

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

October 2018



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



One of my favorite sayings is "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." It's a German proverb loaded with truth. It basically says children tend to grow up to be a lot like mom and dad. When you are young, mom and dad are your heroes. And then you enter puberty and you vow you will never grow up to be like either one of them. In your late teens and early twenties, they start looking a little smarter. And it seems the older you get, the more

like them you become, whether you want to or not. My daughter Sophie writes a blog, and a few months ago she wrote one that made me laugh. I would like to share a part of her article with you now...

I used to hate antique stores.

My mom loves antique stores. She likes scouring them for good deals on green Depression glass dishes, or Franciscan Desert Rose dinnerware, or Roseville pottery. She likes looking for old pieces of turquoise jewelry because nowadays, it's all fake and the stone isn't big enough.

I hated antique stores because as a small, rambunctious child, I broke things very easily, and being surrounded by small, breakable, expensive things in old, cluttered, musty-smelling shops where the wrinkled owners side-eyed me was not fun.

But hey, something must have changed, because this last weekend, my mom and I visited six antique stores. See, I signed a lease for an apartment last week, so now I'm in the conundrum where I have to furnish it. My mom doesn't believe in new furniture, because it's too big and all made of particleboard and veneer, and oh my god, don't get her started on the stupid wood composite crap they're making tables out of, and so we went antiquing.

Like old times, I got lost in two of them and had to yell out for my mom (or listen and wait for her to yell out to me), and I still was scared when we walked in between the glass cases of super breakable and expensive things, but—and this is the new and important bit—I had fun.

She has become her mother's daughter. I love that part in a baptism when I hand a candle over to the parents and say, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." God is hoping that "the apple won't fall far from the tree." That these children God adopts as God's own sons and daughters and showers with gifts will turn out to be a "chip off the old block." That through their words and deeds, people will know what family they are a part of. We have a Gracious God. How can we be anything but—a Generous People.



Stewardship 2019



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

Please watch for your 2019 Stewardship Campaign information being mailed out and review the information contained. At the congregational meeting on September 16, it was voted unanimously to pursue a second pastor, and there is information in the mailing which outlines our budget needs and what we are looking for to support a second pastor as well as our other programs. If you do not receive a stewardship mailing, please contact the church office and they will see that one gets sent out. If you have any questions on the 2019 campaign, feel free to contact me.

For members who are over 70½ years of age, please see the next page with information on IRA Charitable Rollover and how this option can save you tax dollars.

Thank you and God's blessings,
Eric Smedal, Stewardship Chair

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...

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, Oktoberfest, 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.

Who's Who in the Pew—Sue Walls

by Diane Matson



There's just something about Wisconsin. Maybe it's the Badgers or the cheese curds or the lutefisk, or maybe it's having been a member of Christ Lutheran for over twenty years, but whatever the reason, Sue Walls always comes home to Wisconsin. Having lived in Michigan, Illinois, Florida, and California during her married life, Stoughton will always be “home.”

Sue states that she “loves cleaning up Stoughton's dog population,” maybe not in the way one might imagine, but as a semi-retired dog groomer! At the age of 52, a career change from working in an office to going to dog grooming school and opening her business, Pampered Pooch, in the basement of her home became the best decision that she ever made.

In addition to being mom to son Scott, who lives in Round Rock, Texas, and grandma to Sam, an Eagle Scout and a sophomore at West Texas A&M, and Lucy, an active Girl Scout who is a sophomore at Stoney Point High School, Sue also “parents” Fred, her lovable mixed-breed canine companion, whose favorite activity is going for walks (and taking Sue with him).

These days, Sue enjoys playing cards, board games, eating out, and an occasional trip to the casino, but a favorite pastime previously was on the golf course. One of those rounds of golf netted her a hole-in-one (much to the chagrin of her late brother Gary!). Now that there's time for volunteering, Sue can be found working (and shopping) in the Stoughton Hospital Gift Shop, serving on an ushering team at CLC, and helping to serve funeral lunches as a member of the Elizabeth Circle.

