

“So we are
ambassadors for
Christ...” -

2 Corinthians 5:20

August 2019

Summer



WORSHIP TIMES

Wednesday Worship
6:30 PM

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Highway B
Stoughton, WI

Inside this issue:

Did You Know? Quilt Sunday/Rally Sunday	2
Go and Tell Pulpit Supply	3
Alright. Lord's Prayer Offering Revisited	4
Sunday School News	5
New Youth Can Use Mission Jamaica 2019	6
Mission Jamaica (cont.)	7
Lutheran World Relief	8/9
Ladies Night Out	9/10
Cliff Swallows	11
Notes of Thanks	12
Notes of Thanks (cont.) Musical Notes	13
Elizabeth Circle News	14
Baptisms Weddings Memorials and Gifts	15
Calendar	Insert

Christ Lutheran Ambassador

We Are a Story Telling People

By Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

September is just a month away. Summer goes much too fast, but not fast enough for me to miss rediscovering that we are indeed a storytelling people.

In July Scott and I spent two weeks in Ireland. Actually Scott spent a month and I spent two weeks. Scott spent a lot of time planning our Itinerary, packing as much sightseeing into two weeks as humanly possible. And then we discover that getting around Ireland, especially the western end, is not like traveling in the U.S. The roads are narrow, sometime barely capable of handling two vehicles when one of them is a tour bus. They are also one curve after another and one blind spot after another with you never knowing if a cow or sheep or biker or walker or tour bus is on the other side. You don't travel fast and for everyone in the vehicle it is stressful. Needless to say, we cut back on our plans and rediscovered the pleasure of just sitting around the kitchen table for hours and sharing conversation and stories with our daughter Sophie, who joined us for four days, and Scott's friends Bob and Sanda from Seattle who joined us for a few weeks. We would sit down for supper at six and still be there at eleven.

Why did it surprise me? That is exactly what people have done for thousands of years before radio or television, they entertained themselves with stories and the really good storytellers in their community were valued people. Instead of a kitchen table they had a campfire.

With September comes the start of Sunday school and three worship services on Sunday morning. And why do we all come back after enjoying the great outdoors all summer? Because we love stories and the story of God's love for God's people is the greatest story ever told. It is so good the movies borrow from it over and over again. And the words to the song, "I Love to Tell the Story" are true, "I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone Rally Sunday, September 8. This year September 8 is also Quilt Sunday and the Sunday we will be collecting for the last day for Lutheran World Relief Kits.

Did You Know?

by Cindy Lehr



Christ Lutheran Church
United in Christ: A Gracious God-A Generous People

700 County Road B
Stoughton, WI 53589
608-873-9353

HOME WORSHIP NEWS/SCHEDULES CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH CONTACT US ONLINE GIVING

FUTURE DIRECTION OF CLC

MUSIC SCHEDULES

AMBASSADOR ARCHIVE

ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS

Home

Congregational Outing—Not Just for Seniors

Madison Mallards Game and Tailgate
Saturday, August 10
4:00 p.m. till the game is over
Cost: \$12.00 for the ticket



So your *Ambassador* came in the mail, and you read it, then you recycled it! **But**, there was an activity you needed to sign up for, or a special service you wanted to attend—but you forgot the date. Well, **did you know** that the same slideshow that plays before each worship service is also on the CLC website? It sure is, right there on the home page! If you click on the slide it will stop playing and you can write down all the information you need! And did you know that issues of the *Ambassador* are also on the website. The pictures are so much better in color. It is under the News/Schedules tab (the monthly calendar is there too). There is also an archive tab that has the past twelve months issues too. Check it out—and now you know!

Quilt Sunday / Rally Sunday



Our quilters have been busy this year, sewing beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Quilt Sunday will be the same as Rally Sunday this year because the shipping date for Lutheran World Relief has been moved up.

