

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

May 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

Summer Worship Begins

May 26—9:00 a.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI

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Christ Lutheran Ambassador

A Gracious God—A Generous People

"Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."
Matthew 5:48b



Church Bells

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

It's that time of year again, that time of year when we celebrate everything Norwegian. Trolls are Norwegian—and Swedish. I'm not an expert on them, but after doing a little research, I discovered they are a lot like human beings, but even more so. They get all our worst characteristics. They are somewhat reclusive, living in small family groups up in the mountains or the forests. They don't take kindly to strangers, uprooting trees to use as clubs or unearthing boulders to use as projectiles to warn them off. It is common knowledge that they are slow-witted, and their outside looks like their inside—*ugly*. The one pictured above is covered with warts, and all his teeth have rotted out, leaving only one in his mouth. I learned one more thing, and this is important. They are greedy.

How do you get rid of troublesome trolls? Church bells. They cannot stand the sound of church bells and immediately flee back into the woods at the sound of them. Church bells have been used down through the ages to call the faithful to worship. If church bells get that kind of reaction, imagine what hearing the Word of God would do. We have just celebrated Easter. There is not one particle of greed in our God. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son to die for us." Jesus came down to this earth and lived among us for thirty-plus years, and not once did he use his power to benefit himself. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and preached good news to the lost and forgotten. And on June 9 we will celebrate Pentecost, the day God sends God's Spirit upon believers to help them not only believe the good news, but live the good news. God gives us the desire and the power to "live graciously and generously towards others, as God lives towards us." To behave like human beings, not trolls.

**Syttende Mai Worship at CLC
May 19 at 10:30 a.m.**



Christ Lutheran at 700 County Road B is the place for Norwegians or Norwegian enthusiasts on Syttende Mai Sunday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m. During the worship service, enjoy a traditional Norwegian liturgy (partially sung in Norwegian) and special music by the Edvard Grieg Chorus. The service ends with the singing of "Ja, Vi Elsker Dette Landet." Following worship, meatballs, herring, cucumber salad, red cabbage, Swedish rye bread, fruit salad, rommegrot, rice pudding, kringle, krumkake,

lefse, coffee, and still more Norwegian goodies will be served in Fellowship Hall. A freewill donation will be received. For those visiting for the weekend, it is a great place to relax before the parade.

Graduating Seniors to Be Recognized on Sunday, May 26, at 9:00 a.m.

by Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

On Sunday, May 26, at 9:00 a.m., our graduating seniors will be honored during the worship service. They are Drew Anderson, Benjamin Bartelt, Logan Dykstra, Taylor Dyreson, Jack Gardner, Luke Geister-Jones, Katelyn Iverson, Kadin Milbauer, Ava Pellett, Madison Schafer, Graham Scheel, Michael Slinde, Nolan Stapelfeldt, Jenna Stokes, Taylor Vingum, and Alexandra Wuennemann. I look at that group and realize that nine of them have participated in at least one mission trip, six have been to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and four have taught Sunday School. It's a good group of young people. High school graduating seniors will receive a tie blanket to take with them as a reminder of their family at Christ Lutheran as they move on to new adventures.



*Baccalaureate
Service*

At the end of the service, scholarships will be presented. Graduates from Christ Lutheran may apply for a scholarship for post-high school education for four years after graduation. The size of the scholarship is dependent upon the young person's involvement in the church's ministry in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. This year Christ Lutheran has over \$11,000 in scholarships to hand out. \$5,000 is coming from the Foundation, \$2,000 from the Lutefisk Committee, \$2,000 from Women with a Mission, and the remainder from the Scholarship Fund, which is invested through Thrivent.

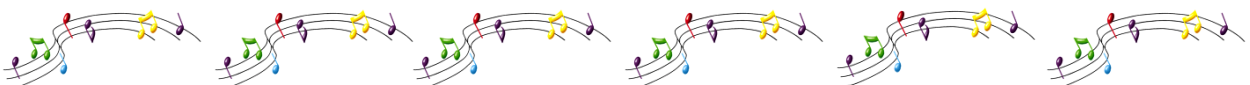
**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.**



Our summer worship schedule begins on May 26, with one service at 9:00 a.m. Christ Lutheran is going to try something *new* this year. Instead of a Saturday evening worship opportunity, we are going to offer a Wednesday evening worship service at 6:30 p.m. That service will begin on Wednesday, June 5, and the lesson for the upcoming Sunday will be used.