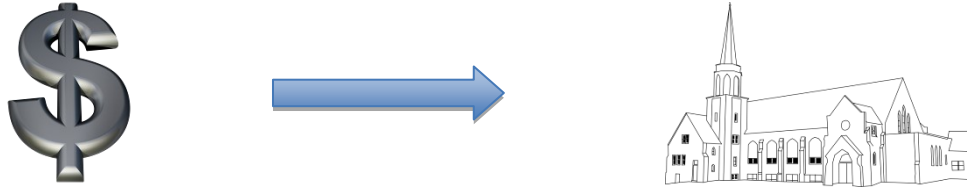
Alaska is a favorite vacation destination, and the recent trip to Germany with the CLC group last May created many happy memories. And Sue is quick to mention that the friendliness and feeling of welcome makes Christ Lutheran a special part of feeling “at home.”

Giving Option—IRA Charitable Rollover

IRA Rollover: In 2015, Congress enacted a permanent extension of IRA Charitable Rollover. As a result, individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to charity without having to claim the distribution as taxable income.

IRA Charitable Rollover

You may be looking for a way to make a big difference to help further CLC's mission. If you are 70½ or older, you may also be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.



Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover:

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of our organization

How an IRA charitable rollover gift works:

1. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to CLC.
2. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to CLC to help continue our important work.
3. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
4. Please contact CLC if you wish for your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

How to make an IRA rollover gift to benefit Christ Lutheran Church:

To make an IRA charitable rollover gift to CLC, simply contact your IRA custodian and request that an amount be transferred directly to Christ Lutheran Church. Your gift can be cash or stock in any amount up to \$100,000.

- If you are gifting cash, direct your custodian to make your gift to:

**Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI 53589
Federal Tax ID# 39-0838738**

- **When you make an IRA gift to CLC, please email or call us** and let us know. We'll need your name, address, and phone number so we can properly credit you when your gift arrives.

Email Eileen at Eileen@CLCstoughton.org or call 608-873-9353

If you have any questions about an IRA charitable rollover gift, please contact Gloria in the church office (873-9353); she will have someone reply to your inquiry.

Lutheran Worship—Why Do We Do the Things We Do? Hymns

by Sophie Geister-Jones

I had a professor in college who, one day, stood up in front of class and exclaimed, “Those Lutherans! And their hymns! You walk into any Lutheran church in Europe and it’s just *A Mighty Fortress* all over the place.”

I tried not to get defensive, because *A Mighty Fortress* is a *jam*. Also, my friend went to Europe and when he came back told me that yeah, European Lutheran churches *are* all *Mighty Fortress*’d out. But! Still! What is it about music, and hymns, that is so important to Lutherans? Why does it have the presence it does in our worship services?

Even working at a summer camp, songs were how we taught kids. Songs were what, when I encountered other Lutheran camp counselors, we shared and compared. I remember singing *Blind Man* once with five other counselors, and we had five different ways to sing it. We didn’t care. Lutherans love their music.

But *why*, Sophie, do Lutherans love their music? *What*, Sophie, is the point of this article? Well, I don’t know if you read my blog (geisterjones.wordpress.com), but I am all about the hot takes. And the hot take here is this: through music, Lutherans experience a spirituality and a connectedness with the spirit of the Trinity that is missing elsewhere in Lutheran worship.

