



CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Thank You
JESUS

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

I have had a few “Thank You, Jesus!” moments in the past month and I would like to share with you.

The first happened in the BWCA in July. Voyageur Canoe Outfitters had dropped us off at American Point in the morning. We were expecting two inches of rain, so we paddled about a half mile and set up camp on my favorite five star campsite. Our tents were up in no time. We set up one 16’ square rain tarp to sit under and another for our packs. After we did everything we could do to prepare for rain, we sat back and enjoyed the wilderness. But one of us was not enjoying herself. Sara was sick when we left the Outfitters in the morning and as the day passed continued to get worse. At about 4 or 5 in the afternoon we realized she was suffering from more than a bout of food poisoning and needed to be evacuated. We thought of paddling her in, but I knew that was not a great option. It was a three hour paddle, we were expecting rain and Sara would be in pain all the way. And then Jennifer Merryman informed us that she had brought a Garmin (satellite phone). We could call for help. Jennifer pushed the SOS button and in a short time was in communication with the Cook County EMS. They arrived at our campsite by 8:00 p.m. Sara was in the ER in Grand Marais by 9:30 p.m. and at 2:30 a.m. Sara was discharged from ER after multiple tests, two liters of fluids and a few shots. We headed back up the Gunflint Trail, got to the Outfitters by 4:00 a.m. and went to bed. The next morning I got up and found Sara a place to stay for the next four nights. She was feeling better, but was in no shape to be out on trails. I was not that hopeful. July is the peak of the tourist season. I made a few calls. Trail Center was my second. I talked with Gail, the owner, and shared with her what was going on. She volunteered to make a few calls for me and called back 5 minutes later with a room for Sara at a cost of \$50 a night. There were multiple “Thank You, Jesus” moments in those 24 hours. Thank you for Jennifer, Cook County EMS, Gail – and no rain.

The second happened at the Minneapolis Airport. I flew back from Wales on Friday, August 8th to make it home for Tracy Becker’s (Johnston’s) wedding. I went from Birmingham to Amsterdam to Minneapolis to Madison. With a one hour delay in Amsterdam and a six hour layover in Minneapolis, I was sitting and waiting to board the 10:30 p.m. flight to Madison at 9:30 p.m. and who should be sitting across from me but Chris Eddy. He was on his way home from a hiking trip in the North West.

We got talking. I told him I had a car at the airport. April didn’t have to pick him up. I could take him home. But as I was taking my seat on the airplane I suddenly remembered Matt still had the key to my car. So, I found Chris in the airplane and asked if he would take me home. “Sure”, he said. I have to tell you, after being awake for 24 hours that was a big “Thank you, Jesus” moment. I was not looking forward to finding a taxi in Madison to drive me to Stoughton at 12:30 a.m. *(Continued on top of page 2)*

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September Hymn

Nerds BC

Anyone who wants to support Christ Lutheran Church can make a donation using the website or QR Code below.



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

Sunday Worship is available to Livestream on Facebook

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

(Continued from front cover) And the third? After getting home and driving on U.S. roads I was so thankful that our driving lanes are wider, that there are shoulders and we have straightaways. Wales and England had very few roads fitting that description. You have no idea how much those three items reduce the stress of driving – like by 90%.

Now, I'm not saying God directly intervened, but I do know God placed some good people in my path who thought ahead, packed more than was on the packing list and were willing to go that extra mile and I am thankful. It makes me hope I can be that person to someone someday.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NEWS



Worship News

On September 14 we return to two worship services at 8:00 and 9:15 a.m.
8:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship 9:15 – Worship Express

Sunday, September 7 – One worship at 9:00 a.m.

In the gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples frankly about the costs of discipleship. Life will no longer be business as normal. You are now my people in the world you will follow God's ways not your own ways.

