

Pastors of First Lutheran Church

From	To	Name	Position	Years Served
1866	1867	O.J. Hatlestad	Senior Pastor	1
1867	1871	J. Muller Eggen	Senior Pastor	4
1872	1881	M. Falk Gjertson	Senior Pastor	9
1881	1903	Theodore H. Dahl	Senior Pastor	22
1903	1936	Martin H. Hegge	Senior Pastor	33
1936	1936	Dr. D.G. Rinstad	Visitation Pastor	1
1937	1968	Amos W. Stolen	Senior Pastor	31
1959	1960	Oliver M. Kirkeby	Assistant Pastor	2
1960	1961	Ivan Vallem	Assistant Pastor	1
1962	1962	Otto Wonn	Visitation Pastor	1
1967	1968	Richard R. Gilmore	Assistant Pastor	1
1968	1985	Harold J. Peterson	Senior Pastor	17
1969	1971	Jerome Pribbenow	Associate Pastor	1
1972	1984	Robert Beckstrand	Associate Pastor	12
1975	1997	Immanuel Peterson	Visitation Pastor	22
1986	1996	James A. Schwarz	Senior Pastor	13
1986	1999	Richard L. Larson	Associate Pastor	10
1997	2004	Eric Carlson	Associate Pastor	7
1997	1998	Richard Thickpenny	Visitation Pastor	1
1999	Present	Bill Lehman	Senior Pastor	16+
2000	Present	Dick Halom	Visitation Pastor	15+
2004	Present	Sara Peterson Ehrets	Associate Pastor	12+
2011	2014	Jerome Pribbenow	Visitation Pastor	3
2014	Present	John Shep	Visitation Pastor	1+

During vacancies between permanent full time pastors, fourteen interim pastors served FLC.

Senior Pastors	9
Associate Pastors	5
Assistant Pastors	3
Visitation Pastors	7



"Christ First In Everything!"

First Lutheran Church (FLC) Fast Facts

The church was started in 1866 just after the Civil War and had three different names:

- 1866** The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Stoughton
- 1892** Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 1920** First Lutheran Church

Originally, the congregation celebrated worship in the Norwegian language as many of the early pastors and members had strong connections to Norway; however, the language of choice eventually became English. The church also was a part of several different synods over the years.

- 1866** The Augustana Synod (5 years)
- 1871** Conference for the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (18 years)
- 1889** United Lutheran Church Of America (28 years)
- 1917** The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (44 years)
- 1961** The American Lutheran Church (27 years)
- 1988** The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (28+ years)

Similar to most mainline churches in the US, the congregation grew and the membership peaked at over 2000 souls in the 1960's. As the number of farms decreased, families became smaller and participation in churches declined over the next five decades. FLC's membership decreased as well. Today, over 1200 souls claim FLC as their church home, still a large church by Lutheran standards.

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS (1866-2015)

Baptisms:	7,850
Confirmands:	6,021
Weddings:	2,409
Funerals:	4,479

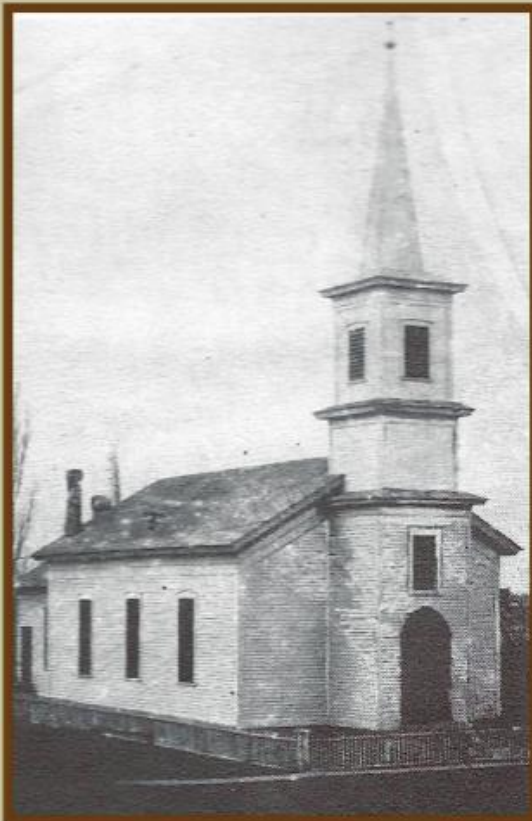


The Early Years

Norwegian settlers founded the first Lutheran church in Stoughton

On Saturday, October 6, 1866, a group of Lutheran Christians from Stoughton and the surrounding area met in the basement of the Universalist Church for the purpose of forming the first Lutheran church in Stoughton. Presiding over the meeting was the President of the Augustana Synod, Professor T. N. Hasselquist and acting secretary, Reverend Krogness. Written in Norwegian, minutes were taken starting with: "I Jesu Navn" (translated to "In Jesus Name!"). Together they sang the old Norwegian hymn "In Jesus Name Our Work Must Be Done." Prayers were said and the congregation then organized with the following thirteen charter members: T.G. Mandt, J.G. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. C. Hanson, L.T. Lawson, Mr. & Mrs. Johannes Amundson, Carl Rasmussen Toshaug, Mr. & Mrs. Lars Gregoriuson, Mr. & Mrs. Ole Swenson and Christen Hanson. Following the adoption of the constitution, the group agreed on the name of the church, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Stoughton."

