

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

August 2018



Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

Saturday Worship
5:30 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI

Inside this issue:

August Worship	2
Go and Tell Who's Who in the Pew	3
President's Report Lutheran World Relief	4
Mission Trip 2019	5
2018 Mission Trip	6
Senior Excursion Skaalen Ice Cream Social 90 th Birthday Celebrations	7
Our Building Is Being Used Thank-You Notes Baptisms	8
Ladies' Night Out Results	9
Elizabeth Circle News	10
Memorials	11
Calendar	Insert

Christ Lutheran Ambassador

What Do I Think?

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

I was not able to attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 19. I was on an amazing mission trip with twenty-eight youth and adults from Christ Lutheran. People were wondering what I think. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you.

My vote would be to call another pastor—a co-pastor. Why a pastor, and in particular, a co-pastor? The synod visited with us about two years ago and took a good look at our congregation and the ministry we were doing here. They came to the conclusion that we definitely needed two pastors and were on the verge of needing another staff person, not necessarily ordained. We are now down to one pastor. The synod was right. This congregation is just too big for one pastor to handle and maintain the same level of activity we presently enjoy. Ideally, I would like to find a pastor with about five years of experience, for two reasons. Pastors go to college for four years and then seminary for four years, with one of those years serving as an intern. You get your feet wet that internship year. It is amazing how much learning takes place those first three or four years in the parish. With that many years of experience, a younger pastor will be able to start their ministry at CLC with a good understanding of how a church functions. The second reason, I'm in the upper range as far as age is concerned. It would be nice to call a younger pastor for our younger families and children.

Why a co-pastor? I believe that a co-pastor model is more in tune with the gospels. Jesus told his disciples the night before he was crucified, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." Both pastors serving as co-pastor allows the gifts and leadership of both pastors to be encouraged and appreciated. And there is another really practical reason. A co-pastor's call does not end when the other pastor retires or takes another call. I have been in the ministry for thirty-six years. I'm sixty-three years old. My youngest son, Luke, will be a senior this year in high school. I am hoping to work until he is through college, another five years. By the time I retire, the co-pastor we call will know this congregation well. A lot of times, when one pastor leaves, there is one or two years between one pastor leaving and another pastor being called when not a lot happens. There would be time between CLC being a one-pastor to a two-pastor church once again, but like now, I think the life of the congregation would continue with as little as possible disruption.

Continued on page 2

Continued from front page...

Our people who serve on Stewardship and Foundation have looked over the budget. They feel we have enough resources to call another co-pastor, but we need to get serious about giving. When Pastor Scott and I first came fifteen years ago, we had about forty-five shut-ins. We have about fifteen now. Many of those people who have passed from this life knew the joy of giving generously and did so cheerfully. We have been able to maintain our giving level, dropping maybe 5%, but we need to start talking about stewardship. No one likes to talk about finances. It has been known to divide couples. People in congregations sometimes feel, "All they do is talk about money," and it's not a positive comment. We don't want that to happen, but we do want people to start thinking about just how good God has been to them. Studies show we would always like about 20% more; then we would have enough. Then we would be content. But folks, we have a generous God, and God has been generous to us. That is one thing I have seen with my own eyes on the last four mission trips we have taken. We pray, "give us this day our daily bread," and Luther tells us daily bread includes "food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." Our stewardship program this coming fall will focus on our generous God. We look at our children and we realize the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Children learn their behavior from mom and dad. So the second half of our stewardship theme is a giving people: A Generous God—A Giving People.

Baseball Sunday

Sunday, August 5—9:00 a.m.



Can you believe it? It is the 25th anniversary of the classic baseball film *Sandlot*. Once again CLC will worship the Lord with a worship service centered around the language and game of baseball. It is a fun service, with some of the same games in between sections of the service (innings) as you might find at a baseball game. That's why we need young people to attend. There is definitely a Seventh Inning Stretch. Following the service, the Boy Scouts will be serving hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, brats, chips, root beer and orange floats, and lemonade. A free-will donation will be received. They are trying to raise some funds to replace the trailer that sits in the corner of our parking lot. From I have been told, it is falling apart.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, August 19—9:00 a.m.

