

"So we are ambassadors  
for Christ..." -

2 Corinthians 5:20

February 2012



**Wednesday Worship**  
6:30 p.m.

**Sunday Worship**  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Family Express Worship**  
9:10-9:40 a.m.  
with Sunday School  
following

Christ Lutheran Church  
700 County Highway B  
Stoughton, WI

### Inside this issue:

Pastor Scott Sabbatical	
Bible Study	2
Guest Preacher	
Go and Tell	3
Senior Luncheon	
Skaalen Speaks	4
News Youth Can Use	5
Fat Tuesday Food Collection	6
Mardi Gras at CLC	
MLCS News	7
World Hunger Boxes	
Book Review	8
New Circle	
Memorials	
Thank you	9
Men in Mission Event	
Norse Afternoon of Fun	Back
Calendar	Insert

# Christ Lutheran Ambassador



Wednesday, February 22, begins the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday worship services at Christ Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

**Christ in the Strangest Places** is the theme for our Lenten season. Two tablets of stone, a few vessels of oil, simple markings, a small army, a remote field, a solemn oath—these are some of the strangest people, places, and things through which God revealed himself to God's people in the Old Testament.

It may surprise you, but the Old Testament is chock-full of passion themes and this series takes a closer look and focuses on them by means of single words.

February 22	6:30 p.m.	Mine!
February 29	6:30 p.m.	Nothing
March 7	6:30 p.m.	Marked
March 14	6:30 p.m.	Enlist
March 21	6:30 p.m.	Invest
March 28	6:30 p.m.	Finish

Lenten suppers begin Ash Wednesday. Supper will be served from 5:30–6:30 p.m. Groups or families are needed to volunteer to prepare the food, serve the food, and clean up afterwards. If you are interested, please call the church office (873-9353). Please consider making Lenten meals and worship a part of your family devotion.

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**Pastor Scott Sabbatical**  
**Center for Christian Education Presentation—February 5**  
*by Scott Geister-Jones*

On Sunday, February 5, during worship services I will share my plans for sabbatical in Martin, Slovakia, at the Center for Christian Education. I will be teaching conversational English five days a week with children in the Bible School at Martin, and twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday nights with university students in Zilina. I am excited to share the historic story of this Lutheran education community with members of our congregation.

After decades of faithful, courageous ministry as a Lutheran pastor throughout communist Czechoslovakia, Jan Bohdan Hrobon accepted a pastoral call to Martin. Once regarded as the cultural center of Slovakia, Martin under the strongly atheistic hub of communism became the strongly atheistic hub of Czechoslovakian military production. Later, after the Berlin Wall fell, Martin experienced severe unemployment and spiritual poverty. The son of this pastor, Bohdan Hrobon, himself a mathematician, looked out the window of his family's parsonage at the devastated Memorandum Square and was filled with the urgent yet surprising idea that this place should become the Center for Christian Education. Now, more than two decades later, with advanced Biblical studies degrees, Bohdan finds his vision becoming a reality and work of God.

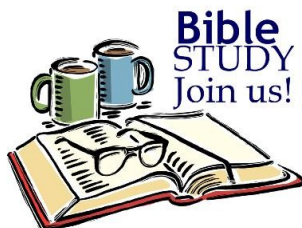
What the young pastor's son did not know when he looked out the window and experienced his vision was that in the 1930's his grandfather had shared a dream that on this land would stand one day a school for theological education of Lutheran people. One might say that the young Bohdan Hrobon was in the right place at the right time. He shared his dream with his good friend Adrian Kacian, and his father, and others, and they began to commit their free lives to a ministry of Lutheran education for the people of Martin.

I hope you will join me at worship on February 5 so that you can see pictures and hear the story of where I am going. I will ask for your prayers while I'm away for three months, one semester, teaching in Slovakia. More importantly, I will ask that you remember the people of Martin each week in your prayers together at Christ Lutheran Church.



### **Sunday Bible Study**

Gary Matthiesen, a CLC member and educator in Madison, is leading a Sunday morning Bible study on Psalms. It will meet twice on Sunday mornings: from 9:10 a.m.–9:40 a.m. for the first service crowd and from 9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m. for the Family Express crowd. The Bible study will meet in the conference room. Feel free to bring your cup of coffee with you.



