Christ Lutheran Church 700 County Highway B Stoughton, WI 53589 October 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



Join the Journey Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

I don't remember many jokes, but I do remember this on. A priest, a pastor and a rabbi were discussing stewardship and each one of them shared with his/her colleagues their method of determining "How much do I give back to God." The first said, "I draw a circle about two feet in diameter, cash my check, throw it all up in the air and whatever falls in the circle, I give to God." The second one said, "My method is a lot like yours, but with a twist. I draw a circle about 12 feet in diameter, cash my check, throw it all up into the air and whatever falls outside of the circle, I give to God." The third finally shared his/hers. "I cash my check, throw it all up into the air and whatever God can catch, God can keep."

All three of these people should know, if they are a priest, a pastor or a rabbi, what God has asked from us - a tithe. A tithe - 10% - that seems like an awful lot. But God asks for it so people are reminded and can thank the one who gave them all they have - home, family, food on the table, clothes on their backs, friends, etc.

And do you know how that tithe was to be spent? 2 out of 3 years it was to go to support the priests and care for the hungry and most vulnerable people in their community – the widows, orphans and refugees. And the third year God wanted God's people to take that money and throw a BIG PARTY so everyone could celebrate God's generosity.

The Stewardship Committee is asking each one of us to "join the journey' this stewardship season. To take just a few steps further down that road. The tithe may be our last stop in this journey, but please, don't get discouraged if you are not there. Just celebrate every step you take.

I have been a pastor for over 40 years and I am still on that journey. I'm further down that road but I am still on that journey. When our children were young it was hard to give even 2%. There were always bills to be paid and something the children needed. They didn't get everything, but our oldest told me not too long ago, "I never felt like I went without." And children get more expensive as they get older. Our boys were involved in sports and needed sporting equipment.

Thank God they were easy to clothe - jeans, t-shirts and athletic shoes. Our daughter on the other hand required a variety of footwear and clothing for every occasion. They are all grown up now and are out on their own and I am still on that journey. But I am far enough down that road to have discovered, just like the Good Book says, it feels good and it really is fun to give. Look at all those happy people on our Stewardship banner. They have experienced the same joy.

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Anyone who wants 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/ ChristLutheran-ChurchStoughton

OCTOBER WORSHIP NEWS



Sunday, October 5: Worship - Quilt Sunday

There is a short 3 minute video on the work that Lutheran World Relief does that we will view as an Introduction. This will give everyone a greater appreciation for the ministry our Quilters have been doing since Lutheran World Relief was founded and the impact of CLC's contributions.

This is the third Sunday of our Stewardship campaign. Matt Hanson, our stewardship chair, will share his understanding of stewardship and his own journey.

Guest Preacher: Matt Hanson

Liturgist: Sandy Grant

Sunday, October 12: Worship with Holy Communion – Harvest Fest

In the gospel lesson, we have the story of a Samaritan healed of leprosy. He was one of ten who Jesus healed and yet he is the only one who comes back to thank Jesus. He becomes a model for those who praise and worship God and give God thanks for God's mercy.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Wendy Olson and Kyla Betts will be directing the music.

Uke Fellowship will provide music at the Pig Roast.

Sunday, October 19: Worship

In the gospel lesson for today, we have another one of Luke's wonderful parables. This one is the one about the unjust judge who will not listen to the pleas of a widow until she wears him down with her persistence. If an unjust judge finally gives this woman justice, how much more will God respond to those who call out to him.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, October 26: Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion

This is the Sunday where Lutherans remember and celebrate Luther's courage. He stood up to a church that wanted people to put their faith in a piece of paper – an indulgence – rather than in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Preacher: A visit from Katie Luther

Third Graders receive their Bibles during the 9:15 a.m. Worship Express

service.



Worship with Holy Communion and Affirmation of Baptism at 1:00 p.m.

This year we have 10 young people affirming their faith. Ten young people standing in front of their families and friends and saying, "Yes, I want to be a part of God's family."

The Confirmands are: Adelaide Borchert, Charles Brabender, Elaine Conant, Elizabeth Gross, Beckett Horswill, Jackson Kojo, Lucas Peterson, Brady Sickles, Addalyn Swain, and Lila Yellowbird.

We ask that the congregation keep them in their prayers.



Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

"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





Sunday, October 5th is Quilt/LWR Sunday.

On Quilt/LWR Sunday the story of these quilts will be told. Where do they go? What do they do? We will journey with them 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 each. Monies from the sale of quilts goes towards getting those quilts and kits where they need to go and provides money for materials like fabric and batting.

Matt Hanson, our Stewardship Chair, will preach and share his stewardship journey. We each have our own. Where are you on your journey? Do you want to "Join in the Journey" and discover along the way the joy and freedom sharing your time and resources with Jesus' offers?

October 12th Harvest Fest & Pig Roast

This year the plan is to roast two pigs and invite the community to join us. Food is served from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Crafts and Games begin at 10:50 a.m.



Cost: \$15 for Adult \$7 for children between 5 and 12 Kids under \$5 are free

Menu: Roast Pork (Hot Dogs for Children), Cheesy Potatoes or Homemade Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans and Coleslaw, Texas Road House Buns and Swedish Rye Bread, Bars, Cookies, Desserts and Ice Cream, Apple Juice and Coffee

Crafts and Games in the Large Youth Room with a Bounce House, more Games and a Hayride Outside (weather permitting)

The Stewardship Committee asks that you please return your pledge card by the end of October.

Stewardship Update

We made up some of our shortfall since last month. At the end of July we were \$32,000 behind budget. At the end of August \$28,500. Let's keep it going!



Calling all Christ Lutheran Church Members we need your help to make the Harvest Fest a success! This is a fundraiser for fixing our Organ and, if anyone noticed, Linda could not play the organ a few week's back because it was making a lot of noise. Our Pig Roast is coming up on **October 12th** and we need all members to consider stepping up and volunteering some of your time. We are advertising this throughout town and in other communities and we plan to have around 400 people attending. We need help in the kitchen on both

Saturday the 11th from 9:00 to noon to prepare food and the event spaces. We also need help on Sunday the 12th from 8:00 am and throughout the day for various tasks. There really is a job for everyone. If you are not able to help in person, we are also looking for baked goods to sell. The sign-up sheet for all volunteer opportunities is in the Narthex. **Sign Up today!!**



New Member Sunday - November 16

New members will officially be received into our faith community on **Sunday**, **November 16 at both services**. If you know anyone who is interested in joining or if you are that someone, please contact the church office so Pastor Paula can arrange a visit.

New Member Orientation will be on Sunday, November 2 or November 9 immediately following the 9:15 a.m. Worship Express Service. We meet in the Conference Room right off the Narthex. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee and a snack. We ask that people come prepared to have your photo taken. It is an informal time to get to know one another and to share information about the congregation.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

It never ceases to amaze me, how much I enjoy reading the New Testament Gospels, listening to what Jesus said and what and how He did what He did to the people who came to Him asking for His help. They asked of Him things no one had ever done before and He did it without hesitating, never questioning in His own mind, if God could do this or if God wanted Him to do this. They came to Him with so many requests. Some were for themselves, some were for their children and some were for friends they loved and physically brought to have Him heal them. I'm sure some came to Him at first, fearing they weren't "good enough" or that their sins were the reason for their sickness and troubles. In a few instances, Jesus dealt with that first and foremost, reassuring them their sins were forgiven and then healing them of whatever afflicted them so that they knew their sins were really forgiven.

The part that amazes me most is trying to imagine what went through the minds of those healed: the blind being able to see again, the lepers able to go back to their families, the paralytics able to walk and work again to support their families, Lazarus and Jairus' daughter having died and then brought back to this life. If all these weren't a time of heart pounding joy and near endless thanks-giving, I don't know what would have been. That was the day their lives were changed and Jesus was the reason for the change, just as He is for our lives today.









Wednesday Evening/ Food and Fellowship

Dinner is served from **5:30 – 6:30 p.m**. A minimum donation of **\$8.00** is suggested to cover the cost of food. **This year all meals will have a gluten-free option.** 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!