The date has been moved up a week. Pastor Paula realized she was going to be on vacation August 26. On Sunday, August 19, everyone is encouraged to bring their pets to church to be blessed. Back in Genesis 2, Adam is given the



task of naming all the animals, and while no "suitable helpmate" was found, helpmates were found. In the naming of the animals, Adam decided how the animals would relate to human beings. Dog: a continual source of grace. A creature who will love you no matter what. Cat: a creature who will keep you company, but still enjoys their own space.

Pulpit Supply While Pastor Paula Is on Vacation

Pastor Paula will be on vacation August 20–September 3. Miriam Hull will be our guest preacher on Saturday and Sunday, August 25 and 26. On Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2, Al Wahl will be our guest speaker. Al served as a visitation pastor for Christ Lutheran fifteen years ago and is excited about coming back.

Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

Have you ever done something nice for someone only to be scolded and reprimanded for being naughty and having no business doing that without permission? Sounds like something one would have done as a child for a parent or grandparent on their birthday, or just as a thank you or an expression of love. The special effort probably resulted in a big mess in the kitchen, or possibly something broken because you didn't know how to use it. My guess is that this hits home with just about each one of our individual families in some way. The simple love of a child wanting to be big and grown up making someone they love smile.

In Mark 14:3-9, we read of a woman with an alabaster vial or jar filled with pure nard, a very expensive perfume that was very aromatic. Alabaster was a hard stone found in that area, and was also used in the building of Solomon's Temple. The hardness made it a good container to preserve the purity of the nard and, to keep it from vaporizing off, the lid would have been sealed with wax. The wax is probably what she "broke" when she anointed Jesus' head. To be honest, I don't understand why she poured this on Jesus' head at this time, while He was still alive. This would have been used by the women as they went to the tomb after Jesus was crucified. The scent would have masked the "stench" as the body underwent the normal process of decay. Even though I don't understand her action's timing, just as the disciples did not understand why she "wasted" something so valuable, Jesus understood her heart and knew she did it out of a deep love for Him and what He had done for her.

The women going to the tomb of Jesus, is part of God's plan and timing as well. Because Jesus was crucified on Friday, time was very limited to properly bury Him as the Sabbath begins at sunset. Normally, the body was wrapped in a shroud, and the spices and perfumes applied before the stone would have been rolled in front of the caves opening. The women came back on Sunday morning, after the Sabbath, needing the stone to be rolled away so they could finish what wasn't done on Friday. There should have been no reason for them to come back normally, other than to weep and mourn outside. By coming to the tomb for this one reason, they were given the honor of seeing the stone already rolled away, hearing the angels declare Jesus was risen from the dead, and then told to go and tell the disciples what they did not yet know. God needed them to be a witness of what He had done. I love seeing instances of how God works through all the details. In this case, bringing both the women and the disciples from the absolute depths of despair and sorrow to the mountain top of joy as they began to realize what God had just done and the message of the Gospel that they were given to share.



Who's Who in the Pew—Scott Geister-Jones

by Diane Matson



A stalwart in the sanctuary, but new to the pew. That's this month's mystery when it comes to profiling Scott Geister-Jones (his request is that we now call him "Scott").

This "man of mystery" was born in Milwaukee, but not in Wisconsin. Not possible you say? *Milwaukie* in the state of *Oregon* is Scott's hometown. Married to his bride of twenty-eight years, Pastor Paula, the Geister-Jones family has called Stoughton "home" for the last fifteen years. Prior to God's call to become a pastor, his jobs were many and varied, beginning as a box boy in a grocery store. He moved on to become a warehouseman in an aluminum factory, and finally a lumber trader before entering the seminary.

Along the way, three little Geister-Joneses appeared. Oldest son Matt has just completed his first year of teaching in New Ulm, Minnesota. Daughter Sophie is a recent honors graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and "baby" Luke will enter his senior year at Stoughton High School. He wrestles in the 170-pound weight class and is an enthusiastic member of the high school lacrosse team, so attending wrestling meets and lacrosse games is always on Scott's calendar.