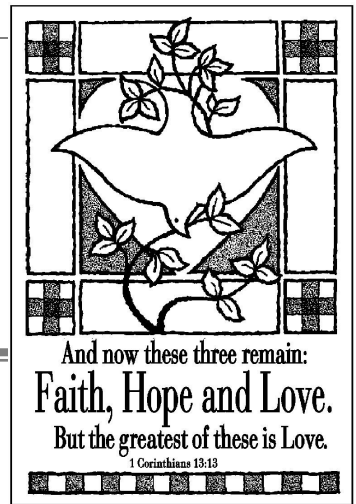
The quilts will be on display in the sanctuary draped over the back of the pews on Sunday September 8th for everyone to see. The quilters are selling some of the quilts to help Lutheran World Relief cover the cost of shipping the quilts all over the world. Quilts will be sold for \$40 apiece. This is also the last Sunday to bring in items for the School, Health, and Baby Kits because everything gets shipped out on the following Saturday. They will first

travel to Madison and then be transported to a warehouse in St. Paul, where they are placed into containers. From there they are shipped all over the world to where the items are needed the most. Gladys Thompson will have available for sale Lap Quilts, Placemats and Octagon Mats that she has made. The proceeds of this money helps buy fabric, batting and thread for baby quilts given out at Baptisms.



Go and Tell

By Roger Slack



Like the letter Paul wrote to the Romans, 1st Corinthians is a long letter in which Paul covers a variety of issues that were going on in the young church at the time. As I read it, it sounds as if a period of chaos had overtaken them in Paul's absence. Paul had been there with them for a year and a half before moving on back to Ephesus and on to Damascus. Paul would often receive word via messengers or actual letters with questions from the new churches about things that in the short times he had been with them, Paul had either not touched on or they had forgotten or misunderstood. Corinth, Greece was a "sailors town" as they had harbors on both the east and west side of the city. The temple of Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, with its temple prostitutes overlooked the city and played a part in the environment that the new church grew up in. An old friend of mine, years ago, described himself before getting married to his wife as "pretty rough cut". I laughed at the description but knew he was very appreciative of his wife even considering marrying him all those years before. I can't help but think many of the people in Corinth fit into that description as well.

Paul tells them that when he was with them, he had to deal with them as infants in Christ and not as mature adults, and they still are "little kids that want to be grown up". There were divisions among them as to who they were following. Some wanted Paul. Others wanted Apollo, a colleague of Paul. Others were familiar more with Peter and still some got it right wanting to be a follower of Jesus. Then there was the one man who had taken his father's wife as his own. What's going on? Even the Gentiles didn't do that. Also there were lawsuits among the Christians and they took them to court before nonbelievers. Quite the witness to the world around them. Then there is almost like a competition among them as to the gifts of the Holy Spirit: Apostles, prophets, miracle workers, healers, speaking in tongues and others. Paul mentions in some of his letters, of praying in tears for his congregations. I can't help but think this was one of them. "Dear God, How can they screw things up so badly?"

Then comes Chapter 13, where Paul reorients them as to what is the objective, what they should be aiming at in their lives to bring back order and a unity in the church. All the things that they admired and thought would put them in a position of honor and respect in the church would mean nothing if they did not reach out in love. If we do nothing else in life but this, we have succeeded in bringing honor and glory to God and Jesus.

Pulpit Supply in August

In August Pastor Jack Finney will preach August 14 and 18. Pastor Paula will be in Minnesota. Her mother's funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13 at Christ Lutheran in Glencoe, Minnesota. Pastor George Carlson will be filling the pulpit on August 28 and September 1.

Alright. Lord's Prayer.

By Sophie Geister-Jones



I'm gonna be honest with y'all, depending on the day, I may not be able to recall the words to the Lord's Prayer. I remember one time when I was in, like, sixth grade I was at church for the Mardi Gras party. I got captured and was in "jail," and could only leave unless I recited a bible verse or the Lord's Prayer. Dumb-dumb Sophie hadn't yet figured out John 11:35 ("Jesus wept.") so I just stood there like an *idiot pastor's kid*, until the jailer (looking at you, Dave Erdman) took pity on me and let me go so I could buy some beignets.

