

On our way rejoicing, proclaiming, teaching, and sharing God's love!



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 346


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Sharon, WI 53585

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February
2021

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:15 Worship- In Person and Facebook Live 11:45 Drive-Up Communion	8	9 6:00 Mission Trip Meeting (ZOOM)	10	11 6:00 Council Meeting	12	13
14 10:15 Worship- In Person and Facebook Live End of Service-11:45 Drive-Up Communion	15	16	17 6:00 Facebook Live Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20
21 10:15 Worship- In Person and Facebook Live End of Service-11:45 Drive-Up Communion	22	23	24 6:00 Midweek Lenten Service - posted on Facebook	25 *Newsletter Deadline*	26	27
28 10:15 Worship- In Person and Facebook Live End of Service-11:45 Drive-Up Communion	29	 <p>And now these three remain:</p> <p>faith hope love</p> <p>but the greatest of these is love.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:13</p>				

Christ Lutheran News

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A word from the Pastor

In place of my regular pastor's message, I have decided to share my pastor's report from the annual meeting.

I am grateful for my seminary training. I wouldn't know where to begin without it. However, when you become a pastor, you find yourself in all kinds of situations where you think, "Seminary did not prepare me for this."

Ministry in a global pandemic was one of those situations. This year has created ministry challenges, theological questions, justice issues with which to grapple, difficult decisions, and an aching need for prayer and blessing. On March 13th, (I remember because it was my husband's 40th birthday), the family fun night at my daughter's school was abruptly cancelled along with in-person school. That Sunday council held a special meeting after worship and made the decision to close the church building and find a way to offer worship online. We assumed that we would be back in worship on Easter or a few weeks later. We had no idea that congregational life, and life in general, would be greatly altered for the entire year.

We did so many things differently. I am not technologically inclined, so it was an adventure for me to figure out Facebook Live, Youtube, and ZOOM. You participated in worship from your homes. At first, we did not have Communion, but as the weeks wore on, we realized it was needed. We shared Communion in the parking lot, through car windows, with prepackaged bread and grape juice. We tried outdoor worship. Chris set up her microphones and keyboard through October and braved the bees. We sat on lawn chairs and worshipped. We fasted from congregational singing for months. We created safer indoor worship with masks and social distancing. Our Bible study group went through the entire Gospel of John outside on Wednesday summer nights as we competed with dogs barking and one neighbor's very loud ATV. Our children gave us a beautiful virtual Advent calendar. We didn't do Easter or Christmas in the usual way, but Jesus was still born, and he is risen indeed!

As I write this, I realize that a year ago, if I were to read this very report, I would have no idea what I meant by any of it. It's been quite a ride, and God has been with us the whole time. One of the most powerful ways God showed up for me was through all of you. Thank you all for your patience and understanding, your faithfulness in attending online worship, your

diligence, your encouragement, your prayers, and the heart you bring to this ministry. Thank you for making the extra effort to offer your gifts even when the offering plate wasn't being passed in front of you. Thank you for reaching out to your brothers and sisters in Christ with phone calls and cards. Thank you for asking me how I'm doing. Thank you for continuing the work of this church when it was a challenge. The building closed, but God's church never did.

I especially want to thank our council. We held many special meetings, and the meetings were hard work. The council had difficult decisions to make. They had countless factors to consider—the spiritual health of our members, the physical health of our members, the call to love our neighbors, the impact that cancelling in-person worship would have on the vitality of the congregation, safety measures in the building, and the list goes on. Serving on church council this year was most likely more than they thought they were signing up for, but they showed up, again and again, approaching God's call to lead this congregation with thoughtful energy and deep care. I am grateful for Beth Frederick and her leadership. She put a tremendous amount of effort, time, and thought into her role as council president this year.

Chris Lynch was another member who took on extra responsibilities during the pandemic. She was coming in twice weekly—once to record the service and again on Sunday to livestream. We could have simply pre recorded once, but she made the extra trip, so that worship could be offered both ways in order to reach more people. Thank you also to Sue Rambatt for her efforts to keep the building safe during the pandemic. We were blessed to have Sue serve as our sexton for many years. She made our church a welcoming place, and gave her best to the position. Her work was a ministry of hospitality. I am thankful for her service to our church this year and in previous years.

Our mission is to proclaim, teach, and share God's love. Little Church, with God's help, you kept on doing it! During this pandemic, the world has needed God's love in Christ Jesus, and it will continue to need it. It is a privilege and a blessing to serve with you. My hope for the future is that God will continue to empower us to share God's love, that we will learn from the lessons of this year, and that healing will come. I am sure that God has something for us to do to help bring about that healing. My hope is that we listen, and follow that call faithfully, always grounded in the Gospel of Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry,

Pastor Kalen Barkholtz

In Person Worship

We have returned to in-person worship on Sundays at 10:15. Please wear a mask if attending in person. If you are feeling unwell, stay home to keep others safe. The service will continue to be shared on Facebook live and will be emailed to the congregation later the next morning.