### **Guest Preacher in February**

Pastor Scott leaves on sabbatical on February 5, so to help Pastor Paula out, there will be some guest preachers in the coming three months. Cole Bentley will join us on February 12 and 19. Cole was a member of Christ Lutheran when he was younger, before his family moved to Montana. Now he is a senior at Wartburg Seminary and not only our guest preacher, but the seminarian we support with a gift of \$900 a year. He has been with us before, and people have really enjoyed him.

**Go and Tell**  
by Roger Slack

A few Sundays back, one of the lessons of the day was about Paul going to Ephesus during his missionary travels and finding a group of 12 “believers” already there. As Paul talked to them, it became apparent they only knew part of the story. They had heard, either from John the Baptist himself or one of John’s disciples, the message of repentance of their sins and had been baptized into John’s baptism, as was Jesus. Paul went on to explain the rest of the story: their repentance was necessary in their coming to God, but John had pointed to Jesus, saying, “Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” That was a very profound statement for John to make, and it makes me wonder: did he understand, at the time, that Jesus was going to die as the sacrifice for our sins? The repentance that John preached was an act of a person sorry for his/her sins, but would have been a daily act, if not hourly. There would be no certainty, no security if it depended solely on what people did or did not do before their death. What Jesus did by dying on the cross and subsequently being raised from the dead put an end to the uncertainty. Jesus said as he was dying, “It is finished.” The penalty for our sin was paid in full. Paul had to explain that it is our faith, our trust in what Jesus did, that now saves us. Paul wrote his letters to remind the churches of this truth. In the letter he wrote to that new church in Ephesus 2:8-10, he writes: “For by grace you have been saved through faith: and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

For  
by  
**GRACE**  
you  
have  
been  
**saved**  
through faith.

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



**Senior Luncheon**

A Norwegian “Fat Tuesday”  
Monday, February 20  
11:30 a.m.—\$10.00

**Menu**

- Meatballs and Lutefisk
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rutabagas
- Cucumber Salad/Red Cabbage Salad
- Lefse and Swedish Rye Bread
- Rice Pudding
- Norwegian Treats

Not sure about the program yet, but there will be a good one.  
For sure someone will sing “Lutefisk, O Lutefisk.”





## What Do You Do?

by Diane Matson

You're meeting someone for the first time. You exchange names, make polite conversation, and inevitably, the question surfaces: "What do **you** do?" It's a well-documented fact that most of us are directly identified with the job that we have, the work that we do, the title that we hold.

Now, imagine that you're retired and living at Skaalen. You no longer have a "job," you don't "work," and if you had a title, generally people have forgotten what it was. Most people that you encounter only know you as you are today: retired, possibly with challenging health issues, less mobile, memory a little less sharp. You're still "you," but few remember what you "**did**."

Two longtime residents of Skaalen passed away within the past month. They were both very elderly, both had lost their spouses, and both were suffering from the challenges of old age, but both were very classy ladies who made a difference while they were here, and we need to recognize what they "**did**."

One of Wisconsin's oldest citizens, **Ruth Stewart**, passed away at the age of 106 on Friday, December 16. Almost completely blind, Ruth was challenged with the simplest activities of daily living. She was unable to identify the food on her plate. She could no longer walk and she had difficulty hearing, but that's not who Ruth was.

Ruth Stewart grew up in Argyle, Wisconsin, the youngest of five. She toured the U.S. and Europe with the famous St. Olaf College Choir in 1930, and she received her Master of Music degree from UW-Madison. Ruth loved classical music and rarely missed a music performance at Skaalen when the music that was offered fit her taste. Ruth moved to Stoughton at the age of 92 and for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ruth rode to her birthday party at the Vennevoll Clubhouse on the back of a Harley Davidson motorcycle. That was who Ruth was, and that was what Ruth Stewart "**did**."

