

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

November 2011



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:

Ecumenical Worship	2
Adult Bible Studies	
President's Report	3
Go and Tell	
Skaalen Speaks	4
News Youth Can Use	5
Babysitters Available	6
Youth Mission Project	
MIM Pig Roast	7
Meatball Making Madness!	
Lutefisk Dinner	8
Ole and Lena Sale	
Book Review	9
Senior Luncheon	
Senior Excursion	
Social Concerns	10
Memorials	
3rd Grade Receive Bibles	11
Milestone Ministry	
Lutefisk Dinner	Back
Calendar	Insert
Council Insert	Insert

Christ Lutheran Ambassador

All Saints

by Pastor Scott Geister-Jones

Who is a saint? In our Christian understanding a "saint" refers to any believer who is "holy," and in whom Christ dwells, whether in heaven or in earth (II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 3:14-19; II Corinthians 13:5). A saint is alive and with us in this world. A saint is one we've laid to rest and remember in our hearts.

The first Sunday of November is All Saints Sunday. A festival Sunday when we specifically recall, remember, and revisit the faithful saints who have passed from this life and to the next. Below are their names but in our hearts and lives live their memories:

John H. Wilcox
Stella Patricia Whitney
Karen Oren
Carl Richard Hoff
Bernice C. Vick
Ronald I. Jones
Sandra Blackburn
Linda L. Swenson
Valborg Helen Tolley
Robert E. Speckmann
Elaine B. Halverson
Chris K. Hull
Donald Leikness
Karen Hull Holte
John A. Krehl
Peter J. Nelson
Dale A Storck



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

First Lutheran Church will host the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor George Carlson of Covenant Lutheran Church will offer the sermon, and special music will be provided by Stoughton ecumenical vocal and handbell choirs. Nonperishable food items brought to the service will be donated to the Stoughton Food Pantry, and the monetary offering will be given to the Good Samaritan Fund. Refreshments will be served during the fellowship time following the service.



United In Christ Blessed to Be a Blessing

By now you have received in the mail your 2012 pledge cards. Please **do not** misplace them, as we are asking for the blue card to be returned on or before Commitment Sunday, November 13, at **any** worship service or to the church office.

If you did not receive a pledge card set, you may pick one up at the information desk.

Pledge information is critical for us to have as we put together the Operations Budget for 2012. On behalf of the Stewardship Board, thank you for your prompt attention to this annual request.

Al Christensen
Stewardship Committee

Have
You
Pledged?



A Gardener, Two Travelers, and a Cheat

The fall season ushers in the Good News of adult Bible study weekly at 9:00 each Thursday morning. The focus is about people and God's activity in their lives. It's a wonderful occasion to learn about Adam, Abraham, Sarah and Jacob, but also—and most importantly—how God is active in our lives, too!

This Book of Faith series has a clever title: **A Gardener, Two Travelers, and a Cheat.** Inviting us to open the Scripture and take a look at the lives of four wonderful characters, it promises that we will see ourselves in a new light, too.

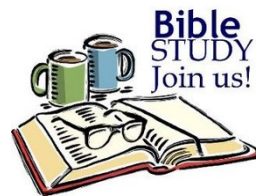
Plan to join us in the church conference room Thursday mornings, beginning at 9:00. Bring your Bible, or we will provide one for you. You don't have to be a scholar. Just come as you are. All the materials will be available for you the morning of the lesson. Contact Pastor Scott if you have a question, at 608-469-4946 or pastorscott@clcstoughton.org.

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.



A Different Kind of Bible Study Verses and Vino at Vincenzo's

Beginning October 13 at 7:30 p.m., a Bible study will be offered at Vincenzo's in downtown Stoughton. We are hoping that this Bible study will attract younger and older adults alike, anyone who is not currently involved in a monthly Bible study. Pastor Paula will lead the group.



