

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

July 2018



**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 a.m.

**Saturday Worship**  
5:30 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church  
700 County Highway B  
Stoughton, WI

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# Christ Lutheran Ambassador



## **Mission Trip to Baton Rouge** *by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones*

On Tuesday, June 19, at 4:00 a.m., the youth and adults going to Baton Rouge gathered at the church to begin their mission trip. We flew out of Madison at 7:00 a.m., arrived in New Orleans before noon, and drove up to Baton Rouge from there—about an hour away. Twenty-eight of us went—21 youth and 7 adults. By the time you get this newsletter, we will be home again. All are looking forward to the trip. We are not quite sure what we will be doing. Rain is predicted for most of the week. We do know that we will work four days, have time for a Bible study each day, and before we come home we will see a plantation, take a swamp boat tour, visit the French Quarter in New Orleans, and take a ride on a riverboat. We look forward to sharing our stories at the Senior Luncheon in August.

Youth participants this year are Hannah Iverson, Joey LePine, Ben Bartelt, Kadin Milbauer, Luke Geister-Jones, Taylor Dyreson, Katie Iverson, Ashley Nelson, Parker Milbauer, Brady Estervig, Brooks Empey, Konnor Knauf, Jonah O'Connor, Bradley Garcia, Lani Estervig, Karlee Proctor, Alexis Abing, Emma Sperle, Luke Vienneau, Collin Williamson and Casey Milbauer. Adult participants are Roger Strandlie, Jane Abing, Lori Everson, Darla Estervig, Nina Milbauer, Matt Geister-Jones, and Pastor Paula.

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## **A Smile, Having God in Your Heart, and a Simple Invitation Can Go a Long Way—Let's Try It!**

*by Ilein Taipe*

I have been coming to Stoughton, WI, for over 20 years. I am not originally from here. When I was married to my son's father, Patrick, who is from Stoughton, we visited his mom, dad, and siblings almost every year—all of whom lived in this great town of ours. Today it is my permanent home. Although my son's father and I are no longer married, we are forever partners in raising our 15-year-old son, Jonah.

The personality and charm of Stoughton have not changed; what has is the demographics of the many different races, backgrounds, and cultures, and with that come certain denominations that we might not know of. Just to have an idea of what Stoughton's demographics look like today, this is what it says;

"Stoughton, WI is home to a population of 13,041 people. The ethnic composition of the population of Stoughton, WI is composed of 11,748 White residents (90.1%), 506 Black residents (3.88%), 268 Hispanic residents (2.06%), and 128 Asian residents (0.98%)." (Reference <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/stoughton-wi/>)

So now, as a church family, how may we approach other cultures, or anyone we meet for the first time, to our family-oriented, faith-driven, and community-loving church—CLC? I say a simple smile with a hello. A start can be something like "How long have you been living in Stoughton?" or "What brings you to Stoughton?" This can be said anywhere, when we are out and about with friends and families, in any of our lovely family restaurants, in our local grocery stores, or shopping in our amazing small businesses downtown. I have a bit of experience with these both in the asking, meeting new Stoughtonites, and someone approaching me.

I am retired military and have lived in many states. I am glad a friend of mine invited me to his church before I decided to go to boot camp. I was saved and accepted the Lord as my savior at 16 years old. I stayed in touch with Pastor Tony. He sure helped me along boot camp. Throughout my 21 years in the Marine Corps, I visited many churches either by invitation or looking it up on churchfinder.com. As I grew with the Lord, my heart would love more, accept more, and I smiled more. This has made it easier for me to tell all I can about Christ Lutheran Church.

I myself have invited two families to our lovely church, both being Catholic. After their experience, they told me about some differences; of course I heard them out, but what made them open their hearts was the kids running around, people being happy, and the way people hung around after the service. The backgrounds of my friends were Irish American (originally from Chicago), and the other, Argentinian origin. One was having a hard time and I told her to come. I mentioned our delicious coffee, our treats (it's an easy way to get someone to come—ha). I also told them about our wonderful pastor team. Told them to come and feel the warmth and peace. My friend from Argentina has three children. I told her about our Wednesday five-course meals made by our very own chef, Pastor Paula, and the precious ladies. That put a huge smile on her face, no cooking for a night! She has continued to come to a few of our fundraising events.

There have been a few times in CLC that I have spotted new faces. I am sure many of us have. I am confident that it is the genuine demeanor we have, the God in our words, and smiles. I still remember a hug I received from a lady at a church in Virginia. My first day visiting. Besides the music, that one gesture told me—Ilein, you must come back next Sunday! I did.

In Christ Lutheran Church we love all, accept all that walk through our doors, just like our loving God loves us! Either from a different race or denomination, we smile, show the God in us, and leave the rest to the almighty God above. Our faith will be shown in action, and the Lord will carry it from there. I was a visitor once; now I have found my second home, our church. Thank you, CLC!

*"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

- Galatians 3:28



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## Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

Sometimes the meanings of words fade into obscurity in our minds and we need to relearn the definition of that word to understand the intent of what is said. One of those words is “bless” or “blessing.” In Mark 10:13-16, we have the account of Jesus’ disciples turning away the children that the parents had brought to Jesus for Him to lay His hands on them. I admire these parents for wanting this for their children, and their faith in Jesus as coming from God with power. They may not have understood exactly who Jesus was, but they were confident He came from God. In verse 16 it says, “And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.” As I read that, I wondered just what it was that He was doing when it said “and began blessing them.” If you notice, the very first thing He did was take them in His arms, hugging them and making sure they knew that He loved them. The definition of blessing is summed up in “the act of invoking divine favor, protection and aid.” As Jesus blessed each one of them, He asked God to look upon them with favor and protect them from Satan’s attacks and keep them. Part of me wonders how much these little children remembered of what this stranger, Jesus, did that day. Hopefully their parents became disciples as well and were members of the early church the Apostles began assembling after Jesus’ ascension into Heaven.

There is an Old Testament blessing in Numbers 6:24-27 that God told Moses to have Aaron and his sons say to the Israelites. We use it in our services as well today: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace. So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them.” That is God’s desire for us even today. We can pray this for each other and ones we know need it as well.



## Who’s Who in the Pew—Nina Milbauer

by Diane Matson



Sometimes Energizer Bunnies are pink, wear sunglasses, and march around pounding on a big bass drum. At other times, Energizer Bunnies can be seen in sneakers, surrounded by the youth of Christ Lutheran, coordinating mission trips, garage sales, Mardi Gras events, and serving as the chair of the Youth Ministry Committee. Christ Lutheran’s Energizer Bunny is Nina Milbauer, who calls Burlington, WI, her hometown, but has been a member of Christ Lutheran since the days that worship was held in the Skaalen Chapel. Married to Brad for 23 years, they have been Stoughton residents for

18 years and are parents to Kadin-17, Parker-16, and Casey-13. When not at work as an Information Technology instructor, Nina enjoys hiking, kayaking, being outdoors, and attending her boys’ activities. Any place warm with a beach is a favorite place to vacation, with the Caribbean being at the top of the list. When asked about the things she most enjoys about Christ Lutheran, Nina mentions the friendliness of its members, the homelike “laid-back” atmosphere, and the fact that there are plenty of activities for all age groups. Those activities are all the better because of the enthusiasm and dedication of members like Nina. Thank you, Nina, for all you do for the youth of Christ Lutheran.

## Hurray! ELCA Steeple to Steeple Bike Ride for World Hunger a Success!

*“Let’s ride to help bring daily bread for all of God’s people.”—Rev. Mary Froiland, Bishop, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin*

Vicki Hanrahan, the Ride Chair and Organizer reports 91 Bikers participated this year and nearly \$4,000 was raised to benefit world hunger.

A special thanks to our CLC hosts—Ann Nelson and Nancy Holzhuter, who greeted the bikers at the CLC rest stop. Ann and Nancy reported there were about 25 bikers who did the long ride, which included stops at Cooksville and CLC. The other participants chose a shorter ride, which did not include Stoughton. Bob Kluge says it was a great day for a bike ride—cool and cloudy. If you want to join the party, look for the announcement next year!





## 2018 Ladies' Night Out

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

This year Ladies' Night Out enjoyed great weather—sunshine, temps in the high 70's, low humidity, and **no** rain. About 205 women participated, and from the looks of it, they had a great time. This year 19 downtown businesses participated as stops, and about another 50 donated raffle prizes or sponsored the event. Christ Lutheran and the Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all who participated. Working together, it looks like the event will clear about \$8,400 for our Stoughton benevolences.

### ***What the ladies are saying about their night out...***

- "Ladies' Night Out is awesome! It's a good way to go to businesses that you have never been in before. Merchants are awesome, and people are great—we are having a great time!" - Julie G.
- "We are having a great time at Ladies' Night Out; people are friendly, and a beautiful night."
- "...having a great time; done it every single year, and I highly recommend everyone join in!" - Chris
- "Have done this for two years, wonderful fundraiser for the causes that are being remembered. It's a great way to introduce yourself to downtown Stoughton. There are a lot of businesses that I didn't even know about, and I have lived here my entire life! I think more people should take advantage of this opportunity and go for it! Have fun." - Karen
- "We look forward to it every year."
- "It's fun because you learn about businesses...what they have and what they serve."
- "...giving money back to community—which is awesome."



## Sunday School News

by Jenny Hoffman

Now that Sunday School has ended for the summer break, I wanted to thank all of the church members, high school students, and parents that spent time in the classroom working with our students every week. You all worked really hard, and because of your dedication, the students grew in their knowledge and relationship with God. You made a big difference to our students.

I also wanted to thank the parents and congregation members that participated in our special multi-generational events. The students really enjoyed these activities, and they learned a lot from these interactions. We are looking to have more of these types of activities in the fall.

I wanted parents to know that I will be emailing and mailing out a parent survey. (I will also have copies available on the bulletin board in the main Sunday School hallway.) I would like to get feedback from parents. The survey will be a brief questionnaire, but please include any ideas you might have for improvements.

In addition to improvement ideas, I am asking any parent that might be interested in volunteering for Sunday School activities to indicate that on the survey form. Participation can take many forms: as a parent helper, Sunday School teacher, substitute, or volunteers for specific projects, or if you are willing to help make craft kits for the classes.

Please be on the lookout for this survey; it will be sent out at the beginning of July. You can drop off completed surveys at the church office.

## Calling All CLC Bikers

by Bob Kluge



**Sunday, July 15**, 1:00 p.m., CLC bike ride on the Badger State Trail, starting in Belleville, WI, and going south toward the tunnel. This ride is off-road and family-safe for all ages. Depending on your skill or ambition, you can travel to the tunnel, to Monticello, or further—state trails require a trail pass for people 16 or older (youth are free). Resident pass fees are \$20 (annual) or \$4 (daily). There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



We have a few special services planned in August. You could put them on your calendar and plan to attend. Sunday, August 5, is **Baseball Sunday**, and Sunday, August 26, is the **Blessing of the Animals**.



## Thank You from South Central WI Christian Home School Association

Thank you for graciously allowing the 2018 graduation of homeschooled students to be held in your place of worship. We appreciate your generosity. May the Lord bless you.

In Christ,  
Shelly Kohrt—on behalf of the 2018 graduating class



## 2018 Christ Lutheran Church Scholarships

Twenty-eight scholarships were given to seven Christ Lutheran Church graduating high school seniors who will be college freshmen this fall and twenty Christ Lutheran Church continuing college students. Close to \$12,000 in scholarship money was awarded. Funds for these scholarships come from: Named Scholarship invested funds\*, Christ Lutheran Church, Women With a Mission, the Lutfisk Committee, an anonymous donor, and Bethel Circle.

\*Named Scholarships: Judith Stolen Scholarship, Olav Hellekve Scholarship, William and Norma Lally Scholarship, Lorraine Thomas Ward Scholarship, Timothy Nebel Scholarship, and Paula Landers Scholarship.

Joseph LePine—Lutfisk Committee Scholarship

Hannah Iverson, Emily Fitzsimmons, Josephine Asleson—Women With a Mission Scholarship

Zakkariah Frieders and Tyler Anderson—Christ Lutheran Church Scholarship

Brody Teigen—Women With a Mission Scholarship

Bergen Gardner—Gertrude Haven Aiken Scholarship

Kirsten Sanford—Women With a Mission Scholarship

Nathan Moll—Lorraine Thomas Ward Scholarship

Carrie Aide—Paula Landers Scholarship

Noah Frieders, Maddie Posick, Celina Moll, Marisa Ludlum—Christ Lutheran Church Scholarship

Jenna Gardner, Andrew Zacharias, Hannah Posick—Christ Lutheran Church Scholarship

Ryan Ewald—William and Norma Lally Scholarship

Brianna Adams and Cassandra Adams—Timothy Nebel Scholarship

Lexie Fitzsimmons and Alexander Zacharias—Lutfisk Committee Scholarship

Sydney Johnson and Jacob Fitzsimmons—Judith Stolen Scholarship

Alexandra Asleson—Olav Hellekve Scholarship

Taylor Wise—Bethel Circle Scholarship

Lori Everson—Judith Stolen Scholarship. She will be attending Wartburg Theological Seminary to major in the Master of Arts/Diaconal Ministry Program.



## Deaths:

## Memorials:

[illegible]

Patsy Day  
Dwight and Debra Pautz  
Al and Eloise Christenen  
Bill and Sherry Cress  
Phil and Marilyn Gardner  
Colleen Gregorich  
Phyllis Gullickson  
Gloria Hayne  
Steve and Alice Hendrickson  
Mark and Ruth Hillbo  
Tom and Suzanne Hotter  
Dan and Diane Matson  
Roger and Judie Nitzsche  
Myron and Mary Sime  
Roger and Geri Slack  
Eric Smedal  
Janice Sorenson  
Gary and Berly Teigen  
Robert and Edie Tholo  
Gladys Thompson  
Rodney and Linda Trunzo  
Genevieve Wilberg  
Gwen Haugen  
Family and Friends

Julie Sehmer  
Julie Sehmer

Bob and Louise Kluge  
Roger and Joyce Utermark

Pastor Scott's Ministry  
 Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
 Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
 Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
 Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
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Roger and Joyce Utermark  
Genevieve Wilberg  
Roger and Joyce Utermark  
Nancy Holzhuter  
Ann Nelson  
Mark and Karen Benson

**Erin Ellefsen** and her daughters, Eliana and Marjorie (Photo at left). Erin has lived and worked in Stoughton for four years, having grown up and resided in Burlington, WI, before then. Erin is happy to be joining Christ Lutheran, where she have been attending services since August, 2017.



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*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**