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant

Liturgist: Jen Hoffman

Special Music: Handbells

**Sunday, September 14 – Worship with Holy Communion –
Rally Sunday**

The children start Sunday School today. It is always so much fun to see them coming through the door with smiles on their faces. In the reading from 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul tells us that the world sees Jesus and the cross as utter foolishness. Why would anyone die for others? But yet Christians persist in proclaiming proudly that it is in the cross we see the strength and the depth of God's love for us.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Ben Foltz

**Sunday, September 21 – Worship with Holy Communion – Stewardship Kick-Off/
Ministry Fair**

Our theme this year for stewardship is "Join in the Journey." How do we connect that with the gospel lesson for the day where Jesus tells the story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer? I think Jesus is encouraging all of us to be more creative in our discipleship. To take some risks and follow Jesus down roads we have yet to travel.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Guests: Lion & Lamby

**Sunday, September 28th is "Blessing of the Animals."
Worship and Baptism**

There can be no denying our pets are incredibly important to us. They are members of our family. On this Sunday you are invited to bring your pets to worship with you. Worship will take place in the gym. There will be pet treats as well as human treats in the Manna Café between services.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Uke Fellowship

Special Guests: Lion & Lamby





Stewardship 2026

United in Christ: Join in the Journey

The logo will be revealed soon. Our own resident artist Libby Conant is working on it.

It's that time of year again – Stewardship Season. This year the theme is United in Christ: Join in the Journey. The theme verse is “Trust in God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go.” Proverbs 3:4-6 Every Sunday our Prayer of the Day will be the Holden Prayer, "O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we can not see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" and our Hymn of Praise will be “The Journey of Praise” (Dakota Road). The words go like this...

The Journey of Praise

Vs. 1: We are all on a journey from the cradle to the grave.

We are given life through the price our Savior had to pay.

Refrain: Oh, let our hearts praise the Lord! Oh, let our hands praise the Lord!

Oh, let our voices praise the Lord! Oh, let our lives praise the Lord.

Vs. 2: We can feel suffering, there is someone near in need.

We are given choice, hearts, hands, voice; they are within our reach. **Refrain...**



Stewardship begins Sunday, September 21st with the Ministry Fair. It is such a great event every year. Come to church that Sunday and check out all the booths packed into the narthex and see for yourself all the ministry Christ Lutheran is doing within our walls, in our local community and worldwide. Each booth offers something fun to do or a treat to eat. This year the Sunday School kids will have time to enjoy the games and treats before they join their classmates for a shortened Sunday school period.

Sunday, September 28th is “Blessing of the Animals.”

There can be no denying our pets are incredibly important to us, They are members of our family. On the 28th you are invited to bring your pet to worship with you. Worship will take place in the gym. That Sunday pet treats will be served as well as human treats between services.

Stewardship Packets are mailed out this week.

Sunday, October 5th is Quilt/LWR Sunday.

On Quilt/LWR Sunday the story of these quilts will be told. Just where do they go and what do they do once they get there and how we journey with them, with the help of LWR, to all corners of the world. The pews will be covered with quilts our quilters have made over the past year. Up front will be all the School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and Sewing Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will “count” the quilts and kits and let you know how many have been put together. Quilts will once again be on sale for \$40 apiece. Monies from the sale of quilts goes towards getting those quilts where they need to go.

Matt Hanson, our Stewardship Chair, will preach and share his stewardship journey.

We each have our own: Where are you on your journey at this time in your life? Do you want to “Join in the Journey” and discover some new road and along the way enjoy the joy and freedom sharing your time and resources to Jesus' offers?

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

October 12th is our "Harvest Fest/Pig Roast"

Special music will be part of worship, but that is just the beginning of the fun. After worship a Pig Roast is planned. We had one last year and it was a big success. This year the plan is to roast two, not one, pig and invite the community to attend. Along with the Pig Roast there will be crafts and games for all ages in the Large Youth Room and a bounce house and hayride in the backyard. Any profit from the Pig Roast or the Bake Sale will go towards the organ repair. Everyone is invited to contribute to the Bake Sale. It is a "Harvest Fest" so canned goods, along with the sweets, are welcomed. Yes, we are still on that journey – that journey of raising additional funds to help cover the cost of the organ repair.

People are asked to return their pledges by the end of October..

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH ORGAN REPAIR



Linda Kunz, our Director of Music, e-mailed Fabry Inc. to get an update on our organ repair. Here is Dave Fabry's response...

Good Morning Linda:

Thank you for your email and our apologies for the delay in completing your major repair project. All of the parts for your project have been ordered months ago and we recently received an email from the Peterson Company that produces the electric magnets needed (1,550 units) that they are all on "back order" due to a delay in getting the parts needed from overseas. The units are assembled here in Hoopeston, Illinois. This is not good news for us, either. We have three major projects that all include electric valves and we can't start any of them. We will keep you posted. If we get them, the project must be completed by the end of October because that is when we start Christmas tuning visits for over 320 clients.

