month we will have a “Fun in the sun” Summer Theme.

There is no charge to participate. We plan to have one open gym session each month this summer and then expand the program in the fall. This is a way for families with young children to get to know each other and have a fun place to take the kids. This is open to all so if you plan to attend ask a friend to come along. We are hoping that members of the community will join in this fun fellowship.



### Stewardship Update

We are \$18,000 behind in our budget. We did pass a \$58,000 deficit budget. The deficit will be covered at the end of the year with funds in our savings, but it would be nice to use as little of that reserve as possible. Last year we passed a \$48,000 deficit budget and at the end of the year \$25,000 of our savings was needed to cover the deficit in the budget.



### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

#### Collecting Items for Lutheran World Relief Kits starting in **July!**

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need. Summer is the season for Garage Sales, so when you are out and about in the coming months keep in mind that we are now collecting for items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. Garage sales are an excellent place to look for items gently used (in new or like new condition: no rips, stains, wear, or missing buttons or snaps). Grab a printout of what is needed in a kit and go on the hunt for some wonderful items. Remember you do not need to donate all of the items in a kit just what you are able to find!



**Baby Care Kits**



**Personal Care Kits**

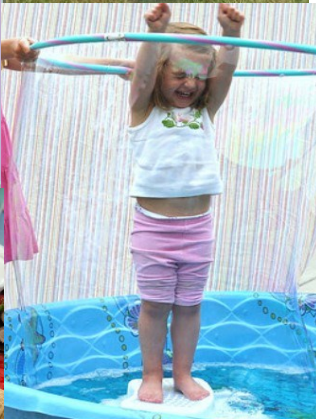


**School Kits**





**What a Mess VBS”**  
**Vacation Bible School 2025**  
**When:** Four consecutive Wednesday evenings from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** starting on **July 30th** and continuing **August 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.**



**“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. Theme Day dress up schedule will be mailed out to everyone who registers by **July 14th**.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



## Graduating High School Seniors:

**Front Row:** Elsa Jones, Henry Brabender, Madeline Schulz, Siri Vienneau, Gracie Schmidt, Ella Hamacher, Amelia Evenson, Nora Knoploh, and Andrew Quam. **Center Row:** Hayden Abing and Theodore Kohlhoff, **Back Row:** Mason Richter, Kade Hustad, Braden Dalsoren, Nelson Kuhls, Soren Vienneau, and Gage Nelson. **Not Pictured:** Kyler Knauf, Kaeson Salonek, and Elizabeth Stokes.



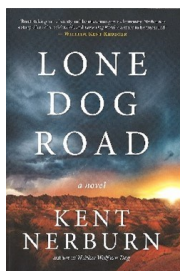
On Sunday May 25th, Christ Lutheran Church handed out 24 Scholarships totaling \$25,00 to a combination of brand new and returning college/tech school students. We are so proud of having a congregation both past and present that supports our members as they pursue further education in their chosen fields.

The following students received Christ Lutheran Church Youth Scholarships: Alexis Abing, Emma Ballweg, Jack Conant, Brenna Dalsoren, Griffen Empey, Bradley Garcia, Daniel Knoploh, Cassidy Link, Casey Milbauer, Lauren Model, Madeline Schulz, Andrew Quam, and Soren Vienneau.

We have several scholarships that are named for specific groups here at CLC and for past and present members who have generously supported the scholarship program. Hayden Abing received the Lorraine Ward Scholarship, Henry Brabender received the Judith Stolen scholarship, Hailee Kellnhofer received the Gertrude Haven-Aiken scholarship, Helena Kohlhoff received a Bethal Circle Scholarship, Nora Knoploh received the Women with a Mission scholarship, Korey Newman received the Olav Hellekve scholarship, Mason Richter received the Paula Landers Scholarship, Abigail Ross received the William and Norma Lally scholarship, Jillian Newman received a Bethal Circle Scholarship, Siri Vienneau received a Timothy Nebel scholarship and Ashton Wuennemann received a Scholarship from Richard and Sue Sevren.



## JULY BOOK STUDY



### Book Study Sunrise Restaurant Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

The Book Study continues reading "Lone Dog Road" in July. We have read three other books by this man and enjoyed them so much we are going to read another.

We meet just the **first two Thursdays, July 3 and 10**. Sunrise will be closed the last two weeks of the month.

"Lone Dog Road" by Kent Nerburn tells the story of two Lakota boys, eleven and six, who flee from a government agent in 1950s South Dakota to avoid boarding school. Their journey takes them across the vast plains to the pipestone quarries of western Minnesota, where they seek to replace their great-grandfather's sacred pipe. Along the way, they encounter various Native and non-Native American characters who offer guidance and support. The novel explores themes of compassion, redemption, and the enduring impact of the land on the people who live on it.

## SENIOR EXCURSIONS



**Thursday and Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Cost: Final cost will be announced in the weekly bulletin**

**A Trip to the Vesterheim Museum and Cultural Commons in Decorah Iowa.**

Right now we are thinking of departing on Thursday at 8:00 a.m., stopping in Fennimore at the Quilt Peddler in Fennimore (we will pack out coffee and sweets for those not interested in shopping), Effigy Mounds National Monument in Marquette, Iowa, lunch at a restaurant nearby, enjoy a pontoon ride or River Boat Cruise on the Mississippi, drive to Decorah, enjoy supper at a local restaurant, spend the night, visit the Vesterheim Museum in the morning, shop downtown Decorah and head home in the afternoon. Are you interested? Let Pastor Paula or Jen know.



**Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!**

**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.**





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



**Pictures from the May 30th, 2025 Lock-In  
Camping in the Narthex and Smores on the Patio.**



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*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

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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.**

