

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

November 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



**A Gracious God—A Generous People  
Giving Thanks!**

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones



I remember seeing my children for the first time in the operating room (three C-sections) and falling head over heels in love with them. I cried when the doctor showed them to me.

For the next ten years, I didn't get much sleep. None of them slept through the night before they were two-year-olds. I fed them, changed their diapers, clothed them, provided them with shelter, cared for them when they were sick (cleaned their snot and vomit off of me), comforted them when they were hurt, read them endless books, and prayed for them before I fell asleep at night. The list goes on and on. You get the picture.

Once you become a parent, you or your spouse is no longer the center of your universe. Your children are. When they come into this world, they are so totally vulnerable and dependent, and it is up to you—the parents—to see that they survive and thrive. You do whatever is necessary, no thanks needed. And then they grow up.

I can't remember which one of my three first informed me, during those wonderful pre-teen years, that "It's your job to feed me. It's your job to clothe me. It's your job to take care of me. You are my parent." My children aren't any different than anybody else's. I ask my 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students, "Have any of you gotten upset with a parent who showed up to pick you up late? They are supposed to be there, right? On time! Nothing is more important than you, *right?*" And they say, "Right!"

My children are now 26, 22, and 18, and something new started to happen a few years ago. They would **thank** Scott and me for the things we do for them. "Thanks, Mom. Thanks, Dad. I really do appreciate everything you do for me." I know I said no thanks were needed, but I sure like hearing it. But it made me wonder, after all these years of silence, what brought it on. So I asked my daughter, Sophie. Here is what she said...

"I used to be what some would describe as (and I'll censor this for church) an 'ungrateful little poop.' I demanded things and declared things like I was in charge and the most important.

And then I went to college. And then I got a cold for the first time. And holy crap, that stunk. Because guess what? DayQuil is **expensive**. NyQuil is **expensive!** Alka-Seltzer and orange juice—oh my god, don't get me started on orange juice—are **expensive**. A cheap dorm futon wasn't the same as my couch. I realized that life *sucked* without my mom taking care of me in little ways I didn't even notice until I was gone.

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**Daylight Savings Time ends November 4—Remember to turn your clocks back!**

**New Member Sunday—November 18**



It has been wonderful to see some new faces in the congregation this fall. We hope you feel welcomed. A new member Sunday is planned for November 18, with new member orientation on Sunday, November 11, immediately following Family Express in the Fellowship Hall (the gym). If you know of anyone or if you are interested, please contact the church office at 873-9353 or contact Pastor Paula at [pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org](mailto:pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org).

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service  
Covenant Lutheran**

Wednesday, November 21—7:00 p.m.



Each year the community holds an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service. This year Covenant Lutheran is hosting. I encourage you to attend. It is a beautiful service, with members from many of the congregations participating in the Ecumenical Choir and Bell Choir. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. The offering goes to the Good Samaritan Fund to help people traveling through Stoughton. Everyone is also encouraged to bring an item for the Stoughton Food Pantry.

**Who's Who in the Pew—Eric Smedal**

*by Diane Matson*

How many people do you know who can pilot a commercial airliner, drive a Zamboni machine, sharpen ice skates, **and** play the guitar (although not all at the same time)? Believe it or not, we have a guy like that right in a CLC pew!

A true native son and third-generation member of CLC, Eric Smedal was born and raised in Stoughton, and baptized and confirmed in the "old" Christ Lutheran when it was located on East Main. His career as an airline pilot saw him commuting from Stoughton to Chicago for nine years. Then the light dawned that a change of career might allow him to spend more time with wife Heidi and kids Trevar (29) and Nikki (26)...and shorten his drive time!

Eric and Heidi are now "empty nesters," save for their 14-month-old West Highland terrier fur child. Eric currently works as a sales engineer for Mayville Engineering, after having spent thirteen years as a manufacturing cost estimator/analyst.

Favorite travel destinations include the Vilas County area and visiting friends in Arizona, and even though the pull of the hockey rink is strong, Eric has "retired" after 18 years of sharpening skates at the Mandt Center. Driving the Zamboni (while making airplane noises?) keeps him connected to the ice, however.

When Eric isn't working on CLC Stewardship campaign activities (not exactly classified as a bona fide "hobby"), golfing and playing his guitars take up his leisure time. When asked about his favorite things about Christ Lutheran, he says, "I love how welcoming and friendly the church and her members are. I love how involved our youth groups are and the activities they participate in. Pastor Paula and Scott have done a marvelous job of getting the youth engaged in the church. I also love the music programs. We have some tremendously talented people in this congregation." Apparently, it takes one to know one!



