

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

August 2017



Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

Saturday Worship
5:30 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI

Inside this issue:

Music, Music, Music Ladies' Night Out	2
Go and Tell Lutheran World Relief Senior Luncheons	3
Skaalen Speaks Rally Sunday	4
Adult Mission Trip Jenna Gardner Mission Trip Baseball Sunday	5
Elizabeth Circle News	6
Weddings/Baptisms	7
10-Year Anniversary Celebration	Back
Calendar	Insert

Christ Lutheran Ambassador

Youth Mission Trip to Jamaica by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



It was amazing! Our group of twenty-five was divided into three work groups. The groups rotated to the different sites: the Clifton Boys' Home, West Haven Children's Home, and the Youth with a Mission Center. We did a lot of painting, but Jeff assured us it wasn't just busywork with salt air coming off the ocean, buildings need to be repainted every five years. And we did a lot of mixing with the boys and young men at the Clifton Boys' Home. We fed and helped bathe the children at West Haven Children's Home, but mostly mixing. When my group went back on a Saturday, I understood better what that mixing provided—entertainment. That is more valuable than you think. It makes life more enjoyable. It was so good to see the youth and adults pitch right in, no matter what their location, without hesitation.

For four days, we left for our sites at 8:00 a.m. and returned to the Youth with a Mission facility by 3:30 p.m., jumped into the pool to cool off, ate supper at 5:30 p.m., had Bible study and worship at 7:00 p.m., and believe it or not, were in bed by 10:00–10:30 p.m. One night we ate out at a local restaurant and discovered when you order chicken, you get chicken—no sides. When you order fish, the fish is staring right at you. We went snorkeling and walked the rapids at Dunn River, but what the group remembers most is the people we met. Everyone in the group agreed we want to go back. We want more people in our congregation to have this experience.

And we want to thank our congregation for their generosity. Without your help, this experience would not have been possible. Twenty-five of us ended up going. The cost was \$46,000, and the youth raised \$33,000. How did we do it? WWAM gifted us \$2,000, the Lutefisk Committee \$2,700, CLC Foundation \$4,500, and the congregation was generous with designated gifts—over \$3,000, discovered some unspent designated gifts, sold pies and more pies, had a Silent Auction right before Christmas, served Lenten suppers, Easter breakfast, Syttende Mai brunch, and once again put on our biggest fundraiser, the Garage Sale/Bake Sale/Silent Auction/Manna Café in March. We cleared almost \$10,000 this year. Let's not forget *Thrivent*. We have become the experts at applying for Thrivent Action Seed Grants. With their help, we cleared about \$4,000 additional dollars!



Music, Music, Music

Leo Endres and Linda Kunz, CLC Choir Director and Music Director, are making plans for the fall. Please consider joining a choir, band, or handbells. Here is a list of the groups you can join to make music at CLC:

- Chancel Choir is open to all and will start with two Wednesday evening rehearsals from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (August 30 and September 6) to have us ready to sing at 8:00 a.m. worship on September 10. Rehearsals will then be Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. We have a schedule that rotates between the three worship services. Please consider joining us; no experience needed.
- VIP (Voices in Praise) Kids, a choir for pre-school and elementary age kids, will rehearse two Wednesday afternoons a month and sing once a month in worship. This year Kyla Betts will be working with Linda in leading this choir. Our schedule starts Wednesday, September 6, at 4:45 p.m.
- Leo is working on schedules for Grace Notes (choir to sing for Family Express worship), Men's Choir and Women's Choir.
- First Class Ringers Handbells will start Wednesday, September 13, at 7:15 p.m. We have a fun time working together to learn the music and handbell ringing techniques. The schedule is to rehearse two Wednesday evenings a month and ring in worship once a month.
- Family Express Band is open to all—guitars, instruments, percussion, singers. We rehearse once a week and would like to include **you** in leading this family-friendly worship.

Want to make music in worship once in a while, but can't commit to a schedule? There's a place for you! Just curious and want to explore the idea and what might be involved to join any of the groups? Contact Linda Kunz at lkunz@clcstoughton.org or leave a message at the church office (873-9353).

Ladies' Night Out 2017

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

This year we had eighteen stops, had over **fifty** businesses participate, and sold over 200 tickets. I was so proud of the women. The weather was threatening, and by afternoon people were calling to see if the event was a go. Of course it was. Just too many people, places, and details to even think of rescheduling. The women showed up, registered, and started shopping. About 7:30 p.m., the skies opened up and the rain started pouring. Main Street down by the Stoughton Antique Mall flooded, and the road was closed for about a half hour. The manhole in front of Nordic Nook flew off. The storm drainage system could not keep up. But it did not stop the women. Many just stepped into a business and enjoyed their hospitality. Cheesers was outfitting others in garbage bags so they could continue their pursuit of eighteen stamps on their maps. They all survived and were in good spirits when we met back at the Chorus Public House at 8:45 p.m. That was a wonderful location to end up. There was plenty of room for all of us. Over fifty raffle prizes were given away.

This was Christ Lutheran's third year of hosting this event. The downtown businesses love it, and efforts are made to get the entire business community involved. We have an incredibly generous business community. After expenses were cleared, \$7,901 was raised. \$1,000 will be donated to the Stoughton Youth Center, \$1,500 to Seniors in Need, \$1,000 to World of Change Leaders, and \$4,401 to START.



Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

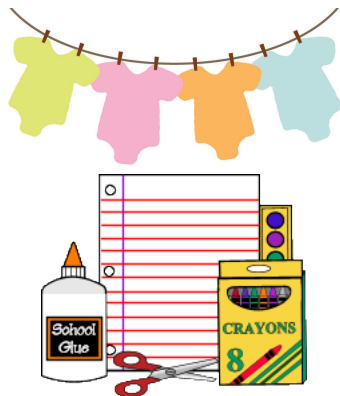
I don't know how much thought you give to the questions the Pharisees asked of Jesus throughout his ministry while He was here teaching His disciples. As I listen and read them, I cannot help but feel many of them were legitimate questions, but the difference that gave Jesus so much frustration (and, at times, anger) was the tone of voice and the intent of the heart of the person asking. Too often the questions were intended to discredit Jesus as a charlatan, to prove to the people following Him that the Pharisees and Sadducees really had the understanding of what God wanted and expected of them. Jesus' actions spoke far louder than their words. It seems the Pharisees' efforts were meant to keep the people pressed down and "under their thumbs," to keep their positions of respect and authority constantly before the eyes of the people rather than lift them up and build up any sense of faith in God. The term "Pharisee" has come to have such a bad connotation as we read about them. It is reassuring that not all Pharisees were so arrogant and intent on destroying Jesus and discrediting anything He said. Nicodemus came to Jesus at night with a heart truly wanting to understand where Jesus was "coming from." Even then, a hint of pride shows its head in his response to Jesus' statement that he must be "born again." The thought that he must enter into his mother's womb again after he was already old seemed foolish as well as impossible. Nicodemus was still open to understand, and Jesus did get through to him so that Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus. In John 7:50-51, as a member of the Sanhedrin, he is criticized for trying to be the "voice of reason" in their midst trying to dissuade them from pursuing Jesus' destruction. Mark 12:28-34 is another example of a scribe, a learned authority on the Old Testament scriptures, asking Jesus, "What is the greatest commandment of all?" The scribe's response to what Jesus said must have been a breath of fresh air to Jesus after dealing with the hardness of hearts of so many before him.

The point is, there are no questions for God and Jesus that are "off limits" and unmentionable. God wants us to understand the things for which we presently just don't know the how and why. God has promised us wisdom if we but ask with an open and humble heart.



Lutheran World Relief

Please keep in mind this summer, when you are out enjoying the garage sales, that come fall we will once again be collecting items for School Kits, Newborn Kits, and Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. What specifically should you be looking for? Nighties for babies up to six months old, t-shirts, baby blankets, baby socks, baby hats, baby sweaters, bath towels in good condition, and, believe it or not, back-to-school specials. They start earlier and earlier every year, and it is at the start when you can get good deals on notebooks, crayons, scissors, pencils, pens, and pencil sharpeners.



Senior Luncheons to Resume in September

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Senior Luncheons will resume in September with one change. The kitchen staff would like some help. You have been helpful in the past; this is just making it a bit more formal arrangement. Before every Senior Luncheon, there will be a sign-up sheet for a hour or two of prep on Sunday and dishes on Monday. The cooks arrive about 8:30 a.m. to prepare the food, and after serving lunch, it is tough to face the dishes and another hour of work. You are wonderful people. I know you will be more than willing to help out. Thank you! We look forward to another season of great fellowship.





Ice Cream Social Returns to Skaalen

by Diane Matson

Summer just wouldn't be summer without Skaalen's annual Ice Cream Social, and here it is! Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 20. Fresh baked pie, a scoop of ice cream, and the beverage of your choice are available in Skaalen's Community Room (formerly known as the Main Dining Room) from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. for \$3.00, while across the hall in the Chapel, visitors can enjoy musical entertainment while waiting for the results of the raffle drawing which will take place at 3:30 p.m. Raffle tickets will be available on the day of the Social or from Karen Warwick at church. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 for chances to win a beautiful donated quilt, a cozy afghan, a decoupage plate, and other items. Guests need not be present to win. Due to new laws recently enacted, church members are no longer asked to donate pies from their home kitchens to be offered at the Ice Cream Social, but if you would like to make a monetary donation to offset the cost of pies that have been made in a licensed commercial kitchen to be served at the event, please contact Diane Matson for details. Proceeds from the Ice Cream Social enhance programs and activities for Skaalen residents. Enjoy one of summer's greatest traditions—an old fashioned ice cream social at Skaalen!



Rally Sunday!



Sunday School Begins September 10!

Sunday School will begin September 10 for youth at Christ Lutheran from pre-kindergarten (age 3) through middle school. Worship services for fall begin at 8:00 a.m., 9:10 a.m. (Family Express Worship), and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School follows Family Express Worship. On Rally Sunday, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our new church facility. Special cake, cheese, meats, and crackers will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School registration forms will be available at the information desk and mailed to families at the end of August.



Who Wants to Go on a Mission Trip?

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Mission trips aren't just for youth and the lucky adults who get to go with them. The six adults and nineteen youth who went to Jamaica this past month would agree. It is something everyone would love to experience. It opened our eyes to the way so many people in this world live. They are poor and work hard just to get by. It helped us understand why Jesus spent so much time feeding the poor, healing the sick, and preaching good news to those who thought God had forgotten them. When you are that poor and each day is a struggle to survive, you feel like God has forgotten you.

I would like to plan a trip for adults for this winter or next winter. The cost would be about \$2,300. At this point we would probably be filling out other group ranks, or if we waited a year and could find about twenty-five people, it would be a group from Christ Lutheran. Adults would stay at the Holiday Inn and enjoy the comfort of air conditioning. We drove past the Holiday Inn several times; it is right on the beach. We would work three days building a house, staffing a medical clinic, and then go sightseeing for three days. We would need a doctor and other medical professionals and some handy people—people who know what they are doing when it comes to building. Yes, we could really build a house in three days. It would not be a big house, maybe 20' x 20', but for a family in need of shelter, it would look like a palace. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paula.



Jenna Gardner on Mission Trip in Thailand!

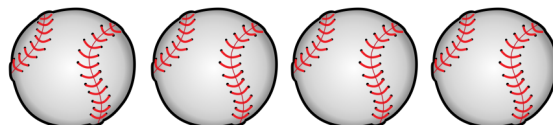
by Pastor Scott Geister-Jones

College sophomore Jenna Gardner was photographed in Thailand Elephant Village, where she spent time this summer on a mission trip! Jenna is one of many students at church who received a scholarship from Christ Lutheran Church for her collegiate studies at the University of Iowa! Jenna says her volunteer experience was one she'll never forget, and she is grateful for the opportunity to help others around the world.



Baseball Sunday—August 6

Each summer we have a worship service centered around America's first love—**baseball**. This summer the date is Sunday, August 6. Come and enjoy a liturgy and sermon spoken using the language of baseball. Following worship, baseball food will be served—brats, hamburgers, ice cream floats, etc. Bring the children! This is one service with plenty of action.



Where Life Enters

by YAGM Emily

YAGM Emily (also known as Mami—her Senegalese name) has been living in Linguere in Northern Senegal for the past year. She is serving with the Community Health Program of Senegalese Lutheran Development Services and teaching English at the Roman Catholic Elementary School in Linguere. Emily wrote this final blog post for the YAGM year as she prepared to leave her community at the end of this week and return to the U.S. at the end of next week.

The poet Rumi writes, “The wound is the place where light enters you.” But I’m going to edit this a bit. We have big problems in our language and culture with the metaphor of “light vs. darkness.” That is, lightness is good; darkness is bad, and all good things should bring light to darkness. But hang on: what’s wrong with the dark? What does this say about all of the dark-skinned people of the world, or all the places in the world that are supposedly “in the dark” when it comes to technology and Western culture? I refuse to play into the light vs. dark trope because it negates the value of darkness. Instead, to Rumi, I say: The wound is the place where life enters you.

I’ve spent this year being wounded by words, by sickness, by stares, by the heat, by food, and by exclusion. Others’ laughter wounded me when the only part of my identity I could cling to was my pride, until that, too, fell away. I’ve been wounded by loneliness, toxic negative self-talk, and fear of inconveniencing others.

I can’t lie to you and say that this was easy, and at some points, it wasn’t even fun. It pushed the limits of what I thought I could handle: in the heat, in the language barriers, in the silence and the lack of tangible impacts at work or feeling like I was “doing” anything. But how often do we allow ourselves to be wounded when we’re sitting comfortably within a bubble of privilege and security? And indeed, being a white middle-class citizen of a very wealthy nation, I can’t ever get rid of that privilege and security. Instead, I began the process of understanding what that privilege does for me by being opened up to the wounds of the world. We are all wounded. But some of us are more wounded by society than others, and I can see this far more clearly now than I could before.

A poignant moment of wounding came when I was set to receive a package from home sometime in March. As I approached the post office, I found myself confronted with a crushing crowd of people jostling to get in the door. A friend told me: they’re the poorest folks in each of the surrounding villages, and they’re waiting to register to receive a \$50 stipend from the government. She also said that I shouldn’t worry about them if I needed to visit the post office; since I was there for a different reason, I could go straight to the front of the line.

People in the crowd quickly parted way, graciously letting me pass on my quest to get in the doors. When I reached the front, a woman sitting on the other side of the door had to be moved before I could open it far enough to get in. Indeed, the way to the counter was clear but many eyes followed me as I went, from men and women sitting in chairs and on the floor in the crowded room. As I waited for the teller to produce my package, women pressed their elbows to my sides, hands full of paperwork edging in front of the window slot, desperate to be the next in line behind me, the quickly-served white foreigner. When I received the package, there lay the incriminating stamp in the upper-right corner: \$76 worth of shipping costs, and who knows how much money in snacks within.

I cried into my Girl Scout cookies that day, and felt ridiculous doing it. Here I was, lamenting the inequality and widespread poverty that lay literally right outside my window, and still I ate those cookies (and lots of other snacks, besides). This world is broken when a volunteer who’s trying to live at an economically-equitable level is still able to walk out of a post office with a \$150+ package in front of a hundred people who are waiting for \$50 to feed their families. They all watched me do it, and I don’t doubt they knew the cost of that package and what it signified of the gulfs of difference between us.

I don’t believe that working to heal the wounds of our world begins with self-abnegation and white guilt. No good would have come of this if I had thrown the Girl Scout cookies away, or the Wheat Thins and Clif Bars, for that matter. Nor would change have manifested if I’d distributed them to the people at the post office; at least, not real change. I think the change begins with allowing myself to be wounded by the embarrassment of my privilege, because that’s how the life gets in. This is the kind of wound that shows me just how severe the poverty is for rural families in this area, how they have been wounded by this world of insurmountable power differences, and yet how beautifully they dress and with what pride they carry themselves. Through this, I see the world that I probably could have guessed existed, but now it has faces, it has names, and it has bored a hole in me that I refuse to patch up.

I’m returning from this program with greater awareness of the world and my place in it because I offered myself up to be shocked by its realities, only to be inundated by life pouring in from every side. I’ll use this as a guide toward the fight for justice, equity, and prosperity, against which the wealthy white supremacy endlessly toils. And I urge all of us, especially white people with identities steeped in privilege, to expose themselves to the realities of our broken world, and be wounded by it. With this life now residing inside of us, resting firmly in the darkness and disparity of our world, we move forward together.



Weddings:



Scott Hestness and Kathleen Manthe

Thank You, Christ Lutheran

Thank you so much for the use of your church for our 2017 Homeschool Graduation Ceremony. We were so blessed by your hospitality and generous gift of the use of your lovely facilities. May God richly bless your kindness.



Baptisms:



Henry James Raday,
son of Matthew and Briana Raday



Parker William Kahl,
son of Dustin and Kelly Kahl



Emmett Chase Warren
and Henry Knight Warren
sons of Collin and Laura Prine



Rose Elizabeth Sherry,
daughter of Paul and Bridgett Sherry



Greyson Bradley Beckwith,
son of Bradley Beckwith and Melissa Hull-Beckwith

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2 Corinthians 5:20

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

September 10—Rally Sunday **Save the Date for our 10th Anniversary Celebration!**



The Parish Fellowship Board invites all to attend a celebration honoring ten years in our new church facility. Yes, it has been ten years since the dedication!

We will be remembering and honoring those who had a hand in planning and building our church. We also hope to have some of our past pastors visit.

The Parish Fellowship Board will be our hosts and provide cake and other snacks in abundance.

Some good news: our treasurer has reported that we are ahead of our plan to pay down our mortgage! Better news: we have a plan to hasten this to reduce our interest costs. How about **10 for 10!** Each family donates \$1 for each of the 10 years in our new church—**\$10**. Or how about \$10 for each of the 10 years in

our new church—**\$100**. Or how about \$100 for each of 10 years. **Or...you get the message!** Best news: this way we can each have a share in helping to eliminate our debt.

Please make a note to join us in this celebration. We promise you will have a great time.

Jeffrey Zarth, Parish Fellowship Board