Now that he's able to enjoy a little more free time, and when he's not trotting the globe leading a group on a tour of Germany, or exploring the western United States and parts of Canada with his traveling companion Joe Weum, Scott's favorite places revolve around bodies of water, where he relishes his time boating or sailing.

When asked about the things he most enjoys about Christ Lutheran, his first response was "the people," followed by families, relationships, and faith. So welcome to the pew, (Pastor) Scott! We're glad that you are here.

Pastor Call Process Update

by Dan Matson

We had an excellent congregational meeting on June 24. We installed Mike Warwick as Treasurer, Berly Teigen as Chair of Social Concerns, and Kris Annen as Chair of Education. These people joined the Council on July 1. We also had a review of the congregation survey presented by Ted Sehmer. This is now on our website for you to review.

Most importantly, we had a great discussion of the options for replacing Pastor Scott. The general consensus seemed to be we need to go forward with another co-pastor. A motion was made to follow up this meeting with one in the fall after Rally Sunday so additional members could be involved in the process. Based on the interest so far, we will likely vote on September 16 on seeking a co-pastor. If that vote is successful, a Call Committee will be named to begin the search. This meeting and vote on a co-pastor will take place in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.

It's Time to Start Collecting Items for Lutheran World Relief

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One lightweight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, *or include a baby cap*
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins



Include the following items in each School Kit:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14"x17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



Hint—start buying the items for school kits now. Once school begins, the prices go up and will not go down until the end of September.

Mission Jamaica 2019

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Dates: June 18–25, 2019

Estimated Cost: \$1,550 (\$100 is to help pay for the house we are going to build.)
Passports will be needed. Adult passports are \$110, \$25 to Post Office and \$15 for picture.
Youth passports for 16 and under are \$80, \$25 for Post Office and \$15 for picture.

I have known about the work at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN for years. They have done what few congregations have done—establish their own international mission and offer their members and other congregations, colleges, youth, and adults a life-changing short-term mission opportunity. Jeff Peterson, their full-time staff person for their international missions, offers adults opportunities January through April each year and three weeks of opportunities for youth in June—before hurricane season begins. Jeff tells me that 75% of the adults that sign up each year have done so before. That speaks well of the program

We are now part of that 75%. We definitely had a good experience last summer, and before we left last year, we told Jeff we would be back. I have talked to Jeff Peterson. Besides being the full-time staff person for their international missions, Jeff is a contractor, skills totally needed in his position. He knows us from a year ago and now knows how hard our group works, so next summer, besides the other projects he has for us, he is going to let us build a house. The house will be 22 feet by 12 feet with a bathroom in the corner, not exactly what we would call a house, but someone in Jamaica will feel incredibly blessed to have it.



A picture of the group from 2017

We want youth, of course, to sign up, but this is also an opportunity for our college-age young adults, as well as any member of the congregation. You will be hearing more soon. Registration will begin in September.

Why Mission Trips?

The congregation must think the youth are a bit crazy, beginning to plan our next mission trip as soon as we get back from our last, but these trips are truly amazing. The youth and adults who participate in them learn more about how other people live and realize not everybody does everything the way they do it. Hopefully they also learn to appreciate what they have at home. They begin to understand that not everyone is born into a middle-class family where there is some financial security and a good education an assumption. There are places where a flood (Baton Rouge) or just life (Jamaica) is more than a family can handle.

For the past few years, we have traveled to locations where white is not the dominant color. In Phoenix it was brown, in Jamaica black, and in Baton Rouge a nice mix. 1% of our zip code population is black, another 1% Hispanic, and 98% white. That is the world we live in. God loves variety. But people sometimes are afraid of people who are different from them, simply because they have never met people who are different. These trips give the adults and youth a chance to meet different people and possibly overcome some fears.

