

CHRIST LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Ministry Fair 2026
Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

I'm not sure how many people participated in the Ministry Fair this year. I do know about 50 adults handed in updated contact information. That's good. With so many people dropping their land lines it is hard to get in touch with many of you.

The Ministry Fair gives all who attend information about what we do as a congregation. You get two chances to hear from the committees during the year – in the Annual Report and the Ministry Fair. I think I will spend some time this year sharing with you the work of each committee. You may come to realize how much they do and how dependent we are upon our volunteers generously offering their time and talents.

Let's look at Lay Ministry for instance. Lay Ministry takes care of everything connected to worship: ushers, acolytes, lectors, choirs, special music, organist, pianist, Altar Guild (the folks who set up for communion, baptism and change the paraments), etc. This year our stewardship theme is "All are Welcome." At the Lay Ministry Booth they asked people to share their story – to answer the question, "What brought you to Christ Lutheran?" Here are some of their stories....

- Our Aunt John and Aunt Carolyn went to this church and suggested we try out the church. We love it!
- I joined after my daughter and son-in-law did.
- Christ Lutheran was close to our house so we tried it out and liked it so much we became members.
- I was baptized, confirmed and celebrated Baccalaureate at CLC. I moved away for 40 years, moved back to Stoughton and joined five years ago.
- Sherry Cress convinced us to give it a try and we fell in love with CLC.
- I got invited to sing in the choir.
- The first time we visited everyone was so welcoming.
- Christ Lutheran is a family church – multi-generational.
- I enjoyed being in a room full of supportive people.
- I came to church with some friends for the first time in 1978.
- Pastor Rilling in Prairie du Sac recommended CLC when we moved to Stoughton. We are grateful for the care!
- Friendliest congregation!
- I was baptized here 71 years ago, confirmed and married too!
- I was baptized, confirmed and married at CLC. I have been here 90 years.
- Welcoming!
- We were new in Stoughton and wanted a church with a strong youth program.

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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>

or available on youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranchurchstough1950>



NEWS FROM LAY MINISTRY



October Worship News



Sunday, October 4: Worship with Holy Communion and Quilt Sunday

This is one of my favorite Sundays. The pews will be covered with colorful quilts for the congregation to admire and purchase. The cost is \$40 and that \$40 goes towards the purchase of more supplies and helping LWR cover the cost of shipping to all corners of the world. And yes, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is actively responding to the devastating flash floods and landslides that struck Nepal on August 26, 2026. You might consider making a donation towards their effort. Write a check out to CLC and in the memo line write "Lutheran World Relief."

This is the third Sunday of our Stewardship Program. For the sermon we will take a look at the Isaiah text. God was hoping that God's people would be a peculiar people in this world. A people who would make seeing to everyone's welfare a priority. **Preacher:** Pastor Paula

Sunday, October 11: Worship and Harvest Fest

Today's gospel reading is the story about a king. This king's son is getting married and he is celebrating with a banquet - even bigger and grander than a Harvest Fest. The big surprise in the story is who comes - who doesn't - and why in the world did the king kick out of the banquet a guest improperly dressed?

Preacher: Pastor Paula

Sunday, October 18: Worship with Holy Communion

For the gospel lesson for today we have another one of Luke's wonderful parables. This one is the one about the unjust judge who will not listen to the pleas of a widow until she wears him down with her persistence. If an unjust judge finally gives this woman justice, how much more will God respond to those that call out to him. **Preacher:** Pastor Paula

(Continued from Front Cover)

- We can see the church from our house so we decided to become members and get married in the church.
- Christ Lutheran was the first church we tried after moving to here. It turned out everyone we had met already were members.
- My parents were members at the old church.
- The music and the best welcoming committee, Pastor Paula
- Pastor Scott would come over and talk about my boat so I decided to check out CLC.
- My wife made me! (The Spirit works in mysterious ways.)
- We have been attending since 2024. We love the events and connections.

Whatever your reason for being a part of our faith community, we are glad you are here and encourage you to invite others to join us!



Sunday, October 26: Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion

This is the Sunday Lutherans remember and celebrate Luther's courage. He stood up to a church that was the most powerful institution of its day and a pope was the most powerful person in the world. Why? Indulgences. The pope wanted people to believe a piece of paper paid for their sins not the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Preacher: A Visit from Katie Luther
Third Graders receive their Bibles and the Sunday School sings at the Worship Lite Service.

