

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

September 2018



Starting September 9

**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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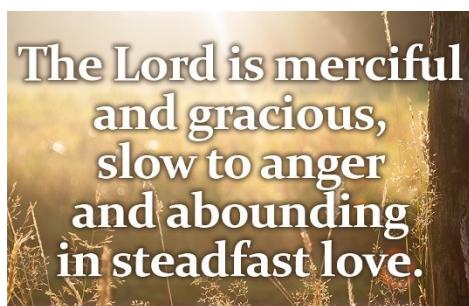
# Christ Lutheran Ambassador

## **Stewardship 2019: A Gracious God—A Generous People**

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



This must be one of the most recognizable paintings in history. It is Michelangelo's painting of the creation of human beings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. With the touching of their fingers, God passes unto Adam God's image. What does it mean to be created in God's image? Almost every theologian at one time or another has put in their two cents. It means, like the God we love, we live in relationships with one another, we are a creative people, etc. Basically, you could say any characteristic we would attribute to God, we could share. But what is **the** one quality we attach to God most often? I would answer that question by quoting from Psalm 103, a hymn to God's love: "Lord, you are **gracious** and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." I would say everything that follows "gracious" defines it. Luther was German and had a more down-to-earth understanding of God's graciousness. He tells us God shows his graciousness by providing us with everything we need to live a good life, from the roof over our head to the glass of milk we drank at lunch. He not only sees to our needs, but forgives all our sins. We didn't earn it. God just gives it because God is gracious. And we, who are created in God's image, feel the most fulfilled and happy when we are living like the God whose image we were created in, being gracious. That is why our stewardship theme this year is "A Gracious God—A Generous People."





## Fall Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, September 9

We begin our Fall Worship Schedule on Sunday, September 9, with worship at...

**8:00 a.m.**—Traditional Worship

**9:10 a.m.**—Family Express with Sunday School immediately following

**10:30 a.m.**—Traditional Worship

It's always fun to get together again after a summer full of activities. Looking forward to seeing you here!



## Stewardship 2019

September 30 – October 21

United In Christ: A Gracious God—A Generous People  
“Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” Matthew 5:48b

**Our offertory song during the four weeks of Stewardship will be “Living for Jesus.” It has a great first verse...**

Living for Jesus, a life that is true,  
Striving to please Him in all that I do;  
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,  
This is the pathway of blessings for me.

**Refrain...** O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,  
For Thou, in Thy atonement, Didst give Thyself to me.  
I own no other Master, My heart shall be Thy throne;  
My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

During the Sundays of Stewardship, we will look at the assigned texts for the day with an added emphasis on God's Gracious Reign, an important theme in Mark's gospel. We kick off our Stewardship program on September 30. Members will receive a packet in the mail the week before. In that packet you will find a letter from our Stewardship Chair, Eric Smedal, explaining our budget and the congregation's needs for 2019, a Time and Talent Sheet we hope all will fill out (either on paper or submit online!), and a pledge card that we ask you to return to the church by Sunday, October 21.

**September 30:** Mark 9:38-50 “Don’t Limit the Grace”

**October 7:** Mark 10:2-16 “A Gracious Way to Value People”

**October 14:** Mark 10:17-31 “A Gracious Push”

**October 21:** Mark 10:35-45 “A Gracious Definition of ‘Getting Ahead’”

### Events...

**September 30:** Kickoff to Stewardship and Kickoff Breakfast for Jamaica Mission Trip—Profits to go towards playground equipment for the children of CLC.

**October 7 and 14:** Question and Answer Sessions—Following Family Express, Eric Smedal and other council members will be in the sanctuary to answer any questions members might have about the budget and our needs.

**October 21:** Polka Worship Service, October Fest, and Pledge Sunday—Enjoy some German food and fun activities. More information will be in the October Ambassador. The event is being planned by the Youth Committee.

Stewardship has set a goal for the congregation. In 2018 our budget without designated gifts was \$369,637.37. In 2015 it was \$408,288.66. That is more than a 10% difference. We would like to end the stewardship program closer to 2015 than 2018.

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## President's Report

by Dan Matson

### Congregational Meeting



It's been fifteen years since our congregation has needed to call a pastor. Many people involved in the original call of Pastors Paula and Scott have moved on, or passed, but many are still here. The process of calling a new pastor is a formal process, and well documented. It involves the Synod, the ELCA, and our congregation. Your Council has been busy for many months preparing for a possible call since the announcement by Scott that he was retiring. During the last few months, we have reviewed the Synod guidelines, reviewed our congregation bylaws and with Ted Sehmer's assistance, prepared a Congregation Survey. We have also met with Pastor Steve Kottke from the Synod office and had several conversations with him to help define our needs. There was a need to prepare a Call Committee in conformance with our bylaws. This information was shared at the congregation meeting on June 24. Additionally, we had a Synod review within the last two years that indicated, in addition to two pastors, we were close to needing a support person to help with all the ministries we provide.

