

## CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

### “The Spirit Gathers”

By Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



May 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Pentecost – the day Jesus sent the gift of the Holy Spirit on his followers. I should have written that in the present tense because Jesus still pours his Spirit out upon us. And what exactly does the Spirit do? Well, in Luther’s explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed (the part that talks about the Holy Spirit) he writes, “The Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth...”

It’s the “gathers” part of that I would like to take a closer look at. Many of us come to church because our parents brought us to church. It feels more like a habit than a “gathering.” But your parents waking you up, getting you dressed and drove you to church was the work of the Spirit and the fact that you still wake up, get dressed and now drive yourself to church is the work of that same Spirit. And if you are now doing the exact same thing with your children now that is the work of the Spirit. God has, and always will work through us human beings.

But this work of “gathering” can go beyond family members. Studies show that between **70% and 85% of people** visit a church for the first time because a friend, family member, or congregational member personally invited them. And that attending with them really helps. All of us are a bit apprehensive of walking into a social gathering where we know no one.

I know we are Lutherans and Lutherans are known to be shy, but it would be wonderful if we all could invite somebody “to come – worship with me.” In July we will have two Sundays that just might be a bit more enticing. **On Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> – in honor of our 250<sup>th</sup> year as a nation – there will be an old fashioned “Pie and Ice Cream Social.”** The tradition only dates back to the 1870’s - 150 years. Not 250 years, but not bad. **And Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> is Baseball Sunday, an entire worship service planned around baseball** – America’s game with its first official game played in June of 1846. Following worship, hotdogs and brats will be served.

So folks, let that Spirit work through you. Let’s fill those pews.

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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>



**June Worship News**  
**One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Coffee before and after worship.**



**Sunday, June 7: Worship with Baptism and Holy Communion**

Jesus grew up a devout Jew so why is he eating with tax collectors and sinners. Because he is his Father's Son and he knows his Father. God loves each one of us and God's mercy and grace is for each and everyone one of us. God's love in Jesus' day included even the tax collectors and sinners. Who would it include today?

**Preacher:** Pastor Paula

**Baptism:** Evan Harter, Carrie Aide and Jared Harter's little boy



**Sunday, June 14: Worship with Holy Communion with Annual Meeting following**

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue Jesus' mission. Today Jesus sends his disciples out two by two to try it on their own. There will come a day when he will no longer be there, so it's time to try it on their own.

**Today in worship we will introduce and say a prayer for those participating in the Mission Trip to Alaska.** We leave on Friday, June 19. They include: Jane and Alexis Abing, Joshua and Adelaide Borchert, Taylor Dyreson, Alani Estervig, Danita Ewald, Jill, Ben and Anna Foltz, Pastor Paula, Greta Hanson, Jen Hoffman, Jason and Slayton Hoverson, Jennifer Merryman, Autumn Wendorf, Nina Milbauer, Graceyn Millhouse, Lori Moll, Steve, Melissa, Lucas and Hannah Peterson, Berly Teigen and Brenda Zarth.

**Preacher:** Pastor Paula



**Sunday, June 21: Worship**

God does not promise us that the path of discipleship will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to listen to what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division even within the same household. Even so, we are not to be afraid because God accounts for each hair on our head.

**Guest Preacher:** Sandy Grant



Hymn Sing!

**Sunday, June 28: Worship with a Hymn Sing led by Linda Kunz**

Today in the gospel lesson Jesus promises that the simplest act of giving water to a thirsty "little one" serves Jesus Christ. From worship each week we are sent into the world to serve the "little ones" of this world. Through our words and actions God's love is made real.

## Coming up in July....

**On Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in worship and afterwards with a Pie and Ice Cream Social.**



We are a country of immigrants. People from over 200 countries and territories have immigrated to the United States. 800,000 Norwegians immigrated to the United States between 1825 - 1929. They came for the freedom. They came for the promise of cheap land and a chance to better their lives. They came and contributed towards making us who we are today.

Anyone remember Pie and Ice Cream Socials? They have been an American tradition since the 1870's. Before summer rec programs and traveling teams filled our summer calendars, communities across this nation would entertain themselves with Pie and Ice Cream Socials. Practically every church in the town would host one. They gave the community a chance to get together, share some great treats and socialize.



### **Baseball Sunday – Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**



Families - this service is for you!!! It will keep the kids entertained. The service begins with our country's national anthem and first pitch and continues with a Hula Hoop Hustle, a Beach Ball Bounce the famous Dance Cam and you can't miss out on the Seventh Inning Stretch with Peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite team's jersey!

Immediately following worship a Baseball Brunch will be served – brats, hot dogs, chips, beans, orange and root beer floats. There will be baseball themed games in the hallways, Narthex, Manna Café and outside.

**These are two Sundays you might want to invite a friend or new neighbor to attend!**

### **Congregational Meeting**



### **Christ Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Sunday, June 14**

**Immediately following worship in the Manna Café  
Agenda: Election of New Officers**

### **New Stove in CLC's Future**

It looks like there is a new stove in CLC's future. Repairs were made on Monday, May 18 at a cost of \$4300, but it still is not like new. Some of the most needed parts are no longer available. We can limp along for a while, but sometime this year a new one will be needed. This item was not in our budget so we will be looking for contributions. We will be ordering directly from the company – eliminating the middle man. The cost will be \$12,000.



### **Where Are You and What Are You Doing Now?**

Christ Lutheran has been giving scholarships to our young people for a number of years. We are hoping a few of them will let us know where they are and what they are doing so we can include that information in our next Ambassador. Maybe mom and dad will share some news.



### First Lutheran Church in Janesville Flooded April 17

Do you remember the flooding of First Lutheran in Janesville on April 17? The community received 7 inches of rain in just a few hours. First Lutheran Church in Janesville is undergoing a major recovery effort after over four feet of water destroyed its first-level building systems and electrical infrastructure. The building is currently closed, church leadership is estimating 2 million dollars in damages and assessing whether to rebuild or relocate. Insurance covers only a fraction (\$10,000) of the estimated \$2 million needed to restore the building systems. The church has launched fundraising efforts and is in a period of strategic discernment regarding its future.

We were in a similar situation 21 years ago - except for us it was a fire. Our sanctuary burned for 4 hours with 11 fire departments and 60 firefighters pouring over a million gallons of water on the flames. The church was a total loss. Over the next two years we contacted an architect from Station 19, approved a move from the east side of Stoughton to our present location, with the help of the architect we came up with a plan and built a church. We moved into our present church home in September of 2007. Following the fire we received approximately \$100,000 in gifts from people and congregations all over the country. It was brought up at council in May that perhaps we should consider extending the same kind of grace that we received to First Lutheran. Please consider making a monetary donation. and Checks can be made out to Christ Lutheran with "First Lutheran Response" in the memo line. We will write one check to First Lutheran and send it on its way with our prayers.



### Christ Lutheran Church is hosting the 2026, 12th annual Stoughton's Ladies Night Out Thursday, June 11th • 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Come early! Enjoy all the stops! Registration opens at The Chorus Public House, or the tent outside of Lotus Salon at 3:00 p.m. and Viking Brew Pub at 4:30 p.m.

**Tickets are \$25 each.**

Tickets may be purchased prior to the event at Nordic Nook, The UPS Store, McGlynn's Pharmacy or Christ Lutheran (873-9353) or the day of the event at The Public Chorus House, the tent outside of Lotus Salon, or Viking Brew Pub.

### *"A Good Time for a Great Cause"*

- Over 20 Downtown and Stoughton Stops – each with a promotion. Earn up to 5 raffle tickets when you visit the businesses.
- Over 50 businesses donating 60 plus raffle prizes. You need not be present to win.
- A Goody Bag full of coupons
- Dinner Specials at The Firing (make reservations), Tailgaters, and other stops throughout town. See the Ladies Night Out Facebook page for more details.
- There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and water. Wine and beer for purchase.



This event is organized by Christ Lutheran Church to support the ministry of Stoughton's local helping organizations. Proceeds from Ladies Night Out will be donated to Seniors in Need and START (Stoughton Area Resource Team).

## GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

Just last week, we had our High School Senior Baccalaureate Service and our 57<sup>th</sup> year of Scholarships awarded to both High School Seniors going on to college and undergraduates continuing on in college. The earliest scholarship, established in 1969, was the Christ Lutheran Scholarship. Since then, scholarships have been established in the names of Gertrude Haven-Aiken, Olav Hellekve, Judith Stolen, William and Norma Lally, Timothy Nebel, Paula Landers and Lorraine Ward. The Christ Lutheran Endowment Foundation, for the past 28 years, has also generously given out scholarships through our Scholarship committee and in the years of downturns in the investment markets has been the sole source of the scholarship funds for that year. This is just one of the many things that the Endowment Foundation accomplishes each year for our Church family.

I have only lived in Stoughton since 1990, so unfortunately never met Gertrude, Olav or Judith. I'm sure many of you, that have lived here longer, could relate many wonderful stories of having them as your friend. I had talked to Olav's niece several years back and she related how he was "Santa Claus" for about 25 to 30 families each year in Stoughton. When I finally saw his picture and envisioned him in a red suit and beard, I can imagine there were a lot of wide eyed little kids on their best behavior, at least for a little while anyway. I wish I could relate more stories of each one of the people that these scholarships were established for and I hope you will share some with me as they bring that picture we see to life. That is exactly what the Gospel writers were trying to do for us when they penned either their memories or the memories related to them by other eye witnesses of Jesus.

A man I heard speak one time, years ago, said "Evangelism is simply, one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread". In other words, seeing a need in someone else's life and doing what you can to help meet it. That is what Jesus did wherever he went and his disciples after him with God's help. The scholarships established were one form of helping to meet a need in someone's life. There are countless others: Habitat for Humanity builders, Stoughton Food Pantry, God's Global Barnyard, Meals on Wheels, Hospital volunteers, Jail Ministries, Angel Trees at Christmas, mitten, caps and scarves trees, working with people in homeless shelters to help them get back on their feet, Hospice kits for overseas, the Quilts our Quilters make each year, and the list could go on and on. Each one is a seed planted in someone's heart or mind: "So that is what a Christian is like" and those that receive such help are more apt to listen the next time someone invites them to hear God's word.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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



**Ladies Night Out Help with set-up, food prep day of the event, selling tickets, announcing and handing out prizes and clean up.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-63147899-copy>



**Join a Gardening Volunteer Group: Zone #1, #2 or #3:**

**Zone #1:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-63186261-clcgardens>

**Zone #2:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-63187579-clcgardens>

**Zone #3:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-63189598-clcgardens>



**Sunday July 5th Ice Cream Social**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-64322672-july>



**Baseball Sunday –Sunday, July 19th**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AA0FC1-64322450-baseball>

## Scholarships for our youth are important to Christ Lutheran Church.



Youth are very active at Christ Lutheran starting at a very young age. Beginning at 3-years-old kids start their journey in Sunday School. As they grow older they go from students to volunteers by participating in service work like helping at Vacation Bible School, serving meals on Wednesday evenings, becoming acolytes, and performing many different kinds of service to the church. Once they hit High School they teach Sunday School, participate in Mission Trips, attend youth activities, and raise money throughout the year to put towards mission trips and other needs at the church even helping to raise money for the yearly scholarships. This year alone the Youth raised over \$4000 towards scholarships. Needless to say our youth are active, involved and dedicated to their service to the church. These young folks are integral to the operation of many of the special events, the church services and other activities and acts of service here at church, in the community and throughout the world. This is one reason why it is important to honor their contributions to our congregation and provide them with scholarships as they find their way in the world.

Our Scholarship committee was so proud to be able to hand out 16 scholarships this year to a combination of graduating seniors and students continuing their studies. Applicants are able to apply for up to 4 years of scholarships. The Scholarship committee has money from memorials that were placed in an investment fund, from youth fundraisers, from private donors, from church groups and from the Christ Lutheran Church Foundation.

### Here is a listing of scholarships and recipients from the 2026 Scholarship committee.

- The Timothy Nebel Scholarship was given to Hailee Kellnhofer
- The Judith Stolen Scholarship was given to Lauren Model
- The Women with a Mission Scholarship was given to Evey Kellnhofer
- The William and Norma Lally Scholarship was given to Brenna Dalsoren
- The Lorraine Ward Scholarship was given to Gatlin Empey
- Moses Harris received the Paula Landers Scholarship
- Henry Brabender received the Gertrude Haven-Aiken Scholarship
- Emma Ballweg received the Olav Hellekve Scholarship
- Libby Conant and Casey Milbauer received the Youth Scholarships.
- The following received a Christ Lutheran Church Foundation Scholarship: Braden Dalsoren, Helena Kohlhoff, Cassidy Link, Dana McCoy, Kai Sickles and Paige Swatek.



The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the groups and individuals that help support and fund Christ Lutheran Scholarships to our college-bound young adults. We have a number of endowments that each support specific scholarships. In addition to these, the CLC Foundation was generous in designating \$16,000, the CLC Youth group \$4518, Women with a Mission donated \$1000, and two anonymous gifts were received for a total of \$2750. On Sunday, May 31st we were able to award 16 total scholarships. On behalf of our scholarship recipients we appreciate your generosity! We are continually amazed at the generosity of our congregation. Thank you very much.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION NEWS



### 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:** Lost at Sea

**Cost:** Free to all

(this is open to the community for kids ages 3 through 6th grade)

The VBS program for 2026 is "Lost At Sea". During VBS kids will join the crew of the **USS Everfind** (join Captain Brunch, Everett and Everleigh and their merry crew), with the mission to find what has been lost. Their latest mission is to determine the whereabouts of the lost cruise ship, **Seablunder**, and her passengers. Along the way, kids will learn that God has a passion for finding lost people and bringing them back to him.

Each week our VBS Crew of Sailors will share a meal with their family and friends in the café then move to the sanctuary for our large group opening. Where 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, games, a craft or an experiment all following our "Lost at Sea" theme. 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.

**Congregants:** If you are interested in helping or if you have décor or stuffed animals at home that we could borrow for our sea/nautical theme please let Jenny know at

**JennyH@clcstoughton.org** or call at **608-873-9353**.

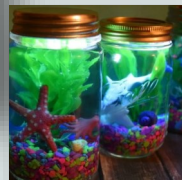
### Weekly Themes:

**Week #1:** Lost at Sea

**Week #2:** Finding the Wreckage

**Week #3:** Underwater Exploration

**Week #4:** Island Rescue and Finding the Treasure



**Open Gym here at CLC - Coffee, Chaos and Community.** (Skipping June and will start again in July) Families with little ones, we will also have the nursery open.

**What:** Free Open Gym for kids and families

**When: Thursday** (new day of the week) , **July 16th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Who:** This is open for kids from birth through 3rd grade. The 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 in July is: **Circus Parade**

## ATTENTION GARDENERS



Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
at Christ Lutheran Church  
700 County Hwy B, Stoughton WI

# Native Plants and Pollinators

presented by

**Lisa Johnson**



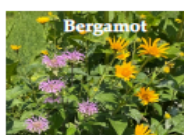
Lisa has over 30 years of experience educating Wisconsin gardeners. She has a background in horticulture and sciences communication, manages the Dane County Extension "Teaching Garden", writes a weekly column in the Wisconsin State Journal, leads Green Thumb Gardening class series, and appears on WPR's Garden Talk.

Horticulture Outreach Specialist

Dane County Extension



Chestnut



Bergamot



Cellulose  
Mining Bee



Iron Plant



Culver's Root

## Program Schedule

- 6:30-7:00 pm: Outdoor Tour: Christ Lutheran's native prairie and retention pond, flower gardens, and select tree species. (weather permitting)  
7:00-8:00 pm: Lisa Johnson's presentation: "Native Plants and Pollinators"  
8:00-8:30 pm: Open Mic: Ask your gardening questions for Lisa.

## Free Perennial Plants

The gardeners caring for the **large, triangular shaped island** in the parking lot have decided to reduce the amount of care required. Thus, we are giving away or will destroy everything in that island except the large maple tree.

CLC members: You may have any of the plants you'd like that are growing in the above-described parking island. **It's the only island containing a large maple tree.**

In June, the iris will be blooming and you can select whatever you like at your convenience. Bring a shovel or if you're a garden volunteer you already have access to the shed and can use a shovel from there.

These are plants growing in that island:

- Sedum
- Short, early blooming, yellow Iris,
- Tall, bearded Iris (yellow, light blue, purple/white, yellow/brown)
- Japanese Iris, deep purple and quite hardy, later blooming
- Peonies, various colors
- Russian Sage, blue
- Daylilies (limited quantity)

Later this summer, what is left will be destroyed. After all undergrowth is dead, Bob Kluge will plant shrubs in the 3 corners. A landscaper will cover the area with weed barrier and rocks.