Be well, Dave

We are crossing our fingers that the parts will come in and the repair will be done by October otherwise the cost may go up.

In July we had a small fundraiser to help cover the cost of the organ. We sold \$990 in raffle tickets and raised another \$250 on the Baseball Sunday Free Will Offering for lunch. In July a total of \$2265 came in for the organ. We now sit at \$48,524. What's our goal – at least half the cost which is \$67,000 although we are hoping for \$80,000. Whatever money we receive helps decrease the amount we have to take from our Capital Improvement fund which can be used for other projects we have coming in the future. .

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalms 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

Stewardship Update

Last February we passed a budget that was short of funds by \$68,000. Our hope was that by the end of the year additional giving will cover most of that shortage. At the end of July we were \$32,000 behind budget. 58.3% of the year has passed. 58.3% of \$68,000 is \$39,644, so we have made some progress. And it is the middle of summer.



What is Stewardship? by Cindy Lehr

Stewardship is more than just giving money to the church. It is about how we live as followers of Christ with all the resources God has entrusted to us. It is the way we share our time, our talents, and our treasures to nurture our families, strengthen our church and serve our community.

Stewardship happens when you:

- Volunteer at youth events, sew quilts, and help in the kitchen.
- Join or lead a committee.
- Bring children to Sunday School.
- Invite a neighbor to come to church with you.
- Help an elderly CLC member get to church.

Soon you will be receiving Christ Lutheran Church's 2026 Stewardship Campaign, built around the theme "Join in the Journey." Pledging is important as it allows CLC to plan its resources.

Please mark your calendars for our **Kick-Off Campaign and Ministry Fair on September 21**. We ask that your pledges be returned by October 31, 2025.

We are asking that pledges support both the General Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund.

-The General Fund covers essential day-to-day operations of our church—from salaries, utilities and maintenance to Lay Ministry, Youth Ministry, Parish Fellowship, Christian Education, Evangelism, and Social Concerns.

-The Capital Improvement Fund provides for CLC's long-term needs. Soon the Church will need a new roof, parking lot, furnaces and air conditioning units. Replacing the roof and parking lot will cost close to \$750,000.

—The Endowment Foundation. Gifts are welcome here as well. Terry Niedfeldt of Thrivent Financial manages these funds, which support CLC's benevolences (South Central Synod, World Hunger, etc.) and programming at the church.

Christ Lutheran Church is grateful for every gift received and encourages you to "Join in the Journey". Together, we are building more than a budget; we are building a community of faith that reflects God's love and shines His light in the world.





The covers on the Carts in the Kitchen got a much needed Upgrade

If you have been in the church kitchen lately you may have noticed something different. Our custodian Brian Hahn had noticed that the covers for the rolling carts that hold the cups, dishes and silverware were looking a little run down. So he donated the money for fabric and asked Colleen Gregorich to sew some new ones. Then to make them easy for everyone to see what each cart carries, Colleen and Brian then asked Gerry Ross if her sister Jean Muehlemann would be able to embroider them. Here is a picture of Colleen and Brian in the kitchen with one of the new cart covers.

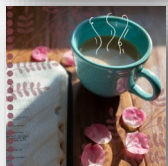
CLC OPEN GYM IN SEPTEMBER



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, September 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Who: This is open for kids from Birth through Pre-K. Nursery is available

We have snacks including Coffee and treats for the parents/grandparents/caregivers. We read a story, do a craft and play games in the gym. Perfect opportunity for your kids to get some exercise and playtime in a new environment with new toys and meet new friends.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION NEWS



Sunday School Begins on September 14th

It is that time of year again our Sunday School will begin in a couple of weeks. **Rally Sunday will be on 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 in the Large Youth Room at 10:00 a.m.**) This is a change from last year where we met in the sanctuary.

On Rally Sunday kids 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-eduyouth/>.

If you have a 7th or 8th Grade student, the **Confirmation Orientation Meeting for Students and Parents is on Wednesday September 17th at 6:30 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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION NEWS (CONTINUED)



Wednesday Evening/ Confirmation Dinners

Dinner is served from **5:30– 6:30 p.m.** A minimum donation of **\$8.00** is suggested to cover the cost of food. Confirmation students and their families, God and Game participants and their families, our Seniors and really anyone is invited to come. Enjoy an hour of good food and fellowship!