We have distributed the Congregation Survey to the congregation and will share it with any prospective pastors. We have established a Call Committee of seven that represents the makeup of our congregation. We have completed much of the paperwork that needs to be shared with the Synod and ELCA. We held the congregation meeting on June 24, but did not vote on calling a pastor because we wanted a greater cross-section of the church to be involved (primarily the younger families who were out for summer events). We have reviewed our financial status and worked with Todd Tupper from the Foundation to determine our ability to support a replacement pastor. We have reviewed options, such as an intern or other staffing ideas, and determined, with your help, that Christ Lutheran Church needs to replace Scott's position to carry out God's work.

So what is next? At the September 16, 2018, congregation meeting, we will look for a motion and second to call a new pastor. If a motion and second are made, we will have discussion to include persons who may not have been at the June meeting. When a vote is called, it requires two-thirds of the voting members (assuming there is a quorum) in attendance to approve a call. If a call is approved, we will ask for approval of the Call Committee and formally name and accept them to represent us in the call process. We can expect it to take a number of months to find the right pastor and give that person time to leave their current position. We are looking at year end or early 2019 to get a new co-pastor.

Your patience, ideas, and prayers are welcome. (And let's be thankful we have Pastor Paula and Scott and the rest of our staff to help us through 2018.) The congregation meeting will be held in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. on September 16.

### Senior Excursion



Thursday, September 13

Upper Dells Boat Tour and Dinner at Ishnala  
Cost: \$23 for the boat ride and whatever dinner costs you

This sounds like a good time! The group will leave the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m., take a two-hour boat tour of the Upper Dells from 1:30–3:30 p.m., and make it to Ishnala around 4:30 p.m. for a delicious, leisurely dinner. The sign-up sheet is on the information desk in the narthex. Pastors Paula and Scott aren't going to miss it.

**Coming up in October**—A six week Bible study on Thursday mornings and Men's Pub Night the fourth Monday of the month at Viking Brew Pub.

### Senior Luncheon

Monday, September 24  
11:30 a.m.  
Cost: \$10

Program: The Ministry of Lutheran World Relief

Menu:  
Beef Stroganoff  
Salad  
Popovers and Swedish Rye Bread  
Apple Pie and Ice Cream

Every year CLC gathers items for school kits, health kits, baby kits, and sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. Every year our quilters keep themselves busy for eight months, sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In a 12-minute video, you will see the work LWR does around the world and how amazing it truly is, and how we in Stoughton, Wisconsin, are part of something so much larger than ourselves.

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## Who's Who in the Pew—Karen Warwick

by Diane Matson



Note to self: when visiting the chiropractor, make sure you always look your best. You just might meet your future spouse. Through "appropriate channels," this month's **Pew Celebrity** met husband Mike (our new Church Council Treasurer) after he had visited the chiropractor and casually asked where one could meet a nice lady for dinner and a movie. Cupid appeared in the form of Karen's daughter Amanda, an employee in that chiropractic office—and here we are today!

Now married for 11 years, Mike and Karen Warwick, a native of Marshall, Michigan, moved to Stoughton when Mike accepted a job at Cummins. Having never lived anywhere other than Marshall, Karen knew she was in the right place at CLC when, at the time of their second visit to our congregation, Scott greeted them by name as though they had been lifelong members.

Karen's family includes son James and his wife Jen, with daughters Lizzy and Emily, daughter Amanda (the matchmaker) and her husband Tyler and their son Kyle. Proud grandma enjoys Lizzy's passion for competitive dance, Emily's involvement in "Girls on the Run," and Kyle's interest in riding his quad and hunting with his mom.

Christ Lutheran has been gifted with Karen's love of music. In addition to having played the mountain dulcimer for the past twenty-six years, a hobby she enjoys with her mother, she also plays the hammered dulcimer, ukulele, guitar, banjo, mandolin, native flute, and both bowed and plucked psaltry. It comes as no surprise to learn that Karen has twenty-five different instruments in her home! Karen has also volunteered to serve as CLC's liaison to Skaalen, keeping us informed on programs and events enjoyed by residents and letting us know what we can do to become involved.

Enjoying life outdoors is a favorite pastime for the Warwicks, who love to take trips "up North" to see waterfalls, enjoy the views, and appreciate God in nature.

Karen states that she feels "truly blessed." Welcome to CLC, Karen (and Mike). We're feeling blessed by your presence, too.

## News from the Fellowship Board

by Jeff Zarth

Our church is blessed to have such a warm and welcoming attendance. Your Fellowship Board reaches out to make sure all of you have the opportunity to visit comfortably before and after worship services. We make sure there is plenty of coffee, both regular and decaf. Our gals, Bonnie and Barb, see that our goodies and snacks are displayed for all to help themselves. Most of these offerings are donated by our generous members.

If you haven't brought things recently, please take a minute to review our listings on the fellowship easel. Look forward to see when you might be here and write in your name for bringing something. It doesn't matter what you bring, we'll all enjoy it.

Also, remember we now have been offering a free blood pressure check mini-clinic in our library every second Sunday between worship services. Attend the service of your choosing, stay to check your health, and then enjoy some fellowship and treats that someone thoughtfully provided.





## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School in September

**September 9:** *Rally Sunday.* A 12-minute video on the ministry of Lutheran World Relief, a ministry of the Lutheran Church that does awesome things and that you are a part of.

**September 16:** *Lutheran World Relief.* We will be putting together the school kits, baby kits, and health kits for LWR.

**September 23:** *Highway Cleanup.* Everyone will meet at the information desk at 9:00 a.m. Parents are needed to drive the youth out to CLC's section of Highway 51. If there is a good-sized group, we will divide up into six groups and the work will be done in 40 minutes. Treats will be in the Youth Room when you get back.

**September 30:** If necessary, we will be putting together more LWR kits; otherwise, there are always apples to peel.

Lutheran World Relief, Highway Cleanup, and Apple Peeling are a great way to pick up some service hours for confirmation.



### Wednesday Evening Menus

**Supper is served from 5:45–6:30 p.m.**

*Confirmation students and their families, "God and Games" participants and their families, or older members—really anyone is invited to come and break bread.*

*A donation of \$3.00 is suggested to help cover the cost of food.*



#### September 19

Tacos  
Cheese Quesadillas  
Spanish Rice  
Fruit Salad  
Floats  
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice



#### September 26

Homemade Pizza  
Lettuce Salad  
Brownies with Ice Cream  
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

### "God and Games"

4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Graders

Wednesday Evenings There Is Confirmation  
6:30–7:30 p.m.

"God and Games" begins Wednesday, September 19. Youth and their parents are invited to our confirmation suppers, which will be served between 5:45 and 6:30 p.m. The gym is yours from 6:30–7:30 p.m.—**no big kids** are allowed in. You play games and end or begin with a short devotion. Jacob Fitzsimmons, a college student at Edgewood, is your fearless leader. This is his fourth and last year as your leader. Next spring Jacob will be graduating from Edgewood College with a nursing degree. You will probably see some of our high school youth helping out as well. Brady Estervig was a regular last year.



### Milestone Ministry Event—3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Receive Bibles!

Third grade students will receive their Bibles during Family Express Worship on October 7. Each parent will present the Holy Scriptures to his or her child and fulfill the promise they made at baptism. Martin Luther told the children in his church that the Bible is like a manger that holds the Christ. Inside the pages of the Bible, students will find pictures, words to live by, stories about life in Bible times, and stories about the boys and girls and the men and women who have received God's word throughout history. This is a special day for both our third graders and their parents. We hope that the children will bring the Bible with them each week to Sunday School so that they can learn more about their Bibles and the word of God. We look forward to sharing it with you. Parent and child are also asked to meet with Pastor Paula after Family Express on September 23 to learn about the Bible they will receive.

There is also a website to support this Bible: <http://www.adventurebible.com>. It is free and available to all students and families. No class account is needed to take part in the activities there. Go check it out! Play a game, search for a verse, develop a plan to read the Bible, and more!

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## Grace Notes begins practicing Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m.



Grace Notes rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room. For those of you who don't know who we are, we are an intergenerational choir that sings once a month at Family Express and at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. There are about fourteen members right now, and we would love to have more. Our youngest member last year was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and our oldest was Pastor Paula. We had a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and two or three 7<sup>th</sup> graders (those three young men were awesome tenors), a few 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high school youth as well as a few adults. We have a great time at practice and sing some cool, upbeat tunes.

For those of you high school students who are thinking of post high school education, join Grace Notes and earn a few more points towards your scholarship when you graduate. What is unusual about Christ Lutheran's scholarships is that they are given to our high school graduates for four years.

## BWCA Canoe Trip 2018

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

We are back from our one night at the outfitters and five nights on trails canoe trip to the BWCA. We didn't travel the miles we had planned. The first day, the wind was against us and the lakes we entered the BWCA had whitecaps. There is really only one thing to do: find a campsite, put up the tents and hammocks, and relax. My group was asleep within an hour. Casey Milbauer had a talent for finding a soft spot on the ground and using a stone for a pillow. He reminded me of Jacob in the Bible. I always wondered how Jacob could fall asleep using a stone for a pillow, but I saw it right before my eyes.