It also gives them a chance to discover new talents or pick up some new skills. This past trip, some of the youth laid flooring and mudded drywall. And then there is the community that is shared within the group. We learn to appreciate, accept, and even at times put up with one another's idiosyncrasies. We learn to be more forgiving and grace-filled. But the number one reason, I would say, is that we have a Gracious God, a Gracious God whose image we were created in, and part of being a child of God is to be a Generous People, to reach out and help a neighbor in need. Isn't that why the church exists? To be Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the world today, and through our words and deeds witness to the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead and still lives.

Baton Rouge Mission Trip 2018

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



We met at the church at 4:00 a.m., drove up to the Madison airport, boarded our plane around 6:30 a.m., and arrived in New Orleans Tuesday, June 19, after two delays, one in Madison and a second in Chicago. The landing in New Orleans was a bit rough. It didn't take long to grab our luggage, rent our minivans, and head northwest towards Baton Rouge. After checking into our hotel, we went to LSU and saw Mike the Tiger—a live tiger and their school mascot. After supper we had our Bible study and worship. We turned in early; we had been up since 3:00 a.m. and needed to report to Saint Bernard Project by 8:00 the next morning.

The Saint Bernard Project offices were only about two blocks away, so the next morning we had no trouble reporting on time. We divided our group into five groups, with one going off to one project, two to another, and two to yet another. Some of us were lucky; for the first two days we painted in air conditioning, but the others worked in the heat and the heat index was up into the 100's. We painted, drywalled, stripped tile off the floor, and laid flooring. We picked up a few skills and realized firsthand how hard the people in the trades work each and every day. We struggled with an eight-hour shift. They often put in 10 or 12. We worked four days, starting out each day around 6:30 a.m. and showing up at the work site by 8:30 a.m., put in eight hours, returned to our hotel, and showered. Then we went out to eat as well as checked out downtown Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Mall. We came back for Bible study and worship at 9:00 p.m. and went to bed. We had no trouble falling asleep early.

We worked for four days and then did the tourist thing. On Sunday we changed hotels and visited Oak Abbey Plantation. The guides told us the story of the family and the slaves who lived there for about a 30-year period. It had been a sugar plantation, and sugar was labor-intensive. The family in the big house lived a lavish lifestyle. The slaves in the slave quarters were not free, underfed, and worked incredibly long hours—sometimes 18 hours a day.

On Monday we went on a swamp tour and were pleasantly surprised to discover no mosquitoes. We behaved like Midwesterners and sprayed ourselves down with bug juice beforehand, but there was no need. We saw Brutus, a 14-foot alligator, some raccoons and wild pigs, and listened to some great jokes—Louisiana's version of Ole and Lena stories. From there we drove down to the French Quarter, divided into groups, and ate lunch, walked around, and shopped. At 5:45 p.m. we boarded a riverboat, enjoyed a buffet dinner, jazz music, and a trip up the Mississippi.

On Tuesday we were up at 3:00 a.m. once again, on the way to the airport by 4:00 a.m., on the plane by 6:30 a.m., and on our way home at 7:00 a.m. We once again encountered delays, two hours in Chicago due to thunderstorms, but we eventually got home.

It was a good trip. It was a great group—great adult leaders and a wonderful group of young people. We did get a few noise complaints. Some of our boys were wrestling in their room. We had wrestlers in the group. Wrestlers wrestle wherever they are. It will be interesting to hear some of the feedback from the youth and adults who participated in the coming weeks. I appreciated Saint Bernard Project. They gave us meaningful work. We were actually repairing homes devastated by the floods of 2016. They are in the process of setting up in Puerto Rico, so who knows; maybe in two years that will be our destination.



Senior Excursion with Friends—Anyone Interested Can Attend



Wednesday, August 8
Leave CLC at 4:30 p.m.
Game at 7:05 p.m.

Before the season is over we are planning a trip to a Mallards game. We will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. and carpool. We are leaving early so we can tailgate. Menu for the tailgate will include pulled pork, chicken salad, buns, potato salad, chips, fruit salad, and cole slaw, with bars for dessert and beer, lemonade, and water for beverages. The cost of the ticket and meal is \$20. This year we are sitting in section 104, almost right behind home plate. Sign up at the information desk.