Worship Committee Looking for Special Music for Summer Worship

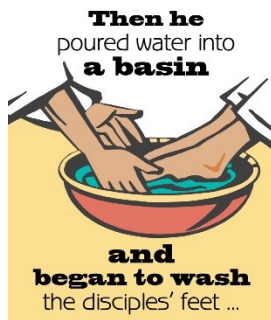
If you are interested in offering special music at the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday or Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. worship service, please talk to Linda Kunz. You may also leave your name at the church office and Gloria will pass on your message.



Go and Tell

by Roger Slack

Have you ever been in a situation where someone you know and love gives you a gift that, initially, seems way over the top, way too much? It may have been financial, or a family heirloom that had been passed down for generations, or a kind gesture from a neighbor you helped out. You protest, “You don’t need to do that. That is way too much. Keep it. You may still need it yourself.” But they insist. In situations like that, we are very appreciative, but still feel a sense that we don’t deserve such a gift. In John’s Gospel, chapter 13, the disciples are in the upper room with Jesus at their last supper together, though they don’t know it yet. The chapter starts out: “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus, knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, loved them to the end.” Because Jesus knew God’s plan and what lay ahead for Him, He wanted to give his twelve one last gift. He took off His outer robe and tied a towel around His waist and began to kneel down and wash the dirt off of each of their feet. I’m sure each one of them was wide-eyed, at a loss for what to say, looking at each other, wondering, “What is He doing? He is the Master, God’s Christ; we are His servants that should be doing that for Him.” Finally Jesus got to Peter and Peter had to say something. He couldn’t stand the thought that Jesus was taking such a lowly position and honoring someone so unworthy as he was. He refused to let Jesus do it at first.



Jesus explained, “What I do you do not realize now, but you shall understand hereafter.” Peter still refused until Jesus told him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Peter and the other eleven needed to understand that Jesus’ gift is only a gift if it is accepted and cherished. The washing of their feet was just a preliminary gift in preparation for the gift of His life being sacrificed on the cross. If they could not accept Jesus washing their feet, how could they ever accept Him dying in their place for their sins? It is a gift that can only be accepted, not earned. It is a humbling feeling that we, like Peter, may try to resist, but as Jesus said to Peter, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” It is the most wonderful of gifts ever given for us to receive. Thank you, Jesus.

Who’s Who in the Pew—Michelle Bolstad

by Diane Matson



This month’s column headline is actually misleading, because Michelle is never in the pew. Rather, the column should be titled “The Wench on the Bench—” the piano bench, that is—because that’s where Michelle Bolstad can be found on most Sunday mornings.

Celebrating her third year as the accompanist for the Chancel Choir, Michelle hails from Sparta, Wisconsin, and has been a Stoughton resident for just two years. During the week, she can be found at Sauk Trails Elementary School in Middleton, where she is a bilingual resource teacher, working with kids who are learning to speak English. She also serves as a liaison between the school and Spanish-speaking parents.

Michelle’s hobbies include trying to learn more languages and continuing to learn to play the accordion, with the hope of becoming involved in Christ Lutheran’s polka service in the fall. When it’s time to get away, favorite locations include visiting family in the Sparta/Viroqua area, with a break from winter weather by visiting snowbird relatives in Arizona.

In addition to her musical involvement at CLC, Michelle lends her musical talent to Stoughton’s Festival Choir, where she is a volunteer accompanist, stating that she’d like to explore additional volunteer opportunities in the area.

When asked what she likes best about her gig with the Chancel Choir, Michelle was quick to respond that she likes **everything**. She finds the choir members to be kind, welcoming, and “fun to be around.” She thanks everyone at CLC for being so welcoming and helpful. And Christ Lutheran thanks you, Michelle, for sharing your musical talent with all of us.

Storm Water Management at CLC

by Bob Kluge

Maybe you noticed that the area between the parking lot and County Highway B is charred black. That is because we intentionally burned the area.

Why did we burn it? I was asked to write a “short” article to answer this question. But that leads to another question and another. Why do we want to get rid of the cattails? What are detention and retention ponds? Why do we have them?

We burned the area to get rid of the cattails. Cattails are undesirable in these ponds because their roots produce rhizomes, which form a mat on the ground surface that retards the permeability of the soil. This may be good for cattails, but defeats the design of the detention/retention ponds. The ponds are intended to function like wetlands to allow water to permeate into the soil and recharge the groundwater.

The fire damages surface roots of the cattails and retards their regrowth. Additional efforts will likely be required to eliminate the cattails, after which desirable wetland plants can be seeded.

Why are there two ponds? And what is the difference between a detention and a retention pond?

The larger pond and first one, located to the east, is called a “detention pond.” Its purpose is to temporarily store storm water and slowly release it to prevent localized flooding. It retards the rate of runoff during heavy storms. This detention time allows any sediment to settle out and not pass into the second pond or into the Yahara River.

From the first pond, storm water runs into the “retention pond” (see picture below). Because its outlet is located near the top, during rainstorms, this pond fills with water before releasing water into the city’s storm drainage system. Water below the outlet is retained in the pond.



(Looking east: The furthest pond is the detention pond. The retention pond is in the foreground. Its outlet is to the right.)

The soil at the bottom of the retention pond is a prepared mix, including sand and organic material that is designed to filter and allow water to permeate into the ground, recharging the groundwater.

Urban development increases impervious surfaces, such as CLC’s roof and parking lot, which in turn increase the amount of storm water runoff. The city assesses a storm water fee based on a property’s impervious area. Credits are available for a retention system, if it is maintained and properly functioning. Our goal is to do what is environmentally right and to possibly qualify for a reduced storm water assessment.

When you see Joe Weum, be sure to thank him for his expertise in burning our ponds and planting the prairie, and thank Mike Stacey for getting permission from the Stoughton Fire Department and organizing the burn. Also, since the effort is not done, if you’re interested, check in with them and ask how it’s going. They’ll likely be volunteering many more hours, as the required maintenance will be ongoing.



The Burn Team: Bob Kluge, Joe Weum, Michael Stacey

In August, walk around the ponds and look at the variety of prairie plants blooming there. See the bees and butterflies that frequently visit the flowers. Or plan a Sunday School excursion in September. Better yet, ask Joe Weum to be your guide; he knows the names of most of the plants.

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, a 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, a 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.



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, choir members—really anyone is invited to come and break bread. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested to help cover the cost of food.

May 1

Homemade Mac and Cheese or
Chicken Alfredo with Vegetables
Fruit Salad, Root Beer and Orange Floats
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

May 8

Spaghetti and Sauce with or without Meat
Lasagna, with or without Meat
Lettuce Salad, Garlic Toast
Brownies and Ice Cream
Coffee, White and Chocolate Milk, Apple Juice

Confirmation

“God and Games” News

7th and 8th grade confirmation meets just two more Wednesday evenings on May 1 and 8. That means “God and Games” meets only two more times in May, too. It has been a good year.

8th grade confirmation students will meet twice in the fall and be confirmed on Sunday, October 27, at 1:00 p.m. Information will be sent out about the dates 8th graders will gather to make their stoles. 7th graders will get back into the routine of Wednesday nights on September 11.



Thank You from Sunday School Director Jenny Hoffman

As the Sunday School year comes to a close, I wanted to send out a special thanks to all congregation members that contributed supplies for our Sunday School crafts. It was great to see all of the donations come in, and it seemed that I always got something I really needed when I was looking for something to complete a craft. I also wanted to give thanks to the parents that helped out on Sundays with classroom coverage when staff was running behind. Finally, I wanted to thank everyone that helped with the preparation of crafts. This includes several parents and grandparents. If you are interested in doing some prep work over the summer, please let me know because we will be working on preparations for next year's curriculum.

Sunday School News for May

by Jenny Hoffman

Another Sunday School year will come to a close on Sunday, May 5. This year I have tried many new things. I incorporated crafts, service projects, or additional materials to help support the provided curriculum. I introduced music back into the curriculum. I continued it throughout the year for preschool through second grade. I am hoping, with some additional help, that we can expand it next year to incorporate all grade levels throughout the year. I also hope to expand on the service projects so that all of our students can participate at some level. This year I focused on supporting our staff so that they can come into class with everything that they need to teach. Each week I sent out the lesson plan for the week to all of the staff members ahead of time so that they could review the lesson at home prior to when they came in to teach on Sunday morning. This new process was added specifically to better support our high school aged teachers. I freely admit that not everything I have added as the Director this year was successful, but I have learned a lot and I hope with feedback from our staff and parents that the program will grow in a positive direction that benefits all of our students.

Looking forward to next year, I am once again reaching out to all members of our congregation to find people that are willing to work with what I believe are our church's most precious assets. As this year comes to a close, some of our staff will be moving on to college or leaving us after many years of service. These are great losses, and these teachers will be greatly missed. It has been a struggle over the last several years to get enough staff to allow each grade level to be taught separately. I am hoping that each member of our congregation will reflect on whether or not they can help us to maintain a full staff next year.

I know that not everyone is comfortable taking on a teaching position, but I wanted to talk to you all about what I feel are good starting qualifications of a Sunday School teacher. The number one characteristic of a good Sunday School teacher is someone who can share their love of God with others. It does not require an extensive knowledge of the Bible to teach. Just the desire to teach what you know and learn as you go. There is a vast wealth of information that is available to anyone that is willing to look. Part of my role as the Director of Christ Lutheran Sunday School is to find relevant information related to each week's lesson and provide that to the staff. I do this through articles, additional worksheets, crafts related to the lesson, and ideas from others that teach Sunday School. It only takes someone who is willing to review this material and share it, along with all of your own personal experiences and knowledge. One of the greatest parts of teaching is sharing ideas and thoughts with the students and getting an equal amount of ideas and thoughts back from them. You will find that inevitably they will teach you as much as you teach them.

Another important characteristic is commitment. Each week during the school year, you need to provide half an hour to worship during the Family Express service and the same amount of time with your students. This is something that is very important, because each child you teach needs to know that you have a commitment not only to the church, but to them. They look forward each week to working with their teachers, and you will be greatly rewarded for that commitment from what you get out of watching each child in your class grow in their knowledge of the Lord.

Another thing is that you need to be willing to grow personally through the experience. Each week can be different. You will have a different combination of students, and you will have different responses to what you are presenting. You have to be able to take what you experience each week and learn from it. All of the teachers that I have interviewed this year talked a lot about how they grew socially, mentally, and spiritually through their teaching.

Finally, but most importantly, you need to be willing to have fun with what you are teaching. If the students see that you find enjoyment in the materials and what you are teaching, they will enjoy it as well. We have some very serious material to cover, but we try to teach in a way that is both informative and interesting. This might mean playing a game, singing a song with the kids, or doing a classroom experiment. All of this helps our students learn the material and relate it to things that will help them to remember the main objectives of the lesson.

Please reach out to me if you would like more information on how to become a Sunday School teacher next year. We are looking for teachers for several different grade levels. You can either email me at SundaySchoolDir@clcstoughton.org or leave your name and phone number with Gloria Hayne and I will reach out to you. Thanks for everything you do to support the education of our youth.

Ladies' Night Out 2019



Thursday, June 27
5:30–9:00 p.m.

Starting Locations: Nauti Norske, Viking Brew Pub, and Chorus Public House
Come early and enjoy dinner specials at various locations.

The Social Concerns Committee is in the planning stages of the 5th Annual Ladies' Night Out. We have the date—Thursday, June 27. We have the ending location—Chorus Public House. Letters have gone out or been personally delivered to downtown and local businesses.

What is Ladies' Night Out? It is a night out where the ladies shop downtown. They sign in at three locations, get a map and a goody bag full of goodies, visit as many participating businesses as possible, get their map stamped as well as enjoy food, drink, or discounts at each location, and meet back at Chorus Public House at 8:30 p.m. At Chorus Public House, Scott Newman will once again be our DJ. Once everyone arrives, we draw for over 50 raffle prizes!

Ladies' Night Out last year enjoyed great weather—sunshine, high 70's, low humidity and no rain. Our best guess is that about 205 women participated, and from the looks of it, they had a great time. Nineteen downtown businesses participated as stops, and about another 50 donated raffle prizes or sponsored the event. Christ Lutheran and the Social Concerns Committee, with the help of all who participated, raised \$8,400 for our Stoughton benevolences.

There will be more information out by the time you read this article. Once again, the first 100 tickets will be buy one, get one free. Tickets are \$25 each, quite a value when you consider there are over ten coupons in the goody bag worth more than that. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Ask a friend! You will have a great time and help CLC give generously. This year our benevolences are START, Seniors in Need, World of Change Leaders, and HATS, the organization in town working to address the needs of the homeless in our midst.

Fifty of those 2-for-1 tickets will be sold at CLC. Call Gloria and get your name on the list. After the 50 are gone, try your luck at McGlynn Pharmacy. Tickets go on sale downtown on May 22.



Global Health Ministries

I don't know how many kits CLC will put together this year and bring to Synod Assembly as our offering, but I want you to know that Christ Lutheran is the congregation that transports all the kits gathered at Synod Assembly to GHM's warehouse in Fridley, Minnesota. Last year it was Pastor Paula's two sons, Matt and Luke, but most years it has been Ted Sehmer. Ted loves road trips, and this gives him a chance to hit the road. This year he is driving his RV. There and back is about a ten-hour drive. God can make use of all kinds of gifts, and we thank Ted for his many talents.

Prayers of Intercession

by Sophie Geister-Jones

Growing up, the Prayers of Intercession (POI) was a very boring part of church for me. To be fair, it is a lot of repetition. POI can seemingly go on *forever*, and by the time the service gets to them, I have just finished listening to the sermon (which, hopefully, was under ten minutes). All I want is to get out, get some coffee and a cookie or six, and chat with my friends for a little bit before going home to change promptly into sweatpants and whatever sports shirt is required for that Sunday.

But the POI are more than just a hurdle to cross to get to the cake and Rice Krispies. In fact, I think it may be, liturgically speaking, one of the most important parts of the service for bringing the pain and suffering of the real world into the presence of God. Prayers of Intercession are extremely topical. It is when the pastor and congregation pray for members that are hurting, for global or local tragedies or emergencies. It is when we lift up what we see in the news to God. A lot of times, it is easy to have a sort of disconnect within your church life and your “real” life, and this is a moment that crosses those boundaries.

POI don’t care about political parties or borders. What should be at the heart of POI is lifting up humanity as a whole. It recognizes that we are a flawed creation, we exist within the rest of God’s creation, and is, honestly, a lament for where we are. Whereas Confession and Forgiveness is us being like “oh yeah, we messed up,” POI is when we admit to how we messed up. It opens the wounds that exist in the world, and it lets us be aware of those shortcomings while in community.

It is also noted that always, POI ends with praying for the communion of the saints. Even as we exist on Earth, amidst our mistakes, we are cognizant of the promise of God’s grace and eternal life. We’re all struggling, we’re all imperfect, we lament for the brokenness and the harm that we inflict upon each other, but we still, at the end of the day, have that promise of grace and eternal life.

Eugene Peterson once wrote, “Prayers are tools not for doing or getting, but for being and becoming.” Prayers of Intercession are a moment during worship where we can admit to where we see human fallibility *right now* in the world. It is also a moment where we can ask ourselves what we are going to do with that knowledge—will we be complacent, or will we be Christlike?

Milestone Ministry Events

The second graders made Lenten Crosses and the 3-year-olds received their first picture Bible!



Emily Fitzsimmons Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

by Mary Onsager

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award that Girl Scout Seniors can earn. Fulfilling the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with completing prerequisites designed to develop the leadership skills needed to accomplish a Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The award represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, and personal challenges and completes an enduring project that will benefit her community. It takes many hours of preparation, planning, and work to accomplish the goals a girl has set for herself through her Gold Award project. It is notable that only about five percent of eligible girls earn this award.

Girl Scout Gold Award—Emily Fitzsimmons—April 6, 2019

After losing a friend in a car accident, Emily wanted her peers to understand the importance of following the Graduated Driver License law for new drivers. For her Gold Award project, Emily coordinated a week-long safe driving campaign that included speakers, activities, and bracelets for the students to wear. As a result, 300 of her peers pledged to put down their phones, follow the GDL rules, and buckle up. Emily overcame her share of challenges throughout the project, but says it was all worth it when her classmates began opening up to her and sharing their heartfelt thanks.

Mary Onsager is a member of the Badgerland Girl Scouts Gold Award Committee and was Emily's Gold Award consultant.



CLC Youth Need Your Help

The youth going on the mission trip to Jamaica have worked hard all year to raise funds. We have done well, but are still falling short. This year we took on the added challenge of raising \$6,000 to build a 22' x 12' home for one of Jamaica's many poor. Mission Jamaica out of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, Minnesota, started out years ago working with Habitat for Humanity, but switched gears when they realized it was not helping the poorest of the poor in Jamaica. Habitat works with people who can afford to pay something for their homes. Mission Jamaica builds homes for people who cannot afford a house of their own, even a home 22' x 12'. If you would like to help us raise the funds, please write a check to Christ Lutheran Youth, designate "house" in the memo line, and drop it into the offering plate.

We thank you for your generosity!



Everyday Lent in Senegal

by YAGM Zeb

This Lenten season blog post comes from YAGM Zeb (or Ngor Faye, as he's known in Senegal). Zeb is living this year in Fatick, a city center in one of the main agricultural areas of central Senegal. In Fatick, Zeb serves with the Lutheran Church of Senegal in the Accounting Department and the Lutheran Youth Movement.

“...You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

These words from Genesis are echoed each year on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our mortality and calling us to repentance. As the Cross is marked in ashes on each person's forehead, we remember many things. We remember that we will one day die as a result of sin. We remember that our present bodies do not endure forever and that we cannot live by bread alone. And we remember that there is one who bore the Cross first, not of ashes but of wood, who bought us hope for something better by His blood.

While I've grown up in the church and have practiced Ash Wednesday for many years, living in Senegal for over six months has changed the way that I remember these things. Take the first example, remembering our mortality.

Death, of course, happens everywhere, but for me, it's been much more visible than it has ever been in the United States. Part of this is cultural; understandings of family are much wider than what I grew up with, and the news is quickly spread amongst the family and the groups that have any connection to the person. Thus, funerals are more apparent because there is a wider social circle in which one is likely to hear about funerals. Another part of it is situational; because medicine and medical care are more expensive and less available here, illness is a serious threat. And so I have been to a large number of funerals, and know of more that I haven't been able to attend. It is tragic every time, and there is mourning every time. When you begin to see death more regularly, it is harder to simply ignore it. You remember the fact that one day, you too will join them, and that is the way the story is written for now.

Or to take the second, that we do not live by bread alone.

As with the former example, it is harder here to hide from the fact that not everyone can afford to eat three square meals a day. This is not only because people are less shy to talk about it, but also because it is more prevalent here than it is in “normal” life in the U.S. And yet you would be hard-pressed to say that the Senegalese do not have hope and life in them. Hospitality is one of the key values in Senegalese culture, worship and parties alike are cheerful and filled with music, and both spontaneous and institutionalized joking are an expectation that, regrettably, I lack the wit to keep up with. They sometimes don't have as much food as they should, and that is indeed an important issue. But, through their worries and their troubles, they do have joy and hope.

And to take the third, remembering that life does not last forever and that some things are more important than our physical well-being.

It is more natural to look towards the things that are more important. It is more natural to look towards the Cross in repentance, for it was to buy us back that Christ himself died, and, truth be told, we don't always make our choices in light of that. (You can see the scars and open wounds in Senegal and the U.S. alike.) It is more natural to look towards the Cross in acceptance, for His love and self-sacrifice are the vocation we are called into. (You can see the courage of the saints in both places as well, if you take the time to look.) And it is more natural to look towards the Cross in hope, for He gave Himself as sustenance, as a meal—for us—that would carry us through to the other side.

And so we enter the time of waiting and repentance together. We remember our sin, our mortality, our calling, and our true sustenance. Repentance is fundamentally turning ourselves back towards God and remembering these truths. We turn back from the things that will die, so that we can follow what will live. We turn back because we have done wrong, and some things truly are worth doing. We turn back because we have eaten at the Lord's table and found it good, and wish to focus on His table rather than the feasts that the world can provide.

May your journey into Lent be filled with repentance, complete in all of its sorrow and its joy.

Yassam Roog a ci a nuun jam (may God give you peace),
Ngor Faye / Zeb Rose

Death:

Gary Allan Breuchel

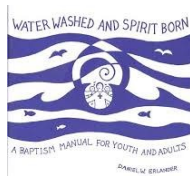
Altar Flowers Chart

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:** June 9, 16, and 30; August 4, 11, and 25; September 15; December 1 and 15.

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

Three-Week Adult Bible Study

Thursday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.
May 9, 16, and 23

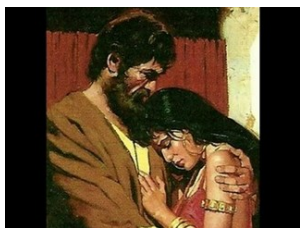


***Water Washed and Spirit Born* a book by Daniel Erlander**

We enjoyed reading Erlander's book *Tales of a Pointless People* so I thought we would follow it up with another one of his little books, *Water Washed and Spirit Born*. No need to worry about prep beforehand. We will read the book together.

Pastor Paula

Rebecca's Rebels



Monday, May 20—6:30 p.m.
Viking Brew Pub

We will be studying Gomer, wife of the prophet Hosea. She was a prostitute before her marriage, and her eye wandered after their marriage, but God still found a way to speak to God's people through her.

It's a powerful story.

Senior Luncheon

Monday, May 13—11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$10

Program: Pastor Paula will lead a discussion on trolls and gnomes and their place in Norwegian culture.

Menu: Meatballs, Lutefisk, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Red Cabbage, Cucumber Salad, Swedish Rye Bread, Rommegrot, Lefse, and Almond Cake with Fresh Strawberries and Whipped Cream

What a great way to start off Syttende Mai week in Stoughton. Invite your friends! We have 50 pounds of lutefisk.



Senior Excursion

Tommy Bartlett Show with Dinner at Ishnala
Thursday, June 6
Departure time—3:00 p.m.
Cost: \$16.13 for the show

We have taken a ride on the Duck Boats and had a tour of the Upper Dells. Another "must do" at the Dells is taking in a Tommy Bartlett Show, so that is what we are going to do on Thursday, June 6. The cost of the show is \$16.13 for a group. All seats are General Admission. We will be sitting outside, so let's hope for a warm day. Following the show, we will go to my favorite restaurant, Ishnala. They cook their duck to perfection.



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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

Taylor Dyreson and Luke Geister-Jones Graduation Party Saturday, June 1, from 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Many of you have watched these two young people grow up in the congregation. When Scott and I moved to Stoughton in 2003, Luke was just three years old. Taylor was the same age. They have attended Sunday School, taught Sunday School, and participated in mission trips and canoe trips together, so why not share a graduation party? (Jeff Zarth even mistook her for Sophie, our daughter, at Scott's retirement celebration.) I called Colleen (Taylor's mom), and she and Tom were on board. The two young people are, too. Their party will be here at the church on Saturday, June 1, from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. I want you to know you are all invited. There will be plenty of food, don't worry, including meatballs and Swedish rye bread. How about some apple pie?

Pastor Paula and Scott