**Edna Juliette Kaupanger Sand**, a longtime member of Christ Lutheran Church, passed away on Friday, January 6, at the age of 99. Edna was a "fixture" on the River Walk unit at Skaalen. Tiny and soft-spoken, Edna's beautiful snow-white hair was generally fashioned into a bun on the top of her head or displayed in a single braid that reached to the middle of her back. She could often be seen navigating her wheelchair along the hall on her way to the River Walk dining room.

Born in rural Stoughton, Edna was baptized, confirmed and married at Christ Lutheran. She taught country school at Mount Pleasant, Edgerton, and London, Wisconsin. When she married Henry Sand, a graduate of Eureka College of Illinois and a classmate of Ronald Reagan, she and her husband were privileged to attend the first Inaugural Ball as guests of the Reagans and enjoyed many visits with President and Mrs. Reagan throughout the years. Edna loved to travel and was interested in needlepoint and hardanger. That was who Edna was, and that was what Edna Sand "**did**."

Every Skaalen resident, whether they were painters, farmers, housewives, accountants, pastors, city clerks or CEO's, made contributions to their families and to their communities. They are a living reminder to us that what we **do** isn't nearly as important as who we **are**. Here is a list of CLC members who are at area nursing homes. Take a moment to give them a call or send them a card!

**Skaalen/Heritage House:** Stanley Evenson, Neil Fosshage, Hazel Lunde, Milf Thompson

**Harmony House:** Norma Bothum, Virginia Norsman and Lovina Olson

**Nazareth House:** Anna Wersland and Gladys White

**Holly House:** Elaine Gjermo

**Kindred Hearts** (Cottage Grove): Carol Ewald

**Oregon Manor:** Melva Harms

**Tabor Oaks** (Oakwood Village): Karen Ganje

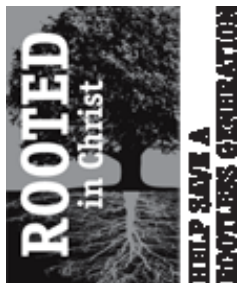


**Confirmation and “God and Games”  
Continue During Lent**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students are asked to come to church on Wednesday evenings, just like they have from the beginning of the school year, and attend Lenten services. Attendance will be taken. “God and Games” continues through Lent, just like always. Young people in grades 4-6 are invited to come and run off some steam from 6:30–7:15 p.m. Confirmation students may stay after the Lenten services and socialize in the gym from 7:15–8:00 p.m.

**YouthQuake/YouthZone  
Wisconsin Dells 2012**

We have 20 youth signed up for this weekend event! Please contact us if still interested in attending—we will look at registration options! The dates of the event are March 9-11, and the event has programs for youth in grades 6-12. We are still looking for some adult chaperones—even if you don’t have a youth attending, this is a great way for any adult in the congregation to spend some quality time with the youth of our congregation! It is a fun and rewarding weekend!



**Summer Bible Camp 2012**

Camp brochures are now available! Soon information will be available on Christ Lutheran camperships and the dates being targeted for Christ Lutheran to attend as a group. Last year over 40 youth attended camp! Camp programs are available for youth going into grades 3-12. Please contact David Erdman or Pastor Paula with any questions.



**Sugar Creek  
Service Project**

We start building this month. The port-a-potties have been purchased, along with some of the lumber. 9<sup>th</sup> graders and other high school youth are needed to help out. Parents are also needed! The adults who have been taking the lead on this are Jim McMillan (877-9958), Scott Vingum (873-0972), and Brad Milbauer (877-8061). Check the poster in the narthex for supplies still needed. Postcards and calls will go out to let many know where and when we will be building. Dick Iverson, Director of Sugar Creek Bible Camp, will be here to preach on March 18. Won’t it be awesome to show him what we have done!



**Kalahari Day Trip—February 27**

There is no school on Monday, February 27, and the Youth Ministry Team is organizing a day trip to Kalahari Water Park! The cost per youth is \$35, but a maximum of \$10 credit towards this trip can be earned by working either February 4 or 11 serving supper to the Greig Chorus/Stoughton Norwegian Dancers, or helping at the annual Mardi Gras event! If you would like to earn \$10 towards the youth trip to the Kalahari at the end of the month, sign up to help on the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

This event is for youth in grades 5-12; friends and families are also invited—we ask that an adult accompany any youth younger than grade 4. A consent form is needed—available on the youth section of the Christ Lutheran Church website ([www.clcstoughton.org](http://www.clcstoughton.org)). As with all youth events, we will need some adult chaperones for this trip!

**High School HOTT**

The next High School HOTT is scheduled for February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please note the date, as it is *not* the last Sunday of the month. The agenda includes a discussion on Valentine’s Day—please join us and bring friends for this special event!



## CHRIST LUTHERAN TO CELEBRATE “FAT TUESDAY” by Collecting Food for the Stoughton Food Pantry

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Did you know that “Mardi Gras” is French for “Fat Tuesday”? It comes from the tradition of slaughtering and feasting upon the fatted calf the day before Lent begins. With Lent came a 40-day fast during which Catholics, in particular, gave up meat. Mardi Gras has also been called Carnival, and “carnival” comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning “farewell to the flesh.”

It is not a Lutheran tradition to give up anything or “fast” during Lent. The Ash Wednesday liturgy encourages us to focus instead on “acts of love.” So on Sunday, **February 19**, everyone in the congregation is encouraged to bring a bag full of groceries for the Stoughton Food Pantry. Decorated paper bags will be handed out on Sunday, February 5 and Sunday, February 12. We encourage all to join in the celebration.

How much food we will collect? I went on Google and to begin with asked for the heaviest people on record. Weighing that much is just not healthy, so I asked for the “biggest losers” on record. A woman named Rosalie Bradford at one time weighed 1,200 pounds. She lost 917 pounds. She holds the Guinness World Record for most weight lost by a woman. The all-time record holder for a man was Jon Brower Minnoch. He weighed 1,400 pounds and lost 920 pounds. Let’s set a goal of collecting **920 pounds** and see how close we get. We will have a scale at church, so as the food comes in that day, it can be weighed by members of the Social Concerns Ministry Team!



### MARDI GRAS at CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, February 19

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Tickets: 3 for \$1.00

### FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!



Here is a list of a few of the games...

- Cross the Red Sea with Moses Cake Walk (3:00 p.m. until the cakes are gone). Music will be provided by Max Kapfer, one of the members of the O.K. Band and Singing Santas. This is one of our most popular games.
- In Jail with Paul and Silas (another one of our most popular games)
- The Match Game with Noah
- Get Wet with John the Baptist Balloon Tank
- Jonah’s Beanbag Toss
- Good Samaritan Game: Pin the Bandage on the Wounded Man
- Leap for the Lord Potato Sack Races
- Bible Bingo
- Wise Guy Bible Trivia and Pictionary with Wise Guy Balloon Hats as a prize
- Crafts with Crafty Jacob
- Samson Knocks Down the Philistines Bowling Game
- Minnow Races with Luther
- **2 Bounce Houses** with Joseph
- The Empty Tomb Beanbag Toss, The Ten Commandments Tic-Tac-Toss and an Old Testament Scavenger Hunt (**New**)
- Esther’s Beauty Parlor



Some of your favorite foods will be served, like cotton candy, slushies, brats, hot dogs, walking tacos and cream puffs. This year we are adding **gumbo**, (a traditional Mardi Gras food) and **beignets** (a fried bread). We would like to invite everyone to come and join us for some good food!

**Youth and grown-ups:** Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the narthex. We need people to bake cakes and work the different games. Youth who sign up and work a shift will be rewarded with \$10 off our trip to the Kalahari on Monday, February 27. Thank you!

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## Martin Luther Christian School and Child Development Center

"Soaring in Faith and Excellence"



It's registration time! Martin Luther Christian School will be holding its 2012-2013 registration for new and returning students **February 6-23**. New families wishing to enroll in one of our many programs may contact the MLCS office to receive tuition and enrollment information and to set up a tour.

The MLCS **Elementary School** offers kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Students participate in Spanish, music, art, technology, physical education, religious instruction, and weekly chapel services. Our goal is to foster academic excellence, Christian values, character, and leadership skills. Our MLCS team of parents, teachers, and staff work to prepare and support our students in their educational success.