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 19—2:00 p.m.



Ice cream, ice cream, we all scream for ice cream! The Skaalen Auxiliary is having their **Annual Ice Cream Social** at the Skaalen Center, 400 N. Morris St., Stoughton, WI.

Raffle tickets are for sale for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. See the flyer on the church bulletin board showing the prizes. Contact Karen Warwick (269-924-7580) if you would like to purchase tickets.

Also, the auxiliary is looking for two volunteers for help with this event. If you are available, please contact Karen Warwick at 269-924-7580.



CLC has two members celebrating their 90th birthdays in August.

Evelyn Kahl

Saturday, August 4

American Legion

Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

It's an open house and everyone is invited.
Come celebrate with Evelyn!

Gladys Thompson

Sunday, August 26

CLC Café Area

2:00-4:00 p.m.

It's an open house and everyone is invited.
Come celebrate with Gladys!

CLC's Photo Directory Kickoff

Save the date! August 22-25 is the last session for Christ Lutheran Church. If you missed the session in May, be sure to sign up for a time slot in August. Our directory will showcase our families, provide contact information, and become a useful resource to keep us connected. By participating, you will receive a printed and electronic version of the new directory, in addition to a complimentary 8x10 photo. Also needed are volunteers the days of photo sessions to check people in. Please contact the office if you are interested and can help out.

August session dates are:

- August 22, 23, and 24 from 1:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- August 25 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sign up today for your professional photography session:

- Follow the link on our website: www.clcstoughton.org
- Go directly to: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/yck4g0eq>
- Look for a paper sign-up in the narthex on Sundays
- Or call Kelly Harrington at 608-577-5228 for assistance with scheduling



Please take advantage of this opportunity by inviting extended family and getting multiple generations of your family together for a memorable photo. Only the members' photo will be in the directory; however, you have the option to purchase additional photos after you review the photos from the sitting.

Our Building Is Being Used

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

When Christ Lutheran moved into our new church eleven years ago, we made a commitment to open our doors to welcome in the community and allow our space to be used by more than just the congregation. Well, you need to know that that is happening. In the past year, our building and congregation has welcomed seventeen different groups through our doors. Five organizations have used our gym and kitchen for fundraisers. We have helped out the Skaalen Quilt Fair, Stoughton Public Library, Partners of Stoughton Hospital, Friends of Norwegian Culture, and the Stoughton High School Choir.



Stoughton Area Youth Soccer Association, Boy Scout Troop 164, four different Cub Scout dens, two different Girl Scout troops, Pickleball, Chamber Singers, Festival Choir, Cemetery Board, and Aligning Stars—a theater group meet regularly in our rooms. South Central WI Christian Home School Association holds graduation ceremonies in our gym, the Stoughton Police hold their banquet in our gym, and Entre Nous gathers in the conference room.

SBP Thank-You

Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to SBP! Not only did you donate your time and energy, but also financially! Thanks to your contributions, families in the Baton Rouge area will be back on their feet sooner. We appreciate everything y'all do!

Courtney and SBP SOLA



Global Health Ministries Thank-You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of 108 newborn kits, 24 hospice kits, walkers, canes, and crutches for Global Health Ministries. These gifts are truly changing lives.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Doug Cox
GHM Executive Director



Baptisms:



Finlay James Alme,
son of Brian and Leslie Alme



Katie Joann Daniels,
daughter of Michael and Molly Daniels

Ladies' Night Out Numbers

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

This year's Ladies' Night Out was a financial as well as a "fun" success. The numbers are in, and the event, after expenses, cleared \$8,921. That is the best to date. \$1,000 will go World of Change Leaders, \$1,000 to the Stoughton Youth Center, \$1,500 to Seniors in Need, and \$5,421 to START. Once again, thank you to all who participated as downtown stops, sponsored the event, gave raffle prizes, or bought a ticket and walked around town. Here is the list—there are 80 names and businesses...