Drive-Up Communion

With the return of in-person worship, it's uncertain what the need for drive-up Communion will be. I will be available to distribute drive-up Communion each Sunday until 11:45, but I will not wait outside. If you desire to receive drive-up Communion, please call the church number when you arrive (262) 736-4757, and I will come out to you. If you do not have a cell phone, just call before leaving your home to let me know you are coming. It is not at all an inconvenience for me to come out to your car with Communion. I look forward to seeing you, and I would not want anyone who desires to receive Jesus through the sacrament to be denied it because they are choosing not to attend in-person worship for safety reasons. I have enjoyed serving car Communion and having the opportunity to see the people I miss.

-Pastor

Lent is Here February 17th!

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Although the church is open for worship on Sundays, we are prioritizing Sunday worship and limiting activity during the rest of the week. Midweek Lent worship will take place virtually. Ash Wednesday worship will be on Facebook live at 7:00 p.m. and will also be shared through email once the service is over. Each household will receive a packet of ashes to be applied at home as you watch the service, or at another time during the day.

Lenten midweek services will be a simple prayer service (similar to what we did in Advent) pre-recorded and shared virtually on Wednesdays at 6:00. Cindy Wuttke is going to be the worship leader for these services.

Every family will receive a Lent kit containing Lent devotional booklets. We have separate devotion booklets for adults, teens, and children. Your Lent kit will also contain the ashes to apply at home.

Sharon Food Pantry in Need of Secretary

The Sharon Food Pantry is looking for someone to take minutes at their quarterly meetings. The meetings typically take place on the second Mondays of the four months in which the food pantry board meets. If you are interested in being a part of this needed group in our community, please contact our church.

A Message From the Council

Friends In Christ,

As we start the new year, like me, I am sure we are all hoping and praying for a much more normal way of life in the coming year. We, at Christ Lutheran, have shown a great deal of strength and resolve in keeping our faith in God with the hope of better times to come. We, as a council, have worked long and hard to make decisions in what we hope and believe are in the best interest of the congregation. We will continue to do so as we brave our way through this pandemic.

With the new year as a council, we thank council members who have served their terms and will be leaving our group. Kathy Frederick, Dan Rambatt, and Margie Christenson served with commitment and dedication and will all be missed. Again, we thank you. At our annual meeting, the council added three new members and we look forward to getting started and working together with them. New members are Stacie Shepherd, Kelly Alicea, and Collin Frederick. We thank them for coming forward and filling these positions.

As I mentioned in the annual report, we have a couple of building projects that need to be addressed in the coming year. A new water softener is needed in the Fellowship Hall. Money has already been donated for this project. I have met with a representative from Vegter Masonry of Lake Geneva for a quote for some tuck pointing needed on the church exterior. I will pass along more information on these projects as we move forward.

Be safe, stay healthy, and keep God's faith,

Dan Way

Council President

Locks on Church Doors to Change

The locks on the church doors will be rekeyed. If you currently have a key and need a new one, please contact the church.

Thank You!

Tom Kleiber would like to thank the members of Christ Lutheran for all the cards and letters he has received over the past months.

High School Mission Trip Fundraising

Four of our high school students will be going on a mission trip this summer. Kaylee Fredrick, Gianna Webster, Jacob Schmig, and Brendan Seif will be going with Pastor Kalen and a group from Faith and Sugar Creek Lutheran to Bemidji, MN. They will be visiting the Leech Lake Reservation to learn about the Ojibwe culture and to do some volunteer work. They will learn about Jesus through building relationships with others. They will participate in cultural experiences, work in a children's center, reflect on their experiences, and worship together.

In the next months they will be undertaking a few different fundraising efforts. They will be selling canned items from Wunberg Produce like salsa and jam. In the next few weeks, a display of items will be set up in the fellowship hall. If you come to in-person worship, you can purchase the items while you are in the building. You will also be able to order items from the Wunberg produce website. When you purchase an item, type a message in the "buyer's note" section of the order form that you are purchasing the order to support the Christ Lutheran mission trip. Items are not yet ready for sale. Look for an email soon. On April 14th, they will host a virtual talent show on ZOOM, with free-will donations going toward the trip.



You can also support the students by buying "stock" in their mission trip. Your purchase is an investment in their faith formation and in the young leaders of our congregation. You can buy a share for \$25. When you purchase a share, you will receive a stock certificate in the mail, a postcard from one of the students while on the trip, and an invitation to a shareholder's Dinner on Sunday evening July 25th. The students will give a presentation about their trip and provide you with dinner. If you are unable to attend the shareholder's dinner, you can still purchase stock. In the case that such a gathering is still not safe in July, we will find an alternative way to provide a meal and present what we learned on our trip. You can purchase stock at any time. If interested, please email Pastor Kalen at kbarkholtz@yahoo.com. Please provide your home address, phone, and number of shares you would like to purchase.

Before supporting students to go on a mission trip, you may have concerns about what happens if we cannot go because of COVID. We are expecting that by July, a mission trip will be feasible. If we decide it is not, the company through which we are arranging the trip, will credit our payments toward a future trip.

LET'S celebrate

Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations This Month!

(If you or someone you know is not listed here, or if our information is incorrect, please let the Church Office know.)

Birthday Celebrations

2/2 Karen Greenlee	2/14 Larry Hardt	2/19 Britt Countryman
2/7 Beth Frederick	2/18 Steve Jacobs Jr.	2/20 Reed Wuttke
2/8 Kylie Dowden	2/18 Ray Lowry	2/25 Betty Rambatt
2/10 Karlie Dowden	2/18 Elaine Smith	2/26 Michael Dowden
2/13 Janessa LaFrance		2/26 Randy Wuttke

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

2/9 Marcus & Brandon Hardt
2/21 Darrell & Beth Frederick

Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations

2/1 James Sheppard
2/10 Katelyn Jansen

April 14th Virtual Talent Show!

Calling all kids and grownups who sing, dance, tell jokes, juggle, play a musical instrument, write poetry, read aloud, do magic tricks, or have other fun and interesting talents to share! Christ Lutheran will hold a virtual talent show Wednesday April 14th at 6:00. It will be a ZOOM talent show, bringing us together from our homes. In place of admission and entry fees we are requesting a free will donation to support the high school youth mission trip this July. All are welcome to participate. More information to come. We wanted to let you know early, so you could start thinking of your acts now!

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Please remember these people in your prayers: Cindy Bangert, Orson Bangert, Ginny Bursh, the family of Briana Ehlen, Tom Fredrick, Denise Gibbons, Mike Haeberlin, Dan Hammett, Kim Jacobs, Erik Jelinek, Tom Kleiber, Mary Kline, Jean Kovarik, Marilyn Lowry, Ray Lowry, Bill Piculas, Janit Roach, Janet Schilke, Joy Smith, and Flo Supay.

Please remember our members in care facilities:

Your cards, letters, and notes mean so much at this time.

**Ginny Bursh is at Golden Years
Services**

Ginny Bursh
Golden Years
270 Ridge Rd.
Walworth, WI 53184

Tom Fredrick is at Delavan Health

Tom Fredrick
Delavan Health Services
905 Geneva St.
Delavan, WI 53115

Tom Kleiber is at Sunnyside Assisted Living

Tom Kleiber
Sunnyside Assisted Living
1 Eastown Manor
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Super Bowl Subs

Much like the disappointment felt after last Sunday's NFC Championship game, we are saddened to announce that we will not be selling super bowl subs at this time. Council is hoping to do subs at a later date.

Second Sunday Offering

February's Second Sunday Offering benefits the Agape House located in Walworth, Wisconsin. The mission of Agape House is to provide a stable, loving, and Christ-centered home and school for young and hurting teens so that they might come to know God, receive His healing, and walk in His will.

Featured Family of the Month

The Dowling-Barkholtz Family



Tom and Kalen met at Wartburg Seminary when they were studying to be pastors. Evie is 9 years old and in fourth grade. We have a black cat named Spirit.

Tom is pastor at Williams Bay Lutheran Church. People often want to know if we write our sermons together. Our preaching style is very different. We do not write sermons together, but we talk about our ideas and sometimes even practice our sermon for the other person.

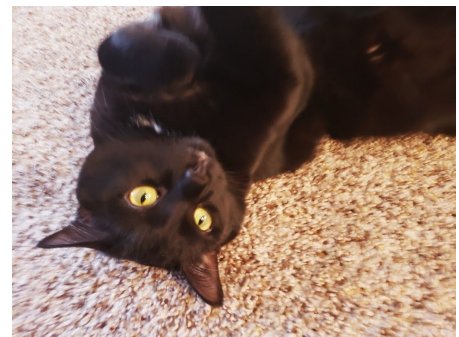
Family hobbies: playing board games, reading, watching Jeopardy, playing at Big Foot Beach State Park

Favorite family vacation: Rocky Mountains in Colorado

Favorite family meal: takeout from Egg Harbor after church

Favorite family movie: *What About Bob*

Tom's hobbies: singing, gardening, caring for plants, exercise, hiking; Favorite book: *The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis*.



Kalen's hobbies: reading and writing poetry, looking for beach glass, making beach glass jewelry; Favorite Book: *The Leaf and the Cloud* by Mary Oliver

Evie's hobbies: basketball, playing piano, reading, learning about animals, playing chess with dad, looking for beach glass with mom; Favorite Book: *The Warrior Cat* series by Erin Hunter.