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**All Saints, November 4**  
"So Great a Cloud of Witnesses"  
by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Pastor Scott is in the process of cleaning out his office, so I walked in this week to see how he was doing. Looking down at me from their pictures in their funeral pamphlets were Paula Landers, Jill Winters, and Kris Christenson, all three wonderful women. Paula Landers loved life, loved to travel, loved to try new things. Her husband, John, said, "Going on vacation with her was more exhausting than staying home." Jill Winters loved her husband, her children, her horses, and her job as a nurse practitioner. No grass grew under her feet. And Kris Christenson. Kris always had something good to say about people. She was a bit gullible, easy to tease, and childlike in her trust. As I looked at those pictures and remembered those people, I could not help but smile. Anyone who met them would have seen our gracious God shining through in their lives and would have known that Jesus is indeed alive and well.

This past year, eleven of our saints passed from this life to the next and joined that "great cloud of witnesses." On November 4 we will celebrate the story of their lives and the witness they were to our faith. They are Anna Sphar, Carol Ewald, Laurie Stenjem, Janet Thomas, Rod Breedlove, Helmer Holte, Julie Sehmer, Shirley Nygaard, Richard Entwistle, Debra Drogsvold, and Roger Veir.



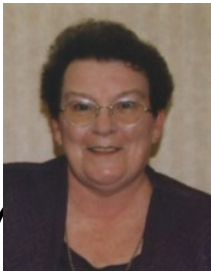
Anna Sphar



Carol Ewald



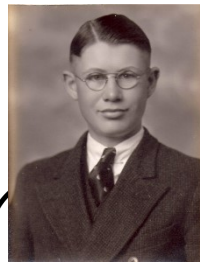
Laurie Stenjem



Janet Thomas



Rod Breedlove



Helmer Holte



Julie Sehmer



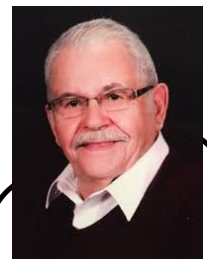
Shirley Nygaard



Richard Entwistle



Debra Drogsvold



Roger Veir

## A Gracious God—A Generous People

“Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” (Matthew 5:48b)

By now, hopefully all have returned their pledge cards and Time and Talent sheets. If you have not yet done so, please return them as soon as possible. Pledge cards can be placed in the chest on the Information Desk. If you need a pledge card or Time and Talent sheet, there are copies on the Information Desk in the narthex or on CLC’s website.

We are working towards some very important goals for 2019 (which were highlighted in the letter you received) with our biggest challenge being the hopeful calling of a co-pastor. This is an exciting time for Christ Lutheran Church, and with the help of all, we will surely meet our goals.

Thank you for all you give, and God’s blessings,

Eric Smedal  
Stewardship Chair

## Go and Tell

*by Roger Slack*

“A Gracious God—A Generous People” is our church’s theme for the upcoming year. It is a wonderful summation of how God deals with us and helps us to become the people He wants us to be. Many can attest that understanding just how deeply God loves us can change our attitude toward others, making us a very kind and generous people. “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). I don’t know if you watch PBS on TV, but there are a lot of shows that I like. One I currently watch is “Poldark” on *Masterpiece*. It paints a sad picture and commentary on the aristocratic landowners of the era wherein they withhold selling their grain to the poorer common folk, and choose to sell to buyers from foreign countries at inflated prices. It is within their right to make that decision, as it is their possession, but the hypocrisy they display as they take their place in church is really, really hard for me to take. By comparison, I am so very grateful to be a part of our church, because I know we have many very generous people that contribute in so many ways. The church council and the service boards of our church have as their objective serving the needs of our membership and reaching out to help meet the needs of people in Stoughton and around the world. Each year the various boards come up with plans for things they would like to do. Things like youth mission trips repairing homes and building new homes for people ravaged by recent hurricanes, senior luncheons and excursions, Stoughton Food Pantry, Stoughton Youth Center, START in Stoughton, Dane County Jail Ministries, UW Campus Ministries, confirmation suppers on Wednesday nights, youth lock-ins, Bible camp funding to help the kids wanting to go to camp, and the list goes on. There are so many things we would love to help make happen and touch the lives of both members and non-members alike. Our weekly offerings that come in throughout the year are the means by which those causes are helped. The Apostle Paul traveled throughout Asia and Southern Europe, building new churches as he went. During these travels, there was a hard famine in Israel, and the Christian brethren were suffering for lack of food. The new churches to the north decided to take up a collection to send to them so they could buy food to live on. Paul, Silas, and representatives of the churches were responsible for collecting this offering and taking it to Jerusalem for the new churches there in Israel. In Paul’s letters to the various churches, he told them to set aside each week according to how they prospered so that they would be ready when he and the others arrived at their church. He knew that very few people could come up with a large sum of money at a moment’s notice, and he also knew that it was going to be hard, to let go of a large sum of money. Paul was pretty sharp. He knew a smaller amount given each week adds up to a large amount over a year’s time. Have you ever wondered why we pass the offering plates each week? That’s why.

