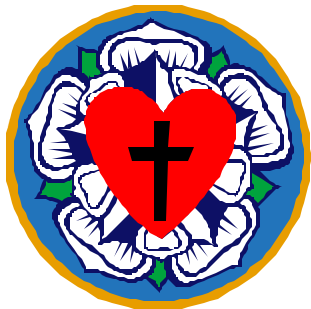


"So we are ambassadors
for Christ..." -

2 Corinthians 5:20

October 2009



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

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Christ Lutheran Ambassador

Hello, Folks!

What a beautiful fall season we are enjoying in Stoughton. The kids are back in school and church school. Family Express worship is brimming to the doors. Choirs are singing and ringing. Kids are in sports activities. I enjoy how the fall schedules bring order and stability and carpooling to families, friends, and grandparents. And for twenty of our church families, college students leave the home for new adventures.

Fall is also the season of stewardship for Christ Lutheran Church. This year's theme is **GATHER, SEND, and SERVE**. It reminds us that each Sunday we **GATHER** for the word and supper of life, where we are refreshed by our Lord's promise to care for our lives. Jesus **SENDS** you back into the world to **SERVE** your neighbors and be the body of Christ to all we meet.

Over these weeks of September and October, pastors will preach on these themes. In addition, your Stewardship Team will invite you to give consideration to the mission of Christ Lutheran Church with our congregation, community, and world. We are a spirit-filled group of Christians. Your pastors welcome your continued response to Christ's call as we act to **GATHER, SEND, and SERVE** in his name.

Pastors Scott and Paula Geister-Jones



UNITED IN CHRIST

Gather



Send



Serve



Meet Jeffery Rowley

Welcome Jeffery Rowley, organist for Christ Lutheran, who began his work with us on September 13. Jeff is a native of Stoughton and was confirmed at Christ Lutheran! Jeff recently returned to Stoughton and is manager of the restaurant concessions at the Dane County Airport.

Jeff will play the organ three Sundays each month as well as play piano for the Family Express worship service.



Gift Discovery—Opportunities to Serve



Have you turned in your form? Make sure that you fill out your form and turn it in to the church office. Everyone should fill a form out, even if you are already teaching Sunday School or singing in the choir, etc. A new database needs to be established. Each member's input is essential! Additional forms are available at church, or print one off from the church website!



Dartball News

Dartball will be starting up in October. Please contact Gloria in the church office if you are interested in joining the CLC dartball team! The games are all played at 7:00 p.m.



Redeeming Christian Language October 15

Dr. Marcus J. Borg

Much of Christian language is poorly understood by many people in our time, both within the church and outside. These include specific words such as *salvation*, *sacrifice*, *righteousness*, and *repentance*, as well as collections of words, like *the Creed* and *Eucharistic liturgies*. Discussions will reclaim the rich meanings of these words for Christians today.

Marcus J. Borg is internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar. Described by *The New York Times* as “a leading figure in his generation of Jesus scholars,” he has appeared on numerous news and talk shows and has been featured in several National Geographic programs. Holder of the Hundred Chair of Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University until his retirement in 2007, Dr. Borg is the author of sixteen books that have been translated into ten languages including *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* (2006), a New York Times Best-Seller.

If you would like to attend this lecture at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, Pastor Scott welcomes you to ride along with him to this lecture. You may reach Pastor Scott at 873 -9353. The lecture will be presented in three presentations approximately an hour in length. Lunch will be provided. Depart Church about 8:30 a.m. and arrive home about 5:00 pm.



LifeLong Learners

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

When I first started writing these articles for the *Ambassador*, my desire was to hear and share stories you have, of things you have seen, heard, or had happen in your life or in the life of someone close to you, that were clearly the hand of God still working in the here and now. Adeline Berkley has wanted to share with us three such vignettes that occurred at various points throughout her lifetime. She has many more, I'm sure, and it is fun to sit and listen as she tells them during a visit.