**MLCS 4K: Four-year-old Kindergarten Program:** Is your child turning 4 years old? Do you have questions about the 4K Program? MLCS is pleased to be entering its fifth year as a host for the Stoughton Area School District's 4K Program. We continue to offer three (3) a.m. classes and two (2) p.m. classes taught by our team of experienced teachers.

Students learn, play, and socialize in the classroom, during PE class, and on our large playground. The classrooms participate in special Friday sing-alongs, art projects and a story time with the Stoughton Public Library's librarian.

MLCS offers a 10-minute period of religious instruction after each class period where students will hear God's word, listen to Bible stories, sing and pray together. This program is designed for those families who desire a Christian focus for their child/children, and written permission to participate is required. Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2012, for entry. Student 4K registration is Monday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m. at Sandhill Elementary School.

**Junior Kindergarten (JK) Program:** Our Junior Kindergarten Program is open to children who are 4 or 5 years old on or before September 1, 2012. This is an ideal choice for parents who are looking for an all-day educational program for their four-year-old or five-year-old child who is not entering kindergarten. The Junior Kindergarten (JK) is held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, and is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the days the 4K is not in session. Students enrolled in the Junior Kindergarten (JK) Program remain in the same room throughout the day, enjoying three hours of 4K in the a.m. and then seamlessly transitioning to the JK in the afternoon, making this a full day of enrichment. JK is a part of the MLCS Christian Elementary School, so students will enjoy classes in art, music, Spanish, physical education, computers, religion, and chapel each week.

The MLCS **3-year-old Preschool Program** is open to children turning 3 years old on or before September 1, 2012. This class is taught by a DPI-certified teacher and is offered three mornings a week. A two-day class may be offered if the three-day class is filled.

The **MLCS Child Development Center** offers quality childcare for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age. Wraparound care is offered to students in all of our programs including 4K. Your child will enjoy the seamless transition between his/her classroom and the Child Development Center located within the same building. MLCS bussing is offered to before-and after-school students going to and from the public schools **only**.

At MLCS, your child will grow academically, socially, and spiritually in a safe and nurturing environment. For 2012-2013 tuition rates and scholarship information, please call our Elementary School office at 873-8073 or our Childcare office at 873-7884. Visit us at: [mlcschool.org](http://mlcschool.org).

"Celebrating Over 30 Years of Christian Education"



### ELCA World Hunger Boxes

We will collect food and donations for the Stoughton Food Pantry on Sunday, February 19, but we don't want to forget the hungry around the world. At the Ash Wednesday worship service and at other worship services, Social Concerns will hand out the ELCA Hunger coin boxes and encourage everyone to take one home and fill it up. It is really amazing what our loose change adds up to. This past year Christ Lutheran gave \$3,078.31.



### The Circle to Be Named Later

Six women attended the first meeting, with three calling to say they plan to attend—there is plenty of room for more. It was decided to do a Bible study on the gospel of Mark—the first gospel written. The gatherings are informal. The group meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:15-8:45 p.m. at the church. Refreshments are served. Contact Vicki Ballweg (882-0607), Jen Matthiesen (205-9678) or Tiffany Vienneau (445-0672) if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you!



### ALTAR FLOWERS

### Altar Flower Chart 2012

The following dates are available for the giving of altar flowers: April 15 and 29; June 24; July 1 and 29; August 19; September 2 and 16; December 16, 23, and 30. If you would like to give flowers on a special day, call Gloria at 873-9353. The cost is \$32.50.

### Book Review—*The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*

by Joan Kratz

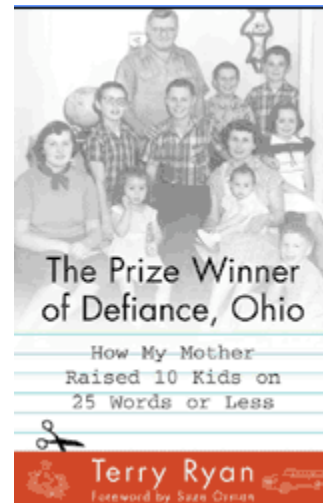
*The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* is a true story written by Terry Ryan. She tells the story of her mother, Evelyn Ryan, who in the 50's and 60's raised ten children by entering contests and composing jingles. Every appliance the family ever owned, Evelyn won in a contest. She entered contests that were advertised on television, radio, newspaper ads, or by mail. Most of her jingles and poems were composed at the ironing board. Always a notebook nearby to jot down her ideas.

While raising six sons and four daughters and living with an alcoholic husband, it seemed Evelyn could win something when it was most needed. A bike, a toaster, money, or a grocery shopping spree. No matter what it was, everything was needed and used in this large family.

Then the ultimate contest was won to save the family from losing their home in Defiance, Ohio.

After the death of Evelyn, her children learned that her life was remarkable. Going through her things following her death, the children found their poems, paid-off loan notes, her prize-winning entries—one thing was as important as the next, and equally absorbing. Therefore it allowed them to see what she was all about, piece by piece, and to appreciate the true extent of her accomplishments.

This book, *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*, is a charming and inspirational book.



**Deaths:**

December 20—Roger A. Olson  
December 22—Leroy Schyska  
December 30—Omer Greig Lee  
January 14—Edna Sands  
January 16—Viola Cantwell  
January 17—Robert L. Gefke

**Memorials:**

In Memory of:

Leander Erdahl  
Leander Erdahl  
Omer Lee  
Leander Erdahl  
Leander Erdahl  
Omer Lee

From:

Gen Wilberg  
Dick and Barb Entwistle  
Frank Gardner  
Shirley Nygaard  
Friends  
Gen Wilberg



**Thank you to Lutefisk Committee**

Mange Tusen Takk from the Music Department to the Lutefisk Committee for the generous gift that will help us complete the organ installation. The organ is not only a large beautiful instrument, but it was also a huge project to get it from the old church and moved into the current church. After many months we got it “working” or at least most of it working enough to use to lead worship. However, there are missing and non-functioning pipes as well as other aspects of the inner workings of the organ that were not finished or put together only enough to limp along. The cost to finish this was too great to fit into the regular church budget, and so it could only be done with a large financial gift. With this gift we have contacted Fabry Pipe Organs who have a team of several highly skilled people who have worked on pipe organs in the area for years. We feel very confident in their ability to do what is still needed, and to do it in a timely manner. We know the entire congregation will appreciate and benefit from this gift. So many, many, thanks!

**Old-Time Party with Max Kapfer’s “The OK Band”  
February 18—6:00 p.m.**

The Men in Mission (MIM) are sponsoring an “Old-Time Party” in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18. Max Kapfer’s “The OK Band” will play music we will all remember, with sufficient space to dance if you desire to do more than listen. Maybe we will have some instruction for the novices. There will also be games for adults who would like something more than music. There will be appetizer-type food and beverages available throughout to take to your table, but no sit-down meal. It is free, so come and enjoy the fun.



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**Christ Lutheran Church  
700 County Highway B  
Stoughton, WI 53589**

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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**Pastor Paula Geister-Jones  
Pastor Scott Geister-Jones  
Phone: 608.873.9353  
Fax: 608.873.3949  
Email: [pastor.scott@clcstoughton.org](mailto:pastor.scott@clcstoughton.org)  
[pastor.paula@clcstoughton.org](mailto:pastor.paula@clcstoughton.org)  
[office@clcstoughton.org](mailto:office@clcstoughton.org)  
CLC Website: [www.clcstoughton.org](http://www.clcstoughton.org)  
Staff:  
Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary  
Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary**



### **Stoughton Norwegian Dancers Norse Afternoon of Fun**

February 12—1:30 p.m. at the Stoughton High School Gym

- Raffle Drawing
- Norwegian Dancer Performance
- Previous Syttende Mai Kings & Queens
- 2012 Syttende Mai King & Queen Announcement
- Community Appreciation Award

Tickets are available at: Stoughton Chamber of Commerce, Cheeser's, McGlynn Pharmacy, Koffee Kup, Nordic Nook, Saving Thyme, Radio Shack, Stoughton Floral, Stoughton Garden Center, All Through the House, Stoughton Lumber, and Main Street Flowers

Tickets \$5.00 (\$6.00 at the Door) and \$1.00 for Children under 14