But back to the Lord's Prayer. It is, much like most things, a ritual. Unlike the creeds that we say, there's a written history of Jesus saying these words (or something in Aramaic that is close to these words). It isn't just extrapolation. It is legit.

Also, the Lord's Prayer, as we say it, is something that is consistent across Christian traditions. We all say it (with exception to Jehovah's witnesses), and we all basically say the same thing. And that doesn't just mean that we ELCA Lutherans say the same thing as Missouri synod Lutherans. Ethiopian Orthodox say the Lord's Prayer. Universalists say the prayer. Justin Beiber says the Lord's Prayer at his somewhat culty Hillsong church in Hollywood. No matter the class or the location, all Christians say this prayer as a reminder of Jesus and his words.

And what of those words, Sophie? What are they if you peel back the years of rote memorization and recitation? Well, basically, it is us remembering what is good and just, what we should celebrate and do and how we can walk with God. It is also acknowledging that there will be bad stuff--trespasses or sins or wrongs against us--that we have to move through. And we ask God to help us with that. But we also take a moment to worship God, to pronounce the holiness and sanctity of our relationship with God--for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, hallowed be your name, your will be done, etc.

The Lord's Prayer is what you make of it, in all honesty. It can be something that pulls you closer to God, to Jesus, to the global church, to the past church, to your worshipping congregation. But it can also just be a thing you try to remember and say when nudged in church. So, you know, you do you.

Lutheran Worship – Offering Revisited

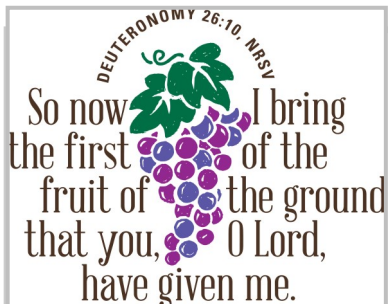
By Pastor Paula Geister-Jones

What Sophie at the age of 23 doesn't realize is that offering is good for the soul. I didn't either at 23. The offering plate came my way and often times I didn't put anything in. I was going to seminary, working 32 hours a week and just making it. I didn't think I could spare a dollar for the Lord, but the Lord in his infinite wisdom has a reason for asking something back

Back in the garden Adam and Eve never worried about where their next meal was coming from. They trusted that the Lord would provide. They were more than willing to share with one another and anyone else – if there was anyone else. After biting into that apple that trust was destroyed. Now they hung unto every dollar they made. After all, they earned it with their own sweat. They felt a compulsion to accumulate more and more dollars and stuff to guarantee their needs would be met. That sounds like fear and anxiety to me. And then meeting their needs turned into accumulating just for the sake of accumulating and proving to everyone else how rich and important they were. Needless to say, this didn't do a thing for community – people looking out for one another and seeing to one another's needs. It is for that very reason God created a helpmate for Adam.

By asking us to return a tenth or whatever back to the Lord, God is trying to help us regain that trust, alleviate the fear and be the people God created us to be. And believe it or not, those who are able to let go and give back experience the joy and freedom that comes with it.

The offering part of the worship service is definitely a journey. It begins as a young person and continues a lifetime. But it is a journey I hope everyone at Christ Lutheran is willing to take not only for the sake of the church, but for the sake of the richness of your own life.



Sunday School News



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT

It is that time of the year when parents and students start preparing to go back to school. It might not seem possible but Sunday School will start again on Sunday September 8th. We will begin our Sunday school year with a school wide Rally Sunday Event.

We will have sign up tables available for parents to register their children and students will join with their classmates for Activities and games. The students will remain with their classmates through the Sunday School

hour, but parent and siblings are also invited to attend the event. There will be food offered for a free will donation and any proceeds will go towards the youth mission trip.

The event will begin following our Rally Sunday Family Express Service which starts at 9:15 am. Teachers will be introduced to the congregation at the service and will be in their classrooms following the service to gather with their students and take attendance. The activities, games and more will be setup outside weather permitting or in the gym and Sunday School rooms if the weather is bad. I will be sending out emails and mailing invitations to all students who attended Sunday School last year. These will provide further details as the event gets closer.

If you are new to the church and would like to be added to our Sunday School mailing or emailing list please either call Gloria at the office or send me an email at JennyH@clcstoughton.org.



Teachers Needed

Teachers are needed this year to teach both the 2nd and 5th Grade Sunday School classes. I would like to get at least two volunteers to help out with teaching these classes so that they can either work together and co-teach each week or they can set up a schedule with each other to teach certain weeks. I know that this is sometimes a hard thing to fit into a busy schedule, but I can promise you that it is well worth it. We have a wonderful group of students here at Christ Lutheran that make teaching fun and rewarding.

Final Note: The start of Sunday School is around the corner. Sunday school registration forms are available both in the church at the information desk in the Narthex, at the front desk, and on the bulletin board in the main Sunday school hallway. You will also find them on the Christ Lutheran Church Website. Sunday School will begin on September 8th following the Family Express Service. Sunday school starts at around 9:45 and finishes at 10:25.

MISSION TRIP JAMAICA 2019

The trip was awesome! Half the group were new participants, half were youth and adults returning to Jamaica. We knew why we were there and we were ready to go to work.

Half the group worked at West Haven Children's Home, a home for disabled children. The other half worked on a house for Jabobe (Formally Habitat for Humanity). At the children's home we spent six hours a day for four days helping out in any way we could, feeding and helping dress residents as well as just giving them some one on one time. A number of the youth helped Jeff Peterson with a work project. A fence was erected around the garbage and laundry area to keep the goats out. The work there was not as physical as the house, but even the youth discovered it was more emotionally draining.

The youth and adults building the house had the floor done the first day, the walls, siding and roof rafters completed the second day, the roof, additional painting and trim finished the third day and the doors were hung the last day. You can't see the color the house was painted in the black and white photograph, but it is bright yellow. The house was only 12' x 16' with no indoor plumbing or electricity, but it looked like a mansion compared to some of the homes only 20 feet away. The entire group worked on the house at some point during the week and you could feel their pride and joy when Sheryl Simms, a single mother and new homeowner, and Mission Jamaica got together on Monday morning to bless the house and hand over the key. The pride and joy came from not only the work they had accomplished, but the legend they had lived. The only shirt most of us wore while working was our Thrivent "Live Generously" t-shirts. We had "lived generously." For the past school year with the help of the congregation we had raised \$6000 to cover the cost of the house and for four days, six hours a day in 95 to 100 degree temperatures we had freely given of our time and talents. It felt mighty good. We checked our funds for the Mission Trip and discovered that on top of the house we were able to donate \$1065 to West Haven Children's Home.

Sheryl gave us this thank you note before we left...

Dear Friends,

On behalf of me and my family I would like to say thank-you all for your help to a better life. Its not easy being a single parent. I have been struggling to take care of my family financially so building a home for us was not easy, so when I heard about the Mission Jamaica Team and there many assistance to young and old people in need, so I was happy to volunteer and I did a few years ago. May grandfather always tell me before he past away that, "a patient man will always ride a horse." Now I can thank God for one more thing in life because I have been a patient woman and with the help of Mission Jamaica Team who as introduce me to this team that God as blessed specially to assist me in riding my first horse. My reality of life is that no man or woman (whether they are

parents or not) if fully a man or woman until they are owner of there own home. So I truly appreciate what you have done for me in my time of need. And I thank God for you all because by giving me this house you have help me to be a full woman. So thank you a million times more and with my prayers I will ask our father God to bless you all with bigger, kinder and most generous hearts that you will continue with the work you are doing for people like me and my family. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,
Sheryl Simms, my daughters and my coming baby



MISSION TRIP JAMAICA 2019



It's Time to Start Collecting Items for :



Our campaign to donate items to the Lutheran World Relief Organization has started a little early this year because the date for shipment out of Madison has been moved up to September 14th. So everything has to be ready to go by no later than the week of September 8th.

Some background for those of you who have not heard about Lutheran World Relief is that it is an organization that was started by Lutherans in the United States following World War II. They started the organization because following the war about one-fifth of the Lutherans in the world were homeless. The organization continued and they have operated wherever the need has been for the past seventy-five years. Currently, they work in East and West Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

7th/8th Grade students along with Teacher Todd Hipke taking donations and making World Relief Kits During Last Years Drive



Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One-light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two- or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- One-adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging*
- One-sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One-metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

- Two-lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- Two- long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two-receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- Four-cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One-jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two-pairs of socks
- One-hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two or three-bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size
- Two-diaper pins or large safety pins



Include the following items in each School Kit:

- Four-70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- One-30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One-pencil sharpener
- One-pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five-unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five-black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One-box of 16 or 24 crayons
- one- 2 ½" eraser
- One-sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)





CLIFF SWALLOWS IN OUR ENTRYWAY



Anyone that has visited the church over the past couple of months has noticed that we are now home to a colony of nesting cliff swallows. These birds have built nests in our entryway and around the building. The birds commonly called cliff swallows or *Hirundo pyrrhonota* are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. This means that it's illegal to capture, kill, or disrupt the birds, their nests and their eggs.

Cliff Swallows require four basic things in the environment for a colony to choose a nesting site and they are: an open habitat for foraging, a vertical surface beneath an overhang for attaching their nest, a supply of mud that has the proper consistency for nest building and a body of fresh water for drinking. We have the perfect environment in and around the church which is why they have chosen our church as a nesting site. We had a couple of nests last year and earlier this year we had a couple more nests. We have discovered that the cliff swallows have a homing tendency which mean that they return again and again to the same site and we have also discovered that they bring swallows from other colonies with them when they return in successive years. They also tend to breed in waves and when a new wave comes in they like to reuse old nests if they are available.

We cannot do anything at this time to get rid of the current colony of swallows because they have already nested, but we are meeting with experts and looking into ways to prevent them from nesting here in the future. In the meantime, please note that they are not aggressive and will often fly away when they see someone approaching. Rod has been coming in daily to clean up the area bellow their nests to make everything as clean as possible. So please be patient while they are residing here.

SKAALEN'S ANNUAL ICE CREAM SUNDAE BUFFET is on the calendar and you're invited! Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 18 from 2-3 p.m. where visitors can enjoy a generous portion of ice cream, with toppings of your choice and a beverage for just \$3.00. Entertainment in the Skaalen Chapel will feature Katie Koza on the violin. A poster in the narthex showcases photos of some of the raffle prizes you can win. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and may be purchased at the door, or from CLC members Diane Matson or Karen Warwick. You need not be present to win, although who would pass up an afternoon of ice cream, entertainment, and conversation? All proceeds from the event are used to enhance the programs and activities of Skaalen residents





Notes of THANKS

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Many Thanks to you for sharing your beautiful church with me and my piano students. Our community benefits from your generosity,

Sincerely,
Evelyn Gruben

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for celebrating my baptism with me! My family really enjoyed the service and I was really interested in the water. Thank you for the beautiful quilt, too! It will always remind me of this very special day!

Colten

Dear Congregation of Christ Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Stoughton Food Pantry, we thank you for your donation of **\$950** and **125 pounds of food in June**. The Food Pantry is a valuable resource for needy families in our area, and many will benefit from your gift. Your gift enables us to continue to meet the needs of those who might otherwise go hungry.

During June of 2019, our pantry served 297 patrons from families in need and, year to date, has distributed a total of 64,456 pounds of food.

Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry. Stoughton is a better place because of caring congregations such as yours.

Sincerely,
Linda Lan
Volunteer
The City of Stoughton Food Pantry

Special Update to the Congregation: We have donated **\$3355** in monetary donations and **1672.55 lbs.** of food from January Through June 2019



Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you, Christ Lutheran Church, and Youth Ministry for the contribution made towards my internship with Athletes in Action at the Ultimate Training Camp in Minnesota. It was an amazing experience! I am so blessed to have so many people believe in me and my faith journey.

Thanks,
Maddie Posick



Musical Notes

The Stoughton Chamber Music Festival, which was founded by Stoughton native Madlen Breckbill, will have two concerts at the Stoughton Opera House this August. The concerts will take place on August 17th and 19th and will bring together 10 classical musicians from around Wisconsin. The first concert on August 17th will take place at 3pm, will feature works by Brahms and Bach. The second on August 19th at 7pm, will have a nod to Stoughton's Norwegian heritage as performers will play a mix of pieces by Norwegian and American composers. Tickets are available at the door with a suggested donation of \$15.



For August:

August 4th—Melissa Mendl (*Dance*)

August 11th—Bergen Gardner

August 25th—Brass Knuckles



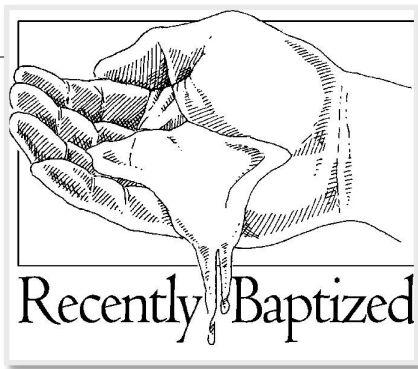
LADIES OF THE ELIZABETH CIRCLE HAVE
"CURB APPEAL"
By Diane Matson

As Paul Harvey might say, "And here's the rest of the story".....Several years ago, Elizabeth Circle adopted the flower bed that surrounds the Christ Lutheran Church sign located on the front lawn of the church property. The Circle purchases the flowers, plants the flowers, weeds the flowers, and waters the flowers when God is too busy to send rain.

Elizabeth Circle meets monthly from September through May. An offering is taken at each meeting, and in addition to supporting a missionary in Senegal, and donating to several non-profit organizations, members may choose to designate a portion of their offering to sustain the flower garden. The only other source of income for Elizabeth Circle comes from serving funeral lunches.

So what does all of this have to do with "curb appeal"? When the flower garden was planted originally, stiff rubber edging was used to outline the bed. The edging has outlived its usefulness, and grass and weeds are continually invading the garden space. Consequently, on September 11 at 7:30 a.m., a permanent decorative poured and stamped concrete flat-to-the-ground curb will be laid and the edging will be removed.

The Elizabeth Circle is humbly asking for additional financial support for this project in order not to infringe on our responsibilities to our missionary and to the non-profits that we support. We are currently approximately \$225 short of our goal. Donations in any amount would be greatly appreciated. Checks made out to Christ Lutheran with "curb appeal" in the memo line may be given to Ann Nelson, Elizabeth Circle Treasurer, or to Gloria in the church office. Thank you for considering adding to the "Curb Appeal" of the ladies of the Elizabeth Circle.



July 7 – Jordyn Daisy and Cole Robert Hostrawser, children of Robert Hostrawser and Fauna Justman



July 14 – Brooke Marie Sherry, daughter of Paul and Bridget Sherry



June 29 – Roderick Nitzsche and Aracelle Calusin



Endowment Foundation

In Memory of:
David Shanklin

From:
Roger & Joyce Utermark

In Honor of:
Sandra Maerz

From:
Nancy Holzhter

Memorials

In Memory of:
David Shanklin
David Shanklin

From:
Sandra Miller
Steve & Alice Hendrickson

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: August 4, 11 and 25; September 15

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
Jenelle Hoffman, Lay Ministry Administrator**

**Phone: 608.873.9353
Fax: 608.873.3949
Email: pastorpaula@clcstoughton.org
JennyH@clcstoughton.org
office@clcstoughton.org**

CLC Website: www.clcstoughton.org

**Staff:
Gloria Hayne, Church Secretary
Eileen Klinzing, Financial Secretary**

AUGUST



"Christ In Our Home" daily devotional booklets for July, August and September in large and small print are available for pick up in the Narthex.