Congregational Meeting



President's Report

by Edie Tholo

The next congregational meeting will be on December 4, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Two major agenda items will be a revision of the church's current bylaws to bring the bylaws into sync with current practices, and a discussion of the Church's actions regarding the concealed carry law, which will be effective November 1. Please see the insert with information on the concealed carry law, (Wisconsin Act 35). Also, the church's website will have this information available on it as well.

Copies of the proposed revised bylaws will be provided in advance of the congregational meeting.

Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

I don't know if you have ever thought about it or not, but Romans 16, the last chapter of Paul's letter to the new church in Rome, is not your typical chapter in the Bible. It consists of a list of greetings to people, that Paul knew and loved, that had gone on before him to Rome. Paul had never been to Rome as of this time, but says earlier in the letter that he plans to go there on his way to Spain, and hopes that they will enable him on his way. Paul had plans, but did not see them come to pass. He did get to Rome, but not as he expected to. He went under Roman guard as a "prisoner" to plead his case before Caesar.

The list of people are people that are already there in Rome as disciples and missionaries to the people of Rome and the surrounding areas, sharing the message of the Gospel and establishing new "churches." By "churches," I mean groups of new believers that met in each others homes. Prisca and Aquila were long time friends of Paul, and had one of the churches in their home. Most of the other names are unknown to me. It would be fun to know what each one did back then. Some I'm sure were leaders, while others were more behind the scenes people taking care of the details that needed to be done. Whatever it was, Paul recognized their work and conveyed his pride in them and the witness they were to the people of Rome. In verse 22, Tertius identifies himself as the actual "writer" of the letter. Paul would dictate and someone else would actually do the writing as Paul's eyesight was not very good and his writing would be quite large as a result. At times he would write in his own hand at the end of one of the letters as proof that this letter was from him and not a forgery from someone trying to mislead the young churches.

A letter from Pastor's Alley, Furboe or Rem to our church would also include a list of names of people that had helped them over the years that they served our parish. People that they wanted to know they were very special friends and still remembered after many years. We are the people today that would be on Scott and Paula's list in the years to come. Let's strive to make that a long list.





Skaalen Speaks by Diane Matson

Have you ever played one of those “word association” games? I say a word and you say the first word that comes into your mind. Let’s play. I say “shoes.” If you’re like most of us, you would probably say “socks.” I say “bread” and you say “butter.” I say “black” and you say “white.” Now, if I say “Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center,” you say...I’ll tell you what you **should** say. You should say “Dawn Zaemisch.”

Dawn’s “official” title is Director of Church and Community Relations, but like most folks who work at Skaalen, she wears many hats. Dawn first came to Skaalen almost 18 years ago to accept a position as Volunteer Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to the Director of Church and Community Relations and Chaplain. Whew. Now **there’s** a title for you! Prior to that, she worked as an administrative assistant for a gravel company. Imagine that—one day you’re weighing trucks, dispatching trucks, coordinating equipment and workers to various job sites, and talking with Digger’s Hotline, and the next you’re pushing wheelchairs, organizing fundraisers, and keeping track of the chaplain!

Actually, the transition to Skaalen from a gravel company was like coming home for Dawn. When she was in high school, Dawn took the Certified Nursing Assistant course through Blackhawk Technical College. Upon completing the class, Dawn worked for a number of years in long-term care settings. Then one Sunday, the pastor at Dawn’s church announced that he had received a notice from Skaalen that there was an administrative assistant position available, and as they say, “the rest is history.”

Every job has its most enjoyable parts, and for Dawn that comes from the opportunity to work with many different people on a daily basis. She interacts with residents, their families, the many Skaalen volunteers, members of the Skaalen Auxiliary, and of course her Skaalen co-workers every day, and no two days are ever the same.

When asked what the most challenging part of her job is, surprisingly, Dawn states that she worries about keeping new and interesting merchandise in the gift shop, and whether anyone will want to buy what she orders!

Even enjoyable jobs carry a certain amount of stress, but in addition to support from her family, husband Kevin, daughter Natalie, son-in-law Andrew, son Jacob and his girlfriend Britt, and her perfect granddaughter Layla, Dawn states that she has “a wonderful friend who is a great listener.” Somehow, she also finds time to camp, garden, read, and spend time with friends.

We here at Christ Lutheran can do even more to make Dawn’s job more enjoyable and less stressful, and make sure that her ever-present smile is always in place, by participating in fundraising events, donating our time and talent by volunteering, and continuing to keep Skaalen, its residents, and its staff in our prayers—even if no one likes the cough drops that Dawn has ordered for the store.



Pajama Sunday Family Express November 20

Pajamas are so comfortable. It's tough to get out of them in the morning. Sunday, November 20, we encourage you to wear your pajamas to Family Express and Sunday School. Following Sunday School, the youth will be serving breakfast. While mom and dad visit over yet another cup of coffee, there will be short movies showing at various places throughout the church and board games to play for all age groups, including Candy Land.

The 20th is also a day Social Concerns will be collecting pajamas for the Stoughton Holiday Fund. How about bringing a pair to set under the Christmas tree? There will also be a display set up for the Youth Ministry Mission Project—outhouses for Sugar Creek. The profits from breakfast will go to help fund that mission.



“God and Games” Continues

“God and Games” continues and is growing in numbers! All 4th-6th graders (and friends) and all confirmation students are invited to join the games! In short, everybody is invited for a meal at 6:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., games will start for youth in grades 4-6 (of course friends are invited!). Confirmation for youth in grades 7-8 also starts at 6:30 p.m., with open gym time occurring for that group from 7:30-8:00 p.m.



Christmas Caroling

With the start of advent, CLC youth will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 27 to start the holiday spirit with some Christmas caroling for local nursing homes and shut-in members of CLC. The smiles you will bring to the faces of these elderly folks should be enough reason to be part of this event! As part of this caroling, we will also have a progressive-type supper with stops at various homes and CLC for different parts of a holiday feast! This event is for youth in grades 6-8 **and** friends are always invited. Yes, a couple brave souls are needed to host stops for this progressive event—please let Pastor Paula know if interested. With no school on Monday November 28, we will have a special open gym for youth in grades 6-8 after the caroling event until 10:00 p.m.



High School HOTT!

The monthly High School HOTT will be Sunday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m. This is open to all high school youth and their friends for some hanging out time together. The agenda that the high school youth have outlined for this year is aggressive—Please join us!



35 Just 4 U! An event for youth in grades 3-5 is being planned for November—more information will be forthcoming. We only had a couple people show up for the last 35 event—bummer because it was a great day for fun and games with friends and families of CLC.

Babysitters Available!

Are you looking for a babysitter? Here are some youth from Christ Lutheran who would be interested in caring for your children.

- Sydney Johnson: age 12 (7th grade), 608-873-7657
- Carrie Adie: age 13 (8th grade), 608-873-0882
- Abby Aide: age 14 (9th grade), 608-873-0882
- Karlee Wright: age 14 (9th grade), 608-873-7076
- Lauren Olson: 16 (11th grade), 608-577-3290
- Sierra Swangstu: age 16 (10th grade), 608-438-0227
- Mary Feldhake: age 17 (12th grade), 608-333-1960



Youth Mission Project

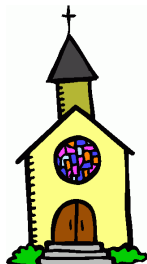
by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Dick Iverson, the director of Sugar Creek Bible Camp, told me this summer that the campground needs some new outhouses. On the evaluation forms at the end of the week, it is the one thing the campers complain about.

So the youth are seriously thinking about building some new outhouses for the Bible camp. But we want them to be more than just an outhouse. We want them to be fun! Does this sound like fun to you? We build outhouses, but make them look like something else. How about an Old West jail or general store or stable or even a schoolhouse or little white church? Dick Iverson thinks this idea would be awesome!