Downtown Stops

Autumn Pearl
Cheesers
51 South Restaurant
Corner Stone Spa and Salon
Cully's Cocktail Lounge
Fired Up Nutrition
Firehouse Tattoos
Lon's Tailgaters Sports Bar
Main Street Kitchen
Farmer's Insurance—Mike Daniels
Nauti Norske
Slinde's Interiors
Spry Whimsy
Stori Anne Co.
Studio 184
Viking Brew Pub
Woodland Studios

Sponsors

Brava Salon Specialists
Chorus Public House
Conant Automotive
Cress Funeral Home
Dr. Zelm—Chiropractor
Edward Jones—Thomas Fendrick
Gunderson Funeral Home
Hanson Pest Control
Jeff Zarth
Merle Lebakken
Stoughton Hospital
The UPS Store of Stoughton
Thrivent
Culver's

Goody Bags, Raffle Prizes, and Food (Many of the downtown businesses also provided raffle prizes.)

All Through the House
Christ Lutheran
Deak's
East-Side Automotive
Gunderson Funeral Home
Kwik Trip
Next Generation
Pizza Pit
Stoton Cycle
Stoughton Lumber
Subway
Viking Embroidery
Texas Roadhouse

Asleson's True Value
Coachman's Golf Resort
Diakonos Designs
Fosdal Bakery
Hanson Electronics
Lotus Salon
Papa Murphy's
Sfibi
Stoughton Floral
Stoughton Opera House
Sunset Acres Farm
El Rio Grande
Edward Jones—Thomas Fendrick

BBG's
Culver's
Diamonds Direct
Furniture Traders
Jimmy John's
McGlynn Pharmacy
Pick 'n Save
Spinners Pizza
Stoughton Garden Center
Stoughton Spirits
Sugar and Spice
Viking Lanes



Elizabeth Circle News

Our second June blog post comes from YAGM Lily (or Salane Ndour, her Senegalese name). Lily is living this year in Foundiougne, a river town and transport hub in central Senegal, where she serves with the Department of Community Development of the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

A lazy heat dominates afternoons in Foundiougne. Families retreat under the shady protection of a tree as they wait for the sun to start its descent toward the horizon. At least twice a week the beeping of a truck horn breaks this silence. When the sound from the horn reaches my host family's home, it acts as cue for someone to run to the wall and look toward the road. "Oto foofi a gaara!" "The water truck is coming!" Cue springing into action.

The first step is to ensure that every empty 20-liter jug is run to the truck. This is the job for the fastest and most keen to run. My youngest sister and a couple neighboring kids grab the bottles and sprint off toward the line that's already forming. Next my host cousin follows at a less hurried pace with large plastic tubs. One of my older sisters looks for the partially filled jugs and begins to empty them into the giant plastic barrel that holds at least 150 liters of water. She and I take the remaining jugs and the empty 10-liter bottles to the long line forming behind the truck.



Two lines begin behind the truck. One line contains the larger jugs and is filled directly from one of the truck's hoses. The other line contains the plastic tubs, filled from the truck's other hose. Two people then carry these tubs to where someone else is sitting with the smaller bottles. This water is then funneled into the bottles. When the tub is empty, it is brought back to the truck for another round.

At this point, horse carts are starting to gather around, waiting for families to finish their water collection. Jugs and bottles get loaded onto the carts and taken to homes. This water will be used for bathing, washing dishes, cooking, laundry, and cleaning. For a family of fourteen, the cost of the water truck is about 7,000 CFA a month (roughly \$12).

Why the water truck?

My family does have a water tap in the yard. While there are times when the water lines mysteriously cut out, a turn of the key usually brings forth a stream of water. This household tap is exceptional, especially taking rural Senegal into consideration. Many families throughout Senegal rely on wells and community taps for the household water.

So why the water truck and not wells?

