



Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589

April 2026

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



Worship During Holy Week

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

This year I encourage you to attend worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter is so much more meaningful if you hear the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his arrest. You will hear once again the story of Jesus' arrest, his questioning before the Sanhedrin and Pilate and his crucifixion. It is not a "fun" story or an "entertaining" story. It is a story that speaks of our world and our experiences and hearing those stories makes Easter something to truly celebrate.

Wednesday, April 1: Bread Baking

4th Graders gather in the church kitchen from 3:30 -5:00 p.m. to bake bread for Maundy Thursday and Easter Worship with Pastor Paula and Jenny Hoffman. Parents are welcome to attend.

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

Join Jesus and his disciples in the Cenacle "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. **Special Music:** Men's Choir and Karen Warwick on dulcimer.

Friday, April 3: Good Friday 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 and **Special Music:** Karen Warwick solo on dulcimer at Noon and Chancel Choir and Karen Warwick at the 6:30 service. It's a moving service with beautiful music.

Easter Sunday, April 5: Worship with Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. 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 and **Special Music:** Chancel Choir and First Class Ringers, Chancel Choir with Trumpet and Handbells at 8:00 a.m. and Handbells, a vocal duet and Karen on dulcimer at 9:15 a.m.

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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>

APRIL WORSHIP NEWS



April Worship Schedule

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

Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday - Worship with Holy Communion

This is the reason there are Christians in the world today. This is the reason we worship on Sunday – the 1st day of the week – and not Saturday – the 7th. God raises Jesus from the dead so that creation and all life might truly have life. It is truly a day to celebrate!

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Special Music: Chancel Choir, Trumpet, Handbells, Vocal Duet and Dulcimer

Sunday, April 12: Second Sunday of Easter - Worship with Holy Communion

In today's gospel Jesus appears in the Cenacle "Upper Room" and in the midst of a grief and fear that is still raw, offers his disciples peace. He doesn't open a door to walk in. He is simply there. That still happens today.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, April 19: Third Sunday of Easter Sunday - Worship

This is one of my favorite texts – The Road to Emmaus. Two of Jesus' disciples are heading home after the event of the last three days. They are overcome with sadness, loss and disappointment when a fellow traveler joins them. The three fall into conversation as they continue the 7 mile journey, but it is only when Jesus joins them for supper and he blesses the bread that they realize who they have been traveling with. For all those who wish they would have been there that first Easter Jesus gives us the gift of Holy Communion where – if we look real close - we can see Jesus among us still.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, April 26: Hymn Sing Worship

There are not enough Sundays in the Season of Easter to sing all the wonderful Easter hymns, so come and sing everyone you love and hear in their lyrics once again the good news, "Jesus is Risen!"



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 \$10 per person.



Easter Egg Hunt

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.



Everyone is invited to a Sock Hop!
Sunday, May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to noon
50's and 60's Music, Costume Contests,
Limbo Contests and fun fifties food.

To End our Sunday School Year we are planning a good old fashioned Sock Hop for our entire congregation! . Plan to come dressed in your best 50's and 60's outfits (We will have a best dressed contest with all age categories) This is a time to celebrate another great school year here at CLC. So break out a poodle skirt or your favorite pair of blue jeans and leather jacket. We will have dancing, an old fashioned limbo contest, a hula hoop contest and some wonderful 50's themed treats for all to enjoy. This event will take place from **10:00 a.m. to Noon on Sunday, May 3rd**. Mark your calendars we hope to see everyone there!



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. Tickets will be going on Sale Late in May Check the Ambassador and the weekly bulletin announcements for updates.

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

I'm sure many of you can relate to having a question in your mind that may have been a curiosity or maybe a hard core soul searching question that you just did not know the answer to, only to hear someone speaking or read something that is exactly what you needed to hear. This is one of mine.

Years ago in college, when I was probably 19, I was in a situation where I was friends with several really "neat" girls that I and several other guys I knew thought the world of. The question I had that really weighed on me was "How do I know if I really love her or is it just infatuation that won't last?" The flip side to that question was "How do I know if she really loves me?" (I knew I didn't have to worry about the infatuation part on her end.) One of those "heavy" life questions we've probably all have gone through along the way.

As it turns out, one of the girls I really liked, told me she had gone to an adult Bible class at the church that had some older adults and some college kids and she had thought it was pretty good. She wanted me to go with next time, so I said I would. I don't have any idea what the lesson was about, but somewhere in it there was a Bible verse that was the answer to my question. 2nd Corinthians 8:9 says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." The light bulb turned on. It was as if God had said "You want to know if you love someone, there it is". I was thinking in terms of love as a noun, a thing, a feeling, but God thinks of love as a verb, an action, a giving of yourself for someone else's benefit. It was such a perfect answer for me at the time. It just made so much sense.

In case you're wondering about the girl, remember I said there was a flip side to the question. She married a guy from Wyoming, of all places. She was a lot of fun and between her and her sister could make anyone laugh. God knows what He is doing. I had a few more miles to go.

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: Easter Breakfast, Sunday School Sock Hop, Syttende Mai Meal and Ladies Night Out. 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/>

Easter Breakfast:

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

Sunday School Sock Hop:

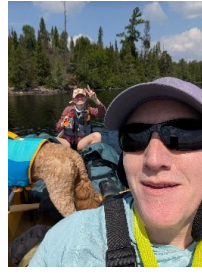
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-58551469-copy>

Syttende Mai:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-61363393-copy>

Ladies Night Out:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-63147899-copy>



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.



CLC Scholarships

This year we are pleased to once again be able to offer scholarships to help defray the cost of continuing education for the 2026-27 academic year. High school seniors and college students who are current members of CLC are encouraged to apply for scholarships.

Applications can be found at the Christ Lutheran Church office, online - <https://clcstoughton.org/christian-edyouth/> or from the church office. All CLC scholarship applications are due to the church office by **May 1st, 2026**. Additional information about CLC scholarships can also be found online. Scholarship awards will be announced as part of the baccalaureate service on **Sunday, May 31st, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**



Wednesday Evening/ Confirmation Dinners Return April 8th

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

Wednesday, April 8

Homemade Mac and Cheese or Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Fresh Veggies with Ranch Dressing Swedish Rye Bread, Rice Krispies and Cookies with Ice Cream , Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, April 15

Baked or BBQ Chicken , Cheesy or Baked Potatoes, Green Salad , Brownies with Chocolate Syrup, Raspberries and Ice Cream, Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, April 22

Chili or Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese and Egg Salad Sandwiches , Apple or Cherry Crisp with Ice Cream Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, April 29

Tacos – we will be sure to have more than enough shells, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Cookies and Ice Cream, White or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

Bacclaureate Service

On Sunday May 31st, 2026 at the 9:00 a.m. service the congregation will celebrate with all Christ Lutheran Church graduating seniors at a Baccalaureate Service. At that service, we will also be presenting CLC Scholarships to all recipients. This includes scholarships for both continuing college students and graduating seniors.



2026 High School Graduates and parents please be on the lookout for a letter that is being mailed that will ask two things from you. We will need you to provide two things back to the church via email or text message. You can send them to JennyH@clcstoughton.org or text (608-719-9680).

1. A senior photo we need these for the Slide Show that is shown on Baccalaureate Sunday and to post on our Facebook and Website. (If you do not want them on Facebook or the Website let me know when you send in the photo, but we would still like them for the slideshow shown at church.)
2. We also need your senior to answer a few questions. Where they are graduating from? What they are doing after High School? One thing that they learned this year and a favorite memory from their school days.

Please note that we need all photos and answers to the questions above by no later than **May 17th**. (Even if you cannot be present we will mention all High School Graduating seniors and share their pictures as part of our Slide show. Please help us in gathering this information. We would like to recognize and congratulate all of our High School graduates!)



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 April 17th, 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: **Gardens**



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. 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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION NEWS



Please note that there will be **NO** Sunday school on **Sunday, April 5th Easter Sunday**. We will resume Sunday School the following Sunday, April 12th.

The last day of Sunday School classes will be Sunday, April 26th but we will have a celebration on May 3rd. On our last day of Sunday School May 3rd we will have all of the kids sing the song that they have been learning with the Choir at the 9:15 a.m. service. This will be a fun way to end the year and to celebrate their hard work learning the song, "Color Your World". On Sunday May 3rd the Sunday School kids, their families and the entire congregation are also invited to a Sock Hop. Kids will celebrate with our staff and the entire congregation! The Sock Hop will go from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Kids will receive a gift, there will be food and lots of fun. Everyone is asked to dress up in their best 50's and 60's outfits and be prepared to dance, compete in a limbo and a hula hoop contest and join in on a Conga line.



Reminder that our Confirmation students will resume classroom instruction on **Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.** and that confirmation goes until **Wednesday, May 6th**.



4th Grade – First Communion Students will be Baking Bread on Wednesday, April 1st at 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. They will Meet with Pastor Paula and Jenny Hoffman to make bread for the church service on **Maundy Thursday April 2nd at 6:30 p.m.**



The First Communion Students attend the Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m. where they will receive their 1st Communion and they will help to strip the altar.

God and Games Returns April 8th!



God and Games
Wednesday evenings
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Grades 3rd – 6th

It doesn't matter if you are a regular or not, you are always welcome. Come to church and run off some excess energy with your friends. Yes, you can invite friends! 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.

ADULT PROGRAMMING FOR APRIL



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. I'm not sure what we will be reading, but please, come join us. There is always room for one more.



Meals and Memories Tuesday, April 21 Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

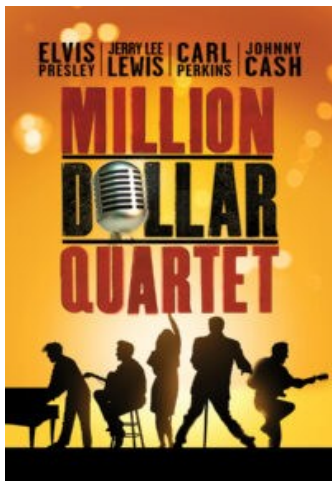
Program: "Stay Steady, Stay Independent: Simple Ways to Prevent Falls"

As soon as you turn 65 your doctor starts asking, "Have you fallen lately?" There's a reason for that. A fall can change everything — but many falls can be prevented with simple changes and increased awareness. Many falls are linked to things like lighting, medications, balance changes, or small hazards around the home. Join Gina Collins from Age Better for an engaging presentation on common fall risk factors, practical ways to improve safety at home, and strategies to stay active, independent, and confident as you age.

Menu...

Wild Rice and Bacon Soup or Bacon and Potato Chowder
Chicken Salad and Egg Salad
Green Salad
Swedish Rye Bread and Croissants
Strawberry Shortcake
Coffee and Milk

Ageless Adventures Fireside Theater Friday, June 5th



On December 4, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions of all time. MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET brings that legendary December night to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal, and celebrations that is both poignant and funny. Relive the era with the smash-hit sensation featuring an incredible score of rock 'n' roll, gospel, R&B, and country hits all performed live. Featuring such hit songs as "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Walk the Line," "Sixteen Tons," "Great Balls of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Hound Dog," and many more.

Please sign up by Tuesday, May 5th. The sign up sheet is at the Information Desk in the narthex. The cost is \$84.50 and that does include the gratuity. You know the routine. We meet at the church on the 5th to pool rides and head out to Fort Atkinson. We will be eating **UPSTAIRS**.



April Hymn Nerds

The music for the hymn “Have No Fear Little Flock” was composed by Heinz Werner Zimmermann (1930 – 2022) in 1971. Zimmermann was a German composer, who focused on contemporary sacred music. He was professor of composition in Germany, and held several honorary doctorates from the Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, U.S. His music is influenced by American spirituals and jazz. The tune LITTLE FLOCK features the syncopations typical of his jazz-flavored church music. Zimmermann chose the words of Jesus from Luke 12:32 as his basis for writing stanza 1 and Marjorie A. Jillson wrote stanzas 2-4 in 1972 to complete hymn that we sing on April 26.

New Member Sunday, March 8th 2026

We welcomed 12 new members on March 8th. Dan Nortwen, Gina Collins & Graceyn Millhouse; Jane Abing; Kiley Fluckiger; Vincent, Gretchen, William & Emeline Jankiewicz; Scott Westley, Katherine Marquardt & Calvin Westley. Please welcome them to the church!



Here at Christ Lutheran



Lisa Johnson

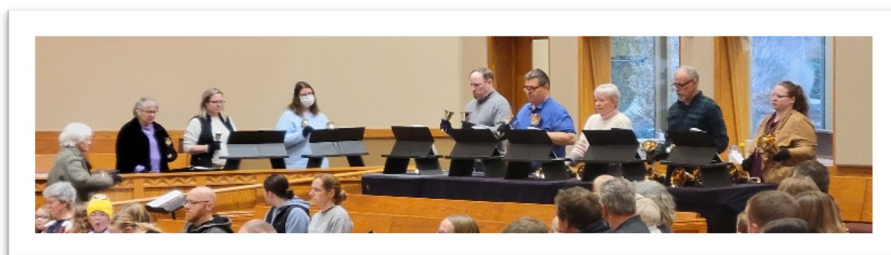
Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Outreach Specialist Dane County Extension, will be at Christ Lutheran Church, 700 Cty Hwy B Stoughton on Wednesday, June 3, 2026. She will present a 1-hour program on “Native Plants and Pollinators”. The gardening community in Stoughton is welcome to attend. More information to come....

The tentative program consists of three parts:

6:30-7:00 pm: Optional outdoor tour of Christ Lutheran’s native prairie and retention pond, flower gardens and unique and various tree species.

7:00-8:00 pm: Lisa Johnson’s Presentation “Native Plants and Pollinators”

8:00-8:30 pm: Open-mic. Your gardening questions for Lisa Johnson. This half-hour portion will resemble WPR’s Larry Meiller show.



Children's Message



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



Christ Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Jenny Hoffman, Lay Ministry
Administrator

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