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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/ChristLutheranChurchStoughton>

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



The Irish Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

In March everyone in this country wants to be Irish. We wear green in honor of the “Emerald Isle.” (If you have ever visited Ireland, there is no denying its lush green landscape.) We eat Corned Beef with Cabbage, Potatoes and Carrots and drink green beer. This desire to be Irish was not always the case. The earliest wave of Irish immigration came in the 1700’s – 1820. They consisted of primarily Protestants and were skilled tradespeople, teachers and professionals. They fit in quickly. The Great Potato Famine in Ireland brought 1.5 million people to our shores between 1845 – 1852. They were mostly poor, rural, uneducated Catholics fleeing starvation, with many dying during the journey or shortly after arrival. They were not as welcome. Whether it was true or not they were stereotyped as unskilled or lower- class people by American standards. I can think I can safely say that in every community throughout this country there were signs saying, “Irish Need not Apply”. I’m not sure if we had them in Stoughton or not. Stoughton was one of the first places that Norwegian immigrants came to settle or they came through and followed the Troll Way – Highway 14 – across Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota. Though not welcomed with open arms Irish immigrants provided the essential labor for building American infrastructure, working on canals, railroads, and in mines. Women frequently worked as domestic servants or in mills.

If you look at American history, you soon discover that there have been other immigrant groups that received a similar cold reception. Even before the Revolutionary War Colonists were complaining that Britain was emptying their jails and using the colonies as a dumping ground for their convicts. Slaves came unwillingly by force from 1619 – 1808.

While the Irish worked on the railroad starting on the east coast and heading west, approximately 12,000 to 20,000 Chinese immigrants were hired between 1865 and 1869 to construct the western portion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Facing a labor shortage, the Central Pacific Railroad began hiring them in early 1864, with their numbers growing to comprise 80-90% of the workforce. They worked under harsh conditions to complete the line. But once the railroad was finished, the United States put up a “No Welcome” sign with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Italians, Greeks and Russians started making their way to our shores in the early 1900’s. The Immigration Act of 1924 limited their numbers with restrictive quotas. And during the World War II era the U.S. denied entry to many European Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. Their excuse – fear of Nazi infiltration.

But there can be no denying that each one of these groups have made their own contributions and added flavor to what we know as America. They have helped make us what we are today. According to AI “it has led to intense innovation, economic growth, and superior problem-solving by blending varied perspectives. It has fostered a more resilient, dynamic society that leads to a strengthened democracy, increased social cohesion, and enhanced productivity in workplaces and communities. I don’t necessarily agree with everything AI says, but I think it is spot on with this conclusion.

MARCH WORSHIP NEWS



March Worship Schedule

Traditional Worship – 8:00 a.m. Worship Express – 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, March 1: Worship with Holy Communion

In today's gospel a curious Pharisee visits Jesus at night. He wants to learn more from this teacher, but he doesn't want his friends to know he finds this man fascinating. Jesus knows his motivation, but is still more than willing to graciously engage in conversation.

Preacher: Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



Time to
Spring Ahead

Sunday, March 8: Worship and New Member Sunday

In today's gospel Jesus defies social conventions and engages in conversation with the Samaritan woman. She will show up at worship herself to share her story. And yes, this is the Sunday you set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Preacher: The Samaritan Woman

Sunday, March 15: Worship with Holy Communion

In today's gospel Jesus heals a man born blind. You would think people would find that amazing and rejoice alongside of the man, but instead the healing provokes a hostile reaction.

Preacher: Sandy Grant

Special Music: Chancel Choir and First Class Ringers

Sunday, March 22: Worship

Today one of Jesus' best friends die. The gospel reading has the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept." Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days when Jesus finally shows up and raises him from the dead. What does that tell you? Even when things look utterly hopeless, there is still hope?

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday Worship with Holy Communion



We go through the story of Holy Week from the procession into Jerusalem on Sunday through Jesus' death on the cross. Easter is not Easter if you do not hear the whole story. **At the 9:15 a.m. Worship Lite Service** the young people will help us tell the story from start to finish beginning with a **procession of decorated wagons, leading the congregation in one of my favorite songs, "He'll be Riding on a Donkey When He Comes", our 3 year olds receiving their first Bibles and the 2nd Graders sharing the story of Good Friday** with the help of the congregation, using the cross as well as the rope, robe, nails, dice, sponge and crown of thorns.

Preacher: Pastor Paula



**Lent continues with worship on
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.**



Our Order of Worship is once again Holden Village Evening Prayer and of course, there will be candles. For our Lenten Series we continue taking a closer look at Ten Commandments. We studied them in confirmation, but may not have thought much of them since. We, as a community of faith, have already discovered some interesting things – things that very much to speak to our lives today.

Wednesday, March 4 – The Sixth Commandment and Seventh Commandments

“You shall not commit adultery” and “You shall not steal.”

Wednesday, March 11 – The Fifth Commandment

“You shall not murder.”

Wednesday, March 18 – The Fourth Commandment

“Honor your father and your mother.”

Wednesday, March 25 – The First, Second and Third Commandments

“You shall have no other gods,” “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,” and “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m.

Join Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room and share the Passover meal for the last time. 4th Graders and their parents will be there to celebrate their completion of First Communion Instruction. The bread used that night will be bread they baked the day before in the church kitchen.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel Choir

Good Friday, April 3 – Worship at Noon and 6:30 p.m.

It has become a tradition at Christ Lutheran to use a Tenebrae service entitled, “The Way of Sorrows,” on Good Friday. Through music, scripture readings and psalms the story of Jesus’ crucifixion is told. They all help us to slow us down and reflect upon the events of the day.

Readers: Jen Hoffman and Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel Choir and Soloists

**Easter Sunday, April 5 – Worship with Holy Communion at 8:00
and 9:15 a.m.**

It never gets old. For 2000 years Christians have gathered on Easter Sunday to announce once again the good news that “Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed!”

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel Choir and First Class Ringers





Lenten Supper Menus for March

Supper is served from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. A donation of \$8 per person is requested. Come and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. There is a GF option at every meal.

A minimum donation of \$8.00 is requested to help cover the cost of food.

Wednesday, March 4

Chile or Potato Bacon Chowder, Grilled Cheese, Egg Salad, Apple or Cherry Crisp with Ice Cream, Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, March 11

Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Green Salad, Cookies and Ice Cream, Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, March 18

Beef Stew, Salad, Swedish Rye and White Buns, Bread Pudding and a variety of Pies, Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, March 25

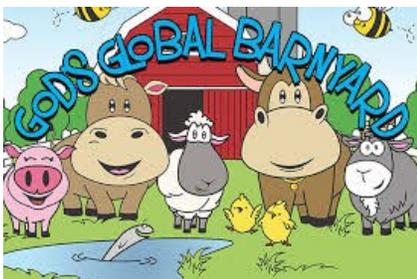
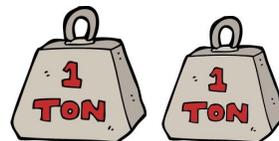
Meatloaf, Cheesy or Baked Potatoes, Green Beans and Salad, Swedish Rye Bread Rice Krispies and Cookies, Coffee, Milk and Apple Juice



Totals of Food Pantry Drive as of Thursday, February 19

Christ Lutheran has been collecting food for the Stoughton Food Pantry since the first Sunday in January. At this point we have collected 3566 pounds of food. 434 more pounds to go to make our goal. That is really good.

Remember – this year \$2 = one pound. In past years it was \$1 = 1 pound. We had to collect twice as much cash. \$4690 has been donated. Thrivent helped us reach our goal by donating 2 - \$250 Seed Actions Grants. The 5th – 8th Graders made their yearly grocery run to Wal Mart and Aldis and brought 391 pounds back with them. The Sunday school classes were having a contest. The class that brought in the most poundage won a party. The Pre-Kindergarten class won with 102 pounds.



ELCA's God's Global Barnyard

During Epiphany we focused on feeding people in our community. During Lent we raise funds for the **ELCA's God's Global Barnyard** to feed people who are part of our global community. Let's see how many cows, goats, sheep, pigs, chickens and bees we can buy. When you give a family chickens or a cow or a pig they not only eat, but have a means of producing an income that will send their children to school and give them hope for tomorrow.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

In the book of Acts of the Apostles, I enjoy reading of the exploits of the Apostles after Jesus' ascension to God the Father. It is hard to imagine what it would have been like to be there to see for ourselves, the wondrous things that God made happen in those days of the early church. It was simply an exciting time of many miracles taking place at the hands of the Apostles, and mass conversions of Jews and Gentiles when they heard the message of what Jesus Christ did for them to put them right when standing before God.