Foundiougne is situated within the Saloum River Delta, a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Heritage site prized for its mangroves and many islands. The delta is gorgeous. It also serves as the site where three rivers join and empty into the North Atlantic. As nature proves time and time again, everything is connected. So as glaciers melt and sea levels rise, the salty seawater infiltrates the groundwater reserves. Already vulnerable to droughts and contamination, Senegal's high water tables allow easy access for rising seawater.

What does this mean?

Foundiougne, and other towns settled into this beautiful delta are all vulnerable to water salination. Wells have difficulty going deep enough to tap into a sustainable water supply, and even when they are able, this water supply contains salt. A study done on various wells throughout the region found salt level concentrations to vary between 3 to 100 g/L (Faye et al., 2013), water that has a salty taste to truly briny water. This not only affects drinking water but soil salinity. In a region with an economic dependence on agriculture, this has major implications for food security and economic growth.

PROSAF, the project I work with, seeks to eliminate food insecurity within the department. Two of the communities this project works with support a garden. These gardens improve access and quality of food to these communities while increasing economic freedom for the women who maintain garden plots. Since the beginning of this project, about five years ago, wells have dried up and those remaining draw up salinated water. Before the project's contract expired in December, work to find ways to desalinate this water was proving costly and taxing. Soil salinity decreases a plant's ability to take up water (remember Osmosis Jones), thus reducing plant growth. Excess salt ions can cause damage to plant cells, thus further reducing plant growth. Healthy agricultural production does not mix well with salty water. For people in these areas, this affects both access to food and access to spendable income. Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10...

So what?

The rise in global temperatures comes predominantly from the increase in carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere. The rise in global temperatures causes ice sheets and glaciers to melt. The rise in temperature also causes the saltwater on our planet to expand. One specific outcome is that the high water tables of the Saloum delta are saturated with sea water.

The U.S. Department of Energy looked at which countries generated the most greenhouse gases. Congratulations, U.S. on taking the silver (China got the gold) (Boden et al., 2017). It would be callous to blame the amount on the size of the U.S. alone. The U.S. Census Bureau currently has the US population at about 3.28 million and the world population at 7.5 billion. So roughly 4% of the world's population is generating 15% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Let's also consider the U.S. and its access to resources and power to mitigate its impact on global warming. These same resources and power can be used to minimize the effects of global change. Not every country has this layer of protection.

Several scientific sources point to poorer regions in the tropics and subtropics as areas that will experience the brunt of global warming's effect. Expected to face larger changes, these countries also lack the resources that would help prepare for or mitigate these changes. So while consumption in the U.S. has largely contributed to the planet's warming, the inherent location of the country protects it from the onset and severity of the warming world. Access to resources and power allows the United States to avoid or delay climate change's harsh reality. Many countries in our world are left powerless as nature takes the course our energy consumption has laid.

Behind these statistics, rankings, and labels, people are residing. So while we talk about "poorer regions" and "developing countries," billions of people are living the reality of our changing planet. Economic injustices help perpetuate environmental injustices. A global cycle of injustice leaves vulnerable populations to bear the brunt of consequences stemming from the actions of the powerful.

It's a messy world, and it's important to bear in mind the complexities that arise when systems overlap. However, I would hope my modest insight into a consequence of global warming will sit with you. While it's clear dramatic change needs to happen, each of us in our daily choices can reflect a passion for our planet and love for our neighbors with whom we share this planet.

Deaths:

Patricia Y. "Pat" Frank
Shirley Ann Nygaard
Richard Entwistle

Memorials:

In Memory of:

Julie Sehmer
Julie Sehmer
Julie Sehmer

From:

Mark and Karen Benson
Richard and Sherry Shea
Family and Friends



Endowment Foundation:

In Memory of:

Julie Sehmer

From:

Mark and Karen Benson

In Honor of:

Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50th Wedding Anniversary

From:

Gloria Hayne

Devotional Booklets Available

Christ in Our Home devotional booklets for July, August, and September in small and large print are available. They are located in the narthex.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #119
STOUGHTON, WI

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Phone: 608.873.9353

Fax: 608.873.3949

**Email: pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
office@clcstoughton.org**

CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

Staff:

Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary

