

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

April 2019



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

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Christ Lutheran Ambassador

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 18, at Noon and 6:30 p.m.
First Communion for the 4th Graders at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 19, at Noon and 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion at All Services

Sunday, April 21
Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m.
Family Express Easter Worship at 9:10 a.m.
Festival Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast Served 8:00–11:00 a.m.





Join Us for Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 21
8:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Menu:

Scrambled Eggs with Ham
Swiss or Cheddar Egg Bake
Biscuits and Gravy
Pancakes with Homemade Applesauce
French Toast with Strawberries and Whipped Cream
Sausage and Bacon
Fresh Fruit
A Variety of Breads
Coffee, Juice and Milk



FREE-WILL DONATION

To help cover our costs and support our mission trip youth,
please consider a minimum donation of \$5 per person.

The Creed

by *Sophie Geister-Jones*

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, there were a bunch of people fumbling around figuring out what it means to be a Christian. After Jesus had died, there was about 150 years where the gospels were being written (those that are canon and those that are not canon—check them out!), and in that same time there were a bunch of different offshoots of people trying to figure their lives and faiths out.

Luckily, and honestly, pretty miraculously, the early Church managed to convene an ecumenical council (how they did this without a post office or email chain, I do not know) involving many of the early Christians from Rome, Ethiopia, Constantinople, and Hippo. Together, they came up with a bunch of creeds, most notably the Apostles' Creed.

The ELCA uses three creeds: the aforementioned Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. What these creeds do—and what the early Church's council did—is try and explain the doctrine of the trinity. The idea of "Three in One" is pretty kooky, honestly, and making sense of it is difficult for me at times—and I was raised in this tradition.

The creeds also give us some structure to live out our faith and define our religion. We believe in the church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins. That's kind of Christianity's *schtick*.

But here's the thing. (Yep, I have a thing.) Creeds were written a long time ago. They were written in a very different world. John Shelby Spong, previously the Bishop of Newark, writes in his latest book, *Unbelievable*, "The questions which Christians are forced to ask today are qualitatively different from those that the Christians of the sixteenth century were asking. We want to know whether the idea of God still has meaning. We ask whether the historical creeds commit us to things we cannot possibly believe. We wonder how or if we can still use those creedal words with integrity."

Times are changing! And things that early Christians may have thought of as sins (being gay, lady bosses, polyester) are not sins. Today, Christians exist in a much more globally minded world where we are making leaps and bounds at understanding the breadth of humanity and what it means to be human. It stands to reason, then, that these codes of conduct that were put in place when it made sense (or at least made more sense) are no longer applicable.

What Spong is asking, and what I am asking, is this: Christianity and the Church are living, breathing, growing bodies. Would it not make sense, then, that our creeds are, too? And if they are, that means that we have to sit down and actively argue about what they mean to us. (And that's work, I get it, I hate it. But isn't it worth doing if we want the Church to be a sustainable place that continues to welcome all of beautiful, broken humanity into the fold?)

President's Report

by Dan Matson



The Call Committee made a recommendation to the Church Council to hire a Lay Ministry Administrator to assist with many functions and administrative duties at the church. The Council approved the position, and it will be posted on the church website at www.clcstoughton.org. The posting is for an internal candidate. Resumes may be sent electronically in confidence to audra.clccc@gmail.com. Questions may be directed to the same address. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Who's Who in the Pew?

Profile of a Partner—The Bees in the Kitchen

by Diane Matson

There are bees in the church kitchen on Sunday mornings! Well, to be perfectly correct, "there are B's in the kitchen," the B's being **Barb** Stock and **Bonnie** Stenjem. So far, here's what most of us know: There are these two women in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. There is a "tall one" and a "less tall one." They always have the coffee ready and waiting, and the treat trays are filled. What we don't know is if they really live in the cabinets during the week and pop out on Sunday mornings, or if they exist outside of the confines of the church kitchen. It's time for clarification!



The "tall one" is Barb Stock. A native of Kaukana, Wisconsin, Barb and her husband, Al, have been married for 54 years and currently live in Oregon. Two grown children also live in Oregon, and Barb's only granddaughter is a junior at Oregon High School. Her sister lives in New York, and her brother is a resident of Delafield. In addition to being Queen of the Coffee Pots, Barb is a retired nurse and social worker. Hobbies include flower gardening, quilting, and all kinds of music, although Barb's favorites are folk and Irish, even though she's primarily English and Danish! Favorite travel destinations are the Western states and a most memorable cruise on the Rhine River. When asked about her favorite things about Christ Lutheran, Barb is quick to mention the sense of community she observes here, which gives her the opportunity to be a "servant of God," an important part of her kitchen ministry.

The "less tall one" is Bonnie Stenjem. A true Stoughton native, Bonnie can trace Stoughton family members back several generations, who came as Norwegian immigrants (naturally!). She also claims some Potawatomi ancestors five generations removed! Her daughter and her two grandchildren (the "joys of her life") also reside in Stoughton. The youngest of six children, Bonnie has three surviving sisters and a brother who lives in Florida. While she's looking forward to receiving her first Social Security check shortly, this Empress of the Treat Tray is currently a 15-year Walmart employee. Previously, Bonnie worked at both Stoughton Hospital and Skaalen in their housekeeping departments. When there is time for relaxation, Bonnie enjoys watching the Hallmark Channel and playing Bingo. Favorite travel destinations include visits to Las Vegas and Florida. A trip to New York is also in Bonnie's future plans. Her favorite thing about Christ Lutheran is the feeling that everyone is family here. You can come in diamonds or denim and feel welcome.

Ladies, the coffee lovers and sugar-addicted members of Christ Lutheran salute you for your dedication to CLC. Your kitchen ministry is a vital part of creating the warm and welcoming atmosphere that members and visitors of all ages enjoy every Sunday. Thank you!

Thank You to The B's in The Kitchen (Bonnie and Barb)



On Sunday, April 7, we are going to thank the B's in the kitchen for making Sunday morning so enjoyable at Christ Lutheran. It is wonderful to come to church and know that before worship, after worship, before Sunday School or after Sunday School you can walk through the line, be treated to coffee, juice, and treats and sit down in the Manna Café and enjoy some good conversation and fellowship. Bonnie and Barb are here Sunday after Sunday to provide this gracious service. On Sunday, April 7, we will thank them with a cake, gifts and a day off from their duties. Please join us to say **thank you!**



Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

Recently I read John 8:1-11. This is the account of Jesus and the woman caught in the act of adultery. The Pharisees and scribes had trapped her. My guess is she was a known prostitute and thus easily set up. She was brought into the temple where Jesus was teaching during the Jewish Festival of Booths or Tabernacles and dumped before Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes stated her sin in the presence of all and said to Jesus, "Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" Their intent was to accuse Jesus of being a false teacher and going against Moses' teachings that had been the basis of the Jewish faith all these many years. They thought they had Him trapped. I almost have to laugh as I think, "When are these guys going to learn?" Jesus said nothing initially, but stooped down on the ground and began writing with His finger in the dirt. We don't know what He wrote. Some think He wrote the Ten Commandments, but others think it was more specific to those Pharisees present. I may be wrong, but that is what I think happened. What Jesus wrote probably didn't make sense to John or the crowd at the time, and thus wasn't remembered. I can envision Jesus glancing up straight at each of the Pharisees and scribes present and writing sins each was guilty of committing. He probably did not write it in such a way that the crowd knew what was going on, but each one of the accusers knew exactly that He knew the secrets that each one had been keeping. Because Jesus had not yet given them an answer, partway through His writing, Jesus stood up and said, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." As He stooped down and continued to write



in the dirt, the accusers began to file out, leaving only Jesus and the woman. Jesus did not condemn her, but warned her to leave that way of life in order to protect her. The Pharisees and scribes started out trying to belittle and discredit Jesus in the eyes of the people, but after this, I think it became personal and they knew that they had to kill Him to keep Him from exposing them to the public. It would have been so much easier if they had just admitted it and asked for forgiveness.

Skaalen Quilt Faire Returns to Christ Lutheran

by Diane Matson

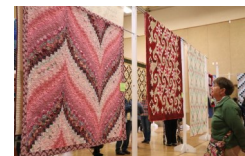
April 6 is the date. Christ Lutheran is the place. From 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., over 100 quilts, created by 50+ exhibitors, will enhance the sanctuary, gym, Sunday School hallway, and narthex with a riot of color and design.

In addition to the quilts from private collections, patriotic quilts in red, white, and blue will be on display before they head off to the VA Hospital in Madison to become the proud possessions of our military veterans. Lutheran World Relief quilts (some will be for sale) will be displayed in "waves" in the sanctuary.

All of this "eye candy" can be yours for an admission price of \$5.00. If you would like to display one or more quilts that **you've** made or collected, you may pick up a registration form from the information desk in the narthex or by contacting Diane Matson at greentowz@aol.com. We welcome beginners as well as seasoned quilters to show their projects. A Viewers' Choice is awarded, as well as second and third place, with "trophies" created by renowned quilter Marlene Messling. And new this year is a Kids' category! In addition, guests may purchase raffle tickets for gift baskets with themes of gardening, birding, relaxation, quilting, "Just for Kids," and more. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and may be purchased on the day of the show. A separate raffle for a quilt donated anonymously by a Friend of the Skaalen Auxiliary will be offered. Tickets for that raffle are available from Skaalen liaison Karen Warwick at any time prior to the show, and also on the day of the Faire.

And if that isn't enough, a light lunch, homemade dessert bars, coffee, and bottled water will be available for purchase. Each congregation is asked to provide **two** pans of *uncut* bars and one volunteer for the day of the Faire. **Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex.**

All proceeds from the Quilt Faire are designated for the enhancement of the programs and activities for our senior friends and neighbors who call Skaalen home.



Milestone Ministry Events

**Second Graders
Make Lenten Cross**



Parents and second grade students will meet with Pastor Paula to make Lenten crosses and learn about Holy Week during the Sunday School class time (9:45 a.m.) on April 7.

Three-Year-Olds Receive Picture Bibles



Parents of three-year-old children who were three before 9/1/18 are invited to attend the Family Express Service on Palm Sunday—April 14. The three-year-old children will receive a picture Bible during that service. Please make plans to attend. This is an important first step in a child’s faith journey.

**Fourth Grade First Communion
Instruction Continues**

On April 7 and 14, parents and their fourth grade children will meet in the Conference Room from 10:30–11:00 a.m. for First Communion instruction or on the same Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Scott Geister-Jones will teach the morning session and Pastor Paula the evening.

On Wednesday, April 17, we meet in the church kitchen right after school until 5:00 p.m. to bake bread. If you need a ride from school, please let Scott or Pastor Paula know. On Thursday, April 18, we gather for Maundy Thursday worship, where we will hear the story once again of the first time Jesus shared the bread and wine of Holy Communion with his disciples. Our young people will receive a gift before the worship begins, and they and their parents will be asked to come forward first to receive Holy Communion.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019
Meet in the narthex at 9:00 a.m.

Weather and mud will determine whether the Easter Egg Hunt is indoors or outside. Please be on time. This event takes all of ten minutes. Older and younger youth will split up and look for eggs in different places. All it takes is one egg to win a bag of candy.



Sunday School Olympics and Car Show

**Sunday, May 5
9:40–11:30 a.m.**

To celebrate a great year of Sunday School, we are going to have a Sunday School Olympics and Car Show on the last day of Sunday School, May 5. Scott and Kimberly Newman return as our DJ’s and in the gym there will be a musical chairs competition simultaneously for big and little people, a limbo, hula hoop contest, and more. Outside, weather permitting, or in the hallways if not, three-legged races, chalk painting, gunny sack races, water balloon toss, bounce house, and other relays will take place. Giant Jenga, Giant Yahtzee, and Twister are options in the narthex. **And we are going to have sumo wrestling!** Out front there will be old cars for everyone to look at and admire. In the Manna Café, good food will be served at reasonable prices. Look for more information via email and posters.



Why Canoeing?

by Sophie Geister-Jones

I think my mother loves camping more than me.

Okay, maybe not **more than** me. During the summer after tenth grade, we went camping in the Boundary Waters. There was a night it was going to get below freezing, and I remember walking into the tent after the fire burned down to find her duct-taping my sleeping bag shut (it had a broken zipper and was actually my little brother's youth sleeping bag). She looked up at me and told me, very bluntly, that she didn't want me to freeze to death.

My first trip to the Boundary Waters was when I was 13 and cranky and only on the trip because my mom had colluded with the parents of my friends and we were all on this weird parent-and-kid canoe trip. Four parents, five eighth graders, and all the angst and stupidity that goes with it. There was a lot of angst, specifically, from me. I hated getting my socks wet. I hated paddling. I hated portaging. I hated packing up tents. I hated doing dishes.

I was not a fun eighth grader, but something must have been fun about that trip (probably the hours of card games or having one-person canoe races), because two years later, I went back again. Two years after that, again.

The Boundary Waters aren't always fun. Sometimes, yeah, you get to paddle out into the middle of a lake with your friends, chuck your paddles away from your canoe, and play "Where's the Paddle?" for a couple hours. Sometimes you make pancakes and play with your Zippo lighters all afternoon. But sometimes it's raining and the waves are two feet high and you still have to pack up camp and paddle ten miles. But even when you're soaked to the bone and you've tipped your canoe, the Boundary Waters is always—*always*—better than watching Netflix on the couch. And I watch a lot of Netflix on my couch.



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2019

Monday, July 22–Sunday, July 28

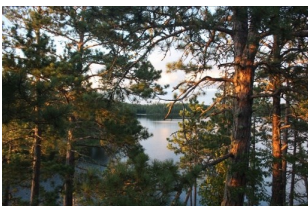
Youth in Grades 7-12 and **All Interested Adults**

Cost: \$350—\$300 after Campership

To keep costs down, we pack out our own food and provide as many of our own tents and Duluth packs as possible. We have fifteen Duluth packs. The Outfitter provides the canoes, paddles, life jackets, a few Duluth packs, bunkhouse accommodations for Monday, July 23, breakfast the following morning, and a shower when we come off trails. We come off trails the morning of Sunday, July 28, shower, and head home. We usually arrive home about 10:00 p.m. For youth who can drive, parents may want to leave a car in the church parking lot. Our entry point has yet to be determined. Seagull and Sag are the most popular.

The group will leave Monday, July 22, at 6:00 a.m. That means you need to be at the church by 5:30 a.m. to pack. Why so early? We have 500 miles to travel. Bring food to snack on in the vehicles. We will stop at Duluth Harbor for lunch. Bring a packed lunch if you like. Food can be purchased there. In Grand Marais, we will have supper at Sven and Ole's Pizza before we head up the Gunflint Trail and to Voyageur Outfitters. That cost is part of the trip. We stop there as well the day we come off trails. Sven and Ole's has great pizza.

What do you do in the Boundary Waters? You paddle, portage, cook your meals over an open fire, swim, fish, and enjoy the wilderness and the people you are with. Bring a book to read and some small portable games. We come off the water about 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, shower, pack up, and leave for home. The cost of the trip will also cover breakfast/lunch at the Mid Trail Cafe about 30 miles south of the Outfitters.



Once you have signed up, Pastor Paula will share with you a list of items that you will need to pack. If interested, please complete the registration form and submit a \$50 deposit written out to CLC Youth.

Sunday School News for April

by Jenny Hoffman

Sunday School Theme for April

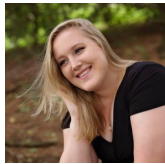
The theme for April is “Rise and Live for Jesus—Don’t Get Choked by the Weeds.” The three- and four-year-olds will be decorating the bulletin board this month. In Sunday School we will be focusing on Jesus and some of his disciples. One in particular is doubting Thomas. Students will learn about how Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. John 20:25 it says, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” We will talk with students about belief versus doubt during this lesson.

Sunday School Service Projects for April

We continue to do service projects with our younger students. One service project that we are focusing on this month is mailing a hug, which will be done with our Pre-K through second graders. The paper hug consists of hearts and circles and the traced hands of each student. These are sewn together, and the final product is a paper hug. I will have a sample out for everyone to see. The hugs will be distributed to our area shut-ins.

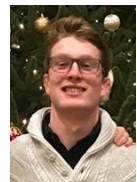
The other project that we will be working on with the older students is creating wrapped bandages for the World Relief drive that the church is currently collecting for. In order to make these bandages, we need sheets that we can cut into strips. So if anyone has an old set of sheets that we could use for this project, please bring them to the church office and put a label on them that they are for the Sunday School. Students will cut and wrap these bandages which will be send out with our other care packages.

Meet Sunday School Teachers Taylor Vingum and Luke Geister-Jones



We have four Sunday School teachers graduating from high school this year. Taylor Vingum has been teaching fifth grade Sunday School since she was a freshman. She is paired with Alexa W., who was featured in last month’s article. Taylor got into teaching Sunday School through encouragement from her mother. Her mom wanted her to find a way to be involved in the church and thought she would be good at teaching. Taylor wants to be a teacher, so she thought it would be a good place to get some practical experience. When asked what she wants the students to learn from her class, she said that she wants them to get a better understanding of Jesus and what he did. She said that she really enjoys teaching and that it was not bad teaching fifth graders, even though when she started teaching that grade level, she was only a freshman. Taylor really likes to sing, and she is really involved in music at the high school. After she graduates, she plans to attend St. Norbert, and she wants to be an elementary school teacher.

Luke Geister-Jones has been teaching Sunday School for the past two years. He teaches second grade with fellow senior Taylor Dyreson who was featured in last month’s article. Luke decided to teach Sunday school because both his brother and sister did it and Taylor his co-teacher and friend thought it would be fun if they taught Sunday School together. He hopes that students learn the stories of the Bible in his class. He really enjoys doing the crafts with the students. He would recommend teaching to others, but he wants them to think about it because they will have to give up their Sunday mornings to teach.



CLC Scholarships

This year the CLC Scholarship Committee is pleased to once again be able to offer scholarships to help defray the cost of continuing education for the 2019-20 academic year. High school seniors and college students who are current members of CLC are encouraged to apply for scholarships.

Applications can be found online, at the office, or from Kris Adams or Roger Slack. All CLC scholarship applications are due in the church office **by May 1, 2019**. Additional information about CLC scholarships can also be found online. Scholarship awards will be announced as part of the baccalaureate service on May 26, 2019.



Why Camp

by Sophie Geister-Jones

This last summer was the first summer since before kindergarten that I didn't go to camp. It was a huge bummer. I have lived, breathed, and bled camp for the last two-ish decades of my life. And instead of trying to put into words the immense love and happiness camp brings me, I'm just going to list a few things that make camp *camp*.

- Arts and Crafts
- Putting the last dish away after a Thursday dinner KP
- Constantly smelling like sunscreen and bug spray
- Two truths and a lie
- Wearing polka dots, flannel, and tie-dye and being complimented on it
- Not knowing how to swim, but knowing half the staff are lifeguards so I'm okay to go out to the raft
- Talking about bowel movements literally 24/7
- The dancing
- Screaming songs at the top of our lungs
- Evacuating the entire camp to the Dining Hall basement during a severe thunderstorm
- Goopy chocolate chip pancakes made over the fire
- Sleeping in tents
- Rainy-day games
- Wearing Chacos or Tevas or Birkenstocks every single day
- Campfires
- Talking for hours at night even though everybody's exhausted
- Sunsets and early evenings
- Friendship bracelets
- Seeing people you haven't seen since last summer and instantly picking up where you left off
- MAIL CALL
- The campers
- The staff
- Everything

Really, camp is a wonderful, messy, beautiful place that you just really need to go to.



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

It's Time to Sign Up for Bible Camp! Sugar Creek Bible Camp

*"Where all generations encounter Christ, experience God's grace,
and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to go fourth in faith."*

This year's dates are July 28-August 2.

The cost is \$450, but each youth will receive a \$100 campership!



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

Christ Lutheran encourages our young people to enjoy a week at Bible Camp. Each young person who signs up to attend will receive a \$100 campership to bring your cost down to \$350. If that is too much, register at Tier 3 and your cost will be \$295. Additional camperships are available if needed.

The week CLC is going is July 28-August 2. By then, summer sports are over, family vacations may not be scheduled, and young people just might have a week free to go to camp. If you decide to go, fill out the registration form and return it to CLC with a check for \$100 written out to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. CLC will send registrations to Sugar Creek along with the \$100 campership check.

Sugar Creek is located seven miles from Ferryville, WI, and is a Bible Camp of the ELCA. Youth will carpool to and from camp. We will leave CLC's parking lot on Sunday, July 28, at 11:30 a.m. We stop for lunch at Culvers in Dodgeville!

Registration forms are at the information desk, or online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org!

See page 9 for a description of the programs available.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Programs

This year's dates are July 28-August 2.
The cost is \$450, but each youth will receive a \$100 campership!

Seekers: For kids entering grade 4.

Cost: \$450 (\$350 with \$100 campership from CLC)

Seekers is your first opportunity to experience a full week of camp! Your week will be packed with all kinds of fun camp activities, which could include creek stumping, challenge course, crafts, campfires, pool party, Bible study, and more. Besides a pony ride, you will also get to ride the horses on a trail ride! Cabins have electricity and are the closest to the shower house! You will stay with other campers and a counselor, so invite a friend to enjoy this awesome adventure together!



Pathfinders: For kids entering grade 5 (and 4 on select weeks).

Cost: \$450 (\$350 with \$100 campership from CLC)

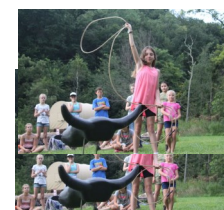
During your time in God's beautiful creation, you will enjoy food cooked over the open fire and a week of fun, including activities like swimming, horseback riding, crafts, Bible study, pool party, challenge course, hiking and more! Our giant platform tents in Pathfinder Village have comfortable beds and keep you and your tent-mates out of the weather. You never know what fun things might happen in the Pathfinder village!



Horse Camp: For kids in grades 6-8.

Cost: \$450 (\$350 with \$100 campership from CLC)

Do you love horses? Want to spend a week riding and learning all about them? Come to Horse Camp for a great hands-on horse experience! You will be with the horses daily, go on extra rides, learn how to care for horses, help the wranglers with tack, and spend overnight on the bluff with the horses! There will still be time for your other favorite camp activities like swimming, Bible study, games, and more! No experience needed! Register early: this program fills up fast!

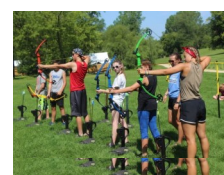


Adventurers: For kids entering grades 7-8.

Cost: \$450 (\$350 with \$100 campership from CLC)

Come join us for our popular middle school program!

This program includes FUN adventures designed just for you! You will spend part of your week in Frontier Town and enjoy many of your favorite camp activities, such as horseback riding, swimming, crafts, games, and some exciting new choices in your day! Your group will also camp out, canoe, and explore local waterfront for two days and nights. It will be a fun, friendship-filled week of adventure!



Junior Wranglers: For kids entering grade 9-12.

Cost: \$450 (\$350 with \$100 campership from CLC)

Saddle up for a week of hands-on experience with the camp wranglers and team driver! Help with the horse program at Sugar Creek, assist on trail rides, and learn about tack care, horsemanship, safety concerns, and general horse care. You will also get the chance to spend a night under the stars on top of one of our beautiful bluffs. A maximum of four people per session ensures that you will be in the saddle at least once every day!



Riverboaters: For kids entering grades 9-12.

Join friends new and old on a memory-making journey down the Mississippi River!

Cost: \$480 (\$380 with \$100 campership from CLC)

You can explore the dunes, swim, slide, boat, laugh, and play in the beauty of God's amazing creation! Enjoy campfires and Bible study on the sandbars as well as intentional community-building activities. Each boat group consists of up to 10 campers and 2 counselors, one of whom is a lifeguard. This is a fantastic experience for high school youth!



Adult Bible Study Continues

Join Pastor Paula on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

April 4 and 11

Tales of God's Pointless People



Daniel Erlander has always been one of my favorite theologians. In this short (25 page) book, he describes original sin as “keeping points.” We have an obsession with “keeping points” to somehow prove to ourselves and God that we are worth loving. God is not interested in “keeping points.” Some of the chapters are entitled “The Snake, the Big Box and the Little Box,” “The Pointless People Draft a Sexuality Statement,” and “The Sabbath Gift.” Together we will read two chapters a week and discuss their contents, all in one hour.