Affirmation of Baptism with Holy Communion at 1:00 p.m.



This year we have 8 young people affirming their faith. Eight young people will be standing in front of their families and friends and saying, "Yes, I want to be a part of God's family." Their names are... Ben Foltz, Greta Hanson, Olivia Hays, Caitlyn Helm, Slayton Hoverson, Ella Pavolonis, Autumn Wendorf and Graceyn Millhouse. **Preacher:** Pastor Paula



Update on 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 the stove is still 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.

A new stove was not budgeted, so we are looking for contributions. We will be ordering directly from the company – eliminating the middle-man. The cost for the repair bill (\$4300) and the cost of new stove (A little over \$15,000) means we hope to raise about \$19,500. (That is about \$5,000 less than first estimated.) FYI - We have been operating for the last two or three years without one burner and half of the grill not working.

Please get behind this fundraiser. Our stove is a vital part of our life together. It gets used for Wednesday Evening Food and Fellowship, Lenten Suppers, monthly Meals and Memories (Senior Luncheons), Harvest Fest, Advent Beginnings, Mardi Gras, Easter Breakfast, Syttende Mai Brunch and Bake Sales. To date \$7683 has been donated to this cause. \$4300 has been spent paying for the repair, so in designated savings we have \$3383. We just need another \$12,000.



Kids playing instruments on Rally Sunday.



The 2026/2027 Sunday School Teaching Staff receiving a Blessing on Rally Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES



Stewardship Continues in October for two more Sundays....



Sunday, October 4 is Quilt/LWR Sunday

On Quilt/LWR Sunday we focus on how people around the world feel welcomed by God and God's People through the quilts and kits Lutheran World Relief provides to every corner of the world. The pews will be covered with quilts our quilters have made this past year. Displayed in the front of the sanctuary will be all of the School Kits, Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits that we have been gathering items for throughout the summer for Lutheran World Relief. We will

"count" the quilts and kits and let you know how many have been assembled. Quilts will once again be on sale for \$40 a piece. Monies from the sale of quilts goes towards getting those quilts where they need to go. If you have been listening to the news, you know there is definitely a need.

You will also be given the chance to WIN A QUILT. The Quilters for the Ministry Fair on September 20th have photographed all the boxes filled with quilts. They will be challenging the congregation to guess how many quilts are in the boxes that will be displayed on Quilt Sunday. The person who comes the closest will WIN A QUILT. If there is more than 1 accurate guess, a drawing from the names of the winning guesses will be held.



Our Stewardship Program ends with a BIG PARTY! Harvest Fest /Pig Roast/Bake Sale – October 11



Food is served from **10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
Crafts in the Large Youth Room, Games inside and out.
Bounce House and more games in the backyard begin at 10:50 a.m.

Cost: \$15 for Adult \$7 for children 12 and under.

Any profits will go towards a new stove.

Menu: Roast Pork (Hot Dogs for Children), Cheesy Potatoes, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Texas Road House Buns, Swedish Rye Bread, Bars, Cookies, Desserts, Apple Juice and Coffee



**We ask that you return your Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets
by Sunday, October 25**

NEWS FROM OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Open Gym here at CLC for Kids from Birth to School Age - Coffee, Chaos and Community.



What: Free Open Gym for kids and families (This month we will be meeting in the Large Youth Room follow the Signs. The Nursery is also available.)

When: Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We have snacks including coffee and treats for the parents/grandparents/caregivers. We read a story, do a craft and play games and sensory activities geared toward this age group. Perfect opportunity for your kids to get some exercise and playtime in a new environment. Our Theme in October is: Fall Harvest

Sunday School News



During the month of October we will have several special things going on. The 3rd Graders will have a special lesson with Pastor Paula on October 18 in preparation to receive their Bibles on the 25. The 7th- 8th Graders will be busy with service hours this month preparing apples. We also will have a very special lesson for the Pre-K through 6th Graders on October 25 where they will learn how "It's A Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown" is a Lesson in how to have true faith, hope and how to follow your heart which is where your belief in God takes place. Invite a friend to this all school Lesson.

Milestone Ministry



3rd Graders - Receive their Adventure Bibles - Pastor Paula will talk to the 3rd Graders about their Bibles on Sunday, October 18 in Sunday school and at the 9:15 a.m. service on Sunday, October 25 all 3rd Graders will receive their Bibles.