Later, the following fifteen were received into membership: Mrs. Anne Marie Haaverson, H.C. Asbjornson, Ole Erikson Quam, Mrs. Oline Johnson, Roal Bentson, Mr. & Mrs. Ole Jorgenson Quam, Mrs. Christine Olson, Jorgen J. Quam, Mr. & Mrs. Ole Monson Bratland, Elling Johanneson, Ole Bratly and family, Paul Lasseson and John Paulson.



During the first year, services were conducted once each month at the Congregational Church in Stoughton. Pastor O.J. Hatlestad, an immigrant from Norway, became the first pastor of the church. He resigned in April, 1867, to become President of the Norwegian-Danish Augustana Synod.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Stoughton (left) was constructed on a lot on the southwest corner of East Jefferson and Sixth Street. The lot was donated by Stoughton founder Luke Stoughton. Pastor Gjertson and Targe G. Mandt served on the building committee. The white wooden structure was forty feet long, thirty feet wide, eighteen feet high and cost \$2,800.

In 1878, a twenty feet by twenty feet addition was added which included a basement and a balcony. The cost was \$2,000.

On January 2, 1871, the congregation adopted the constitution of the "The Conference of the Norwegian Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America." The church became associated with other Lutheran Churches in the area. Two groups were formed: the East group, which included Stoughton, Bovre, Marshall, Whitewater, Rutland and Madison; and the West group, which included Primrose, Argyle, and Blanchardville.

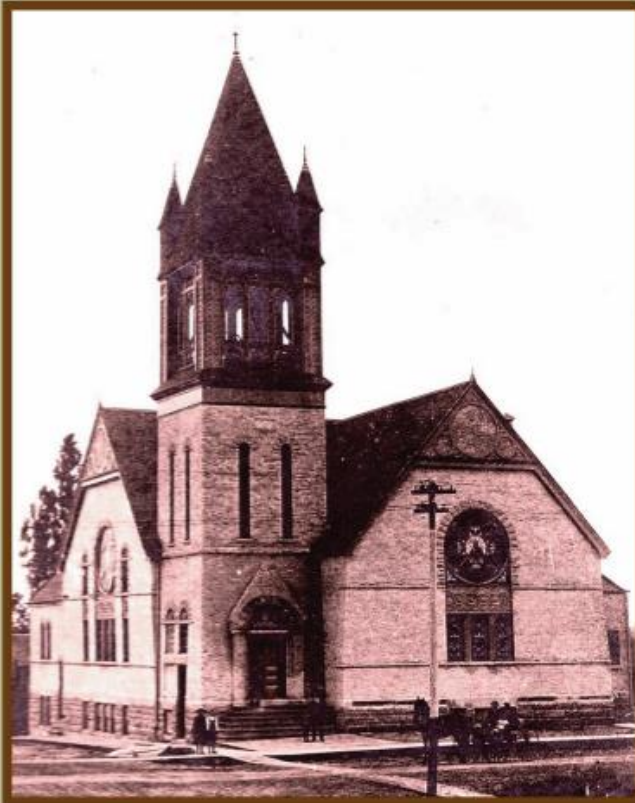
While serving at FLC, Pastor Gjertson organized Danish residents of Rutland Township into a Lutheran congregation, named the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rutland. Pastor Gjertson served both churches for nine years.

As FLC membership grew, a building committee was formed to build a larger church. Led by Pastor Dahl, fundraising began. Twenty three FLC members from the Cooksville area voted 21 to 2 against funding the new church. Instead they voted to put their funds towards a church in Cooksville. Cooksville Lutheran was formally organized in 1891.

Pastor Dahl served both First Lutheran and Cooksville Lutheran, as well as other churches in the area.

Prior to construction of a new church, the old FLC structure was sold to Lars Vingom. In 1893, the structure was moved one block to the corner of Sixth and East South Streets to be used as part of an apartment building.

On May 3, 1893, the cornerstone for the second structure was laid. The building committee consisted of Pastor T.H. Dahl, Tosten Asleson, A.E. Anderson and C.C. Engh. The building was a large beige brick structure which cost \$16,000



Pastor and Mrs. Dahl were active in civic affairs and worked for the betterment of the community.

Pastor Dahl resigned on Easter Sunday, 1903, to become president of the United Lutheran Church Synod in Minneapolis, MN, where he served until 1917.



The Fire of 1944

Sunday, October 22, 1944, was a devastating day for members of First Lutheran Church. Sexton Aimar Keil left the church at 12:15 pm. At 2:15 pm, church member Alfred Bothum saw smoke! He ran to City Hall to report the fire. Stoughton Fire trucks were sent to the scene. Many of the firemen were FLC members. One of them ran up to the balcony and saw fire in the ceiling and wall near the organ. As members arrived,



many of them ran inside to carry out what they could. Some treasured pieces were saved, including the baptismal font, church records and the pulpit. After a series of explosions, flames grew rapidly. Fire Departments from Madison and Edgerton were called. At the time of the fire, there were 40 tons of coal in the basement. Flying embers started roofs of two King Edwards Tobacco Warehouses on fire. Roof fires were quickly extinguished and none of the half million dollars of tobacco was destroyed. About 200 people, many of which were FLC members, watched tearfully as the church steeple fell. The fire flared up at 12:30 am and again at 6:15 am.