Christian Seder



On the night He was betrayed, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples. The Passover Seder commemorated God's freeing of His people from slavery and bondage in Egypt, but the meal is also filled with imagery pointing to Jesus. It was in the course of the Passover meal that Jesus gave us the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join your friends at Good Shepherd by the Lake Lutheran Church for a Christian Passover meal on Saturday, April 13, 5:30–8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or \$10 maximum per family. To RSVP, call Good Shepherd by the Lake at 608-873-5924.

Rebecca's Rebels

Monday, April 15

6:30 p.m.

Viking Brew Pub



This month we will look at Esther. You won't find her book in the Lutheran Bible, but it is there in other Bibles. Luther thought her book was too “Jewish.” Her story includes the first attempted genocide of God's people and how she helped stop it.

Men's Night Out



Monday, April 22

6:00 p.m. for pints

6:30 p.m. for dinner

Program: Mike Daniels and his work at The Virtual Foundry

The Virtual Foundry is a metal 3D printing material manufacturer located in Stoughton, Wisconsin whose products can be used in any off-the-shelf 3D printer available today. A few of its current customers are NASA, the U.S. Navy, Lockheed Martin, and both international and domestic universities.

Senior Luncheon

Monday, April 29

11:30 a.m.



Menu: Wild Rice Soup with Chicken and Bacon, a Variety of Salads, Bread, Strawberry Shortcake, Coffee and Milk

Cost: \$10

Program: Jack Finney and “Secular Songs to and from God”

Jack will take a look at a few songs like “When You Say You Love Me” by Josh Groban or “Can't Help Falling in Love” by Elvis and discuss how secular songs can not only talk about the love between two people but can speak to our faith as well.

CLC to Serve Our Daily Bread



Christ Lutheran will take our turn serving Our Daily Bread on Sunday, April 28. Our Daily Bread is a free meal served the last Sunday of the month at First Lutheran Church from 4:30–6:00 p.m. to anyone in the community who wishes to attend. This month the menu will be ham, baked potatoes, green beans, a variety of salads, dinner rolls, strawberry shortcake with whipped cream or ice cream, coffee and milk. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Desk for anyone who would like to donate a salad or their time to help serve. We meet at First Lutheran at 2:30 p.m. to prep the food.



Global Health Ministries

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

It's that time of year again, time to start collecting for Global Health Ministries. The kits are our offering at the Synod Assembly in May.

Hospice Kits

New or gently used items:

- 1 regular size bath towel
- 1 washcloth

New items:

- 1 bath size bar of soap (wrapped)—any kind
- 1 toothbrush, single and in original packaging
- 1 toothpaste (size medium or large—or two small sample sizes)
- 1 “pick” comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 Band-Aids
- 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly (4 oz. or more)
- 1 pair heavy-duty household gloves (kitchen type), size medium
- 1 small devotional booklet, *Portals of Prayer* or *Christ in Our Home*

Newborn Kit:

Please use new or clean used items in excellent condition.

- 1 regular size bath towel—no longer than 48"
- 1 36" square of muslin or sheeting
- 1 washcloth
- 1 bath size bar of Ivory soap
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep hand-knit ones very small, use baby yarn)
- 1 small baby shirt, size 0-3 or newborn
- 1 receiving blanket (approximately 30" x 30")
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

Congregation and Sunday School Collect 3,469.6 Pounds of Food

Well done! It may not be three tons, but it still is a lot of food. 1,274.6 pounds of that was in actual food, and \$2,195 in monetary donations. The Sunday School was having a contest to see which class would bring in the most food. The first and third grade classes both won for the most food collected. Each one of them will receive a frozen apple pie to take home and bake. Everyone at Mardi Gras enjoyed the cotton candy.



Why I Curtsy

February's blog post comes from YAGM Rachel O. (or Gnilane Sene, her Senegalese and ethnically seereer name). Rachel is living this year in Foundiougne, a river town and transport hub in central Senegal, where she serves with the Department of Community Development of the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

In my five months of living in Senegal, I have had a question asked of me by almost every toubab* I have encountered. Some directly ask me, while others just silently look at me in confusion.

**The word used in Senegal to describe anyone that is a foreigner. I myself am a toubab.*

When I greet someone, I curtsy when I shake their hand. To an outsider to the Senegalese culture, this probably looks ridiculous. It is not normal to see a toubab greet another toubab in this manner. However, I have even received reactions from the Senegalese. I was stopped on the street by an old man who wanted to thank me. I have been hugged by a woman I curtsied to at church.

It is odd to see a toubab adopt this greeting. In Serer culture, women are supposed to curtsy to men. This was a fact that I was told very early on in my year. I think the first time I heard it was at orientation in Dakar. The seereer YAGMs had been told that this would be a thing we would have to learn how to navigate upon arriving at our host sites. My first impression was, "I should not curtsy to men; I need to fight against the patriarchy here."

My first week in Foundiougne, my supervisor taught me to curtsy, and she explained that I should do it to anyone I wanted to show respect to. Having little language ability to ask questions, I listened to what she said. I watched my supervisor curtsy to both men and women. I began to curtsy to anyone that my supervisor curtsied to.

Flash forward to my life now. Curtsying is just a regular part of my life. I do it countless a day. Anyone who is older than me, I will curtsy to. Man or woman. The level of respect that person deserves, will change the depth of my curtsy. The old woman in the village deserves the most respect, so I curtsy to her the lowest.

I would like to explain why I find this to be important enough to adopt for an entire year.

Curtsying is the way to show respect. As a toubab, I find that people want to curtsy to me, even if they are older. By automatically curtsying to them, I am showing them that I return the respect. My supervisor and I usually curtsy to one another when we shake hands in the morning. It shows that we mutually have respect for one another.

This is also a way I can show that I respect the culture that I am living in. This is an old tradition. By curtsying, I am demonstrating respect to the person I greet. It shows that I have an understanding of the importance of respecting your elders. Curtsying is also an easy way to show people that I am seereer. There are many things that are communicated by just bending my knees slightly.

Most importantly, curtsying has become a way I fight the patriarchy.

The reactions I receive from men are usually expected. They are regularly shown this respect. They are normally greeted first in a room, served food or attaya* first. Some may show a slight surprise at my curtsy, but it is usually a small reaction.

**Attaya is the traditional Senegalese tea that is made every day. It is drunk in three rounds, the first being the strongest, the last being the sweetest.*

Women, on the other hand, are not as accustomed to it. I have been thanked, hugged and high-fived more times than I can count. I do see women curtsy to other women, but it is less frequent.

Curtsying has become a way I can communicate to the women around me without having to use words. In the time it takes me to curtsy, I can tell a woman that I value and respect her.

That all happens in less than five seconds. So yes, it is a bit weird to see me curtsy. If we meet in Senegal, I will likely curtsy to you.

But remember, I am not letting the patriarchy win or putting myself down. I am simply communicating that I respect and value you.

If you are a woman, I am letting you know that you deserve respect and value just as much as any man in the room.



Death:

Joann Zelm

Memorials:

In Memory of:

Loraine Johnson
Max Kapfer
Max Kapfer
Max Kapfer
Max Kapfer

From:

Richard and Kathy Johnson
Randy and Donna Olson
Roger and Geri Slack
Eric Smedal
Family and Friends



Baptized:



Magnus Jo Iverson,
son of Anne Iverson

Christ in Our Home daily devotional booklets for April, May, and June in large and small print are available for pickup in the narthex.

Altar Flowers Chart



If you would like to give flowers on a special day, call Gloria at 873-9353. The cost is \$32.50. The dates available are: April 21 and 28; May 5; June 9, 16, 23, and 30; August 11; September 15; November 3 and 10; December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Help Needed

Tending the Church Flower Beds!



We are looking for help to tend the flower beds at church. This would involve the weekly care of deadheading, fertilizing and weeding the flower beds and parking islands. If you are interested please call Gloria in the church office (873-9353). Your help will be very much appreciated.



Easter Flowers Order Form

The following plants are available for Easter:

- Lily - \$18.00
- Tulip - \$15.00
- Daffodil - \$17.50

(Make check out to Christ Lutheran Church)



Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Kind of plant: _____

Please give your order to Gloria in the church office by April 14.



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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

Phone: 608.873.9353

Fax: 608.873.3949

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

CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

Staff:

Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary

Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary