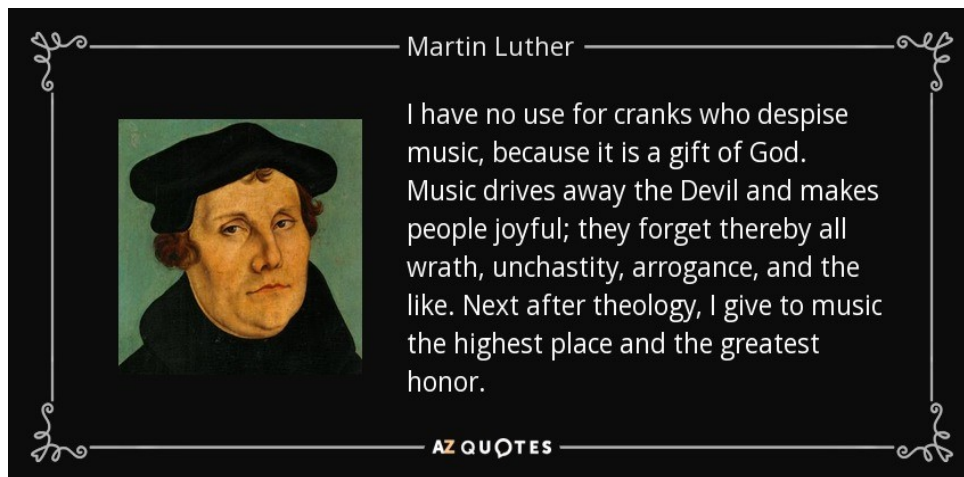
Martin Luther once said, “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.”

It is through music that Lutherans allow themselves some way of experiencing the Holy Spirit. We are, traditionally, a bunch of Germans and Scandinavians. We can trace our roots back to farmers, which means, generally, we are realists. We want to know why and how and who. We don’t get caught up in a bunch of stuff we can’t see. The Holy Spirit, more so than God or Jesus, seems like something we cannot see or even really understand.

But music changes that. There’s a feeling, deep in your bones, that happens when everyone is singing (yes, even if they’re singing *A Mighty Fortress*). More than any other part of worship, it is when a congregation sings that they become a collective whole, when we become *the church*.

Music equalizes us. We are all a part of the joyful noise, and no one voice is greater. Music moves through us, it fills the senses—the vibrations and sounds and bad breath of your pew neighbors—much like the Holy Spirit.

So perhaps Lutherans like music because it allows us to access something that, so often, our heads refuse to let us feel. Perhaps we like music because we all suck at singing, and at least in a choir, nobody can really pick us out. Perhaps we like music because 500 years ago, Martin Luther was like “music is super important,” and so we just went with it. But I think we like music so much because it fills us in a way that scripture, sermon, and prayer cannot. Music *is* scripture and prayer and sermon, but it is spirit, too. It is something that we start life with and end life with, and by incorporating music into our services, it becomes a way to live our lives, as well.



President's Report

by Dan Matson

Calling a New Co-Pastor



On Sunday, September 16, the Christ Lutheran Church congregation **unanimously** approved the calling of a new co-pastor to replace Pastor Scott, who retired as pastor this year. This is the first new “call” in fifteen years. The vote was followed by the installation of a call committee that will work with the South Central Synod to find a new co-pastor. The call committee is comprised of a group of members that cross all areas of church life. They are Taylor Dyreson, Brad Milbauer, Aaron Knoploh, Fern Hosfeld, Norval Morgan, Erica Pickett, Audra Dalsoren, and Dan Matson (ex officio as congregation president). Please remember these people in your prayers, and do not be afraid to talk to them about the call process. At this time, we expect the process to take a number of months, probably ending in early 2019. The committee will try to keep you informed of their progress.

Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

The demoniac, named Legion, is an account that generates a “million” questions in my mind as to what it would have been like for Jesus and his disciples to encounter this man out in the open countryside. My initial thought of what the disciples’ reaction would be is one of great fear. Here was a man who had not worn any clothes for a long time. He was strong enough to break chains and shackles so that no one could subdue him and lock him up. (In my prime, I could not break a light chain or rope without shredding my hands.) I’m sure some of the disciples were close to Jesus in “defense mode,” just in case. Maybe not, though, for just prior to this meeting, Jesus and the disciples had crossed the Sea of Galilee in a storm that threatened their lives. When woken up, Jesus rebuked the wind and waves and everything became still. This left the disciples in a state of awe as to what Jesus was able to do, so maybe this one man could be handled after all.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record this account. Mark records in 5:5 how the demoniac would be in among the tombs, crying out and gashing himself with rocks. The demons he carried made him feel evil, so he was trying to atone for this by punishing himself. He lived among the tombs because he felt he was a dead man already. It never ceases to amaze me that the people Jesus met that had a demon knew right away who Jesus was. In Luke 8:28, this man comes and fell down before Jesus, crying out, “What do I have to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” I guess I had always heard this as the head demon pleading with Jesus as to what Jesus was going to do with him, but I now think it was more the man speaking. He was afraid of Jesus and thought that this was his “Day of Reckoning.” “What more must I do, Jesus? I have tried to fix what is in me, but I can’t, and I don’t know what else to do. Please have mercy on me!” It took Jesus to finally rid the man of the demons that plagued him. When the people from the town heard about all the commotion and what happened to the swineherd, they came running, only to find the man with his clothes on and in his right mind. It is a sad commentary on the hearts of the townspeople that they asked Jesus to leave