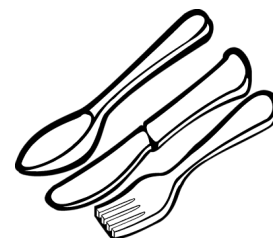
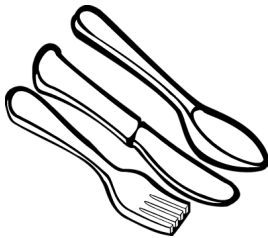
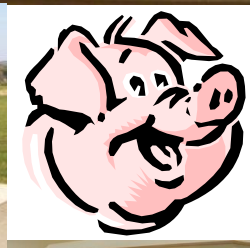
The first step is to get a group of people together who can tell us what needs to be done. We have a lot of talented people in this congregation. We are getting that group together right now, and if you would like to be a part of it, let us know! The plan is to build these outhouses this winter—in sections—in the gym. We will work on Sunday mornings. We will work on Sunday evenings. We might add a few extra building sessions if needed. This spring a few trips will be planned to Sugar Creek Bible Camp to put them up. And this summer when youth go to Sugar Creek, they can point to the outhouses and proudly say, "I helped build that" or "My church built those."

I want to warn all of you, we are hoping there a number of people out there with lumber just sitting around in their garages. Certain fundraisers over the upcoming six months will be for the purpose of supporting this mission. More importantly, help will be needed to prep and build these structures! Please be on the look-out for messages and announcements on when help is needed for this mission project! Isn't life surprising! Who would have thought that building outhouses would be one way for Christ Lutheran to live out our stewardship theme for the year, "Blessed to Be a Blessing."



Men in Mission Pig Roast

The Men in Mission served 120 meals this past October during their annual pig roast. The quilt made by Tom Holm was won by Jenna Forel!



Meatball Making Madness Friday, November 11

On Friday, November 11 we will be rolling and baking meatballs for the Lutfisk dinner. There will be a sign up sheet on the information desk. People will be asked to sign up for a two-hour shift beginning at 8:00 a.m. and running through 5:00 p.m.



Lutefisk Dinner Update

by Matt Hanson and Jill Guenther

With fall setting in and the harvest season well under way, preparations for our annual lutefisk dinner are in full motion. This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 3.

Over the past two years the congregation has come together to deliver one of the area's most anticipated dinners.

As a result of your efforts, the congregation has earned over \$8,500 in proceeds, even after purchasing a new freezer, kitchen equipment, supplies, and related items to support future events. With these proceeds, we are looking to fund a number of initiatives in the next few months, as requested by individual groups within the congregation, and will announce those expenditures once they are made.

We will be asking each family to donate \$5 to assist in purchasing butter for the event, and we are also looking for additional help on the cleanup crew, advertising and making desserts. In addition, if you have any other talents or time that you would be willing to provide, please get in touch with Matt Hanson (205-2045) or Jill Guenther (333-4150).

A sincere thank you goes out to everyone for helping make the past events a success, and we look forward to a wonderful event this year.



Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner Christ Lutheran Church Saturday, December 3, 2011

Menu: Lutefisk, meatballs, potatoes, rutabaga, lefse, cranberries, coleslaw, rommegrot, Norwegian cookies, coffee and milk

Cost: Adults—\$15.00 Children—\$7.00 (ages 4-12)

Reservations will not be accepted by mail after November 26. If you need a reservation request form, contact David or Carol Skavlen (873-6131) or Gloria in the church office (873-9353). A reservation form is included in this issue of the *Ambassador* or you may also print a reservation form from the church's website, www.clcstoughton.org.



The 22nd Annual Ole and Lena Bake Sale and More...