The fire was believed to be caused by faulty wiring beneath the console of the pipe organ, located in the choir balcony. The loss was estimated at \$50,000



Additional contents of the church were saved, including:

- vestments
- grand piano
- church flags
- dishes
- silver communion ware
- kitchen silverware
- altar decorations
- Pastor Stolen's Office equipment.

After the fire, worship services were held at the Badger Theater. Communion services were offered at Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

On October 26, 1944, the congregation voted to rebuild at a new site between Fourth and Fifth Streets on East Washington Street.

A New Beginning

1946 Groundbreaking services were held on March 24. The corner stone was laid on October 6, the same day as the church's 80th anniversary.



Dr. Martin Anderson, President of the Eastern District of the Synod, laid the cornerstone. Under the cornerstone, a copper box, dated 1866-1946, was placed.

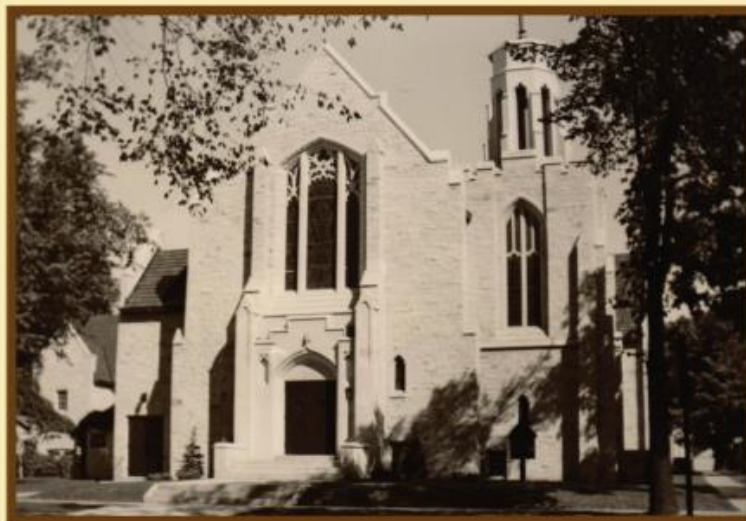
The box held:

- church's constitution
- a membership list of confirmed members and children
- an annual report for 1945
- a military roster of the church
- a list of church officers and organizations
- building plans for the new church
- a catechism
- hymnals in English and Norwegian
- the 75th anniversary book
- Madison and Stoughton newspaper stories of the church fire and of the pending cornerstone laying event
- a 1946 penny and a 1946 dime

1948 The stone was mortared by Walter Showers and Ted Jacobsen.

The dedication of the current church took place on November 7. The English Gothic style building was constructed primarily of Lannon Stone. The cost of construction was \$325,000.

1953 On November 8, the mortgage was paid off.



- 1956** The house north of the church was purchased for additional Sunday School space.
- 1963** The Bethel Bible Study program began.
- 1964** The education wing was added on the north side of the church, costing \$110,000.
- 1965** Kitchen facilities were remodeled and all new electrical equipment installed, costing \$26,000.
- 1971** Church leadership changed from six Trustees and six Deacons, to a twelve person council. Women were permitted to serve in leadership rolls. Lillian Overland, Helen Linderud and Wilma Sundby were the first women to serve on the Church Council.
- 1975** The Fellowship Hall was refurbished.
The Schelfelker house to the north of the church was purchased.
- 1977** The Fireplace room and the small chapel were renovated.
- 1979** The Olman house, located southeast of the church, was razed to make a parking lot.
- 1984** Handicapped parking was designated.
The Youth Chapel/Friendship Room was remodeled and is now the Library.
- 1987** A parking lot was made on the former Schefelker and Amundson properties.
- 1989** An Improved Access appeal was started to fund projects to make FLC's facilities accessible to all. The appeal eventually included:
- 1) Converting the alley between the sanctuary and education wing into the lower and upper atriums with an elevator.
 - 2) Constructing hallway ramps, stairways and a carport entrance.
 - 3) Creating new offices.
 - 4) Paving the north parking lot.
 - 5) Purchasing the Natvig house, east of FLC, for \$55,000 and using it for Youth and Sunday School activities.
 - 6) Completing major maintenance needs like tuck-pointing stonework, re-roofing the education wing and making electrical, plumbing and heating repairs.
 - 7) Refurbishing of Fellowship Hall.
- 1990** FLC began plans to celebrate its 125th Anniversary.
- 1991** A Prayer Chain was started.
\$5,000 was raised to replace the refrigerator/freezer in the kitchen.
A Purely Social group was started to build community in the church.
A Father and Son Banquet was held.
A banner was purchased for the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of FLC.
A hymn, *Open Doors*, was commissioned to celebrate the completion of the Improved Access project. The text was written by Pastor James A. Schwarz with the tune by William A. Beckstrand.

- 1992** An Improved Access Open House was held.
Stoughton CROP Walk Sunday made gifts to partner agencies around the world.
Junior and Senior High Youth began working on the Adopt-A-Highway program to pick up debris along HWY 51.
- 1993** FLC sold the church youth activity bus because new insurance requirements made operation of the bus cost prohibitive.
The first Thursday Evening Alternative worship service was held on November 11.
Tuck-pointing of the stonework was completed.
- 1994** A new Offering Envelope system allowed envelopes to be mailed directly to the homes.
80 campers enjoyed a weekend of fellowship and Sunday morning worship at Bethel Horizon's campground.
A security system with an intercom was installed at the carport and west entry doors.
- 1995** Blue *With One Voice* hymnals were purchased for use in worship.
The Council approved the youth having a Syttende Mai food stand and sealing off the parking lot to sell spots.
A new sound system was installed in FLC's Library.
A Baccalaureate Service was held at Mandt Park and sponsored by the Stoughton Clergy.
A telephone *Dial-a-Message* was sponsored by FLC.
FLC was encouraged to donate to local and world hunger ministries through Focus on Food First.
- 1996** The Youth House suffered severe water damage from broken pipes. The Council approved repairs and carpeting on both levels.
The 10th annual First Lutheran Lutherdale Day Camp was held for kids, K-5th grade.
First Lutheran started playing in a Softball league with area churches.
- 1998** FLC's Endowment Fund becomes operational.
- 1999** The last Improved Access Project loan payment was made...FLC is now debt-free.
The first Best Ball Scramble Golfing Event was held.
A new Confirmation Program began on Wednesday nights to provide Christian Education during Religious Release time during a school day.
FLC helped the Kosovo Refugee population in Stoughton.

- 2000** The Youth House became the Parsonage.
A new Sunday Schedule with Concurrent Sunday/Church School began.
A First Fellowship ministry kicked off – Fellowship events took place on the First Sunday of each month.
Thursday evening worship services were discontinued.
The WELCA ceased sponsoring a Kaffelag.
- 2001** *Called to Grow*, a seven week Sunday Sermon and small group series, started. It introduced the congregation to Jesus in new ways.
Continuous kneeling Holy Communion was introduced.
The organ was moved to a new location against the north wall in the balcony to provide better sight lines for the organist.
Summer play groups for families with young children were formed.
- 2002** 100 youth and leaders hosted Consecration Sunday and breakfast for 457 FLC members.
The nursery was relocated to the upper level of the Education Wing.
Homemade unleavened bread was used for the first time at Altar Rail Communion.
A marriage Recharge Retreat was offered.
- 2003** The new Youth Room opened on the Stage.
The use of video projection on Sunday morning started.
FLC raised \$2,800 in Stand with Africa Campaign.
72 large boxes of clothing and quilts were packed and shipped to Lutheran World Relief.
- 2004** Sara Peterson Ehrets became the first full time female pastor in FLC history.
The first Red Cross Blood Drive was held.
The first Giving Tree was set up and 130 items were collected to keep people in need warm in winter months.
FLC participated in The Purpose Driven Life series that included numerous small groups.
Little Blessings, a group for babies and young children and their families, began.
- 2005** FLC made gifts of over \$7,000 in response to the fire at Christ Lutheran and the Stoughton Tornado. Every FLC family with tornado damage to their home received two quilts made by FLC quilters. Other quilts were given to local churches for distribution to their member families who's homes were damaged.



- 2006** The first Polka Service was offered.
FLC members assisted in the construction of a Habitat For Humanity house.
A congregation-wide retreat at Lutherdale entitled ***Chicken Soup for the Lutheran Soul*** was held.
Ole and Sven, Dr. David Nelson and Phil Dybdahl, joined FLC members for the 140th Anniversary Potluck.
FLC collected baby items for the first time to create 24 baskets for Newborns in Need and gave them to be distributed through Dane County Human Services.
- 2007** Jill Miller was elected as the first female Council President in FLC history.
A new bat control project was initiated.
Legacy Fund records became computerized.
A new website, www.flcstoughton.com, was started.
FLC made financial Donations and gave 20 quilts to flooding victims in Bagley, Wisconsin.
- 2008** A FLC Relay For Life Team raised over \$4,500 to fight cancer.
The WELCA disbanded and distributed \$8,300 to 14 churches and local ministries.
Ping Pong Tournaments began.
FLC received a \$75,000 Charitable Gift Initiative Grant from Thrivent Financial to promote GIFTing.
A Mother and Daughter Banquet was held with a theme of Growing in Generations of Faith.
- 2009** Martin Luther Christian School moved all operations to the former Yahara Elementary School campus, including the Preschool that FLC had hosted since its inception in 1979.
The Congregation donated 2,292 pounds of food to the Stoughton Food Pantry. 1,397 pounds was part of an 8th Grade Confirmation Project. 895 pounds was from Souper Bowl Sunday...a record!
A new outdoor grill shaped like a church was built and donated to FLC as part of a Confirmation Mentor Project.
Confirmation kids sent 20 care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 2010** Arborvitae trees around the church were so badly damaged by ice that they were removed.
FL4K, a 4-year-old kindergarten program, began.
Library and Hallway archive cabinets were installed.
- 2011** A will planning event was provided through the Charitable Gift Initiative grant.
The first Legacy Garden was completed.

- 2012** Care Connect, a ministry to the homebound in our congregation, began.
A Women's Retreat for the Stoughton community with a special speaker was held.
A wall between the Nursery and a small education room was demolished to expand the Nursery.
The 20/20 Vision teams began the visioning process for the year 2020.
Consultant Bill Easum was hired to work with FLC to enhance its ministries.
First Presbyterian Church of Waunakee became a Ministry Partner.
FLCs annual Stewardship Sunday was renamed **Thank You Sunday**.
- 2013** Over \$17,000 of accumulated earnings from FLC's Endowment Fund were distributed to 14 ministries.
College Connect Ministry started sending care packages and cards for FLC college students.
Medical missionaries, Dr. Mark & Linda Jacobson, made their first visit to FLC in July.
FLC members served at the River Food Pantry for the first time.
Joining Forces for Families recognized FLC for offering social ministries in Dane County.
- 2014** FLC volunteers helped remodel a Habitat For Humanity house
The first Annual Valentine's Day Party Potluck was held.
Tanzania Sunday was celebrated at both Sunday worship services.
Circle 3 celebrated 55 years of continuous activities.
- 2015** The church's worship and education ministries focused on a series entitled **The Story**. Over 210 members participated in small groups.
Members partnered with other churches to build a new Habitat For Humanity house.
The Banner Committee completed **Christ First in Everything** Banners on Pie Room windows in Fellowship Hall.
- 2016** FLC followed up **The Story** with another Bible Study Series entitled **Believe**.
FLC began celebrating its 150th Anniversary. This included:
1. A commissioned rosemaled plate installed in the main entrance of the church
 2. A pictorial directory with historical pages
 3. Four outdoor banners and one indoor banner
 4. The sale of FLC cookbook, clothing and other memorabilia with the 150th logo
 5. A celebration dinner and program & a Happy Birthday Potluck with entertainment
 6. A special offering for purchasing a new carillon for the church and helping a Lutheran church in Ukraine.



Music Over the Years

FLC's Choirs

Many immigrants brought hymn books with them from their mother country. This contributed to our vast musical inheritance. First Lutheran Church got the reputation as "a singing church," with many talented choir directors and choir members contributing to the service, *Sermons in Song*. Music and singing has been essential to FLC ministries.

1900 Choir members raised \$2,100 to purchase a pipe organ.

1923 The choir began wearing robes.

1941 On FLC's 75th Anniversary, Senior Choir members were recognized for serving 25 to 50 years.

The Youth Choir, the Junior Choir and the Senior Choir sang at the 75th Anniversary worship service.

1966 There were 38 Senior Choir members and 36 Junior Choir members during the year of FLC's 100th Anniversary.

1974 Two octaves of handbells were donated to FLC.
Senior Bells were formed and played for the first time.
Junior Bells were established.

1980's During the 125th Anniversary, a music program was performed which included the Senior Choir, the Senior Bell Choir and the Junior Bell Choir.

1991- The Junior Bells and the Senior Bells changed their names to Agape Bells and
Present Alleluia Bells, respectively in the early 2000's. The Alleluia Bells play five octaves of handbells and five and a half octaves of choir chimes.

A contemporary singing group called Faith Alive was established in the early 2000's and helps lead the second service.

The Sunday School kids sing one Sunday each month. In the beginning, one grade sang per month. More recently, the Sunday School (renamed First Kids) combined all the grades to sing.

The Senior Choir and the Alleluia Bells combined for a Christmas Choir Festival, an established tradition at First Lutheran. The group added a spring choir festival during the 2000's.

Throughout the years, memorial gifts provided funds to purchase handbells, choir chimes, an electric keyboard, small percussion instruments and tympani drums.

2014 The Senior Choir changed its name to FLC Choir.
The Agape Bells dissolved due to a lack of ringers.

2015 God's Cool Youth Choir began.

FLC's Organs

- 1900** \$2,100 was raised to purchase a bellows type pipe organ. Men took turns pumping air into the bellows.
- 1936** The organ was completely rebuilt and modernized, and the console was moved to the balcony.
- 1940** A set of Deagan Cathedral Chimes was donated and installed in the church belfry. They were played to call people to worship.
- 1944** The organ console was suspected to have been the cause of the fire which burned down the church.
- 1948** The new church was dedicated in 1948 with an Allen Electronic Organ. It was placed in the south transept near the choir and was used until 1965.
- 1966-Present** The current organ was originally designed and manufactured by the Möller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. It was a custom-designed instrument located in the balcony to provide a free flow of sounds into the nave and architectural beauty at the rear of the sanctuary. The formal service of dedication was January 23, 1966. The cost of the new organ was \$37,500.

The original design provided four separate divisions: the Great, Swell, Choir and Pedal organs, with three keyboard manuals and full pedal board. There were 27 independent ranks of pipes, which included over 1,500 pipes, ranging from more than 16 feet to less than one-half inch in length. The operating mechanism was of the electro-pneumatic type. A large blower supplies the wind needed for the pipes.

During the *We Love Our Church* appeal, the organ was renovated to repair aging parts. The renovation also provided additional features and sounds to enhance the beauty of the instrument, including the addition of 305 pipes. The renovated and enlarged pipe organ was commemorated with a Rededication Concert, featuring Organists Bruce Bengtson and William Beckstrand on September 18, 2005.



Women of the Church Over the Years

The women of our church have made significant contributions to our church, community, local missions and global missions.

In 1866, a group of ladies organized under the name *Willing Workers*.

In 1872, *Kvindeforening* was organized by Pastor Gjertson with Mrs. Gjertson becoming charter president. Meetings were held in member's homes. Activities included sewing quilts, clothing, and aprons and making items to sell to local merchants. Funds were distributed to world missionaries, needy seminary students and for supplies. Later, they organized an annual bazaar which helped fund the extension of the church.

In 1886, a group called *Pigeforening*, was organized to make items for the annual bazaar. The *Kvindeforening* served dinners. One of the favorites was the annual, all-you-can-eat chicken and lutefisk dinner. The cost was forty cents for adults and twenty five cents for children. Dinners were well attended.

Mrs. Dahl became president and treasurer in 1891. She served in these positions for twenty years. Many changes occurred and the society grew in membership.

With the construction of the new church in 1894, the *Kvindeforening* donated money for windows, carpet and other furnishings. They also contributed funds to help pay the church debt, but never neglected their financial support to local and foreign missions, orphanages and other needy causes. With the completion of the church, meetings were held in the church basement.

In 1903, programs and devotions changed from Norwegian to English. *Kvindeforening* was changed to *Ladies Aid*.

In 1933, the Ladies Aid organized the first *Kaffelag*. *Kaffelag* was a Norwegian tradition of getting together with family and friends in the middle of the afternoon for a cup of coffee served with Norse cookies and pastries. The Ladies Aid organized the annual *Norske Kaffelag* which featured ladies wearing traditional Norwegian attire, a Norse program, music, and a menu of traditional Norwegian foods.



The Stoughton Ladies Aid and groups from Rutland and Wheeler Prairie merged with a membership of over five hundred. Twenty-three circles were formed. The First Lutheran Guild formed in 1940. Monthly meetings were held at the church until 1960 when the Guild disbanded. The Women of the Church and circles continued to meet.

When the ALC and the ELCA merged in 1988, the Women of the Church became the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, WELCA.

Through the years, the women of the church met monthly and served a vital role in the social life and ministries of FLC. Circles met to do Bible studies, conduct fundraisers, serve funerals, and sponsor social events. They provided financial support to local and worldwide missions, purchased kitchen supplies and equipment and helped to pay for a variety of FLC operational needs.

WELCA disbanded in 2008.

Current ministries of First Lutheran Church in which primarily women serve include:

Altar Guild: Organized in 1969, they provide weekly and seasonal pew maintenance, Holy Communion preparation and clean up, seasonal changing of paraments and care of clergy and worship assistant robes.

Circle: Circle #3 and Phoebe Circle continue to be active. Circle #3 provides a Bible to every second grader and collects bedding and bath supplies, personal hygiene items and laundry supplies for the Salvation Army woman's and children's shelter. In 1980, Phoebe Circle was inspired to create banners for the church seasons. Six banners were completed and are still in use.

Quilters: Quilters annually make more than 100 quilt and lap robes to distribute locally and around the world through Lutheran World Relief. On Sunday, May 1, 2016, one hundred eighteen quilts were blessed and given to comfort someone in need.

Banner Committee: In 1994, a banner committee was formed to design and construct seasonally interchangeable banners. To date they have completed 9 for the north transept, 10 for the pulpit area, 4 for the lectern area, 1 for the south transept, 4 to cover the windows in Fellowship Hall and 5 specialty banners (Baptism, wedding, etc.). A special banner was completed and commissioned for the 150th Anniversary.

Soul Sisters: The group meets monthly for Bible study and socialization.

Book Clubs: The clubs meet regularly for intellectual and social stimulation.

Funeral Servers: Three groups share the task of set-up, serving and clean up of meals after funerals.

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Men of the Church Over the Years

1903 Pastor Hegge organized a club for men called *Mandsforening* which was a social organization. Meetings were held in members' homes.
After the disbanding of the Mandsforening, the Young Men's Club evolved into the *Men's Brotherhood*.

1930 The Brotherhood was organized for the purpose of providing fellowship for men of the FLC and Central Lutheran Churches.

The FLC and Central Lutheran Churches Brotherhood separated into their own brotherhood groups.

1936 The Brotherhood held a yearly Father and Son Banquet which was well attended. Entertainment, prizes and food was provided by the women of the church.



1940 The Brotherhood sponsored Boy Scout Troop No. 47.

1950-present A dartball league was organized and sponsored by the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company (now Thrivent). Dartball teams from approximately twenty Lutheran churches from Eastern Dane and southern Columbia Counties were divided into northern and southern divisions of ten teams each. Division teams competed against each other weekly from September through March to determine division champions.



Division Champions played each other in April to determine a league champion.

The Northern Division has disbanded, but the Southern Division continues to play with teams from Stoughton, Oregon and Cooksville.



1970 The Brotherhood voted to disband.

2013 A Men's Breakfast and Bible Study started. It was held monthly on Saturday mornings.

Martin Luther Christian School (MLCS) and FLC's 4K Ministries

MLCS was incorporated in 1978 by four congregations: First Lutheran Church (FLC) ~ Stoughton, Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) ~ Stoughton, McFarland Lutheran ~ McFarland, and Hope Lutheran ~ McFarland. Later, McFarland Lutheran and Hope Lutheran decided to discontinue their connection with MLCS. However, Covenant Lutheran, Stoughton, joined FLC and CLC as a primary sponsor.

On August 26, 1979, MLCS began with a Parochial School that was housed at FLC. Later, a Preschool was added. The Parochial School moved to CLC in the late 1980's and a Child Care Center was added afterwards. FLC retained the Preschool.



In August, 2005, a fire destroyed CLC's building, including the areas used by MLCS. After the fire, MLCS temporarily moved Child Care Center operations to FLC, who provided the accommodations rent-free for several weeks. Since FLC did not have the space required by the state to house the Child Care Center or the Parochial School, MLCS reached an agreement with Covenant Lutheran to be housed in their church.

In 2009, the MLCS Board voted to lease the Yahara Elementary School from the Stoughton School District and move all of its ministries there. As a result, in 2010, FLC's Council decided to become a vendor for the Stoughton School District's 4K program and has hosted these classes since that time.



Children and Youth Ministries Since 1991

Sunday School/Church School/First Kids

Annual enrollment in K-6th grade Sunday School is 90+ students. Sunday School curricula changed as learning styles and technology evolved...

1991-2000 Sunday School was conducted between services. Some classes were held in the building on South 5th Street which is now the parsonage. **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** was held on summer weekday mornings.

2000-2009 Concurrent Worship and Sunday School began at 8:30 and 10:00 am. The name was changed to Church School. Children sang during a fifteen minute Openings time.

Rotational Model Curriculum included cooking, drama, storytelling, art and computer lessons. One Bible story was the focus for 5-7 weeks. Ninety volunteers staffed this program each year.

Summer VBS was offered to Preschoolers in June and K-6th graders in August.

School Year VBS was offered to K-6th graders during school breaks.

5th and 6th grade students prepared for Confirmation with curricula, worship participation and fellowship events designed for their age. Name was changed to **56ers** in 2006.

2009-Present Students learn about Jesus using skits, videos, music, games and stories. Team teachers alternate teaching weeks.

Sunday School changed it's name to **First Kids** in 2014.

2009 **Family VBS began.** Fun, faith, food and fellowship were provided for the entire family. Children, age 3-6th grade, rotated through different stations led by teens and adults. Adult classes were offered during 4 years of VBS.

1991-Present Students from 2nd grade through High School attend **Lutherdale Bible Camp**, in Elkhorn, WI. 6th graders go to Lutherdale to begin their confirmation experience.

Confirmation (1995-Present)

7th & 8th Grade

Classes are offered on Wednesday evenings during the fall, winter and spring, excluding Lent and school breaks. The curricula includes skits, videos, games, service and small group conversations. Students learn about the Sacraments, the Holy Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments with the help from adult guides.

9th Grade

Youth and mentors discuss their faith and do service projects together.



Worship Related Activities

0-3 Year Olds	Attend Sunday Services or be cared for in a large, staffed Nursery.
First Kids	Sing every 3rd Sunday, Lead Christmas and End of the Year Programs.
56er's	Participate as Bible Bearers.
Confirmation	Serve as Acolytes, Crucifers and participate in Youth Services.
Sr. High Youth	Serve as readers, communion assistants, worship technicians, musicians, greeters and ushers. Lead youth services.
College Youth	Serve as readers for special services when they are home from college.
Summer Musicals	2nd grade-High School participated in Summer Musicals including:



2008	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
2009	Godspell Jr.
2010	Esther
2011	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
2012	Holy Moses
2013	Promise University
2014	Godspell Jr.

Service Opportunities

First Kids	Raise money for World Hunger, Habitat for Humanity, Mosquito Nets, etc. Collect food for the Stoughton Food Pantry.
56er's	Bake cookies for Fellowship Time between services during the summer.
Confirmation	Confirmants serve others through Sunday School, VBS, Grounds keeping, Adopt a Highway, the Mitten Tree, Lenten Suppers, collecting food for the food pantry & more.
Sr. High Youth	Serve in many ways adults do. They help with activities like Food for Kidz, visiting the elderly and working at shelters & food pantries. On mission trips, they have served others by painting, doing yard work, cleaning, serving food, packaging food, making quilts, and playing games with children and the elderly.
Mission Trips	2003 Red Lake Indian Reservation 2010-2016 Mini Mission to Green Bay 2013-2016 Local Mini Mission in Madison and Stoughton

Fellowship

Events	Apostle Islands Bonfires Boundary Waters Bowling Camping Youth Encounter Weekends in the Dells	Canoeing/ Tubing Concerts Hayrides Lock-ins Mini-golf	Movies Ping-pong Scavenger Hunts Skiing
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National Gatherings 1991-2006 Dallas, New Orleans, St. Louis, Atlanta & San Antonio

Additional Ministries Since 1991

Local Social Ministries

Baby Baskets: Filling baskets with newborn supplies given to needy families.

Blood Drives: Donating blood at FLC annually.

Care Connect: Ministering to the homebound.

Daily Bread: Churches serving monthly community dinners at FLC since 1989.

Food for Kidz: Packaging meals for the hungry.

Giving Tree: Gifting winter clothing given to area children.

Loaves and Fishes: Making meals to be given to those recovering, grieving, celebrating a birth or in other need.

Local Monetary Donations: Giving to local organizations like: Host A Family, Jail Chaplaincy, Second Harvest, Seniors in Need, Shalom Health Clinic, Skaalen Home, START and Relay for Life.

River Food Pantry Madison: Volunteers serving dinner and giving food.

School Supplies: Collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and local schools.

Skaalen Home: Sharing music, baked goods, pies, presents and visiting with residents.

Stoughton Food Pantries: Collecting 100's of pounds of food throughout the year.

Teen Parent Dinners: Making dinners for an educational program for young families.

Thanksgiving Turkeys: Donating dinners and delivering them to local families.



Financial Giving and Benevolence

Year Ministry Budget Milestones

1973	\$100,000
1981	\$200,000
1990	\$300,000
2001	\$400,000
2015	\$500,000



Missions Beyond Our Walls

ELCA Disaster Response
 ELCA World Hunger Appeal
 Lutheran World Relief
 Lutheran Indian Missions
 Operation Bootstrap
 Tanzanian Scholarships
 World Missionaries in Japan and Tanzania

In 2014, FLC's benevolence to support missions beyond our walls exceeded \$100,000 for the first time in the church's history.

Special Worship Services

- Baptism of Jesus
- Holden Evening Prayer for Lent
- Dixieland
- Blessing of the Quilts
- Polka Service
- Hymn Sing Sundae
- Patriotic Service
- Global Missions
- Blue Grass Service
- Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service
- Greening of the Church
- Guitar Services
- Baccalaureate
- Children's Programs in June and December
- Youth-led Worship April, August and December



Missions/Missionary

- 1991** Supported Missionary Chris Jacobson in Nicaragua.
Supported Missionary in Japan.
- 1999** Hosted missionaries, Pastor Lee and Torbjorg Bohnhoff from Cameroon.
- 2012** Supported Emery Ellingson to serve in Uruguay and Argentina as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission.
- 2013** Began supporting Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson in Arusha, Tanzania.

Habitat Builds

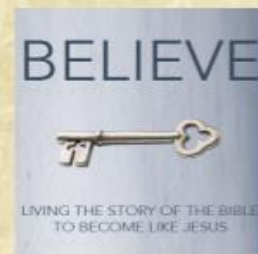
- 2006** Contributed financial support and labor to build a house on South 4th Street.
- 2009** Worked on a house in Oregon, WI.
- 2012** Provided lunch to a Habitat build in Green Bay.
- 2013** Provided roofing help for a Stoughton Habitat house.
- 2014** Contributed financial support and labor for a remodel of a house on Gjertson Street.
- 2015** FLC members partnered with other churches to build a Habitat house on Garden Ave.



Small Groups/Adult Education Since 1991

As Christians we know that growing in our faith never ends which is why education opportunities and small groups are important. Included in the learning of adults in the congregation, in addition to adult forum and many adult Sunday School offerings are some of the following:

- 1991** *Search* Bible Study began.
- 1993** *Cross Signs* Bible Study focusing on key questions of faith started.
Dusting Off Theology by Dr. James Nestigan was part of Summer Sunday School.
- 1997** Sixteen people finished the final chapter of the *Kerygma: Discovering the Bible Series*.
- 1998** The *Beatitudes* was held.
- 2001** *Called to Grow* a seven week sermon/ Small Groups series was offered.
- 2003** *Thank God its Wednesday* had small group offerings for adults and children along with a meal.
- 2005** *The Purpose Driven Life* was a congregation wide series that included several Small Groups.
- 2006** Congregation Small Group opportunities include *Get Out of the Boat* and *The Lutheran Course*.
- 2010** Women's Bible Study began with *Bad Girls of the Bible*.
- 2011** Soul Sisters Bible Study group began.
- 2012** Bethel Bible Study was offered.
Men's Breakfast Bible Study resumed.
- 2015** *The STORY* began. It was a 30-week overview of the Bible that impacted worship services, First Kids education and small group ministries. Over 200 members participated in small groups.
Financial Peace University started with a class of over 25 people.
- 2016** FLC followed up *The STORY* with another 30-week emphasis called *Believe*.



Missions & Appeals Since 2002

In 2002, FLC embarked on what became a series of appeals to pay for multiple facility and mission needs without going into debt. The appeals were as follows:

Appeal	Timeframe	Needs
We Love Our Church	(2002-2005)	Facility
We Still Love Our Church	(2005-2008)	Facility
This Holy House	(2008-2011)	Facility
Blessed To Be A Blessing	(2011-2014)	Mission
JOY	(2014-2017)	Facility and Mission

Over \$1,050,000 (80% of gifts given throughout the five appeals) were raised to complete the following facility projects from 2002-present:

- Adding video projection, a new sound system, an AV booth and a retractable screen
- Painting the entire sanctuary and oiling the wood beams in the ceiling
- Upgrading the pipe organ with modern electronics and En Chamade Trumpets
- Installing wood and tile flooring in the chancel area and front of the church
- Purchasing a new processional cross and baptismal font
- Installing a removable communion rail
- Upgrading electrical and plumbing systems
- Expanding the narthex
- Repaving the parking lots
- Renovating the parsonage
- Carpeting the sanctuary and chapel
- Installing a new, modular boiler
- Retrofitting the sanctuary AC units
- Re-roofing the entire church and parsonage
- Retrofitting the sanctuary chandeliers
- Installing storm windows throughout the facility
- Installing thick, outer plate glass over the two large sanctuary stained glass windows
- Purchasing a new outdoor church sign and new library furniture
- Renovation of choir loft
- Replacing the wooden church doors with glass doors



Over \$260,000 (20% of gifts given throughout the five appeals) were given to Mission Needs outside of FLC walls. Since 2002, gifts were given primarily to:

START - The Stoughton Area Resource Team (Local)
 Habitat For Humanity, Stoughton Builds (Local)
 Lutherdale Bible Camp (Regional)
 Lutheran World Relief (International)
 Dr. Mark Jacobson in Arusha, Tanzania (International)



Beyond these appeals, an additional \$30,000 was raised for Operation Ambulance in the summer of 2015. These funds were given to Dr. Mark Jacobson to help meet the medical needs of the poor who had no access to transportation or Neonatal Intensive Care.