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:17, “Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.” Solomon wrote similarly in the Old Testament book of Proverbs 11:24-25, “There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.”





## Christmas Tree to Be Decorated Sunday, November 25

In past years that has been the job of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but this year there will be no official Sunday School that day, just Family Express worship. So we have a problem. The tree needs to be decorated by Saturday, December 1, for the Lutfisk Dinner. The only answer I can come up with is to invite anyone sitting in the café following worship to help out. The decorations will be set out, as well as the ladders. We will find someone to be in charge. Help decorate the Christmas tree. Put a few bulbs on. The top of the tree will be for those who are not afraid of heights!



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

**November 4:** Class with Todd

**November 11:** Help with preparations for Advent Beginnings

**November 18:** Class with Todd—sign up to help with Advent Beginnings

**November 25:** Decorate the Christmas tree

## Advent Beginnings—December 2



This year the Youth Ministry Team is hosting an event for the Kindergarten–5<sup>th</sup> grade, Sunday, December 2 from 10:30 a.m. (immediately following Sunday School)–12:30 p.m. We will make homemade Christmas cards and Christmas decorations as well as frost cookies. The crafts will be on display Sunday, November 18. They just may be your answer to what to give Grandpa and Grandma for Christmas. Lunch will be served at noon. The menu is homemade mac and cheese, lasagna, salad, cookies, and milk. A free-will donation will be taken to help cover expenses.

If anyone has old beaded jewelry they wouldn't mind donating, we could use it for one of the crafts.

## "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" continues on November 7, 14, and 28! We have had a great turnout this fall, up to 18 youth! 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.



## 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.*

### November 7

Spaghetti and Sauce with or without Meat  
Lasagna with or without Meat  
Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread, Cupcakes  
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

### November 14

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy  
Vegetable, Red Jell-O with Raspberries  
Homemade Bread  
Apple Crisp and Pumpkin Pie  
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

### November 28

Tacos and Fixings  
Cheese Quesadillas, Spanish Rice  
Fruit Salad, Homemade Cookies  
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

**November 21—No Confirmation Class  
or "God and Games"—Thanksgiving  
Break**



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Receive Bibles

*by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones*

When a child is baptized, one promise his/her parents make is to “place in their hands the holy scriptures.” On Sunday, October 7, Christ Lutheran helped the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents fulfill that promise at the Family Express worship service. We had a great turnout. Almost everyone showed up, and those who didn’t, we have a Bible for you. Just ask our Sunday School Superintendent, Jen Hoffman. The names of the third graders are Charlie Ashmore, Mateya Conklin, Jakob Dambach, Izzy Hack, Jack Hamacher, Quinian Harrington, Kylie Horabik, Ella Knoploh, Matthew LePine, Gunder Anderson, Camden Nielsen, Brooks Richer, Kaylee Soderling, Cannon Suddeth, and Mikayla Thomas.



### Rebecca’s Rebels

Monday, November 19—6:30 p.m.  
Viking Brew Pub

We will meet at the Brew Pub downtown at 6:30 p.m., order supper, and enjoy a Bible study on another strong woman, Hagar. She and Sarah didn’t get along. We will look at why and how the sons of both women were blessed by God. All women—of any age—are invited.



### Men’s Night Out at the Brew Pub

Monday, November 26  
6:00 p.m.—Come down early to share a pint.  
6:30 p.m.—Supper and Speaker

Our guest in November is Joe Conant. He is going to talk about the shape of the trades and perhaps a little car talk as well.