Peter and Paul's journeys are recorded telling the joys and hardships they and their helpers (future leaders) came across as they went from city to city in Greece, Macedonia and Asia. In chapter 20, Paul ends up in the city of Miletus and has the leaders of the church in Ephesus come to him as he bids them Good-Bye. He tells them they would not see each other again as he is on his way to Jerusalem, even after they try to talk him out of going there. In verse 32, Paul shares with them his faith in God and God's Holy Spirit when he says:

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous God whose gracious Word can make you into what He wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends." It is God's Word that changes us and makes us into what God wants us to be.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We love to have everyone get involved in whatever way that they are called to participate. We still have many volunteer opportunities for one time help or multiple times helping for the following: lecturing, kitchen help, bringing treats on Sundays, or ushering at the 9:15 a.m. service. We can also use help at all of our upcoming events: Mardi Gras, Lenten Suppers, GARAGE SALE, Easter Breakfast, Sunday School Sock Hop and Syttende Mai. Below are links to our Sign-Up Genius for the events listed above. You can call Jean in the office for any questions or to sign up to help as an usher or lector. Or call Jenny for any questions or to help in the kitchen for Meals and Memories, Food and Fellowship or Sunday Morning Kitchen help and/or to sign up to bring treats on Sunday morning. To contact Jean or Jenny you can call 608-873-9353. You can also access the link to the volunteer signups below on our website at :

<https://clcstoughton.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Lenten Suppers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-58551832-wednesday>

Garage Sale:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-58551465-garage>

Garage Sale Baking Dates Below:

Friday, March 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Sunday March 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

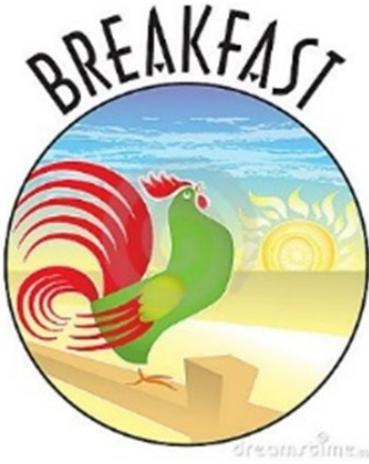
Easter Breakfast:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-58520546-easter>

Sunday School Sock Hop:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-58551469-copy>





Join us for Easter Breakfast...
Sunday, April 5, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Menu...
Scrambled Eggs with Ham
Breakfast Casserole
Cheddar Cheese and Bacon Egg Bake
Pancakes with Homemade Apple Sauce
French Toast with Strawberries
and Whipped Cream
Fresh Fruit
A Variety of Breads
Coffee, Juice and Milk

FREE WILL DONATION
Profits go towards the mission trip to Alaska. To help cover our costs please consider a minimum donation of \$8 per person.



Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt and More
MEET IN THE NARTHEX AT 9:00 A.M.

Please be on time. This event takes all of ten minutes. Older and Younger youth are split up and look for eggs in different places. All it takes is one egg to win a bag of candy. Kids will meet in the Narthex and will be split up by age groups. This event will be held either inside or outside depending on the weather.

This year following the 9:15 a.m. Service we will have sack races and egg relay races for any kids that are interested. We will either do these in the Sunday School Hallway or outside weather permitting.

Please note that there is no Sunday School this weekend. The Easter Bunny will be here throughout the morning so your kids can say hi or have a family picture taken.



Ladies Night Out
Thursday, June 11
3:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Ladies and men – enjoy discovering all the businesses in Stoughton, the deals offered at each stop and the all the door prizes given away at The Chorus Public House at the end of the evening. This is a great way to enjoy a night out with friend, get some great deals on local merchandise, have a chance to win a prize from a local business and at the same time support local charities. This is the biggest fundraiser for our Social Concerns Board and 100% of the proceeds from our local sponsors and from the sale of the tickets go towards supporting programs that directly help member of our community. Please join us for a fun evening.