We will begin the year with a favorite...

September 24: Baked Chicken, Cheesy or Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Swedish Rye Bread Brownies and Ice Cream, While or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee



God and Games Begins Wednesday, September 24th

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 both love to meet you. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with fun and games.



Church Lock-in

Friday, October 24

Grades 5 - 9

Meet at the church at 9:00 p.m. Bring your sleeping bag and pillow as well as board games and movies. We are going to keep this one simple. Everything will happen here at church including a fire in the fire pit out back. Bring a friend. **NO COST.**



Milestone Ministries Dates for 2025/2026

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.

Here are the milestone events each year:

-3 Year-olds- receive their first Bible (Bibles will be handed out on **Palm Sunday, March 29** at the 9:15 a.m. Service)

-1st Graders- Make an Advent Wreath (On **November 23** during 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, Pastor Paula will talk to the 1st graders and their parents about the traditions of advent and the 1st graders will make their own advent wreath.)

-2nd Graders- make a Lenten Cross

-3rd Graders- receive their Adventure Bibles (Pastor Paula will talk to the kids about their Bibles on **October 19** in Sunday school and they will be presented at the 9:15 a.m. service to all 3rd Graders on **October 26**)

-4th Graders- have their First Communion Instruction Classes on the following four Sundays **February 22, March 1, 8, and 15** immediately following Sunday School. Kids and parents will meet in the Conference Room next to the Sanctuary. The day before they have their 1st Communion the 4th graders will bake **bread on Wednesday, April 1** from 3:30p.m. to 5:30 p.m. **Thursday, April 2** at our 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service our 4th Graders will receive their First Communion and participate in worship by helping with the stripping of the altar.

-7th and 8th Graders- start their Confirmation Classes

-9th Graders- Affirm their Faith and become adult members of the Church on **Sunday, October 26 at a 1:00 p.m. service** for Family and friends.

-12th Grade Graduates- are celebrated at a Baccalaureate Service

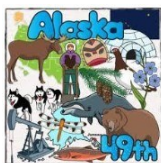
BWCA TRIP 2025



Here is a few photographs from our canoe trip in July. Jason and Slayton Hoverson, Jennifer Merryman and her daughter, Autumn Wendorf, Greta Hanson, Pastor Paula's daughter Sophie and her friend Sara and Pastor Paula made the journey 500 miles north to the border between Minnesota and Canada for the adventure. We had quite a few first timers, which was wonderful.

I love sharing this special place with new people. The group was great. We paddled, portaged, set up tents, collected firewood, cooked meals and hung our packs to protect our food from bears like experienced campers and still had plenty of time to enjoy one another's company and conversation. It was challenging, but yet fun. Greta Hanson's favorite part of the trip was paddling across Seagull in the rain and climbing a six foot cliff to claim a campsite. It turned out to be a great campsite – 4.5 stars. We all enjoyed it so much.

We are looking forward to having more people join us next year.



Mission Trip 2026 for Youth 8th Grade - Adults

Alaska – South of Anchorage

Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 28

Cost: \$2500 estimate

Breakdown of Cost...

\$1,000 for flight to Anchorage.

Group rates are always about \$200 more than for an individual.

\$800 for six nights of lodging and food. (We will sleep in a church on the floor with air mattresses.)

\$300 for two adventures – hiking a Glacier, kayaking in the ocean, etc. We will decide as a group which adventures interest us the most.

\$200 – van rental and gas per person

\$200 – additional food and lodging

DO NOT LET THE COST SCARE YOU. There are numerous opportunities in the coming year to take bring your cost down a big chunk (Mail Order Bake Sale, Garage Sale, Lenten Luncheons, etc.) and we have some extra funds in the youth account for people who work hard to help raise the funds and there are people in the congregation who will help you pay for your trip.

We are just beginning to work out the details of the trip, I have talked to Justin, our mission trip consultant with Praying Pelican. For the next 6 months we will be in conversation discussing possibilities.

Here is what Praying Pelicans says about mission trip to Alaska....

A land of immense natural beauty in its land and people, Alaska is an incredible place to serve on a mission trip. Approximately 730,000 people call Alaska their home, sparsely populating an area twice the size of Texas. Approximately half the population lives in the cities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. The remaining half live across vast landscapes, many of which are not reachable by the road system. Planes, boats, ATVs, and snow machines are common modes of transportation for the many who live in these rural regions of Alaska.

Despite Alaska's rugged beauty, mystery, and alluring fishing tourism during the long summer days, Alaska is not without great need. Poverty, homelessness, teenage suicide, seasonal affective disorder, drugs, and alcoholism plague every region of the state. The long winters and many hours of darkness take a great toll on the Alaskan people and their mental/emotional health.

On your Alaska mission trip, your team will have the opportunity to partner alongside local churches, as well as colleges, nonprofits, and Christian camps. These established ministries are targeting the struggles listed above and working together to make a much-needed difference.

The summer season, however short, yields long hours of daylight - hours spent hustling to treat building exteriors, paint, build, maintain, and accomplish whatever can only be done during the warmer days. Much help is needed, and our ministry connections have opened their arms wide to visiting mission teams who are ready to work hard and share the Gospel. Alongside service projects, many other ministries are in need of volunteers. Alaska mission trip teams will have the opportunity to host sports camps, park ministry, VBS, home visits, prayer walks, construction projects, and more.

Come experience the land of the midnight sun. The Church is active and ready for your partnership!

What do I know? I have told Justin we would like a mission trip that gives the group a variety of work to do because we will be bringing a group of people with a variety of gifts. So we discussed children's ministry, repair work, building, food pantry, soup kitchen, etc. We are expected at the site between 2 and 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 20. If we catch the flight from Madison to Anchorage on Friday, June 19th we will have time to explore the city. Hopefully we will have the energy. We leave from Madison at 6:00 a.m. and arrive at 11:30 a.m. but have actually been traveling for 8 ½ hours (1 ½ hour layover in Minneapolis). We leave our site on Friday, so we have Saturday to add another adventure to our trip. How many times are you going to go to Alaska: we need to do this.

What we need from you is to commit now, so we can start raising the funds. Registration forms are on the Information Desk and they will be mailed out to youth.

SENIOR EXCURSIONS AND LUNCHEON



Senior Excursion

Friday, September 26

Picnic Lunch and Autumn Sight Seeing Tour at Blue Heron Landing

Cost: \$25 plus a potluck item for the Picnic Lunch

We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m., stop along the way to enjoy our picnic and arrive at Blue Heron Landing for a sighting seeing tour of a marsh area for wildlife viewing by 12:30 p.m. The pontoon takes off at 1:00 p.m. After the tour and a cup of coffee at the coffee shop, we will head home.

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.



Senior Luncheon

Tuesday, September 23

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: Archeology in the Middle East

Gordon Govier will present a program (with slides) on Archeology in the Middle East. It sounds interesting to me. I hope you will join us.

Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Salad, Green Beans, Butter Bites/Swedish Rye Bread and Pie and Ice Cream.

ADULT EDUCATION



Breakfast and Books – A Book Study

Sunrise Restaurant

Thursday Mornings – 9:30 a.m.

Begins Thursday, September 11

I can't tell you now what we will be reading then because we will have finished the current book we are reading, but please, come join us. There is always more room at the table.



Elizabeth and Bethel Circle

Christ Lutheran has two women's Bible Studies. Elizabeth Circle meets the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room at 9:30 a.m. Bethel Circle meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Manna Café. Both are more than happy to welcome new members.

ADULT EDUCATION (CONTINUED)



Pints and Parables Second Thursday of the Month Viking Brew Pub Beginning in October 6:30 p.m.

Come for a pint or for supper and we will look at one of Jesus' parables. There are quite a few of them in the gospels. Jesus was known for his storytelling. It is what "made him different" from the other rabbis. But the man knew that 65 to 85% of our social action involves telling stories. We are either sharing personal experiences or narratives about others and yes, gossiping. Jesus knew it is how we humans remember information best.

So join us at Viking Brew Pub. We will begin with the parables about the Talents or the Rich Fool or the Unmerciful Servant. There is more than enough to keep us meeting from October – May.

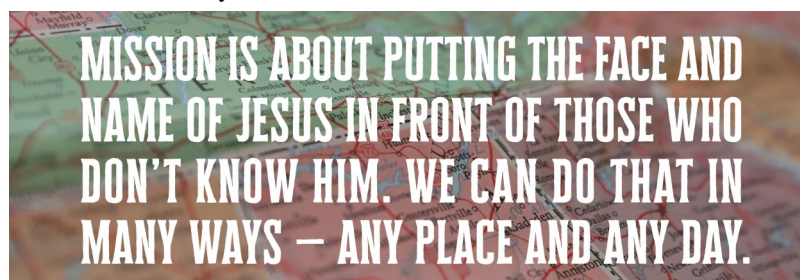
GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

I've shared some stories, lately, of things God has done in the "Here and Now" that I wanted to tell so that God gets the credit for what He has done. This story happened about 54 years ago when I was a sophomore in College.

I started my freshman year with a roommate, but the college wanted to move us all out to other dorms so they could remodel this dorm. My roommate moved, but there weren't enough empty rooms for the rest of us, so I opted for a single room the remainder of that year. That worked out well as I became acquainted with an interdenominational Christian group called the Navigators and began to be a part of a weekly Bible study and we were able to meet in my room. The second half of that year, I began to get to know a guy on my floor by the name of George Collins who loved playing chess. After watching several matches, he offered to teach me. It was late enough in the year that I didn't know him all that well, but I knew he was an atheist. He was very sharp, a History and Political Science Major, with the intent to go on to Law School. There were times that I overheard his "debates" with other students as to the Church and the existence of God and Jesus. I knew he was way out of my league and I wouldn't know what to even begin to say if I were to try to convince him otherwise.

That year came to an end and over the summer I convinced myself to try having another roommate and so about 3 weeks before school started, I called the University to let them know of my change of plans. Lo and behold when I got to school, here was George as my new roommate. I thought that was great as I already knew him, so the anxiety was gone and the chess games began. About a month into that year a friend of mine told me that George had decided to become a Christian. I still didn't know what to say to him, so he asked me if I wanted to know why. I said "Sure, Why?" He told me "You have lived an entire year in this place, (the insinuation being "this den of iniquity") and you still believe in this. I just figured there must be something to it after all." Totally "blew me out of the water". I had been so afraid of what I would say if he challenged me to a "debate". I can honestly say we had more fun that year. It was like I had another brother. Toward the end of that year he got a girl friend and a year later I got to be one of the grooms men in his wedding.

The whole point of my telling this story is that even if we aren't much of a spokesman for Christ, God can still use us in peoples' lives. Most people come to church because a friend invited them and then continue to come because of those same friends. The paralytic's friends weren't Biblical Scholars. They tore the roof off the house because they knew Jesus was the only way their friend was going to have a life. God does things His own special way, and you never know when you may be that missing piece in someone else's puzzle. Just ask Him to use you.





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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. You can donate complete kits or bring some of the items listed on the kits below and our Confirmation students will assemble the kits from all of the donations we receive when they start Confirmation in September. LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations. Summer is the season for Garage Sales, so when you are out and about in the 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). Also back to school supplies are in and there are sales on items needed for the school kits. [What we'll need:](#)

Baby Care Kits



TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)

TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

TWO pairs of socks

ONE hand towel, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars

TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Personal Care Kits



ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging *

Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

School Kits



FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8 1/2" x 11"; no loose leaf paper

ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

ONE pencil sharpener

ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

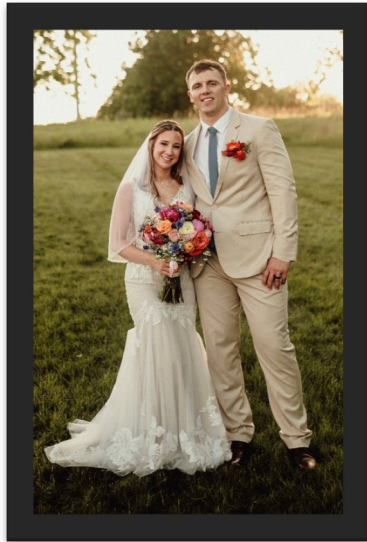
FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

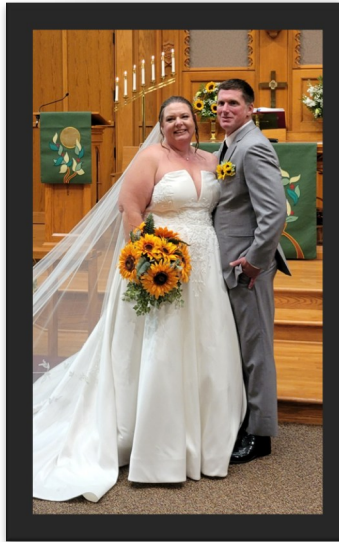
ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

ONE 2 1/2" eraser

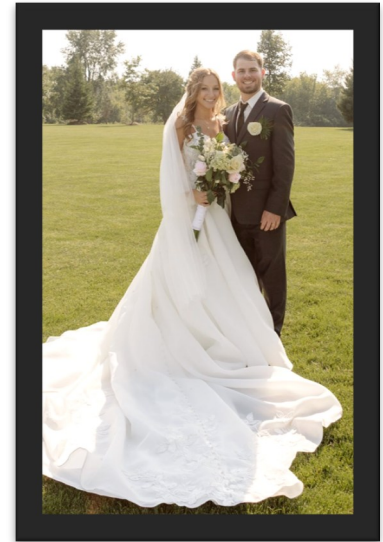
ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



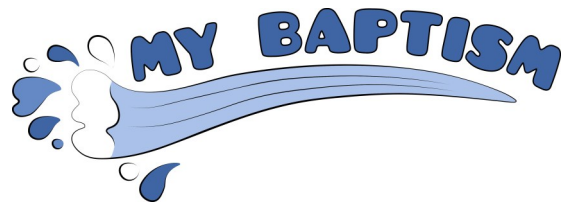
Makenzie Devore and Brooks Empey were married on 6/22/2025 in Mount Horeb.



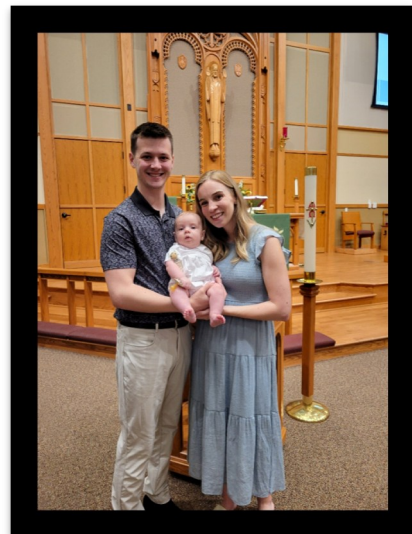
Tracy Becker and Mike Johnston were married on 8/9/2025 at Christ Lutheran.



Abby Bowe and Zachary Thomas were married on 8/15/2025 in Watertown.



Given by:	In Memory of:
Lowell and Jeanne Jacobson	Lois Dybevik
Nancy Holzhueter	Lois Dybevik
Harry Jr and Shirley Reese	Lois Dybevik
Linda Trunzo	Lois Dybevik
Gwenn Nyhagen	Lois Dybevik
Stanley and Sandra Fosdal	Lois Dybevik
Steven and Sara Hurley	Lois Dybevik
Roger and Joyce Utermark	Lois Dybevik
Kristen and Randy Swenson	Lois Dybevik
William and Sharon Vike	Lois Dybevik
Larry and L'Jean Olson	Lois Dybevik
Duane and Linda Bratzke	Lois Dybevik
Lisa Bratzke	Lois Dybevik
Kelly Bannigan	Lois Dybevik
Friends and Family	Lois Dybevik



Axel Cort McElmury, son of Cort William and Macy Jo McElmury.

September Hymn Nerds

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

“Oh, Sing to the Lord” or as originally written in Portuguese as “Cantai ao Senhor” and comes to us from Brazil.\

The message of this hymn clearly alludes to Psalm 98: “O sing to the Lord a new song... Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.” The first stanza states only that, repeating the same text over and over. The subsequent verses in Spanish (and also translated into English in our hymnal) were added and gives this hymn a Trinitarian purpose as the verses center on God as Creator, Jesus who is worthy, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The final verse is an admonition once more to “Sing to God,” followed by “Amen” and “Alleluia.”

Gerhard Cartford, who supplied the additional verses in Spanish, was instrumental in the development of the Lutheran Book of Worship (1978). He also translated some hymns for Libro de Liturgia y Cántico.

This Brazilian folk melody should be sung with a sense of a strong waltz feel, accentuating the first beat of each measure. Instruments can include maracas, claves, guiros, guitar, drums and piano - everyone and everything is encouraged to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

This fall in worship join us in taking up the mandate to “sing God a new song!”

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator**

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STOUGHTON, WI

“Christ in Our Home” daily devotional booklets for September, October, November in small and large print are available for pick up.