Women With a Mission would like to request your help this year at the Ole and Lena Bake Sale. We are asking that you bake your favorite Norwegian (or family favorite) bars, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, jams or whatever you would like. We do all the packaging and pricing. Mark your donations for the Ole and Lena Bake Sale and bring them to the church between noon and 6 p.m. on December 2. If you're not able to bake, come and enjoy the lutefisk and meatball dinner, shop the bake sale, and stock up for Christmas (most items will freeze). Buy raffle tickets for our three amazing items: the "retired" American Girl doll, Kirsten, with several accessories, a beautiful Norwegian tine, rosemaled by Christ Lutheran's Shannon Suddeth, and a 32" Emerson LCD HDTV.

We will also be selling red and royal blue bib aprons with a Norwegian design and the Christ Lutheran Church cookbook. If you are interested in helping at the sale, we would love to have you join us. Please see Mary Onsager or Ruth Hillbo at the raffle table (in the narthex) between services on Sundays during November or call Mary at 873-3999.



Book Review for CLC Library

by Joan Kratz

Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

This book was a very enjoyable read—a fast-reading novel of life's decisions, answers and forgiveness through the eyes of a 12-year-old girl. A man and his daughter, Nicky, have left the only home Nicky has ever known to escape a tragedy. They settle in at a remote farm, off the beaten path, to be away from people.

Father and daughter take a late afternoon walk in the winter snow, which again turns their life upside down with the discovery of an abandoned baby left in the cold of winter and snow. A rush to save the baby results in a police investigation that causes Nicky to ask questions she had only thought.

A young woman arrives at the farmhouse, and they once again must make life-changing decisions. Christmas is coming, and there is a sense of urgency to get things resolved. Nicky will look at her own life and start to question her father's decisions and what needs to be changed in their life as they move forward towards a life of normalcy.



Senior Luncheon

Monday, November 14

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00



Jack Finney will be presenting a program on the ten tasks of creative aging. The program will be great. Jack will be sharing ideas gleaned from some of our favorite children's books. The menu will be turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, raspberry Jell-O, dinner rolls, apple and pumpkin pie with ice cream, milk and coffee. Sign up in the information center or call the church office at 873-9353.

Senior Excursion to Washington DC

by Pastor Scott Geister-Jones

Ten folks enjoyed four days and three nights of beautiful weather in our nation's capital city while visiting a variety of museums and sites. Traveling to an assortment of locations, members of the group visited the White House, Mount Vernon, the National Mall, several Smithsonian Museums, the National Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, the News Museum, Georgetown, Old Town Alexandria, and the National Gallery of Art. We enjoyed airplanes, buses, shuttles, taxis, trams, and the Washington Metro transportation system as we navigated the city.

I visited Luther Place Church and stayed in the youth hostel as we made plans for a future trip of high school students to visit our nation's capital. The John Steinbruck Center at Luther Place welcomes teenagers from congregations to stay in their hostel as they explore the city. It has a dormitory with 23 bunk beds, a kitchen, showers and bath on a single floor of the church building, with the sole purpose of providing hospitality to Lutheran youth who come to visit Washington DC. I showed the facility to Mary Sime, Nancy Holzhter, Kris Christenson, and Gen Wilberg, and they were impressed with its cleanliness and location.

The words "one nation under God" that spill off our tongues as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance come alive as one travels in Washington DC. The experience of seeing a portrait of General Washington bowing in prayer, hearing about his wife, Martha, who daily read the New Testament as her spiritual devotion, and the memory of walking past thousands of leather shoes left by Holocaust victims before they walked barefoot to their death reminded me how powerfully issues of faith and life intersect in the public arena of our lives. In the midst of power and riches we saw homelessness and protests, reminding us that democracy continues to be a work in process.

Christ Lutheran Served “Our Daily Bread”

Christ Lutheran members served up tater tot casserole to 42 people on Sunday, September 24. The food was tasty and greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who donated and helped serve.



ELCA World Hunger

Advent begins November 27. On that Sunday we will once again be handing out the ELCA World Hunger boxes in the hope that many people will take them home and fill them with their change. The change, and any other donations designated for ELCA World Hunger, will be sent in to ELCA World Hunger to feed hungry people in this country and abroad.



Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts

On Saturday, October 8, fifty-one school kits, twelve sewing kits, sixty-one layettes, thirty health kits, a big box of soap, and 137 quilts were packed up and taken to Madison. In Madison they joined other kits and quilts assembled and sewed by Lutheran churches all over southern Wisconsin. They were all loaded on a train heading to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. There the kits and quilts will be loaded into containers and shipped all around the world. Eight quilts were sold, and proceeds from those quilts will help in the sewing of yet more quilts



Stoughton Holiday Fund

Yes, Christmas is coming. On Sunday, November 20, we will begin collecting items for the Stoughton Holiday Fund. Those items include hats, scarves, and mittens, as well as pajamas, personal hygiene items, and toys. We have only three or four weeks to collect the items, so please start thinking about it now.



Food Pantry Needs

The Stoughton Food Pantry is low on food! The Social Concerns Committee suggests bringing in the following items on specific Sundays:

- 1st Sunday: Personal care/general cleaning items—shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, aftershave, disposable diapers, laundry soap (powdered preferred), dish soap, etc. These items are not purchased by the pantry.
- 2nd Sunday: Canned goods—vegetables, soups, stews, fruits, tomato sauce, etc.
- 3rd Sunday: Boxed dinners—hamburger and tuna helpers, potato mixes, macaroni and cheese, etc.
- 4th Sunday: The extras—cake mixes, ketchup, mayo, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, plastic food wraps, aluminum foil, Kleenex, etc. These items are not purchased by the pantry either.

These are just suggestions. All donations, on any Sunday, are greatly appreciated!

Deaths:

September 26—Peter Nelson
October 16—David Storck

Baptisms:

October 9—Lucas James Kleven, son of Cody and Kelly Kleven
October 9—Ellasyn June McAlister, daughter of Geoffrey and Virginia McAlister
October 23—Brooke Ann Brekken, daughter of Curt and April Brekken

Memorials:

In Memory of:

From:

Elaine Halverson	Family and Friends
Chris Hull	Dorothy Nelson
Karen Holte	Dorothy Nelson
Karen Holte	Sandy Maerz
Chris Hull	Bill and Carolyn Staney
Chris Hull	Claire Sperle
Karen Holte	Don and Lorraine Halverson
Chris Hull	Don and Lorraine Halverson
Elaine Halverson	John and Martha Halverson
Chris Hull	Family and Friends
Karen Holte	Ruth Kvalheim
David Drury	Kathy Drury (in memory of their 40 th wedding anniversary)



Endowment Foundation

In Memory of:

From:

Loeta Reed Cress	Norval and Barbara Morgan
Gift	Mark and Vicki Ballweg

3rd Graders Receive Bibles

On Sunday, October 9, the third grade parents handed their child their Bibles, a gift from the church, at the Family Express worship service. The previous Sunday they had met with Pastor Paula for a one hour class on, "Who wrote the Bible?" During class on Sunday, October 9 they decorated canvas carrying cases for their Bibles. Throughout the year we plan on uplifting the gift they have received. One thing they will soon be doing is learning two songs which will help them memorize the books of the Old and New Testament. Once those songs are learned, the young people will be our special music in Family Express.



First Graders Make Advent Wreaths



Wow! Time sure flies by fast. It has been seven years since these first graders made Advent Wreaths: Brody Teigen, David Graffin, and Sydney Johnson. Now they are in confirmation class as seventh graders.

Each year Pastors Scott and Paula meet with our first graders and parents and make Advent Wreaths as part of CLC's Milestone Ministry. Pastor Paula wrote a devotional story titled "Mary Had A Baby" and the children take this devotional home with their Advent Wreath to share family devotions. This year, our first graders and parents will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. on November 27. Call Pastor Scott (873-9353) with any questions.

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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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Staff:
Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary
Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary**

Inside this issue:



**Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner
More details on page 8**

(And remember, the **BIG** event is Saturday, December 3!)