We have a few pictures, quotes, and stories to share (but the black and white print does not begin to do the BWCA justice).

When we are out on trails, Lori Moll becomes "Mama Moll" and Pastor Paula is "PP." Some of Lori's memorable quotes are: "Guys, those are whitecaps. Guys, that's lightning. It's getting serious now, guys." She admits she is still suffering from a little PTSS from her first trip to the BWCA. On our last night that year, we were hit with rain that literally came down in sheets and 70-mph winds. Nathan asked his mom, "Are we going to die?" Pastor Paula likes to tell the canoeers, "If it just crosses your mind for a second that what you are about to do is stupid, don't do it." In the pursuit of firewood, I didn't follow my own advice.

Joey Iverson, Nathan Moll, and Brody Teigen have some favorite sayings: "Sister, Hermana, paddle, paddle!" We do spend four to six hours most days paddling and portaging. James Hanson came up with the line "It's a fat paddle!" to describe a big lake and a long paddle. Joey, Nathan, and Brody also came up with "When the woods start humming, you better start running." Believe me, you avoid the campsites where you hear the humming. We camped on four different campsites, and believe it or not, none had a mosquito problem. You are just a little picky about where you camp. You make sure you can feel the wind coming into the campsite. It keeps the mosquitoes in the woods, except for those 15 minutes while the sun is setting. During those 15 minutes, James Hanson wondered if mosquitoes had night vision: "I turn off my flashlight and they still find me."

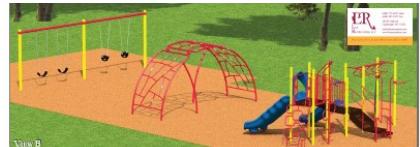
In my group, Natalie Kratz, Taylor Dyreson, and I shared a tent. The second night, Taylor woke up; she had fallen off her mattress pad, I was snoring, and Natalie was lying on top of her and she wondered, "Is this hell?" No, just another great memory of her fifth canoe trip. What added to the memories of this year's trip? The card game KEMPS every night in the tent, we actually caught fish without trying very hard, and after hearing there were bear sightings, we camped on islands every night to avoid encountering any.





## Jamaica Kickoff Breakfast

Sunday, September 30  
9:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.



Every year we kick off our fundraising for the mission trip with a brunch that benefits someone other than the group. This year we want to begin raising funds for playground equipment for our backyard. Many of you may not know we have a picnic shelter, a baseball field, a soccer field, and a basketball hoop back there. When we were building the church 11 years ago, we dreamed of that space being utilized by community groups as well as the congregation. Community groups know it is there, but it seems to be a secret to the congregation. Will playground equipment help us use our backyard? I don't know, but here are some reasons the Youth and Education Committee would like to see it happen...

- To let everyone know beyond a doubt that we are a youth-friendly church.
- To enhance our Sunday School and youth programming.
- To give the children a place to hang out while mom and dad are drinking coffee.
- To give the younger children of families involved in Stoughton Area Youth Soccer Association something to do while older siblings are playing soccer.

It is a bit expensive, but if necessary, we can purchase the items as the funds are made available.

The swings cost \$2,000, the Sierra Summit Climber is \$3,900, and the Challenger Modular Play Structure is \$11,850.

We are definitely working to bring down the cost of the last item. Playworld in Cambridge gets weekly updates on play structures that are on sale. Besides the fundraiser, any \$5 bills, \$1 bills, and change thrown in the offering plate during Family Express will go towards this project.

The menu for the brunch is: scrambled eggs or egg bake, French toast and pancakes with strawberries, applesauce and whipped cream, cheesy potatoes, bacon and sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee, milk, and juice.

A free-will donation will be taken.

## Mission Jamaica 2019

Dates: June 18–25

Estimated Cost: \$1,550 (\$100 is to help pay for the house we will 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.)

Please return registration form with a \$100 deposit made out to **CLC Youth**.

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 return. We are now part of that 75%. We had an awesome experience last summer, and before we left, we told Jeff we would be back. I have talked to Jeff Peterson. Jeff is their full-time staff person for their international missions, but in his former life Jeff was a contractor, skills totally needed in this position. He knows us from a year ago and now knows just 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.

Like a year ago, we will be flying out of Milwaukee. Undoubtedly it will be an early flight. The trip is from Tuesday to Tuesday because Tuesday is the cheapest day to travel. Our lodging and meals will be provided for us. Don't expect air conditioning. Jeff says we may be staying at the same place as two years ago. We worked for four days and played for two, with a few fun things to do in the evenings the days we worked. That was plenty. We worked hard in the heat, and oftentimes food, the pool, ping pong, and a place to hang out were all we needed to be happy. We want youth, of course, to sign up, but this is also an opportunity for our college-age young adults, as well as parents and any member of the congregation. We always plan a number of fundraisers that will significantly reduce the cost of the trip. Additional scholarships are also available.



2017 Mission Group

## Sunday School Starts September 9

by Jenny Hoffman

As another Sunday School year commences, I would like to welcome back all returning students, their families, and returning staff. Based on feedback from both the Sunday School staff and our Sunday School families, we will be making some changes to our Sunday School program that I believe will enhance every student's religious education.

We are implementing a monthly theme, which you will see shown on the bulletin board in the main Sunday School hallway. The theme will be brought into the weekly classes through activities and crafts. The themes will emphasize how your children can take lessons from the Bible and use them in their daily lives. For September our theme is: God Made Every Living Creature, Genesis 2:19. We want students to understand how important every person and every living creature is to God, that they are all special in God's eyes.

Also, based on feedback, we are incorporating more musical education into our Sunday School classes. Each week we will spend the beginning of each class meeting as a group to learn and practice religious songs. Students will learn music that will help enhance the religious themes we are learning.

In addition, we will be incorporating into our weekly lessons crafts, games, and activities to help support learning through a multisensory approach.

I am reaching out to parents and other church members to donate time and/or materials to our Sunday School program this year. I will be putting up volunteer sign-up sheets, and I will also be sending out notes for parents to collect and donate items that are needed. These will not be items that cost money, but are things that you would normally throw out or recycle—things like jars, containers, shoeboxes, wallpaper remnants, wrapping paper remnants, etc.

Volunteers are needed for several different things: to help us organize crafts, organize packets for our classrooms, help our staff with craft or other activities in the classroom, and to volunteer as teachers and substitutes in classrooms as needed. Our plan is to have volunteers help us organize crafts and packets for Sunday School classes during Sunday School and on Wednesday evenings. There might even be prep work that parents could do at home and bring back. Please keep an eye out for emails and/or sign-up sheets.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, September 9, **Rally Sunday!**

## Confirmation News



### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

We will have a confirmation orientation on Sunday, September 9, and Wednesday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m. Come hear what the program is all about. We ask for a one-time \$50 fee from our 7<sup>th</sup> graders for their two years of confirmation.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation** is on Sunday, October 28, at 1:00 p.m. We meet at 12:15 p.m. for photographs. Your robes will be here waiting for you; all we need is your height. We will meet two times before that, on Sunday, September 30, and Sunday, October 14, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. We have two items on our agenda; we need to make our stoles for the confirmation worship service and walk through the Order of Service so everyone knows what is going on.

## Pastor Jack Finney To Offer Spiritual Deepening Group

Pastor Jack Finney has volunteered to lead a monthly Spiritual Deepening Group for members of Christ Lutheran and Covenant Lutheran and others who might be interested. The first meeting will be held at Christ Lutheran on Saturday, September 15, from 9:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

The gatherings will begin with a brief checking in with prayer requests and sharing God Moments since the last meeting. Then there will be five minutes of silent reflection, followed by a presentation and discussion by Jack on ways of prayer and spiritual practices. We'll end with a closing prayer. A minimum of eight people is needed for the group to begin. If you want to sign up or have any questions, you can contact Jack at 608-873-6514 or jjfinney1962@gmail.com.

Jack is a semi-retired ELCA pastor who offers individual spiritual direction and does supply preaching and talks and retreats on ways of prayer and spiritual practices. He and his wife, Jan, are members of Christ Lutheran. Jack has given numerous sermons and talks at Christ Lutheran.



## Rebecca's Rebels

The Third Monday of the Month—September 17  
Viking Brew Pub—6:30 p.m.  
Women of Grit and Grace



We are going to try to start another Women's Bible Study Group. We will meet once a month at the Viking Brew Pub. It is always hard to decide when to meet, but we will try the third Monday of the month. We will have supper together and then look at the women who are named in the Bible and their stories. The Bible has often been criticized for being so patriarchal, but it is one of the few ancient documents that names women, tells their stories, and celebrates the risks they took, the courage they had, and their inner strength. It was really ahead of its time. It might even be ahead of our time. Women of all ages are invited, including daughters of any age.

## Lutheran Worship: Why Do We Do the Things We Do? Confession and Forgiveness

by Sophie Geister-Jones

This year at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, Nadia Bolz-Weber (who, if you don't know, you should Google) said, "What I really want is to not feel so alone, and while I might feel inspired by someone who's good, I only feel less alone when someone shares their failures with me—the things they struggle with, the parts of themselves that are more jagged than smooth."

Bolz-Weber is a huge believer in the Latin phrase "simul iustus et Peccator," or "simultaneously sinner and saint." It's a phrase that Martin Luther, the big ol' founder of our religious tradition, coined. It's a phrase that, if tattoos had been a thing in 1517, Luther would have tatted on his lower back. Because he's just that into it, and because, as a Lutheran, it is a huge part of our theology. We are unapologetically, unabashedly sinners. And that is totally, one hundred percent, okay.

"It just so happens that the jagged edges of our humanity are what actually connect us to God and to one another," Bolz-Weber said. "Those wounds and failures and misconceptions and mistakes, those are the very things that create enough texture on us that God and our fellow humans have something to grab on to."

And it is also something that we grab onto in worship. While we may, in the back of our minds, know that we have jagged, messy edges, the moment of visceral recognition and acceptance of our brokenness happens with Confession and Forgiveness. In that moment, we can own up to being sinners.

Confession and Forgiveness is a time where, in the sanctuary, in front of the big wooden Jesus carving and the fancy, expensive stained glass, we call ourselves out. We are sinners, and we embrace that fact. We admit that we're not perfect, that we've probably broken a commandment this week (not the one about killing, but probably the one about taking God's name in vain), and that, despite that, we are forgiven. We are forgiven because God sees that we're sinners, God accepts that about us, and God sees us as saints, too.

Bolz-Weber went on to say, "When the accusing voice is on repeat in your head, that is not the voice of God. God's voice—God's voice—is a warm, sing-song of a mother to her newborn, the one that says 'you are mine.' God's voice declares us worthy, and there's a word for having worthiness, that is in no way based in our efforts, or our accomplishments, or some ridiculous idea that we can become an imagined ideal, and that word is grace."

Confession and Forgiveness is our reminder of God's grace to us. It is a reminder that no matter what we've done, no matter what we do, or what we think, or what we wish may happen, we are loved. We are accepted into God's family, and we are whole. It isn't repentance, but it is redemption. It is God meeting us where we are at—whether we are kneeling or sitting or standing. Confession and Forgiveness is a moment in worship where we proudly confess that we are imperfect sinners, and God says, "Yes, and I don't care." And God says that to every single person. It is free to every single person, no matter religious or political affiliation or skin color or gender or sexual preference. It is non-discriminatory.

God's grace, Bolz-Weber said, "is a source of wholeness and redemption and healing that makes up for my failings. A source that is more powerful than my failings." And God's grace is for every single sinner out there. And God's grace makes every single sinner simultaneously a saint. And that is beautiful. And that is why we practice Confession and Forgiveness.



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## Julie's Fabric

*by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones*



Julie Sehmer had a **lot** of cotton fabric in her basement. That is an understatement. Julie had an unbelievably **huge** stash of fabric in her basement. For years she sewed for numerous charity projects. Project Linus was a favorite for many years. Most of her quilts were small and made for young children. As we sorted, we found bins of small quilt tops. Those tops are being made into quilts that will go to Project Linus, four hospitals including Stoughton Hospital, Dane County Social Services foster care program, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Ronald McDonald House, Stoughton Village Players, and Middleton Outreach Ministries. The tops are also being made into newborn blankets for a hospital in Texas that delivers the babies of very poor and immigrant parents—as many as 2,000 a month. The fabric is also being used for many quilt projects: Project Linus bigger quilts, men's

shelters and halfway houses, a safe house for emergency housing, and a hospital forensic unit that is the first stop for rescued girls. You will also see her fabric sewn into costumes at the Stoughton Center for the Performing Arts, wrapped up and shipped off to Lutheran World Relief for sewing and fabric kits, and turned into quilts by our own CLC Quilters. Thank you to Ted Sehmer for donating the fabric and to Barb Stock, Phyllis Gullickson, and Rita Johnson, who sorted the fabric every Wednesday and found a use for it all.

## Come Join the Quilters!

*by Phyllis Gullickson*

The CLC Quilters will begin their fall session of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Wednesday, September 12, at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us, and no experience is needed to tie and put the three layers (top-battling-back) together. However, we do need people that know how to sew the forty-eight 10½-inch squares of fabric together to make the quilt top that is 60"x80".



With the donation of Julie Sehmer's fabric, we have been able to group fabrics into kits using two, three, or four colors for the quilt top, which can be sewn together in less than three hours. Yes, sewing lessons are available. Contact Phyllis Gullickson at 873-9845, email at [gullickinc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gullickinc@sbcglobal.net), or contact Gloria in the church office (873-9353).