because of the loss of the swineherd. The restored life of the demoniac meant nothing to them and what Jesus could mean to them and their children. Jesus’ disciples were once again left in a state of awe, wondering, “How on earth does He do that?” It was a major lesson for these same disciples that there is no person that Jesus cannot reach and heal, even though it may seem impossible to us. Keep praying for those you know are in trouble and need help.





Milestone Ministry Event—3rd 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. 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.

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!

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.

October 3

Baked Chicken
Cheesy or Baked Potatoes, Salad
Cookies and Ice Cream
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

October 11

Homemade Chicken Spätzle or
Beef Noodle Soup
Grilled Cheese on Homemade Bread
Brownies and Ice Cream
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

October 18

French Toast with Whipped Cream
and Strawberries
Pancakes with Homemade Apple Sauce
Egg Bake and Quiche
Ice Cream and Chocolate Syrup
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

7th and 8th Grade Sunday School in October

October 7: Class with Todd Hipke
October 14: Class with Todd Hipke
October 21: Class with Todd Hipke
October 28: Class with Todd Hipke



Confirmation News

There is **no confirmation class** or "God and Games" on:

October 24—Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 31—Halloween

"God and Games"

4th–6th Graders

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

"God and Games" continues on October 3, 10, and 17! 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.



Oktoberfest—Christ Lutheran Style

Sunday, October 21
10:30 a.m.-Noon

There are a lot of Norwegians in Stoughton and a lot of Germans who want to be Norwegians. On Sunday, October 21, we are going to celebrate our German heritage. After Sunday School, stick around and enjoy the festivities. Our own D.J., Scott Newman, will be playing polkas in the gym, while outside and in there will be bobbing for apples, pumpkin painting, face painting, a barrel rolling contest, a bonfire, and roasting marshmallows for s'mores. The Manna Café will be serving up brats, sauerbraten, red cabbage, boiled potatoes, and apple dumplings with ice cream—all at reasonable prices and absolutely delicious. For the children, we will have hot dogs and buttered noodles.



Getting to Know Your Sunday School Teachers: Pre-K Kristine Annen

by Jenny Hoffman

Kristine is a Certified Pharmacy Technician. She co-teaches the Pre-K (3-4 year old) class with her daughter Ariel and was recently selected to be the Education Board President. Kristine has been teaching in the Pre-K classroom for eleven years. She started out by volunteering to help out the former Pre-K teacher because her son was in the class and when the year was over decided to continue teaching that age group.

Kristine believes that teaching is a great way to contribute to the church and she wants to instill in the students the things that she learned when she was growing up. Kristine thinks that it is important for her students to learn about God and some of the things that she wants her students to know by time they complete Pre-K is a basic knowledge of a kid friendly version of the ten-commandments and the Lord's Prayer. Kristine wants to give them a foundational knowledge of God and faith that will expand as they continue through the grades. Kristine enjoys working with Pre-K (3-4 year olds) because she likes that at that age the students brains are like sponges and she thinks that the students are really fun.

She also likes to co-teach with her daughter Ariel who had taught with her mother since she was in 8th grade confirmation. Kristine said that her daughter started coming in to help with the Sunday School class whenever they were not holding a Sunday School class and that she has continued to teach with Kristine ever since.