### 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 study continues with Scott Geister-Jones on November 1, 8, 15, and 29.



## Getting to Know Your Sunday School Teachers: Pre-K 3-4 Kristine Annen

by Jenny Hoffman



Kristine is a Certified Pharmacy Technician and as of August is the new President of our Education Board. She co-teaches the Pre-K 3-4 class with her daughter, Ariel. 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.

She 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. She thinks that it is important for her students to learn about God, and one of the things she wants her students to know by the time they complete Pre-K 3-4 is a basic knowledge of a kid-friendly version of the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer. She wants to give them a foundational knowledge of God and faith that will

expand as they continue through the grades. She 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 has taught with her mother since she was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation. Kristine says that her daughter started coming in to help with the Sunday School class whenever she didn't have 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 News For November

by Jenny Hoffman

Our monthly theme for November is "Always and in Everything Give Thanks." Our fourth grade students will be creating a bulletin board to share what things they are thankful for. This theme will also be incorporated into our weekly crafts for the month of November.

The Sunday School classes will also be spending some time each week to work on the music that they will perform for the Christmas program. We will be sending home with the students the lyrics for their songs so that they can also practice at home. More detailed information about the Christmas program will be emailed/mailed out to the parents this month.

**No Sunday School on November 25—  
the Sunday following Thanksgiving.**



### Request for Donations to Sunday School

by Jenny Hoffman

Please consider donating items to our Sunday School that we can use for crafts, projects, games, and activities. We are looking for items to supplement materials that we purchase. The crafts, projects, games, and activities help our students to better connect with the materials they are learning.

Some things that we are currently looking for are:

- Magazines that the kids can 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

The items below are things you might have purchased in the past that you no longer want or need, but we could use—please do not purchase anything new.

- Wallpaper, wrapping paper remnants
- Scrapbook paper
- Wire hangers
- Index card holders or recipe boxes
- Embroidery hoops and thread
- Yarn



## Senior Excursion—*Titanic the Musical*

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

Menu: Potato and Corn Chowder, Waldorf Salad with Bacon, Roasted Vegetables, Beef Burgundy with Rice Pilaf, Swedish Rye Bread, Almond Cake with Fresh Raspberries and Whipped Cream

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 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## Senior Excursion—*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.



## Senior Luncheon

Monday, November 19  
11:30 a.m.—Cost: \$10



**Program:** *George and Solveig Carlson* have worked for years with Lutheran Social Services to help settle new arrivals to this country. Come and hear what your church, the ELCA, has done and stories about the people they have met.

Rev. George Carlson is a former bishop of the South Central Wisconsin Synod of the ELCA, and he and his wife live here in Stoughton.

### Menu:

Turkey with Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, and Gravy, Squash, Cranberries, Raspberry Jell-O with Raspberries, Bread, Pumpkin and Apple Pie with Ice Cream, Coffee and Milk.

## Call Committee Update

by Dan Matson

The CLC Call Committee met with Pastor Steve Kottke from the Synod office to review the steps in the call process. Chairperson, Audra Dalsoren, presided over the meeting and presented a list of questions to Pastor Kottke. A discussion was held relating to some updates and changes to our Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile is the document presented first to the Synod and ELCA, and then ultimately to candidates interested in CLC. The process will be that interested candidates will complete a profile of their own and send to the Synod office. Pastor Kottke will screen these candidates and look for a match to our Ministry Site Profile. When he sees a match he will forward those candidates to CLC. The CLC Call Committee can also refer candidates to the Synod for review. It is expected that we might see our first candidates in late November or early December. In the meantime, the Committee was asked to prepare an information packet that can be given to a prospective candidate. The packet might include the survey done in June as well as samples of the *Ambassador*, annual reports, bulletins, and some information from the Stoughton Chamber of Commerce. The discussion also included sample interview questions, tips for interviewing, and the need for confidentiality.



## There's Plenty of Opportunities to Get Involved With The Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner

Like past years the dinner will take place the first Saturday in December, but you would be amazed at all the work that needs to get done before then. There is always room for one more volunteer to step up and help with the work. Check out the following opportunities and sign your name to a list on the Information Desk.



**Rutabagas:** Saturday, November 3, starting at 8:00 a.m. Work is finished before noon. If you cannot stay for the duration, a couple of hours of your time will be very helpful. If interested, please contact Jeff Zarth at [carguy@folkswagons.org](mailto:carguy@folkswagons.org) or 608-576-7003.

**Meatballs:** Saturday, November 10, starting at 8:00 a.m. Last year we had a record number of rollers—18. We had those meatballs rolled by 10:30 a.m. A number of folks stayed later to get them baked and in the freezer. The persons in charge are Roger Utermark and Pastor Paula.



**Preparing the fish:** Wednesday, November 28, starting at 7:30 a.m. and usually finished before noon. If you cannot stay for the duration, a couple of hours of your time will be very helpful. If interested please contact either John Hanson at [tire911@msn.com](mailto:tire911@msn.com) or call 608-556-3755; or Steve Hendrickson at [sahend@frontier.com](mailto:sahend@frontier.com) or call 608-835-6232.

**Peeling potatoes:** Friday, November 30, starting at 7:30 a.m. and work is usually finished before noon. If you cannot stay for the duration, a couple of hours of your time will be very helpful. If interested please contact either John Hanson at [tire911@msn.com](mailto:tire911@msn.com) or 608-556-3755; or Steve Hendrickson at [sahend@frontier.com](mailto:sahend@frontier.com) or 608-835-6232



By the first week in November additional sign-up sheets will be in the narthex for people to work the day of the event. We need kitchen servers and helpers, waiters/waitresses, people to help with the butter, cookies, lefse, coleslaw, etc.

It is a lot of work, but “many hands makes for less work” so please, give a few hours of your time.



### Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner Bake Off Sunday, November 11 and 25



November is also the month we bake about 2,600 cookies for the Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner. You can either sign up to bake cookies at home or you could join Jane Runge, Pastor Paula, and the youth in the kitchen two Sunday afternoons in November. If you know how to make sandbakkels, rosettes, or krumkake, that would be helpful. We will start at 2:00 p.m. and go till 5:00 p.m. It is amazing how much can be baked in those three hours with many hands and the ovens at church. A sign-up sheet to bake at home is on the Information Desk, as well as a sign-up sheet to come join us on either one of those dates.

### Ole and Lena Bake Sale and More...

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Ole and Lena Bake Sale and More will take place on December 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The bake sale will include bars, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, jams, lefse, and much more. We'll also be selling the third edition of the Christ Lutheran Church Cookbook. A raffle is part of the bake sale. Raffle items include an American Girl doll, a 50" TV, and a beautiful framed Hardanger piece. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The drawing will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 1. You do not need to be present to win.

Women With a Mission was formed in 1989, and this is also when our bake sales began. Over the past 28 years, we have raised over \$89,000. With this money, we have purchased or contributed money towards many unbudgeted needs that arise within Christ Lutheran Church. We are so blessed to have our church and community support our efforts each year.

Here is how you can continue to help us. We ask and rely on the congregation to contribute the bake sale items mentioned above. Our committee will be at church on Friday, November 30, from noon to 6:00 p.m. to set up for the sale and for you to drop off any contributions. We will plate and price anything you bring unless you have plated your own contribution. So please mark your calendar and consider baking for us or coming to the sale. Don't miss our ticket sales for our raffle items, beginning in November in the Narthex between services.

Thank you,

Mary Onsager, Chairperson—Women With a Mission



## The 2018-2019 Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

Are They Here Yet?  
*by Pastor Kristin Engstrom*

"Have the YAGM arrived yet?" asked my Senegalese colleagues and friends several times, starting in mid-August. Apparently, I had made another language mistake when sharing the arrival date of the new YAGM, leaving most everyone anticipating their arrival one week early. But finally, the third YAGM Senegal cohort arrived on Thursday, August 23! For their first three weeks in Senegal, we were based in Dakar, where the YAGM studied Wolof or Serer, met our Senegalese partners, figured out daily tasks (visiting the store, greeting local guards, hand-washing laundry), had Senegalese outfits made, and ventured out for three days at the Lutheran Church of Senegal youth adult camp. At the end of most days, they were both exhausted and exhilarated.

On Saturday, September 16, the YAGM host families came to Dakar to meet their new family members and share expectations for their year together.

The next day, everyone packed up their suitcases, hugged one another tight, and then travelled to their new host communities. Are they here yet?

As I write this, all six YAGM have safely arrived in Yeumbeul, Fatick, Foundgioune, and Linguère. Thanks be to God!

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! Jerejef! Merci! Jokonjol! Jahram! You can contact me via e-mail at [kristin.engstrom@elca.org](mailto:kristin.engstrom@elca.org). You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.

If you would like to more closely follow YAGM Senegal, please check out our blog at <http://yagmsenegal.wixsite.com/blog>. You will find pictures and stories of daily life from me and the YAGMs, as well as links to individual YAGM blogs. On est ensemble! (We are in this together.)

The 2018-2019 Senegal Young Adults in Global Mission come from all over the U.S. and are serving in four different communities in Senegal. The YAGM in Yeumbeul and Linguère are serving with Senegalese Lutheran Development Services (SLDS), and the YAGM in Fatick and Foundgioune are serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal (ELS).

Please keep the YAGM, their supervisors, their host families, their communities, and me in your prayers as they adjust to life in Senegal.

**Hannah**, from Texas, is serving in Yeumbeul with the SLDS Preschool and Elementary School, the Family Life Planning and Education Program, and the Sports and Leisure Program.

**Rachel H.**, from Washington, is serving in Fatick with the ELS Women's Advancement and Job Training Program and the Department of Faith Formation.



**Zeb**, from Texas, is serving in Fatick with the ELS Youth and Young Adult Movement, the Finance and Accounting Department, and the Parish of Fatick.

**Rachel O.**, from Washington, is serving in Foundiougne with the ELS Department of Community Development.

**Andrew**, from North Carolina, is serving in Linguère with the SLDS Primary Health Care and HIV/AIDS Program and teaching English at the Linguère Roman Catholic Elementary School.

**Maddie**, from Minnesota, is serving in Linguère with the SLDS Dairy Farm and Creamery and the Family Life Planning and Education Program.

## Baptism:



Aislee Mae Anderson, daughter of John Anderson and Chloe Arnovold

## Memorials:

### In Memory of:

Luther Selbo  
Luther Selbo  
Richard Entwistle  
Roger Veir  
Roger Veir

### From:

Richard and Jean Asleson  
Milton and Vicki Sperle  
Family and Friends  
Richard and Jean Asleson  
Gloria Hayne



## Endowment Foundation:

### In Honor of:

Gladys Thompson's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

### From:

Bill and Sharon Vike

## Thank You, Gardeners

Many thanks to the 24 volunteers who endured the beetles and mosquitoes, wind, rain, and heat while caring for the church gardens during the spring, summer, and fall. The gardens were enjoyed by all. The time you gave is greatly appreciated!

Louise Kluge

## Giving Thanks—Continued from front page

After the cold (and after my mom transferred some money to my bank account so I could buy meds and OJ), I started noticing all the little things my parents did that they didn't have to, but made my life easier. My dad sent me a Cheesers care package during finals, because he knew that the curds sucked in South Dakota. My mom met me at my grandma's house one weekend, four hours from my college and six hours from Stoughton, to bake me bread to take back to school with me.

They didn't have to do these things, but they did anyway. Because they can. And if they can do that, I can say 'thank you,' and acknowledge them, and so I do."

I'm sure you can guess where I am going with this. Thanksgiving is approaching, that one day a year we intentionally give thanks to God for the many things God does for us. Like a parent, God doesn't need our thanks. God—for some reason I can't fathom—falls head over heels in love with us the day we were born, and for the rest of our lives does countless little and *BIG* things for us. We, far too often, behave like pre-teens and behave like "ungrateful little poops." Giving thanks is just a way to let God know we notice. We notice what God does for us. And while God does all of it without expecting thanks, simply because God loves us, giving thanks is one way we can show God (but more importantly, ourselves) that we are growing in the faith. Sophie said, concerning our relationship, "We are still little poops, but at least we are grateful little poops."



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## Why Do We Do What We Do: Lutheran Worship

### Invocation and Kyrie *by Sophie Geister-Jones*

At camp, we usually have the kids do a special handshake at the beginning of worship. It's nice because it gets some of the pre-worship wiggles out of the littlest ones, and it makes the awkwardly shy junior high kids talk to each other. It is also nice because it's an invocation handshake, and like every special handshake, has special actions and words that go with it.

In the name of the Father (we shake normal-like).

In the name of the Son (we do a weird thumb-hug).

In the name of the Holy Spirit (we raise our hands in the air like we just don't care).

We are welcomed to worship.

It was a way that we grounded the children. They stopped (momentarily) drawing fidget spinners in the dirt or kicking each other, and they focused, almost exclusively, on their words and actions. Words and actions that were focused on God.

The invocation is, at its simplest form, inviting God to worship. It is across the river, wearing tie-dye and glowsticks, waving at God (who's paddling a canoe on the already pre-imaged river) and saying "Hey! Hey, over here! Come over here! We're here for you! We got some bread and s'mores and maybe a little wine, but definitely s'mores!"

The invocation *invokes* the presence of God into the worship space. Yes, God is technically already there, but the invocation is the confirmation and the declaration. It's as if you had chocolate and marshmallows and graham crackers, and *then* you lit the fire. The invocation is lighting the fire for your s'mores party. There's no backing out. The intention is clear.

(While I'm using the s'mores metaphor, I will also say that the invocation is the bottom graham cracker. It is the one that you place the chocolate on, and then the mallow, and then the other half of the graham. But that second graham is the benediction, which will probably be talked about in a later article. So we will move on, but remember: invocation *and* benediction.)

The graham cracker invocation, in most cases, is followed by the chocolate Kyrie, which is a reminder of our sins and involves us asking for mercy—the words we speak, "Lord, have mercy on me," were spoken by a woman (yay, women!) in Matthew 15:22. The Kyrie can be traced back to Catholicism, and since Lutheranism is basically Catholicism <sup>LITE</sup>, there's a lot of similarity (with a lot less self-flagellation).

The Kyrie is a way to begin worship by reveling in God's grace. It is us straight-up asking God for mercy, knowing we are imperfect people. It is us recognizing our shortcomings and our utter humanity, and it is us coming together—as a congregation, as an embodiment of *the church*—to speak that truth. We are not perfect. We have sinned. Have mercy on us.

And just as chocolate has a long history, so does the Kyrie. It can be traced back centuries, if not millennia. All sorts of people—rich, poor, popes, sex workers, reformers, priests, me, you—have said (or sung) the Kyrie. As we stand and say it, we are connected not just with everyone else in the congregation, but with everyone who has said it *ever*. By saying the Kyrie, we are joining the melting pot of chocolate (and we all know a good s'more has a slightly melty chocolate). We stand together and say the same words said by our grandparents, by Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, David Letterman, and by a woman 2000 years ago: "Have mercy on me, Lord."



### Lutheran World Relief

This year Christ Lutheran put together 112 School Kits, 45 Fabric Kits, 52 Health Kits, and 32 Baby Kits. The quilters put together 127 quilts, sold 32 to cover the cost of shipping the quilts and all the kits, and sent 95 to the warehouse in Minneapolis. A few years ago, Lutheran congregations put together over 500,000 kits and quilts and sent them to over 16 countries to over half a million people and told them, "God has not forgotten you. God loves you!" The same thing will happen again this year. Now that's the kind of story you like to hear again and again.



*Velkommen!*

**Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner - Christ Lutheran Church**  
 700 County Road B, Stoughton, WI 53589 – 608 873-9353

**Saturday, December 1, 2018**  
**By Reservation Only**

Menu: Lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes, rutabagas, lefse, coleslaw,  
 cranberry fruit relish, rommegrot, Norwegian cookies, coffee and milk

Cost: Adults - \$18.00 - Children - \$7.00 (ages 4 to 12) - Children under 4 - Free

Send your reservation, a self-addressed stamped envelope, & check payable to:

Christ Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner  
 c/o Julie Schafer  
 816 S. Monroe Street  
 Stoughton, WI 53589

Questions – Contact Gerry Ross - 608 835-8520 or [stoughtonlutefisk@gmail.com](mailto:stoughtonlutefisk@gmail.com)  
 (after Oct.18. 2018) - Sorry, no reservations by mail after November 23, 2018

*This top portion of the form will be sent back to you with the Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_*  
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**Reservation Request**

**I/we wish to reserve seating for:**

Name		Number	Type	Price	Total
Address			Adults	\$18.00	
City/State			Child (4 to 12)	\$7.00	
Zip code			Child under 4	Free	
Phone			Total Enclosed		

**Available seating times listed**

**Please list 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices in boxes next to time**

11:00 AM		12:30 PM		2:00 PM		3:30 PM		5:00 PM	
11:45 AM		1:15 PM		2:45 PM		4:15 PM		5:45 PM	

Seating will be reserved nearest to time requested. We try to keep on schedule. This is based on timely arrival and departure. Seating cannot be guaranteed for late arrivals.

*Please remember to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

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

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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

**Staff:**

**Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary**

**Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary**