## Quilt Sunday—October 7

Our quilters have been busy all year, sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. On Sunday, October 7, you will get a chance to admire their handiwork. The quilts will be spread out on the backs of the sanctuary pews. The quilters are hoping to sell a number of their quilts to help Lutheran World Relief cover the cost of shipping the quilts all over the world. LWR quilts are one of the first items to reach disaster areas. Quilts will be sold for \$40 apiece.

This is also the last Sunday for us to bring items for the school, health, and baby kits. The following Saturday, they will be sent up to Madison and from there to the warehouse in St. Paul, where they will be packed and placed in containers ready to go where they are needed.



## 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)



The last Sunday to bring items is October 7.

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$1,500 to the Seniors In Need fund. Your donation is helping to assist seniors who have financial, medical, and physical needs that are not met through insurance coverage or other state or federal funding assistance programs.

Donations, such as yours, may be the determining factor as to whether or not a senior can continue to live independently in their own home. Many times, during the referral stages, it has been identified that seniors will go without food, medications, or other daily necessities because of their depleting resources. Your contribution is making a difference to them, and we thank you!

We assure you that 100% of all gifts given are used to help elders in crisis in our community.

Once again, on behalf of the Seniors In Need committee, thank you to the Ladies' Night Out from Christ Lutheran, for your very caring support.

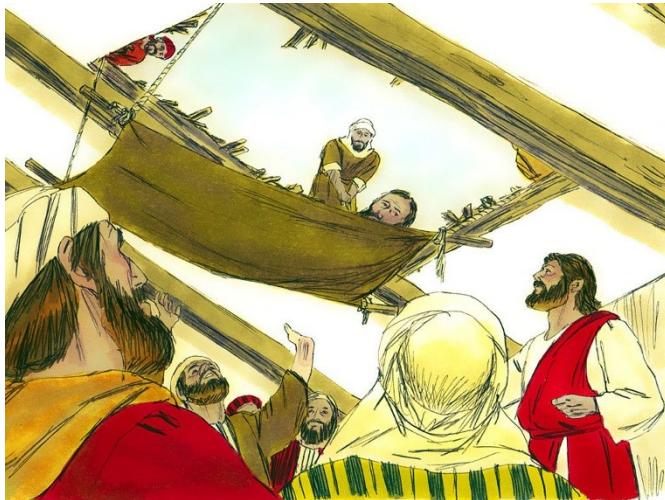
Cindy McGlynn-Chairman Seniors In Need Fund

*Thank  
You*

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## Go and Tell

by Roger Slack



In Luke 5, after Jesus had healed the瘫痪人 that the four friends carried to Him and lowered through the roof, verses 27 and 28 tell of Levi, the tax collector. "And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, 'Follow Me.' And he left everything behind, and rose up and began to follow Him." We know Levi better as Matthew, the apostle and Gospel writer. When I read this, I wondered what it was that Jesus "noticed" when He saw Levi as he sat in the tax office. Tax collectors were definitely social outcasts in Jewish society, as they collected taxes for the hated Roman government. People looked at them as traitors, getting rich by what they overcharged the people. They were people you did not associate with, and you taught your children to stay away from them lest they be seduced by the money these men made at the expense of the people. Jesus knew this public sentiment, and many would think He would have and should have condemned such uncaring actions and blatant theft. But yet He "noticed" Levi sitting there. What did He see in Levi that would make Him say "Follow Me"? I can only speculate that He saw a man who made a mistake early in his life, choosing a lifestyle of "easy money," the result of numerous possible reasons for his lack of self-esteem that pushed him to strike back against those who made him feel unworthy of their respect. I know I am speculating as to what was going on in his mind, but I feel Jesus saw a man who was trapped in a lifestyle he could never get out of. Were he to leave his occupation, who would ever deal with him? I'm sure he was tired of being hated by others and hating them in return. Levi had obviously heard of this Jesus that people were talking about, but probably never went to hear Him speak. He probably wrote himself off as to ever being a "part of that crowd." For Jesus to come over to him and say "Follow Me" was literally a life-changing moment. I am sure he probably couldn't imagine someone like Jesus talking to him, much less wanting him to be with Him as His follower. This was his opportunity for the new life that he so desperately wanted. He just walked away from all that money sitting there in that office. It meant nothing to him anymore.

It is amazing how many people there are in our world, in our neighborhoods, that are like Levi. They feel trapped in a lifestyle that they cannot get out of. The obvious ones are professions of illicit drugs and illicit sex, but then also gambling addiction, alcoholism, drug addiction, sex addiction, credit card debt addiction, overeating addiction, and the list just goes on. Fortunately there are groups that form to aid in the redemption and recovery of these various addictions. Many are based on the twelve-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous and adapted to the needs of the individuals in their care, teaching the addicts to rely on their "Higher Power" or God. The support the individuals give to each other amounts to that of a small church group, accepting each other and encouraging one another to grow into the life that they once knew (or never knew, but wanted so badly). There are also people who may not be "addicts" per se, but feel an emptiness that they don't know how to fill. They may need us to say "Come with me" as we invite them to experience our church and hopefully hear for themselves Jesus say "Follow Me."