At home, Kristine likes to spend time with her family. She likes to crochet and make lap quilts when she has spare time. She also is a fan of Sandra Brown books because she enjoys books that keep you on your toes. One thing that people probably do not know about her is that she and her husband Jeremy lived for four years in California while Jeremy was in the Navy.

Sunday School For October

by Jenny Hoffman

The monthly theme for October is "The Power of Prayer." The 5th and 6th grade students have put up an interactive bulletin board. The bulletin board in the main Sunday School hallway provides envelopes for different ways that we use prayer in our everyday lives. It also provides cards that you can write on to place in the envelopes. The envelopes are: Pray For ____, Thank God, Pray for Yourself, Pray for Others, Praise God, and Answered Prayers. We have been working with the students this past month to incorporate prayer in their lives and this bulletin board will help to reinforce how people use prayer. ***Please help our students by participating in the use of this bulletin board so that they can see how important prayer is to all of us.***

Church members, the Sunday School is looking for donations of the following items for crafts/projects/games and activities that the students will be doing each week. I will keep you up to date when we have new needs and when we do not need an item. Updates will be provided through in the weekly bulletin and through the monthly *Ambassador*. Please do not buy anything new, but consider donating craft items that you plan to no longer use.

Some things that we are currently looking for are:

- Magazines that the kids can use to cut pictures out of (examples are Children's magazines or any magazine that is family friendly like: Family Circle, Better Homes and Gardens, Reminisce, etc.
- Margarine Tubs, Paper Towel Tubes, Shoe Boxes, Large plastic jugs you get for bulk cheese puffs or pretzels (We need 8 of these). Wall paper, wrapping paper remnants

Things that you are no longer want but we could use:

- Scrapbook paper
- Hangers
- Index card holders or recipe boxes
- Embroidery Hoops and Thread
- Yarn

Confirmation Service—October 28 at 1:00 p.m.



Fifteen young people will affirm their baptisms on Sunday, October 28. At baptism, God tells each and every one of us that God wants to be part of our lives. God tells us that no matter what, God will never stop loving us. Pastor Paula tells the confirmation youth, that truth can be a great source of strength on those days when you think no one cares about you and you are a total mess. Fifteen youth from Christ Lutheran will affirm their baptisms and tell God, “Yes, I want you to be a part of my life. I need that steadfast and everlasting love you have to give.” Those young people are: Olivia Anderson, Ella Dambach, Alani Estervig, Bradley Garcia III, Deven Johnson, Laci McPhee, Ben Model, Kayla Schultz, Ainsley Stapelfeldt, Emma Stokes, Zachary Thomas, Luke Vienneau, Collin Williamson, and Ashton Wuenneman. Please keep them in your prayers.

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



Thursday Morning Bible Study

9:00 a.m.

Dialogues on the Refugee Crisis

The Bible study comes from Augsburg Fortress and takes on a tough subject, refugees in America. We will view a ten-minute video each week and read eight unique perspectives from experienced authors from renowned organizations such as Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service. Refugees have been a reality in our world for a long time. Jacob and his sons went to Egypt to escape a famine in Canaan. 400 years later they returned to Canaan, and before they entered the land Moses told them to never forget the refugee in your midst, because you once were refugees. Jesus' family were forced to leave Bethlehem to escape Herod, and for a period of time they were refugees in Egypt once again. This is an eight-week study that meets in the Conference Room. The dates are October 4, 11, 18, and 25 and November 1, 8, 15, and 22.



Rebecca's Rebels

The Third Monday of the Month—October 15

6:30 p.m.

Viking Brew Pub

Women of Grit and Grace

No one showed last month—bummer—but, we are going to try again. We will be looking at Eve, the mother of all who live. We'll look at a new interpretation of the story of Adam and Eve as well as discuss the old one, where Eve is the fall guy for sin coming into the world. You cannot imagine how much damage that interpretation has done to women down through the ages.



