

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

4th of July

“Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom”

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



Galatians 5:1 “Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.”

On July 4th Americans will celebrate the 250th year since declaring ourselves free of tyrannical rule of King George III. Of course it took 8 years, 4 months and 15 days of a Revolutionary War to make it happen.

Why did we want our freedom?

We had basically been governing ourselves for 150 years. It was the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763) that changed things. Both the Americans and English contributed to the cost of the war in soldiers, equipment and supplies, but the English wanted to be repaid for their effort. They taxed us without representation. That did not sit well with our Founding Fathers and Mothers.

All was well as long as we were content to be Great Britain's supplier of raw materials: tobacco, timber, naval stores, rice and indigo, but the day came when we were tired of sending everything to Britain to be turned into manufactured goods and then being their market for them.

We were tired of being treated like second class citizens. We may have seen ourselves as British citizens, but Britain saw us as an economic asset and subordinate.

In Galatians Paul is encouraging the Galatians to celebrate the freedom that is theirs through Christ's death and resurrection. Elsewhere in Paul's letters he is talking about being freed from the law, but he is not talking to Jews in the diaspora. His audience is Gentiles. What are they free of?

They are free of the numerous Roman gods and their capricious behavior. They exhibited human flaws on a cosmic scale: pettiness, jealousy, cruelty and unchecked power. Mortals were seen as pawns. Their primary purpose was to appease the gods with their offerings.

Paul shared the good news of a God who loved us so much that God sent God's one and only Son to die for us. What a difference. This God sees us not as “pawns”, but beloved sons and daughters and calls us as partners in God's mission to heal the brokenness of this world. *(Continued on page 6)*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship News	2
Upcoming Events	3
New Stove Needed	3
Lutheran World Relief Kits	4
Go and Tell	5
Volunteer Opportunities	5
Where Are They Now	6
Coffee and Chaos	6
Vacation Bible School	7
July Calendar	8
July Helpers	9
Breakfast and Books	10
Meals and Memories	10
Ageless Adventures	10
Help Needed	10
July Hymn Nerds	11
May Baptisms/ Baccalaureate	11
Scholarships 2026	BC

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>

Summer WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July Worship News
One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee before and after worship.
Special music planned for almost every Sunday.

Sunday, July 5: Worship with Holy Communion



Jesus is a bit frustrated in the gospel reading for today. He scolds the people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. No matter what John did or Jesus does it is never the right thing. Jesus thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer. God is bound and determined to be gracious to us no matter our response.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, July 12: Worship



Today in the gospel reading Jesus tells the story of the Sower and the Seed. It usually has each one of us asking what kind of soil are we, but the point of the story is that seed is sown in every kind of soil. God wants to give everyone a chance to hear the good news of God's kingdom.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, July 19: Worship with Holy Communion (Baseball Sunday)



Jesus' parable today talks about the reality of evil in this world. We know it exists. We have all felt its impact on our lives. So what are we to do? Perhaps the answer is to be found in the wisdom of today's reading. Because of God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope God's people are encouraged to show kindness.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Today in worship we share a prayer for those participating in the canoe trip up the BWCA this coming week. We leave Monday Morning, July 20 at 6:00 a.m. They are Ben Foltz, Pastor Paula, Greta Hanson, Jennifer Merryman, Autumn Wendorf, Jason Klentz, Graceyn Millhouse, Sophie Geister-Jones and Ryan Marz.

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, July 26: Worship



Jesus has spent the entire chapter 13 in Matthew telling parables (stories) about the Kingdom of God. What is he talking about? In today's gospel reading Jesus tells a few more short parables that explore the implications of God's kingdom drawing near in people's lives.

Guest Preacher: Jenelle Hoffman

Coming this month....

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

On Sunday, July 5th we will celebrate our country's 250th 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 immigrated to the United States. 800,000 Norwegians immigrated to the United States between 1825 - 1929. They came for their 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 19th



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.

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 for the repair bill and the new stove will be between \$20,600 (13800 for the stove, freight and installation \$2500 plus the repair that has been made to the current stove \$4300). There is no rush. We have been operating for the last two years without one burner and half of the grill not working. There has been some talk about a "free stove" that is available. That stove does not meet the needs of the kitchen.

Please get behind this fundraiser. Our stove gets a lot of use with Wednesday Evening Suppers, Lenten Suppers, Senior Luncheons, Harvest Fest, Advent Beginnings, Mardi Gras, Easter Breakfast, Syttende Mai Brunch and Bake Sales. \$500 has already been donated to this cause. The youth have donated \$5000. We are already at \$5,500. That is a good start, but still quite a ways to go.



Lutheran World Relief

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Summer is the season for Garage Sales, so when you are out and about in the coming months keep in mind that we are now collecting for items for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. Garage sales are an excellent place to look for items.

What you'll need...

Baby Care Kits

TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
ONE jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
TWO pairs of socks
ONE hand towel, dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

Personal Care Kits

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
ONE adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap
ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging *

School Kits

FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
ONE pencil sharpener
ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
ONE 2 1/2" eraser
ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

GO AND TELL BY ROGER SLACK

The past few months I have been re-reading the beginning of Paul's letters to the early churches, some referring to them as "Epistles", but they are really letters like you or I would write to family and friends, because Paul considered these people his family. With a few exceptions, Paul was unable to spend a great deal of time establishing a church in these cities before being driven out of town by Jewish opposition and Roman and Greek gods tradesmen that were threatened as to their financial livelihood. Because of that persecution of Paul and his associates, there were questions that many of the newly converted Christians didn't know the answers to. Most of the letters Paul "writes" are responses to letters these new Christians sent to him. Because of Paul's bad eye sight, the result of meeting Jesus in the brilliant white light on the road to Damascus, Paul dictated his answers to his associates because "paper" was scarce and too expensive to waste using Paul's huge penmanship.

I really like reading "The Message" version as it seems more like a contemporary letter you or I would write using modern English like we speak. I like the way Paul re-explains the gospel message to the Romans in the first few chapters emphasizing what Christ did for us that we were totally incapable of doing for ourselves. He wanted people to understand there was nothing they could do to ever earn God's Forgiveness and Salvation and Heaven. This came through our faith and salvation from Jesus. The Corinthians had some major problems in that they made God's gifts through the Holy Spirit into a kind of Status competition amongst themselves. Chapters 12 & 13 are favorites of mine as they refocus our minds on what it means to be a Christian. The main witness we can be to the world is that of Love. That is what will draw people we know and love to look to Jesus as Savior and creator of the new life they may not even know they need and want.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

See the church Webpage at :

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



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

Zone #1: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-63186261-clcgardens>

Zone #2: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-63187579-clcgardens>

Zone 3: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-63189598-clcgardens>



Sunday July 5th Ice Cream Social

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-64322672-july>



Baseball Sunday –Sunday, July 19th

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094BADA72AAoFC1-64322450-baseball>

(Continued from the front cover)

The Roman gods were not the best role models. In fact, they were great examples of a sinful lifestyle. “Christ,” Paul would say, “has freed you to live differently. To really live! How do you “really live”? Be what God created us to be – helpmates and companions to one another.” Luther borrowed a great deal of his theology from Paul. Perhaps that is why he defined sin as simply selfishness and encouraged us to live entirely for ourselves. We were created to serve one another.

I suppose Christian’s Independence Day is Easter. The day God raised Jesus from the dead and said one final “NO” to sin and all the forms it takes. We have been celebrating that freedom for 2000 years. We will have a lot to celebrate when we gather to worship and celebrate both on July 5th.



Where Are They Now?



Hailee Kellnhofer: She is attending Edgewood College, and will be starting nursing school in the fall. Along with school she is currently working at Meriter Hospital as a CNA!



Lauren Model: She is heading into her junior year of college and she is working toward her nursing degree at Edgewood University. Along with school, she works as a CNA in the memory care unit at Kettle Park Senior Living. She is grateful for the opportunity to continue her education while caring for others and she looks forward to what the future holds.

Please ask your college students and young adults to share with us a little bit about what they are doing. We love to get updates.



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: 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**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



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. 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



HELPING WITH WORSHIP

July 2026

Date	9:00 AM Ushers	9:00 AM Lector
7/5/2026	Todd Skavlen, Mark Wilberg, Eric Smedal, Roger Nitzsche	Jenny Hoffman
7/12/2026	Jim Lunde, Myron Sime, Gary Gullickson	Greta Hanson
7/19/2026	Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager, Mark Holzhueter	Mike Warwick
7/26/2026	Sharon Manson, Sue Weum, Sue Walls, and Sandra Maertz	Colby Smith

Altar Committee for July: Gloria Hayne, Catherine Frye and Mya Sehmer

If you cannot make your scheduled time, please find a replacement and call Jean at the church office (873-9353) so she can update the bulletin.

ADULT PROGRAMMING FOR JULY



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. I'm not sure what we will be reading, but please, come join us.



Meals and Memories – Date Change

I was told by some folks who work the elections that there is an election on Tuesday, August 11 so the date has been changed to August 4th.

Meals and Memories is taking a few months off this summer. It will be back in August, but on the first 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.



Ageless Adventures

Jen and Pastor Paula would be more than happy to plan a few, but we need new ideas. We are looking for place to go and things to do within a two hour radius of Stoughton. We would be more than willing to repeat past adventures, we just need to know when you would be interested in going.



Help Needed!

Jen and Pastor Paula have a goal – to plan Meals and Memories and Ageless Adventures from September 2026 – May 2027 by the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 20th and hand out a brochure for everyone to take home. We need your help! We need your suggestions for programs, menus and places to go, things to do. We are running out of ideas. The Madrigal Singers always come in December and the menu always includes Meatballs, but other than that, it is wide open.

July Hymn Nerds



"Pikes Peak" also known as "America the Beautiful" was written by Katharine Lee Bates who travelled by train from Massachusetts to Colorado for a teaching position. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and found their way into her poem, including the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (the "White City" with its promise of the future contained within its gleaming white buildings), the wheat fields of Kansas, and the majestic view of the Great Plains from atop Pikes Peak.

Baptism



06/07/2026: Evan Michael Harter, Son of Carrie Aide and Jared Harter.



Front Row: (L to R) Evey Kellnhofer, Dana McCoy, Libby Conant and Kai Sickles, Back Row: (L to R) Parker Sellnow, Gatlin Empey, Moses Harris, and Carsten Koch.



Scholarships

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



Front Row: (L to R) Kai Sickles, Dana McCoy, Libby Conant, Evey Kellnhofer, Cassidy Link, Hailee Kellnhofer, Nora Knoploh, Lauren Model, Paige Swatek, Helena Kohlhoff and Emma Ballweg. Back Row: (L to R) Carsten Koch, Gatlin Empey, Moses Harris, Braden Dalsoren, Casey Milbauer and Daniel Knoploh. Not Pictured: Brenna Dalsoren and Henry Brabender.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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