9th Graders - On Sunday October 18 at 10:50 a.m. 9th Graders will make their stoles and walk through the Affirmation Service with Pastor Paula. Then on Reformation Sunday, October 25 at a special 1:00 p.m. service they will affirm their Faith and become adult members of the Church. Please invite family and friends to this Affirmation service.

Confirmation News



This month we have several Sundays where our Confirmation Students will be working in the Kitchen to peel apples. Parents please watch the calendar as we are happy to have you join your child for this service opportunity. The apples that the kids peel get frozen and are used throughout the year as apple crisps or pies for meals at church and as apple sauce and apple pies for the bake sales that are used to raise money for the youth. This is a great opportunity to serve the church and the youth program. Dates for apple peeling are: **October 4, 11 and 25.** Keep an eye out for changes on these dates as these may change based on when apples are available from the orchard. **Reminder that on Wednesday October 21 there will be no confirmation or any Wednesday evening activities at Christ Lutheran.**

Adult Education



Breakfast & Books – A Book Study

Starbucks, Thursday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

All Are Welcome!

We meet 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.

NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Wednesday Evening Food and Fellowship begins Wednesday, September 23



Dinner is served from 5:30–6:30 p.m. A minimum donation of \$8.00 is suggested to cover the cost of food. All are welcome to attend this meal.

Enjoy an hour of good food and fellowship!

We will start the fall out with some of your favorites...

Wednesday, October 7

Chili and Potato Bacon Soup

Grilled Cheese or Egg Salad Sandwiches

Green Salad

Cookies and Ice Cream

Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, October 14

Lasagna – with and without gluten

Buttered Noodles (for the children)

Lettuce Salad

Garlic Bread

Rice Krispies and Ice Cream

Coffee, White or Chocolate Milk and Apple Juice

Wednesday, October 21 - NO FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP, CONFIRMATION
OR GOD AND GAMES

Wednesday, October 28

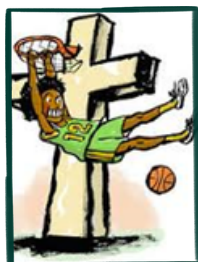
Tacos

Refried Beans

Spanish Rice

Cookies and Ice Cream

White or Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice or Coffee

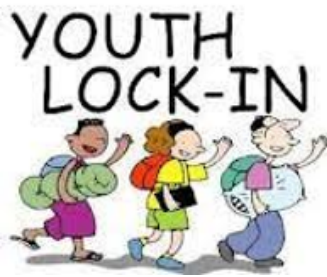


God and Games Continues...

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Grades 3rd – 6th

It doesn't matter if you are a regular or not, you are always welcome. We know many of you are still involved in rec. programs. Alani Estervig and Libby Conant would both love to meet you whenever you can make it. The evening starts out with a short devotional and continues with fun and games.



Lock-in Planned for Youth

Grades 6-8 and 9-12

Friday, October 23

The Lock-in will begin at Church and everyone will travel carpool to Schuster's Haunted Forest.



Schuster's Haunted Forest is an immersive outdoor Halloween attraction located at Schuster's Farm in Deerfield, Wisconsin, featuring a spooky tractor ride, a dark woodland trail, and cozy fall activities. **The Wagon Ride:** Your night begins with an ominous, tractor-pulled wagon ride that hauls you away from the lights and deep into the dark countryside. **The Forest Trail:** You are dropped off at a twisting, fog-laden path through the woods filled with live actors, eerie sound effects, and creepy set pieces. **Night Corn Maze:** Visitors can also navigate the nighttime corn maze, which offers different phases ranging from family-friendly to more challenging.

Tickets have not yet gone on sale for the Haunted Forest, so this is the best timeline I have to offer. Meet at the church at 8:00 p.m. to drive to Deerfield and the Haunted Forest. Tickets are \$29, but if you volunteer to help with the Pig Roast/Harvest Fest/Bake Sale your ticket price will be covered. We will spend a few hours there and head home to the church. Of course you will be fed – more than once. There will be a short devotion, games and by then a brand new BIG SCREEN TV in the upstairs youth room to watch movies on. Breakfast of rolls and juice will be served at 6:30 a.m. and parents will pick you up at 7:00 a.m. Parents who can help drive to Schuster's and chaperones for the overnight are needed. Different age groups of youth will be assigned different sleeping (or talking) areas. Be sure to bring a sleeping bag and pillow – just in case.