Refugees in America

by Sophie Geister-Jones

Last year around this time, I had the distinct honor of meeting with and interviewing the Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, Reverend Doctor Antje Jackelén. In the interview, we talked about a lot of things—baptism, sexism, the future of the church, and one I was a little surprised to discuss—the refugee crisis.

Unlike the United States, where freedom of religion is a first amendment right, it wasn't in Swedish laws until 1951. Sweden also had a state church until 2000. Despite that, or perhaps because of it, Sweden is now one of the most surface-secular countries in the world. However, the increase of immigration into Sweden by refugees is bringing religion to the forefront once again and opening up dialogue. Jackelén noted that 80% of Lutheran parishes in Sweden have engaged in working with refugees, many of them Muslim.

With the influx of immigrants, many Christians are experiencing new opportunities for interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, something that the Archbishop finds necessary for the future sustainability of the Lutheran church.

"I do think what we need as part of the one universal church is to be more aware of each other," Jackelén said. "We can't just sit in our small denominational corners and think that that is the world. Being enriched by ecumenism is part of it. Throughout the 2,000 years [the church has existed], how the church manifested itself has some things that can be traced through the centuries, but many things have changed and that's probably the way it is going to continue."

And so, I want to encourage you to enter yourself into that dialogue as well. Refugees are just as prevalent in the United States as they are in Sweden, and the reality is, we don't know a lot about their reality. That's something that Pastor Paula wants to change, and so beginning Thursday, October 4, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, she'll be starting an adult education study on the refugee crisis, using Sparkhouse's *Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis*.

Working at Sparkhouse the last few months, I can honestly say that the development team has poured their hearts into creating this curriculum. It challenges preconceptions without being shaming. It is rooted in facts and experiences. It is thought-provoking and informative. It encourages empathy, action, and discussion. It can help us live out what it means to be a *church*. So, like, go to it.

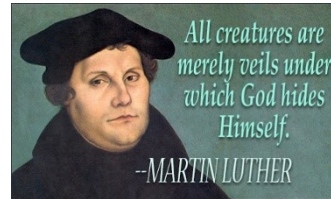
Senior Excursion



Wisconsin Arboretum Garden Tour
Thursday, October 11
Cost: \$3.00

We will gather at the church at 10:30 a.m. and drive up to the Arboretum for the garden tour with a naturalist from 11:00 a.m.–noon. The tour will not involve much walking. After the tour, we will take another half hour to walk whatever additional paths people wish to go down or to just sit and enjoy the sights and sounds. Following our visit to the Arboretum, we will chose a restaurant and go out to eat. I'm thinking the Old Fashioned in downtown Madison, but am open to suggestions. I am hoping for one of those wonderful mild autumn days. A sign-up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex.

Senior Luncheon



Monday, October 29
11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$10.00
Program: A Fun Look at Our Lutheran Faith Traditions

I like that quote. Luther reminds us that people get to know God through the words and actions of people who call themselves "Christians."

We will view a short video from Augsburg Fortress which uses creative, provocative humor, illustrations, and animation to get the conversation going. Don't worry, it really will be fun; add to that a great meal, and an entertaining time is guaranteed.

Menu: Red potatoes, red cabbage, rouladen (sautéed rolled beef with a pickle in the middle), Swedish rye bread, apple dumplings with ice cream, milk and coffee. Sign up at the Information Desk.

Upcoming Senior Excursions

Titanic the Musical

Stoughton Village Players
Thursday, November 8
Ticket Cost: \$15.00
Dinner Cost: \$15.00

We will begin with supper at CLC at 5:45 p.m. The youth going on the mission trip will prepare it with Pastor Paula's help. The menu is still being planned. As soon as we have settled on the courses, a sign-up sheet will go up on the Information Desk. The plan is to try to replicate a menu from the Titanic. We will leave for the theater at 7:00 p.m. Mary Onsager, Linda Kunz, and Leo Endres are all helping with the musical, and they are saying good things. It tells the story of the great ship and its sinking through the voices of its 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers as well as the crew and the ship herself. Some of the voices are of those who survived the sinking. It promises to be a wonderful production.