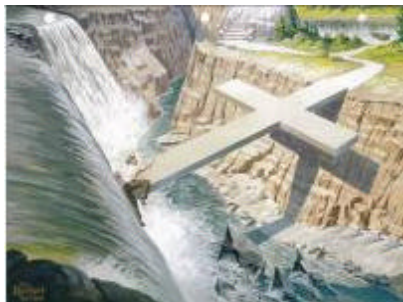
- “It was Christmas Eve. My brother and I were home alone. My father was a policeman on night duty in Stoughton. There was a man in Stoughton named Fiaron; I don't know what that means in Norwegian. He was in an alcoholic state most of the time. He came out of the shadows by the railroad depot, put a gun to my dad's head and pulled the trigger. The gun did not go off. We would have been orphans. The Lord was indeed with us.”
- “Amos 3:3 says: Do not two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? I was a night nurse for twelve years at the Stoughton Hospital. I was a single parent and had three small children at home. Fortunately, my stepmother slept in our apartment with them. However, the last year I was really too tired to be a good nurse. I didn't dare sit down to chart. I would chart with one knee on the chair. After I made my rounds every hour, I would go back to my desk. The Lord would nudge me and say, ‘Go back to Room 330.’ I would find an oxygen tank almost empty. Or ‘Go down to Room 312.’ I would find some patient in sudden, excruciating pain. Or ‘Go back to Room 314,’ and I'd find a mother beginning to bleed again. Thanks to my Lord, I was able to do what I should do. And I thanked him and continue to do so.”
- “I then became Director of Nurses at the two hundred sixty-five bed Skaalen Nursing Home. It was always a challenge to find enough registered nurses. Frequently I would do my own work as Director, then work another eight-hour shift on a unit, often working 16-18 hours a day, as many of you have. No one is very efficient after ten hours a day. I was making rounds one day and was pretty desperate. As I reached for the elevator button, I said, ‘Lord, I need a 7-3 nurse full-time—now!’ Before I could push the button, a voice came over the loudspeaker: ‘Mrs. Berkley, call the office.’ There was an RN wanting to work full-time, 7-3. I have never forgotten this.”

So I continue to walk with my Lord—Adeline Berkley

The Bethel Series

You've heard it said that a picture is worth a thousand words? The Bethel Series uses marvelous pictures to help us study the Bible and see and hear God's promised future.

Adults gather on Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. or Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. to enjoy this Bible study experience. Feel free to join us this fall, beginning in October. You're welcome to drop in and see for yourself!



Lutheran Faith: The Basics

Once a year, Pastor Scott welcomes all interested folks in our congregation to participate in a class that covers the basic theology of our Lutheran faith.

In four sessions, we will explore Lutheran Christianity—not as a system of doctrines, but as a vivid way of being. We will explore our Lutheran faith as A WAY—a way of *seeing*, a way of *hearing*, a way of *teaching*, and a way of *following* Jesus.

Join Pastor Scott on October 5 and 12 at 6:30 p.m. as he continues his class discovering our Lutheran history. The class will last 50 minutes and use scripture, music, video, and art to express the basics of our faith heritage. Childcare will be provided if requested.

A WAY OF SEEING
A WAY OF HEARING
A WAY OF TEACHING
A WAY OF FOLLOWING



Ole and Lena Bake Sale and More...

Woman With a Mission will present the annual and 20th anniversary of the Ole and Lena's Bake Sale and More... on Saturday, December 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It will run in conjunction with the Christ Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner.

The sale began the fall of 1989 as a craft and bake sale, and in the past nineteen years we have raised over \$55,000 to give back to the church in many forms—from money for VBS, computers, computer software, Bible camp, carpet cleaning, vacuum cleaners, graduation scholarships, and the building fund. Over the years this sale has evolved from a craft and bake sale to the 'best bakers in town, best lefse, best cookbook, tasty coffee and snacks, great raffles and more....sale.' This year we are pleased to present the 20th anniversary of our sale with a few added surprises.

We will need your help in baking your favorite Norwegian or family's favorite bars, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, jams or whatever you would like. We do all the packaging and pricing, you just bring it in the day before the sale and we take care of the rest. More information will be coming as we get closer to December 5.

Our raffle items this year are a beautiful water color print "Autumn at the Union Terrace" by Steven Kozar, a queen size quilt with a pattern called "Norwegian Blue Skies" and the American Girl Doll "Kristen" and accessories. Just this week we have received a fourth item, an antique quilt donated by Edna Sands. Stop by our table after the church services each Sunday and buy your raffle tickets. We are located in front of the library. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Mary Onsager, Chairperson Women With a Mission



The **Men in Mission** thank you for all of your help in supporting the Pig Roast on September 12.

Early totals:

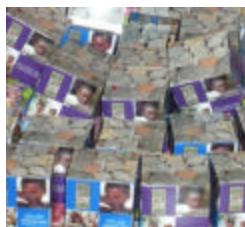
- We served approximately 250 people
- Monies received in excess of \$2,000

Everyone who helped (including the congregation) made this another successful event!