SIGN UP ON THE SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE INFORMATION DESK.

MISSION TRIP 2027

NAVAJO NATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 18 - 27 8TH GRADE - ADULTS

This year we are going to the Navajo Reservation in the 4 Corners Area of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Our mission starts with dinner on Sunday and ends after breakfast on Friday. Our work will primarily be home renovation with a heavy emphasis on experiencing and learning more about the Navajo Culture. On either end of the mission we will visit Chaco Canyon, Canyon de Chelly and Mesa Verde. A mailing will be going out soon with more information. Registration forms will also be on the Information Desk. This trip is for both youth and adults.



News from Parish Fellowship - Senior Ministry



Sign up for all events at the Information Desk or call 873-9353 to let us know you are coming.

**FEEL FREE TO INVITE A FRIEND!
THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE!**

Meals and Memories



Tuesday, October 20

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: "Ghost Stories about Stoughton's Haunted Buildings"

A number of guests will join us and share their first-hand spooky experiences in Stoughton's haunted buildings.

Menu: Barbecue Ribs or Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rye Bread, Strawberry Rhubarb, Apple or Cherry Pie with Ice Cream, Coffee and Milk



Tuesday, November 17

11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00

Program: Old and New World Foods

We will take a look at the foods we eat and do our best to guess where it came from originally; Old World, New World or the Asia-Pacific.

Menu: Turkey and lots of Dressing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans and Squash, Orange Jell-o with Mandarin Oranges, Cranberries, Pumpkin or Apple Pie with Ice Cream, Milk and Coffee

Pictures from the Ministry Fair





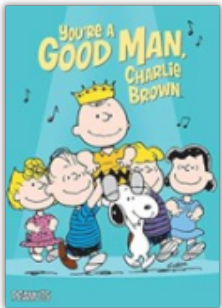
Friday, October 16

Milwaukee's Public Museum – Natural History

Cost: \$21

We are making a trip to the big city again to visit the Milwaukee Public Museum. We leave the church at 9:00 a.m. The museum opens at 10:00 a.m. After spend two to three hours viewing the exhibits, we will stop somewhere for lunch on the way home. The Milwaukee Public

Museum is a natural and human history museum in the Westtown neighborhood of Milwaukee. The museum was chartered in 1882 and opened to the public in 1884. The museum has three floors of exhibits and the first Dome Theater in Wisconsin in its current complex on West Wells St. With over 500,000 visitors per year, it is the most visited museum in the state.



Thursday, November 12th

5:00 p.m. - Wine Tasting at Cheeser's

6:00 p.m. - Dinner at Viking Brew Pub

7:30 p.m. - Stoughton Village Players - "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"

You are welcome to sign up for 1,2 or all 3 activities. Wine tasting is \$15, supper around \$20 and the price on the theater production has not yet been announced. Sign up sheets are no the Information Desk. You have until October 27th to sign up for the play. For this event we will meet downtown.



Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and

the Festival Choir of Madison

Handel's Messiah at Bethel Lutheran Church Saturday,

November 21, at 2:00 PM.

Tickets are \$45.20 for Seniors or groups

The performance runtime is 2 hours and 20 minutes with 1 intermission. For this performance, the orchestra and choir are joined by Sarah Lawrence, soprano; Sadie Cheslak, alto; Gene Stenger, tenor; and Andrew Garland, baritone. Many of you will remember Sarah Lawrence and her family. They were members of Christ Lutheran. Sarah sang in the choir and her mother played the organ.

The sign up sheet will be out on the Information desk in October.

You will have till October 27 to sign up.

Go and Tell by Roger Slack

The other day, I was thinking about Jesus calling Matthew, the tax collector, saying “Follow me”. That was all He said, but I couldn’t help but wonder if Jesus knew at that time that Matthew would later write His story. I know He knew the hearts of those around Him, both good and bad, but I began to wonder if He ever had any surprises that made Him say “Thank You Father for that wonderful blessing”. To know everything in advance would make for a rather bland life, in my eyes, void of unexpected laughter and good times.

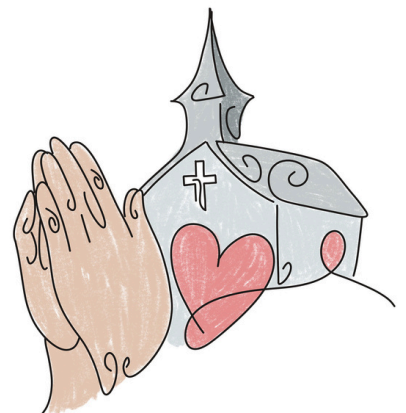
There were two other times in Matthew’s Gospel that I couldn’t help but sense a little surprise in Jesus’ response to a person He dealt with.