Elf

Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson
Thursday, December 13
Cost: \$69.00

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy is now a must-see holiday musical. Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh realities that his father is on the naughty list and his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true spirit of Christmas. This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf!

The sign-up sheet is on the Information Desk in the narthex. You must be signed up and paid by November 13. We carpool at the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m., drive to the Fireside, and return around 4:00 p.m.



Oktoberfest Worship—October 21

Come Sunday, October 21, to 8:00 a.m. Worship or 9:10 a.m. Family Express Worship and sing-a-long or get up and dance to the polka music at these services. Our very own **CLC Polka Band** is preparing to play the hymns as well as a few other polka tunes. If you are a musician who wants to be asked to join this fun band, please contact Linda at lkunz@clcstoughton.org and we will have a part for you to play.

New Food Pantry Bin



Check out our new Food Pantry Bin in the narthex next to the coat rack. When we moved into the church eleven years ago, we purchased a garbage can. The garbage can was supposed to be a “temporary” Food Pantry container. I don’t know how “temporary” eleven years was, but now, thanks to Steve Hendrickson and his new woodworking shed, we have an attractive Food Pantry container made out of oak. Now we just need to fill it up with groceries.

Social Concerns Thanks You!

Thank you to all those who made salads and bars and helped with preparing, serving, and cleanup for the Daily Bread meal served September 30.



Landline or Cell Phone?

CLC is updating the church directory. Please let Gloria know if you do not have a landline anymore. Many people have given them up but have not let Gloria know. Also, if you would provide Gloria with your cell phone numbers as well as your email address, it would be helpful. Just send Gloria an email at office@clcstoughton.org. Thank you!



Thank you!

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support of the Stoughton Area Resource Team through your recent donation of \$5,121.00 through the Ladies' Night Out Fundraiser.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of this evening. It is such a blessing to have your continued support for START through this fundraiser. I cannot thank you enough for making such an impact for your community and our program.

With gratitude,
Cindy Thompson, START Program Director

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for once again letting us use your back terrace and gym for our Summer Library Program finale. Ample parking and seating, air conditioning, and that lovely garden out back—it's always a perfect spot for our program.

On August 14, 160 people enjoyed free sundaes from Culver's in your back garden, then watched a magic show in the gym. Thank you for providing such a great facility for us to reward children for reading every summer.

Many thanks,
Amada Bosky, Youth Services Librarian

You Are Enough

By Rachel Heckroth—Young Adults in Global Mission



“You are enough.” We were told these words over and over again at our two-week orientation in Chicago. They were words that, if I’m being completely honest, flew in one ear and out the other the majority of the time. Between feeling completely overwhelmed, forming amazing friendships, and working through really intense ideas and conversations about race and privilege, the thought of my worth fell pretty low on my priority list. But now, being here in Senegal for over a week, I’m starting to see the importance of those words.

Living in a country where you don’t understand the language or the customs can be intimidating at the very least. But what I’ve noticed more than anything is the importance the Senegalese place on being in relationship with each other. Earlier this week, we participated in a Senegalese culture orientation class. In addition to learning the etiquette of eating “around the bowl,” we were introduced to the importance of greetings. In Senegal, greetings and goodbyes can take upwards of ten minutes on average. Coming from the Pacific Northwest, where I feel like I’m overly friendly when I give someone an acknowledging head nod from across the room, this came as a major shock. However, when we took a step back and thought about the reasoning behind their long greetings, it all can be boiled back down to the phrase “you are enough.” Our teacher explained that you don’t greet animals, but a person, no matter how insignificant they may be in your life, deserves their humanity to be recognized. The simplicity of their reasoning is difficult to argue.

I think about all the times in my life when I am so focused on my phone or what’s going on for the rest of the day that I don’t even look up long enough to say, “Hi, how are you today?” to the people I’m interacting with. When did our lives in the U.S. become so busy that we can’t even find the time in our schedule to acknowledge each other’s presence in the world? Being confronted with the Senegalese culture, I’ve been forced to address the fact that a person’s worth isn’t dependent on anything more than the fact that they are human. That alone is enough to warrant my time and attention.

