

## 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*



**Worship 8:00 a.m.**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost/ Third Sunday of Stewardship  
Sunday, October 5, 2025**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Guest Preacher:** Matt Hanson **Liturgist:** Sandy Grant

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz **Lector:** Colby Smith

**Acolytes:** Lucas & Hannah Peterson

**Ushers:** Todd Skavlen, Mark Wilberg, Eric Smedal & Roger Nitzsche

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "The Journey of Praise" Olson/Brown/Baer**

### **INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY**

**P:** Come, join the journey today. Walk the road of life with Jesus.

**C: We come from different places, walking at our own speeds.**

**P:** Come, walk with the God who announces good news and delivers on God's promises! Walk with the God who gives to each one of us the Spirit of power, energy, newness and change.

**C: We come to join the journey of Jesus today!**

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

**P:** O God, we want to walk with you. We want to join the journey of faith.

**C: But we are afraid of where it will take us. Do we want to be a people who sees the glass half full – instead of half empty? Love like Jesus?**

**What about our long-held prejudices? And we don't know if we can believe that God will take care of us. To be completely honest, we'd rather take care of ourselves. We need your help, Lord. Only with the power of your Spirit can we begin to live more thankful lives, love as you love and learn to trust you more.**

**P:** Hear the good news! God is more than willing to pour out upon us the gift of God's Spirit. What we are asking will not be easy, but God calls us to walk down the road and "join the journey" of faith today.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Stand*

**OPENING SONG: "Lead Me, Guide Me"**

**Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**Vs. 1: I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain...**

**Vs. 2: Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain...**

**Vs. 3: I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain...**

**GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## LITANY

**P:** You are a treasured people of the Lord,

**C:** a people holy to the Lord our God

**P:** Keep the words of the Lord in your heart: teach them to your children

**C:** Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

**P:** One does not live by bread alone.

**C:** but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

## SONG OF PRAISE: "The Journey of Praise" Dakota Road

$\text{♩} = 130$

We are all on a jour-nay from the crad-dle  
to the grave. We are giv-en life through the price  
our Sav-ior had to pay. 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! We can feel suf-fer-ing  
there is some-one near in need. We are

giv en choice, heart, hands, voice; they are with - in our  
 reach. 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!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray

**C:** **O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot 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**

*Sit*

### FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

**1** <sup>1-4</sup>The problem as God gave Habakkuk to see it: GOD, how long do I have to cry out for help before you listen? How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police! before you come to the rescue? Why do you force me to look at evil, stare trouble in the face day after day? Anarchy and violence break out, quarrels and fights all over the place. Law and order fall to pieces. Justice is a joke. The wicked have the righteous hamstrung and stand justice on its head. What’s God going to say to my questions? I’m braced for the worst. I’ll climb to the lookout tower and scan the horizon. I’ll wait to see what God says, how he’ll answer my complaint.<sup>2-3</sup> And then GOD answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.  
<sup>4</sup>“Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—full of himself but soul-empty. But the person in right standing before God through loyal and steady believing is fully alive, *really* alive.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Stand*

**Gospel Canticle: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” Vss. 1 & 3**

**Vs. 1: I have decided to follow Jesus, (3 times)**

**No turning back, no turning back.**

**Vs. 3: Tho’ none go with me, I still will follow, (3 times)**

**No turning back, no turning back.**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>The apostles came up and said to the Master, “Give us more faith.”

<sup>6</sup>But the Master said, “You don’t need *more* faith. There is no ‘more’ or ‘less’ in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Go jump in the lake,’ and it would do it.

<sup>7-10</sup>Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, ‘Sit down and eat’? Wouldn’t you be more likely to say, ‘Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I’ve finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper’? Does the servant get special thanks for doing what’s expected of him? It’s the same with you. When you’ve done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, ‘The work is done. What we were told to do, we did.’”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**THE WORD**

*Stand*

**SONG OF THE WORD: “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” ELW #818**

**Vs. 1: O Master let me walk with you**

**in lowly paths of service true;**

**Tell me your secrets; help me bear**

**the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Vs. 2: Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love.  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**Vs. 3: Teach me your patience; share with me  
a closer dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, who leads from in front and behind,  
creating opportunities  
to love and care for the world.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ who walks with us  
down the road of life each day.**

**He is God, yet human and like us, experienced  
all of life's joys, pains and challenges.**

**He lived, he died, he rose from the dead and is with us still.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who blows like the wind at our backs.**

**The Spirit pushes us places we would rather not go.**

**The Spirit empowers us to follow the way of Jesus.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**P:** Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**P:** O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw  
us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation.

Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of  
grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring  
favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along  
with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions  
whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P;** O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need. Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P;** We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW #583**

**Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Vs. 1: Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain...**

**Vs. 2: Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use ev'ry power as thou shalt chose. Refrain...**

**Vs. 4: Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain...**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

### **BLESSINGS AND DISMISSAL**

**P:** May the love of Jesus be with you on your journey. May you feel his presence every step you take.

**C:** **We walk out to continue our journey with Jesus. We walk out into the world to find God around every corner.**

**P:** Go in peace; the journey continues!

**C:** **We walk on! Thanks be to God!**

### **SENDNG SONG: "Guide My Feet" ACS #987**

**Vs. 1: Guide my feet while I run this race. (3 times)  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 2: Hold my hand while I run this race. (3 times)**



**For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Vs. 3: Stand by me while I run this race. (3 times)**

**For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**POSTLUDE: "What Is the World Like When God's Will Is Done?" Tice**

**We have a family in need of financial support due to medical concerns. Please consider supporting one of our own in their time of need. Donations can be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church, in the memo please write "Family in Need".**

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran  
Announcements October 5, 2025**

**Welcome to worship!** May the Holy Spirit bless and nourish us as we worship together. We hope that you come again soon! If you are worshipping with us for the first time and would like more information about our congregation, please ask Pastor Paula.

**We also want to welcome all who are joining us online.** We hope you join us again. If you would like to support Christ Lutheran and its mission please go to our website [www.clcstoughton.org/giving/donate/](http://www.clcstoughton.org/giving/donate/) or QR code to the right.



**Pastor Paula is away this weekend** for the marriage of her oldest child, Matt to Jacie Ihinger. If you would like to send the newlyweds a card their address is: Matt Geister-Jones and Jacie Ihinger 7725 W 13 ½ St. Minneapolis, MN 55426

**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.

**Food and Fellowship is Wednesday Evening at 5:30** this week’s menu is 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.

**Confirmation on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. God and Games** also on Wednesday at 6:30pm for kids in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids will meet in the gym. **Upcoming Senior Excursion:** Rogers & Hammerstein’s **Oklahoma** at the Fireside on **October 10th**. We’ll meet at the church to pool rides at 10:00 a.m.

**Support our Youth** – It’s Homecoming week. Visit the 2025-2026 SASD Calendar [www.stoughton.k12.wi.us](http://www.stoughton.k12.wi.us) for upcoming events like Music, Sports, Cheer, Dance and Drama to name a few.

**Fall Music Appreciation** – Every Monday running thru 11/10/25. It is being held at the Stoughton Opera House at 3:00 pm.

**Pints and Parables** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month starting this week 10/9/25 at Viking Brew Pub at 6:30pm. We will share personal experiences or narratives about others.

**Quilt/ LWR Sunday is today.** The story of these quilts will be told. The pews are covered with quilts that our quilters have been hard at work making over the past year. Quilts can be purchased once again for \$40 each.

**Calling all Christ Lutheran Church Members and Friends** we need help in the Kitchen and Gym for the Harvest Festival on **Saturday the 11th from 9:00 to noon** we need volunteers to prepare food and the event spaces. We also need help on **Sunday the 12th from 8:00 am until about 2:00 p.m.** for various tasks. If you are unable to help in person, consider making baked goods to sell. The sign-up sheet for all volunteer opportunities is in the Narthex. **Sign Up today!!**

**Harvest Fest/ Pig Roast** will be next Sunday 10/12/25 food available from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be Crafts and Games for all ages in the Large Youth Room and a Bounce House and Hayrides in the backyard from 10:30 a.m.. There will be a Bake Sale. Cost: \$15 for Adult, \$7 for children between 5 and 12 Kids under \$5 are free. The Menu: Roast Pork (Hot Dogs for Children), Cheesy Potatoes or Homemade Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans and Coleslaw, Texas Roadhouse Buns and Swedish Rye Bread, Bars, Cookies, Desserts and Ice Cream, Apple Juice and Coffee.

**Coffee and Chaos -free open gym here at CLC** on Thursday, October 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is open for kids from Birth through Pre-K and Nursery is available. we have snacks including coffee for the adults, we read a story, do a craft and play games in the gym.

**80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Phyllis Gullickson** here at church on 10/18/25 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to Julie 608-225-4014 or Kristin 608-414-0758 by 10/11/25.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands make Stoles** on 10/19 for **Affirmation of Baptism** in the large youth room at 10:00 with Pastor Paula. **Affirmation of Baptism** is 10/26 at 1:00 p.m. **9<sup>th</sup> graders will need to be at the church by no later than 12:30 p.m. to get their robes and stoles on and to get their group photos taken.**

Senior Luncheon is on **Tuesday, October 21 at 11:30 a.m. the cost is \$12** the program is “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 and Coffee and Milk

**Youth Lock-In for Grades 5-8 on Friday, October 24 at 9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.** Bring a Friend there is **no cost** to attend.

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.

High School Youth Open Gym on the First Sunday of Every Month beginning **November 2 from 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.

**“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” Galatians 6:2**