News from the Social Concerns Ministry Team

Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger

This summer, as we went through the five Sundays of "I am the bread of life" texts in John, members of Christ Lutheran once again took home the coin boxes for ELCA World Hunger. People have been bringing them back, and though we don't have an exact count yet, we can tell you that over \$700 has been gathered. That money will be split evenly between the Stoughton Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger. Christ Lutheran is feeding people at home and abroad!



Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

On Sunday, October 4, the pews in the sanctuary will be covered with all the beautiful quilts the quilters have sewn for Lutheran World Relief this past year. We will also bring up to the front of the sanctuary all the soap, layettes, health kits, sewing kits, and school kits that have been compiled from the gifts of the congregation.





God and Games

God and Games has begun for youth in grades 5-8. As in past years, youth and families are invited to an informal meal starting at 6:00 p.m. Confirmation for youth in grades 7-8 begins at 6:30 p.m. At that time, various games and activities begin for youth in grades 5-8. This fun ends at 7:30 p.m. At that time, the confirmation classes (youth in grades 7-8) have open gym until 8:00 p.m., which includes various challenges for prizes! Adult chaperones are always needed—if you are free on a Wednesday night, please stop by to help with the activities!



High School Time

High School Time occurs immediately following the Family Express service. We meet in the upper youth room, or the “high school only” youth room. This time is for all high school youth.

We initially wanted to move this high school time to Sunday evenings, but for the month of October, will continue to meet on Sunday mornings immediately after the Family Express service.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Retreat for Youth in Grades 3-5

Sugar Creek is hosting a retreat for youth in grades 3-5 Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18. The Youth Ministry Team of CLC will provide camperships for all youth who wish to attend. The cost to the parents will be only \$15. It should be an awesome event. You will play in the leaves and hike and meet new friends and sleep overnight. Youth meet at the church at noon on Saturday and will be home by 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Adult chaperones will be needed. They go free!

Iron Youth Challenge

There is no school on Thursday, October 29, so please join us for some youth events that day! We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. for lunch and fellowship. The afternoon will consist of fun events including the initial Christ Lutheran Church **Iron Youth** Challenge. We also have the task of picking up garbage along our adopted highway. Friends are always invited—and adult chaperones are also needed!!



YouthQuake 2010

The dates for YouthQuake 2010 in the Wisconsin Dells (Wilderness Resort) are January 8-10, 2010. Early registration deadline is October 21, 2009. More information will follow—this is a popular event for youth in grades 6-9. Save the dates!



CLC Youth December 5

The Christ Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner is Saturday, December 5. This is a large undertaking and will serve hundreds of people. Many youth will be needed to help

serve this wonderful meal. Sign-up sheets will be available during the month of October. Thanks in advance for helping at this meal!

Pending Lock-In

Plans are being finalized for a 6-8th grade lock-in event during the month of October. More information will follow!



Enjoy more news from our missionaries, Brian and Kristen Konkol...

Clearing Away the Smoke

by Kristen Konkol



Smoke billows into the air, covering the landscape. The clear, sunny skies have a hazy look to them as the fire burns away at the earth. The acrid smell hits your nose and you merely look into the distance amongst the rolling landscape to spy the source stimulating your senses. The dry Kwa-Zulu Natal winter months bring many controlled (and some uncontrolled) burns to the dry, crisp and pale landscape. The charred and blackened earth can be seen in vast hectares of land in both rural and cityscapes alike. As you travel down the roads, you are occasionally even made to detour as the smoke envelops the sky and visibility is minimal. This blackened earth is commonplace throughout the months of June, July, and August in our province (and some others) as a practice of cyclic renewal of the earth. Oftentimes one may think how unattractive, stale, and lifeless the landscape looks throughout these months. But with the first rains at the end of August, the green “fuzz” appears as you look over the vast areas of land. For amidst the charred and lifeless remains of earth spring new buds and blades of green. Renewal begins, and the cyclic pendulum has swung, bringing beauty and color to the once inert landscape. The green “fuzz” gets thicker as the grass, plants, and trees begin to taste the sweet drops of moisture from the swollen clouds. The beauty and fragrance of the flowering trees and plants tickle the senses as one walks down the road seeing eye-catching violets, corals, reds, and other vibrant colors springing out from the buds. As the memory of the dry and charred earth fades, one is reminded that there is always more than meets the eye. For a snapshot in time of this blackened earth would not capture the potential and cycle of renewal that takes place in Kwa-Zulu Natal (and other parts of South Africa). There are so many life-giving occurrences that happen each and every day, reminding us that there really is so much more than the senses can take in and process.

This can also be illustrated by a recent experience we were blessed with in Alexandra Township. “Alex,” as it is known, is one of the oldest townships in South Africa and is situated on the outskirts of Johannesburg, close to Sandton, one of the wealthiest suburbs in South Africa. In contrast, Alexandra is one of the poorest urban areas in the country. Picture over a million people sandwiched into a few square kilometers of space. As one enters the township, many of the observed homes, hostels (housing thousands), dwellings, and shacks are put together with any variety of resources. Here the color and vibrancy of trees, grass, and flowers are replaced by dirt, garbage, and bland colored materials of the makeshift small shops and densely crammed houses. But just as the blackened earth provides one with the mistaken identity of a lifeless snapshot, the outward appearance of Alex is deceiving, for it is one of the most vibrant and alive places to have the opportunity to experience. The kids dancing on the corner, the soccer games happening in every available space, the women sitting, talking, and singing as they sell their goods, the man sewing with amazing craftsmanship in his shop, people walking up and down the streets greeting one another with familiar smiles—life abounds! People flow in mass numbers up the main streets (6 in one direction, 22 in the other), creating a notable buzz. The energy in Alex is contagious, and one is reminded again that there is so much more than meets the eye. As we came to a seemingly ordinary and small room made of cinder block, we were told it was once the home of the world-renowned Nelson Mandela. Not only he, but so many other notable names such as Hugh Masekela (musician and trumpeter), Mark Mathabane (tennis player and author of the autobiography *Kaffir Boy*), Samora Machel (former Mozambiquan president), Alfred Nzo (South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1994-1999), Wally Serote (poet), Annie Twala (the “Mother of Alexandra”), Sam Buti (reverend) and many others called Alex their home. From one of the main streets, we were then directed into an alley-like area. From the portal of the road, we entered the bowels of Alex and were treated to the sweet sounds of jazz. (Continued on following page)

We were in one of the oldest jazz “clubs” in the country (the oldest in Alex) and had an amazing cross-cultural exchange of learning local greetings with the people there. So many laughs occurred and so much was learned and experienced between seemingly dissimilar people from different backgrounds. An observer would think it a group who had known each other for years. As dusk drew near and we exited Alex, the smoke had cleared and we could see that this place was not the snapshot of a dry and blackened earth, but the green “fuzz” and vibrancy of so much potential, color and flare—the beautiful people!

What we are reminded of every day is how blessed we are to see the cycles of life here and to see beyond the snapshots and begin to piece together clips of the bigger picture. We are humbled each and every day to look beyond the sometimes challenging outward appearance and see the beauty and amazing gifts within the people we walk and serve alongside. For we continue to see that the blackened earth provides so many amazing green and vibrant blades of renewal and life-giving promise in so many ways!



Baptisms:

September 13—Jakob Michael Dambach, son of Mark and Kristina Dambach
 September 20—Audrey Ellen Millar, daughter of Daniel and Quinn Millar

Deaths:

Betty Jean Giese

Memorials:

In Memory of:
 Elly Gibson

From:
 John Beutel



Christ in Our Home

The daily devotional booklets, **Christ in Our Home** for October, November, and December, are here. Please pick one up in the narthex or church office.



Altar Flowers 2010

The altar flower chart for 2010 is available. If there is a special day that you would like, call Gloria in the church office at 873-9353 to reserve your date.



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

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

**Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
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Email: pastorscott@clcstoughton.org
pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
office@clcstoughton.org
CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org
Staff:
Pastor Dick Rem, Visitation Pastor
Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary
Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary**



Senior Excursion—October 21 Little Norway

The next senior excursion will be to Little Norway on Wednesday, October 21. We will leave Christ Lutheran at 8:30 a.m. and return by 3:30 p.m. The trip will include lunch, transportation, and a wonderful tour. In addition to its magnificent buildings, the grounds of Little Norway offer a bounty of natural splendor. Take in the six natural spring-fed streams and quaint gardens, restored to historical accuracy utilizing native prairie flowers. The

buildings include a Norwegian church, a food storehouse, a granary, a sod-roofed house, a spring house, a dwelling house, and a Norwegian bachelor's cabin. Enjoy this beautiful place and a delicious lunch, and most importantly good conversations with one another. The cost is \$25.00. Call the church office (873-9353) and reserve your spot!