The first was with the Roman centurion. The Centurion was a Roman soldier commanding one hundred men. He very easily could have been the epitome of arrogance, used to giving orders just because he could, and looking down on anyone who wasn’t a Roman Citizen. I’m sure Jesus had seen men like that through out His lifetime. This one was different. I would be surprised if the Romans weren’t checking Jesus out because of the size of the crowds that followed Him. This Centurion may have seen first hand some of the miracles Jesus did, and been left in awe wondering how anyone could do the things He did and do them just to help people, getting only their thanks in return. The Centurion humbled himself on behalf of his paralyzed servant and came to Jesus.. He sheds what authority he may have claimed and admits he isn’t fit for Jesus to even come into his house, but confident that all Jesus had to do was say the word and his servant would be healed. When Jesus heard this, it says “He marveled”. It took a Roman Centurion to do that.

The second instance was with the Canaanite woman who begged Jesus to heal her daughter. I admit I don’t know why Jesus told her “Its not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs”. It seems so out of Jesus’ character. Her response that “even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters table” shows her trust that Jesus was the only hope she had for her daughter. Jesus’ response of “O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish.” I read that as “Lady, way to go!!”

The common thread in both accounts was that they went to Jesus on behalf of someone else. Our Prayer Chain is a very important ministry.

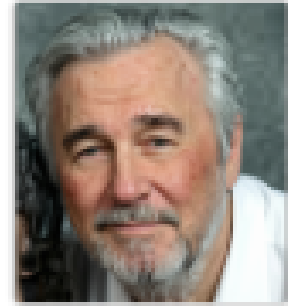
HOW CAN
we Pray
FOR YOU?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



9/13/2026-Macy Jeanne Schuepbach daughter of Nicholas Schuepbach and McKenzie Matson



9/14/2026- Richard Severn

Thank You!

Thank you to our wonderful group of gardeners who help keep Christ Lutheran looking beautiful throughout the seasons. They include: Diane Matson & the Elizabeth Circle; Leana Guelzow; Jill Foltz; Patricia Boelsing; Catherine Frye; Donna & Randy Olson; Gloria Hayne; Jodie McCoy; Alice Hendrickson; Al Adams; Linda Trunzo; Jane Runge; Vicki Sperle; Marilyn Merrymen; Bridget Gallagher; Dave Tipple; Jodie McCoy; Colleen Gregorich; and of course Bob Kluge who organizes it all. They complete a variety of tasks including preparing the beds in the spring, applying of weed preventer, buying and planting of annuals, weekly weeding, deadheading, cutting back of flowers and bushes, mulching, and preparing the beds for winter.

Thank you to the guys who keep Christ Lutheran's lawn lush and green. We have 3 different teams who rotate months to be responsible for mowing and trimming our 10 acres. John Hanson is the leader of the mowing teams and keeps our equipment in working order. The teams include: John Hanson; Randy Olson; Eric Smedal; Jeff Morgan; Al Adams; Todd Aide; Jerry Buskager; and Mike Sherry.



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



Ben Foltz Plays piano
on Rally Sunday

OCTOBER HYMN NERDS

A “We All Are One in Mission” ELW #576. The word “mission” often communicates a 19th-century vision of missionaries heading to foreign lands. Mission, however, is the work of the entire body of Christ.

Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) provides Christians with a hymn that articulates a contemporary vision of the mission of the church. He was born in Dixon, Illinois and currently serves as a senior pastor in Rockford, Illinois.

“We All Are One in Mission” was written in 1985. Stanza one expresses the unity of the church, united around “a single, great commission.” Though we have varied gifts, we are “united by Christ, the Lord of all.” “We all are called to service” is the theme of stanza two. Stanza three calls for a unified vision focusing on the resurrected Christ who unifies the vision of the church. The final stanza exhorts the church to “be united and let our song be heard.”

The unity of the church, local and universal, is at the heart of this hymn. It is not the responsibility of only missionaries or ordained clergy to practice mission, but is integral to the service of all who are united by Christ and have a sense of his “resurrected Justice.”

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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