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

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

What: Free Open Gym for kids and families

When: Friday March 20th, 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 new friends. Our Theme this month is: **Spring**



School Lock-In - Grades 5 – 8

Friday, May 1 st

9:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20



Kids in grades 5 through 8 are invited to Come join the fun! Activities will include Cosmic Bowling at Viking Lanes with fries and cheese curds, games and food at the church and a Nerf War! Sleep is optional BUT, BRING A SLEEPING BAG AND PILLOW. Breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m. Parent pickup at 7:00 a.m. BRING A FRIEND



Vacation Bible School Wednesday Nights for 4 weeks

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. dinner—6:00 p.m. VBS starts in the Sanctuary)

Dates: Wednesday, July 29, August 5, 12, and 19.

Theme: Under the Sea

Cost: Free to all (this is open to the community for kids ages 3 through 6th grade).

We have selected our VBS program for 2026 and it is called “Under the Sea”. Mark your Calendars for **four consecutive Wednesday Evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting on July 29th and continuing August 5th, 12th and 19th.** Kids will share a meal with their family and friends in the café then move to the sanctuary for our large group opening. Each week we will have a short skit, followed by small group activities. Small Groups will read a short Bible Story and discuss with their peers, they will have themed Music and games, a craft, and/or an experiment and even a themed craft. Each week has it’s own story so even though the theme runs throughout kids can join in all or some of the weeks and still be able to navigate through the lessons in their teacher led groups. There will be sheets sent home each week so you can have discussions or do activities together as a family to support that week’s lesson.

Parents/ Grandparents: If you are interested in helping or if you have items at home that we could borrow for this theme please let Jenny know at JennyH@clcstoughton.org or call at 608-873-9353.





We have some special events happening during March in Sunday School. On **Sunday, March 8th** our 2nd Graders will meet with Pastor Paula, their parents and one of their teachers to learn more about Lent and make a Lenten Cross. Then on **Sunday, March 29th during the 9:15 a.m. Palm Sunday service** they will talk with Pastor Paula and the congregation about the symbols of the Lenten Cross.

On **Sunday, March 15th** our Sunday School classes will be making their parade floats which they will parade around the church during **Palm Sunday on March 29th at the 9:15 a.m. service.**

On **Sunday, March 29th** our 3 year-olds and their parents will be asked to come forward **during the 9:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Service** to receive their 3 year-old Bibles. Then during their 10:00 a.m. Sunday School class our 3 year-olds and their parents and teachers will learn more about the Bible's that they receive.



Children's Church (Bible Story, Game, and craft)

When: Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Where: In the Gym

Who: Kids from 3 years-old through 6th Grade.

Themes we will cover in March as part of the 6 week's of Lent: The Golden Rule, Compassion and Service, Forgiveness and Repentance, Faith and Humility. We will examine these concepts through stories in the Bible that are not often covered during in our Sunday School curriculum. Kids will get to interact with a Bible Story through the Word using many different styles of learning (i.e. Crafts, Games, Experiments, Snacks, and Object Lessons). .



4th Grade – First Communion Instruction continues for three more Sundays in March. The dates are: March 1st, 8th and 15th at 10:50 a.m.

4th Grade Students and their Parents will meet with Pastor Paula to receive First Communion instruction. **Wednesday, April 1st at 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** 4th Graders: Meet with Pastor Paula and Jenny Hoffman to make bread for the church service on **Maundy Thursday April 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** where 4th Graders will receive their 1st Communion.



Reminder that our Confirmation students are expected to attend the Lenten services on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. instead of the classroom instruction. They should attend the Wednesday night services and fill out a sermon note each week and turn it in. We will resume classroom instruction on **Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.** Please note that we will continue having Wednesday evening meals each week throughout Lent and we hope that you can join your kids in a meal and attend services with them. It is a great experience as a family and we hope to see you all there.



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2026
Monday, July 20 – July 26
Youth in Grades 7-12 and ALL INTERESTED ADULTS
Cost: \$500 \$450 after \$50 campership

The trip is in late July. We will be home before football starts. As always, to keep our costs down, we pack out our own food and tents and provide as many of our own Duluth packs as possible. We have 15. The Outfitter provides the canoes, paddles, life jackets, a few Duluth packs, bunkhouse accommodations for Monday, July 20, breakfast the following morning and a shower when we come off trails.

We leave early Monday, July 20. By early I mean at 6:00 a.m. That means you need to be at the church by 5:30 a.m. to pack. Why so early? We have 500 miles to travel. Bring food to snack on in the vehicles. We stop at Duluth harbor for lunch. Bring a packed lunch if you like, but food MAY be purchased there. We arrive in Grand Marais around 4:00 p.m. We hang out for a while and have pizza at Ole and Lena's around 5:30 p.m. After eating we finish the trip up the Gunflint to Voyageur Outfitters. The cost of that meal is part of the trip.

What do you do in the Boundary Waters? You paddle, portage, cook your meals over an open fire, swim, fish, enjoy the wilderness and the people you are with. Bring a book to read and some small portable games. We come off the water between 7 - 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, shower, pack up and leave for home. The cost of the trip also covers breakfast/lunch at the Mid Trail Cafe about 30 miles south of the Outfitters on the way home. We usually arrive home about 10:00 p.m. For youth who can drive, parents may want to leave a car in the church parking lot. Once you have signed up, we will share with you a list of items that you will need to pack.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE INFORMATION DESK.

March Hymn Nerds

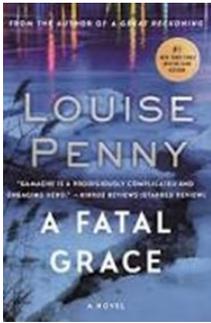
Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839-1908) played a melody to Frances Jane (Fanny) Crosby and asked, "What does the melody say to you?" Crosby replied that the tune said, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!" and proceeded to recite the entire first stanza of the now-famous hymn. "Blessed Assurance" was published in 1873. Knapp was one of several tune writers that worked with Fanny and was the composer of more than five hundred gospel hymns and tunes.

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), blind at the age of six weeks began composing hymns at age six. She became a student at the New York Institute of the Blind at age 15 and joined the faculty of the Institute at 22, teaching rhetoric and history. In 1885, Crosby married Alexander Van Alstyne, also a student at the Institute and later a member of the faculty. He was a fine musician and, like Fanny, a lover of literature.

Fanny, an author of more than 8,000 gospel hymn texts, drew her inspiration from her own faith.

Fanny was influential on the spiritual life of Presidents Martin Van Buren (8th), John Tyler (10th), James K. Polk (11th), and Grover Cleveland (22nd and 24th) as well as many others who knew her personally. She also addressed a joint session of Congress on the topic of education for the blind.

ADULT PROGRAMMING FOR MARCH



Breakfast & Books – A Book Study Sunrise Restaurant

Thursday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

We are back at it on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Please, come join us. There is always room for one more. We are currently reading “Theo the Golden” by Louise Penny. We then plan to continue reading Louise Penny’s series featuring Chief Detective Gamache called “ A Fatal Grace”.



Meals and Memories

Tuesday, March 17

Cost: \$12

Program: The Best of West Ireland: Dingle, Galway and Aran Islands

We are going to watch a short DVD by Rick Steves. I have been to Dingle and Galway and the Aran Islands and I absolutely loved it. I didn’t appreciate the roads in Ireland. Some of them have not been improved since the Potato Famine. But I found the island absolutely beautiful (It really is emerald green) and the people incredibly friendly.

Menu

- Corn Beef with Cabbage, Potatoes and Carrots (or Rubeen Sandwich by special request)
- Irish Soda Bread and Swedish Rye
- Bread Pubbing with Rum or Lemon Sauce
- Coffee and Milk



February 22: Kevin M. Wilson



February 28: Marlene A. Judd

<p style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Gifts & Memorials</p>	Given by:	In Memory of:
	Bethal Circle	Joann Roneid

30 YEARS OF VALENTINES CARDS

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

2 Corinthians 5:20



This year on February 1st through the 8th our Christ Lutheran Church Family came together for the 30th year to make Valentine's Day cards for area seniors. This year our congregation was able to deliver 150 valentines to the Stoughton community. Groups that received this year's valentines were The Meadows, Meals on Wheels participants, Dimensions Living (formally Ezra Memory Care) and our own Christ Lutheran Church Shut-ins.



Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator

Phone: 608.873.9353

Email: pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
JennyH@clcstoughton.org
office@clcstoughton.org

CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

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

Staff:

Jean Johnson Office Administrator

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary

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MARDI GRAS 2026