<u>Wednesday, October 1:</u> Lasagna – with and without gluten, Buttered Noodles (for the children), Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread, Rice Krispies and Ice Cream, Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

<u>Wednesday, October 8:</u> Pigs in the Blanket, Chips, Scalloped Potatoes and Ham – **gluten-free option**, Fresh Veggies and Dip, Brownies and Ice Cream, Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

<u>Wednesday, October 15</u> Homemade Mac and Cheese or Beef Stew - **gluten-free option**, Homemade Apple Sauce, Swedish Rye Bread, Ice Cream with Raspberry Sauce (great with the Apple Sauce too), Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

Wednesday, October 29

Chicken Alfredo (thickened with cornstarch) with Vegetables or Spaghetti with **gluten and gluten-free** Noodles, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Cookies and Ice Cream, Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice



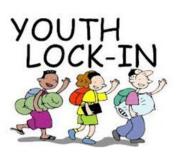
Looking for More Cooks

Do you like to cook? Do you appreciate a challenge. Jen and Pastor Paula are looking for about 6 people who would help us with Food and Fellowship meal prep. The plan is to divide into two groups – Jen's Group and Paula's Group and prep the meal every-other Wednesday. We would meet in the kitchen at 2:30 p.m. and prep the meal. At 5:15-5:30 p.m. the calvary arrives (parents of confirmation students) and you would be free to enjoy Food and Fellowship.

God and Games will be on Wednesday's October: 8, 15, and 29 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Note that their will be no God and Games on October 22 because of Parent Teacher Conferences.

Who Can Attend: Grades 3 - 6

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.



Youth Lock-In Grades 5-8 Friday, October 24 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

A lock-in is planned for our young people in grades 5-8 on Friday, October 24. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow – just in case you sleep. Weather permitting there will be a campfire in the church backyard. Maybe even a few outside games. Of course there will be a devotion, but other than that, just time to play in the gym, play some boardgames, eat pizza and snacks and just hang out and visit with your friends. Invite a friend because this event is absolutely **FREE**.





Open Gym High School Youth First Sunday of Every Month beginning November 2 10:45 a.m. - Noon

Invite your friends. Play some volleyball or basketball or whatever. The gym is yours and light snacks and drinks will be provided.

MISSION TRIP 2026 FOR YOUTH (8TH GRADE -ADULTS)



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 tobring your cost down a big chunk (Mail Order Bake Sale, Garage Sale, Lenten Suppers, etc.) and we have some extra funds in the youth account for people who work hard raising funds and throughout the year. In addition, if you are financially unable to there are people in the congregation who will help cover the cost of 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.

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 sight 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 sight 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 have been mailed out to all youth in 8th grade and above. Please return them by start of November. We need to get our group together so the FUNDRAISING CAN BEGIN.

CLC OPEN GYM IN OCTOBER

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

(For families of pre-k kids, we will also have the nursery open and staffed)

What: Free Open Gym for kids and families

When: Thursday, October 16th 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

Our Sunday School Theme this year is: "Color Your World With Jesus!" We had such colorful decorations left over from our Vacation Bible School this summer that the theme just came to me. So what does this mean. We want our students to learn as much about Jesus and his work as we can. Why? Because only Jesus can provide the perfect example of how to live as a servant of God.

As we tell our weekly Bible Stories this year, we will reflect with the kids what Jesus would do in every situation and how we can make choices in our lives based on his teachings. I will be sending out Monthly emails this year to give you more information on what is happening, what the kids are learning about, and what events and activities are coming up. This along with the Calendar that you received when you registered will hopefully allow you to have conversations with your child about what is happening at church.

Please note that we have the **Sunday School Kids singing at the 9:15 a.m. service on Sunday October 12th**. Have the kids here at least 15 minutes before worship.

There will be **No Confirmation. Food and Fellowship, or God and Games on Wednesday October 22nd** due to parent/Teacher Conferences.

We will have a lock-in for kids in 5th through 8th grade on **Friday October 24th.** Be at the church by 9:00 p.m.



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 within our Church. Our First two Milestone Ministry events occur on **Sunday, October 26th**.

Our 9th Graders will first meet with Pastor Paula on Sunday, **October 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** to make the Stoles that they will wear for their Affirmation of Baptism the following week. They will also go over the order of service.

Then on **Sunday**, **October 26th at 12:30 p.m.**, our 9th Graders need to meet at the church to have pictures taken and to get their robes and stoles on before the service. At **1:00 p.m. parents**, **sponsors**, **family and friends will gather in the Sanctuary** for a special service as the Confirmands affirm their baptism.

On Sunday, **October 26 at the 9:15 a.m. Worship Express** service, the 3rd graders and their parents will come forward to be presented with their Adventure Bibles. Then during Sunday School **from 10:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.** all 3rd graders and their parents will meet with Pastor Paula to learn more about the Bibles that they received.

SENIOR EXCURSIONS AND LUNCHEON



Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma! At the Fireside n Fort Atkinson on Friday, October 10th

Sign-up is closed at this time. People that have signed up will meet at the church on Friday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. to pool rides



Senior Luncheon Tuesday, October 21 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$12

Program: "The Theater, the Theater"

Sam White, actor and director of the Stoughton Village Player's, will join us and give us some insight into theater.

Menu

Boiled Red Potatoes and Red Cabbage Rouladen (sautéed rolled beef with a pickle in the middle) Swedish Rye Bread Apple Dumpling with Ice Cream Coffee and Milk

ADULT EDUCATION



Breakfast and Books – A Book Study Sunrise Restaurant Thursday Mornings – 9:30 a.m.

Please, come join us. There is always room for more 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 Conference Room. Both are more than happy to welcome new members.

ADULT EDUCATION (CONTINUED)



Pints and Parables 2nd Thursday of the Month Viking Brew Pub Beginning October 9th 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.

Since we are into stewardship this month, let's look at the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. A copy of the parable, along with some questions you may want to think about before we meet, will be on the Information Desk the first Sunday of the month.

October Hymn Nerds

"'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus' originates from the Assam region in northeastern India, near Tibet.

The song is based on the last words of Nokseng, a man from the Garo tribe of Assam who converted to Christianity in the middle of the 19th century through the efforts of missionaries.

As Nokseng and his family were being martyred by a chief of a primitive tribe hostile to western ideas, his last words were:

"I have decided to follow Jesus."

"Though no one joins me, still I will follow."

"The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."

These words and Nokseng's faith influenced the chief who had ordered the killings. The chief was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered, "Why should this man, his wife and two children die for a Man who lived in a far-away land on another continent some 2,000 years ago? There must be some remarkable power behind the family's faith, and I too want to taste that faith." In a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

The hymn version is attributed to Simon K. Marak, an A·chik (Garo) pastor, schoolteacher, and missionary from Jorhat, Assam using an Indian folk melody. The American hymn editor, William Jensen Reynolds, composed the formal hymn arrangement that we use today. This version became a regular feature of Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings.





Soren Vienneau playing his accordion during worship.

Vacation Bible School Kids singing worship music in the Sanctuary.



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 keep in mind that we are now collecting 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 81/2" 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)









Gurena M. Linnerud September 12th, 2025 at Cress Funeral Home.



Vicki Marie Ballweg September 20th, 2025

| memorials | Given by: | In Memory of: |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Ogitis | MEMORIALS | |
| | Lowell & Jeanne Jacobson | Lois Dybevik |
| | Kelly Bannyas | Lois Dybevik |
| | GIFTS | |
| | Macy Fuller | Gift for Axel McElmury (for his baptism) |

Silence in Conversations by Erika Olsen

Be still and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

Reflection

Silence in conversations can feel awkward. We often rush to fill pauses with words, afraid of discomfort. Yet Psalm 46:10 reminds us that stillness invites us to recognize God's presence. Silence isn't empty; it creates space for listening, reflection, and wisdom. Jesus modeled this beautifully. He paused before responding, spent time alone in prayer, and allowed others to speak. He understood that silence can be more powerful than words. His example reminds us that we don't always need something to say. Sometimes, simply being present is enough. Allowing silence in our conversations opens the door to deeper connection. It gives others room to process their thoughts and shows that we value listening over speaking. With God's help, we can learn to be comfortable with silence and use it as a tool for wisdom and understanding.

"Things to practice

- 1. Pause before responding in conversations to allow time for thought.
- 2. Resist the urge to fill every silence with unnecessary words.

(Continued on the Back Cover)

"So we are ambassadors for Christ..." -

2 Corinthians 5:20

Silence in Conversation by Erika Olsen (continued)

"Things to practice (continued):

- 3. Use moments of quiet as an opportunity to pray and seek God's wisdom.
- 4. Allow others to speak without interrupting or rushing them.
- 5. Practice being comfortable with silence, trusting that God is at work in it.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Teach me to embrace silence in conversations. Help me resist the urge to fill every pause with words. Remind me that listening is just as important as speaking. Give me patience to let others express themselves fully before I respond and let my stillness reflect Your peace. When silence feels uncomfortable, remind me that You are present. Help me to use quiet moments for reflection rather than anxiety. May my words, when spoken, be thoughtful and full of grace. Thank You for the gift of stillness and the wisdom it brings.

Amen.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