The maple tree has shallow roots and takes most of the available moisture making it difficult of other plants, except weeds, to thrive. The solution is to keep the maple tree and plant only a few shrubs we believe will tolerate the environment.

# Syttende Mai 2026



## ADULT PROGRAMMING FOR JUNE



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

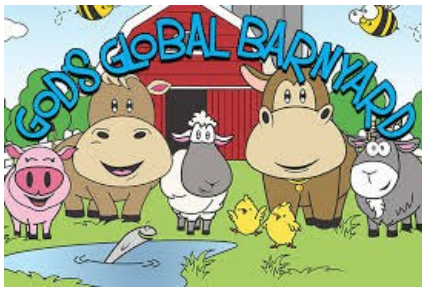
We meet through the summer on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome. The book we are currently reading is “The Book Club for the Troublesome Women.” please, come join us.



### **Meals and Memories**

Meals and Memories is taking a few months off this summer. **It will be back in August**, but on the second Tuesday of the month. In September we return to our usual third Tuesday of the month. If you have any menu or programing suggestions please share them with Pastor Paula or Jen Hoffman.

**ELCA’S God’s Global Barnyard**, during the Easter Season, we raised funds to feed people who are



part of our global community. We are continuing that fundraiser for a few more weeks. 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. Checks can be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church, in the memo line please indicate ELCA’s God’s Global Barnyard. The total raised so far is \$1135.00. That is wonderful, let’s see how much more we can put together to contribute to this wonderful cause that helps fight global hunger throughout the world.

### **Elizabeth Circle News**

Elizabeth Circle has reached a milestone. June 1, 2006 we started supporting a missionary through the ELCA Global Missions with a yearly gift of money. Since 2006 we have supported three different missionaries. This year is the 20th year that we have given our support to a missionary. The current missionary that we are supporting is Rev. Kirsten Engstrom.

From Kirsten Engstrom: “I serve as the ELCA representative with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, one of the largest and fastest growing Lutheran churches in the world. I have been an ELCA global missionary since 2016, serving first in Senegal and then Zambia, before coming to Madagascar.”

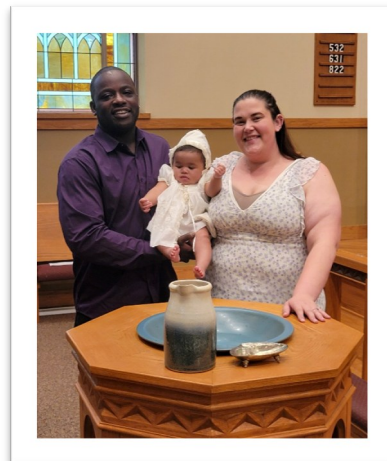
Congratulations to this small group of women and their willingness to support this mission every year! **Happy 20th!**

## June Hymn Nerds



The Hymn of Joy is a poem written by Henry van Dyke in 1907 and at his suggestion this poem was to be paired with the "Ode to Joy" melody of the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's final symphony, Symphony No. 9.

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" is a celebration of light over darkness, joy over despair, and the unbreakable human spirit. Dr. Van Dyke, a minister and English professor, infused his poem with a profound Christian hope, creating a timeless masterpiece that continues to uplift and inspire, echoing the eternal dance of joy in the human heart.



Dear CLC Scholarship Committee-

We wanted to send you a very heartfelt thank you for the 3 years of scholarships you have provided for Griffin. When he first started NDSU, he was a walk on and did not receive an athletic scholarship. The scholarships from CLC were so helpful to him and to our family. The past year, Griffin was placed on a full scholarship, and we were so proud of all of his hard work. Because of this, we will not be applying for a CLC scholarship for Griffin this year. Thank you again for all the good your committee does as it makes a huge difference in the lives of local families.

With gratitude,

Bob and Lyn Empey

5/10/2026: Xamira  
Sandra-Anne Henderson  
daughter of Ariel Annen and  
Xavarus Henderson

# Sock Hop 2026

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

2 Corinthians 5:20



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*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

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