Being here in Senegal, unable to communicate and stumbling along trying not to accidentally offend anyone, I’ve been faced with the fact that there is nothing special that I did to deserve to be here, having this experience. But what has been even more surprising is recognizing that I am enough and I am deserving, regardless of the talents and accomplishments I bring to the table (or lack thereof). Living in a culture that does not put emphasis or importance on your job, your level of education, or how well you perform various sports or hobbies makes you reevaluate how you define yourself. The concept that “I am enough” is only just now starting to sink in. I can’t wait to see how this notion will shape me after an entire year. I invite you all to ponder this idea with me and think about the way in which you interact with people on a daily basis and how freeing it can be to embrace the fact that you too are enough, just as you are!

Blessings from Dakar, Senegal!

Memorials:

In Memory of:

Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Luther Selbo
Luther Selbo

From:

Cindy Flory
Parker and Linda Gibbs
Rev. Jack and Janet Finney
Martha Prine
Marilyn Vandrell
Ann Nelson
Michael and Brenda Sherry
Family and Friends
Richard and Jean Asleson
Milton and Vicki Sperle



Endowment Foundation:

In Memory of:

Shirley Nygaard
Debbie Drogsvold
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Dick Entwistle
Gift

From:

Joanne Roneid
Joanne Roneid
John Beutel
Steve Christenson
Roger and Joyce Utermark
John and Carolyn Hanson
Myron and Mary Sime
Al and Eloise Christensen

In Honor of:

Roger and Joyce Utermark's 65th Anniversary
Ed and Colleen Gregorich's 50th Anniversary
Evelyn Kahl's 90th Birthday
Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday
Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday
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Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday
Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday
Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday
Gladys Thompson's 90th Birthday

From:

Joanne Roneid
Joanne Roneid
Carolyn Slaney
Nancy Holzhuter
Ann Nelson
Myron and Mary Sime
Gwen Haugen
Gen Wilberg
Norval and Barb Morgan
Gert Christianson
Pastor Paula Geister-Jones
Roger and Joyce Utermark
Roger and Geri Slack
Carolyn Slaney

New Member Sunday—November 18



New members will officially be received into our community of faith on Sunday, November 11, at all three worship services. If you know anyone who is interested in joining, or if you are that someone, please contact the church office so Pastor Paula can arrange a visit. New Member Orientation will be on Sunday, November 11, immediately following the Family Express Service in the Conference Room. We ask that new members attend. It is just a time to get to know one another and to share information about the congregation.

Our *Daily Bread* devotional booklets, in small and large print, for October, November, and December are available. They are located in the narthex!



Senior Excursion to Wisconsin Dells—Oh, the Fun We Had!

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

On September 13, **thirty-six members** of CLC participated in the Upper Dells Boat Tour and dinner at Ishnala. We could not have had a nicer day, sunshine and 84 degrees. Our tour guide informed us that it was not the water parks and tourist traps that lured vacationers to the Dells beginning as early as the late 1850's. It was the Wisconsin River and the breathtaking beauty of the rocks and shoreline along a ten-mile stretch. We enjoyed a boat powered by a motor. The first tourists paid their fee and then rowed their own boats. We got off twice and had a chance to walk between the rocks and into the woods. I really enjoyed that. The terrain is rugged, but wooden paths gave us a chance to see sights that would have been inaccessible otherwise. After the tour, we drove to Ishnala. We arrived at 4:15 p.m., fifteen minutes after they opened, and the crowd was already arriving. The food was absolutely delicious. Following dinner, we returned home. **A big thank you to Mark Holzhuter!** A number of our members drove their Corvettes, but about twenty-four enjoyed riding in a bus rented by brides and bridegrooms for their wedding party or high school students going to prom. Mark gave us an opportunity to experience something many of us will never experience again, since wedding parties and prom are in our past.



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

2 Corinthians 5:20

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

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Staff:

Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary