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## Christ Lutheran Garden

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Organizational Meeting Wednesday, September 12 at 7:15 p.m.

The Property Committee has agreed to a garden on the far northeastern corner of the church property. It's on land that is not part of the soccer field. We have thought of growing our own rutabagas for the Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner, but are still contemplating what else we would add and how we could incorporate it into the ministry of Christ Lutheran. Would we get the Sunday School youth involved? Could we help them see how God provides food for us through the work of planting and harvesting? Or how growth and change is just a part of life? Or teach them a few useful skills? I could learn. I can't even keep houseplants alive. Would anyone in the congregation be interested in learning to can or prep food for freezing? There are a few questions to think about during the winter. For now, we need to turn over the sod, kill the grass and cover the land with a thick coat of horse manure. We have about four people already interested in getting involved. We could always use more, so please plan to attend the organizational meeting.



## CLC Yard Work Days—Help Needed

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. both days  
Wednesday, September 5  
Saturday, September 8

**Tasks:**

- Cut tree saplings and treat stumps around retention ponds
- Haul and spread mulch
- Seal cracks in parking island curbs
- Spray weeds growing in cracks in parking lot
- Remove Blue Bird houses for winter storage
- Please call Bob Kluge if you can help, 608-873-6753



## Blessing of the Animals

It was a beautiful morning for worship outside.



## Music Opportunities

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:



### VIP (Voices in Praise) Kids Start Rehearsal September 12.

Rehearsals will again be from 4:45-5:10 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will sing one Sunday a month (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) at one of the worship services.

We have selected great music—singing some of our old favorites and learning some new soon-to-be favorites. It is a fun time for 4-yr-olds to elementary school aged kids. Come try it out!

For more information or a complete schedule contact Linda at lkunz@clcstoughton.org or call the church office (873-9353).



**First Class Ringers starts September 12.** Two Wednesdays a month we will rehearse from 6:30–7:15 p.m. and will ring one Sunday a month at one of the worship services. Please contact Linda at lkunz@clcstoughton.org if you are interested and we will find a part for you and help teach you everything you need to know to ring handbells and chimes.



**Chancel Choir** is open to all and will start with a Wednesday evening rehearsal from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on September 5 to have us ready to sing at 8:00 a.m. worship on September 9. Rehearsals will then be Sunday mornings at 9:30-10:15 a.m. The schedule this year will be mostly singing at 8:00 a.m. worship services. Please consider joining us; no experience needed. We are considering how to get a small ensemble who can sing at the 10:30 a.m. worship. Please let Linda or Leo know if that sounds like something you would like to do.

**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).



### Baseball Sunday

We are all on God's Team!



## **Deaths:**

Debra Kay Drogsvold

### **Memorials:**

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Richard Entwistle	Patsy Day
Richard Entwistle	Sandra Maerz
Richard Entwistle	Daniel and Sharon Manson
Richard Entwistle	Eric Smedal
Richard Entwistle	Louis and Darlene Halverson
Richard Entwistle	Jeff and Tara Olson
Richard Entwistle	Ted and Carol Tobie
Shirley Nygaard	Louis and Darlene Halverson
Shirley Nygaard	Gloria Hayne
Shirley Nygaard	Dwight and Debra Pautz
Shirley Nygaard	Eric Smedal
Shirley Nygaard	Barbara Entwistle
Shirley Nygaard	James Hanson
Shirley Nygaard	Merle and Anita Lebakken
Shirley Nygaard	Dan and Diane Matson
Shirley Nygaard	Gerry Ross
Shirley Nygaard	Roger and Geri Slack
Shirley Nygaard	Gladys Thompson
Shirley Nygaard	Marilyn Vandrell
Shirley Nygaard	Elizabeth Circle
Shirley Nygaard	Family and Friends
Shirley Nygaard	Colleen Wincentsen
Helmer Holte	Richard and Barbara Harried
Helmer Holte	Rodney and Linda Trunzo
Helmer Holte	Genevieve Wilberg



## **Endowment Foundation:**

In Memory of: Shirley Nygaard Shirley Nygaard Helmer Holte From: Roger and Judie Nitzsche Roger and Joyce Utermark Roger and Joyce Utermark

In Honor of:

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

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

**Pastor Paula Geister-Jones**

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CLC Website: [www.clcstoughton.org](http://www.clcstoughton.org)

**Staff:**

Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary



**September 2018**