

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



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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February

2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 *Super Bowl Sub Orders Due* 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	7	8	9	10 6:00 Council Meeting	11	12
13 *Super Bowl Subs* 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	21	22	23	24	25	26 LEAD Conference
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Thank You!

Members of Christ Lutheran Church and WELCA, Thank you for your support of the Gift Giving Project at Sharon Community School. Your generosity is a blessing to our community. Thank you, Sharon School Project Coordinator.

Thank you for the beautiful Christmas flower arrangement and the monetary gift. The flowers were so pretty and added to our family celebration. Thank you for your kindness.

-Pastor Kalen

Christ Lutheran News

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A Word From the Pastor

It's Valentine's month! People are decorating with red hearts and celebrating love. Valentine's Day can be a fun way to celebrate our friendships and partner relationships. There is nothing wrong with treating a loved one with cards and flowers, but the love to which God calls us asks us to commit to the ordinary, everyday work of love in the midst of real-life challenges. The famous words of 1 Corinthians 13 are commonly known because they are read at weddings, but most people don't know that the Apostle Paul, a pastor and starter of churches, was writing to a congregation that was struggling to get along. His love poem is a reminder to the people what love is and what it isn't. He teaches us that love is not only a feeling. Love is made known to be true or not by the way we act.

Below are the words of 1 Corinthians 13 interjected with invitations to help you think about how the scripture might apply to the relationships in your life. You might want to read this meditation a few times, each time keeping in mind the different people and groups God has called you to love.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. *Paul is explaining that all our efforts at faithfulness and all our accomplishments mean nothing if we do not have love. What values and goals do you place ahead of love? Do you get caught up in getting everything done in a way that prevents you from taking the time for relationships? Does concern with how people perceive you, your family, or your community prevent you from being able to clearly see others' struggles and gifts?*

Love is patient. *When does patience come easily for you? When is it difficult? How can you increase your patience?*

Love is kind. *What is the kindest way you can interpret another's behavior? What is the kindest thing you could do or say to your loved one today? What aspect of your loved one's life and being could most benefit from your kindness right now?*

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. *What makes you jealous? When do you think you are better or think you know more than another? Are you ever rude, how?*

It does not insist on its own way. *Is there a person in the relationship who gets their way more often? If it's you, is it because you're insisting on it? Is it possible for you to give the other more room to express and have their preferred way of things? How will you create room for the other to have their own way too?*

It is not irritable *At what times of the day or in what instances do you find yourself most irritated? How do you respond when you feel irritable? Is there a way you could care for yourself so that you are less reactive when irritability arises?*

or resentful. *Resentfulness bubbles up when we are bitter about the things that feel unfair. Often, we don't even know we are feeling resentful, but we are acting out our resentment in unhelpful ways. Consider which dynamics in the relationship might not be fair to you. Do you give more or sacrifice more in some aspect? Does it bother you? Simply recognizing what is making us feel resentful can help us communicate our needs, or simply accept that an aspect of the relationship is unequal and it's not the other person's fault.*

It does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. *This is an interesting one. I'm not sure what Paul means by rejoicing in wrongdoing, but what comes to my mind is the human tendency to feel better about ourselves when others fail. Do you ever secretly take pleasure in gossip, or others' drama or failings? How can you nurture empathy instead of meanness? What does it mean for you to rejoice in the truth?*

It bears all things, *We bear the whole truth of the relationship. We bear what we know of the other's pain and sorrow. We bear the difficulties that come with limitations. What things will you bear for love to grow?*

This language of love bearing all things does not refer to abuse. God never calls us to bear abuse or mistreatment. If you feel unsafe, reaching out for help could mean the difference between life and death. Your life and wellbeing matter. God intends for all people to have safety, respect, and fullness of life. I am available to listen and help. You can also call New Beginnings, which serves Walworth and Jefferson Counties. Their 24-hour helpline is (262) 723-4653. The National Domestic Violence hotline number is 1-800-799-7233.

believes all things, *We believe the other is a precious, beloved child of God. We believe God has called us to be a friend, a daughter or son, a parent, or a partner. We believe in the other person's own ability to know who they are and what God wants for them. What does your loved one most need you to believe right now?*

hopes all things, *We have hope in all things because of the resurrection of Jesus. What things does love call you to hope?*

endures all things. *Love endures all things. Including loud chewing and eating noises every morning. Including the lights being left on in three rooms at the same time. Including smelly wet socks forgotten on the steps. Including tolerating a cat when you're not a cat person because it makes your wife and daughter happy. In case you didn't guess, these are examples from my own family. Enduring is hard work! The examples I gave are trivial, but they take effort to endure, nonetheless. When we love people, we endure both the trivial inconveniences and the big stuff. We endure with our loved ones through an illness or spell of depression, through the stormy seas of a tragedy or a life transition. When you consider the words, "Love endures all things," what comes to mind?*

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

I hope these thoughts on the love chapter of the Bible got you thinking about the people God gave you to love. This month, the world tells us love is expressed by buying all kinds of things. The Bible tells us that love is expressed by bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things. Jesus' love serves as a gift and example.

Peace,

Pastor Kalen Barkholtz

Super Bowl Subs are Coming!



Order subs for your family for Super Bowl Sunday and help support Christ Lutheran youth! The proceeds go to the youth fund which aids kids in our congregation going to Christian camps and our highschoolers are attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer. An order form is included in this newsletter. Please return to church by February 6. Subs can be picked up in the fellowship hall February 13 from 9:00-11:30. The order form can be found in a separate attachment to this email.

Calling all Readers, Communion Assistants, and Bread Bringers!

Would you like to be a reader, help pass out communion, or bring communion bread? You can sign up on the church website (clcsharon.com *find the sign up under Volunteers*), or on the sign up sheet by the sanctuary door. Bread can be baked or bought. Please make sure it is an unsliced loaf.

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to our new members who joined our congregation this January: Dan and Kathy Dowden, Marjorie Krause, Marie and Keith Rithamel, Becky Roney, Laurie Wuttke, Karen and Roger Wuttke. We are blessed to grow in faith together!

Lent is Coming up March 2nd

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd. Mark your calendars! This year we are hoping that the covid numbers in our county decrease as predicted, so we can gather for Lenten suppers once again. Beginning March 9th, we plan to gather on Wednesday evenings for a meal at 6:00 and worship at 6:30. This Lent, we will be using a drama series called Bible Bunglers, by Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Each Wednesday, we'll get to listen in as a therapist sits down with characters from the Bible who have messed up.

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.

LEAD Conference

Consider joining Pastor Kalen and others from Christ Lutheran for our synod's LEAD conference! LEAD is an event for the churches in our synod to gather, worship, and learn. There are many interesting workshops on many topics relating to faith and ministry. The event is for congregation members and pastors. Anyone can attend. It has been two years since the event was offered, and it's back. At the last LEAD Conference, several members from our congregation attended and we had a great time. If you are interested but don't want to drive yourself, we can ride together. The church will cover the registration of those who attend. Below is information about LEAD from our synod website. Please let Pastor Kalen know if you are interested in attending.

LEAD

Saturday, February 26, 2022

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Middleton)

Welcome to our annual Leadership, Education and Development Day, "LEAD,!" This year, our theme and keynote relates to John 15.11. We'll talk about the complexity of joy in troubled times and how the currencies and gifts God has given us can nurture this joy. Pastor Julie Boleyn and James Fielder from Kaleidoscope Institute will be joining us as our keynote speakers. We will also have 24 workshops on a variety of topics that are relevant to all.

What Happens at LEAD?

- Worship – We will center ourselves and begin with worship!
- 24 workshops – you can attend up to 3!
- Ample time for connecting with people from other congregations is provided. Attendees reflect that talking to people from other congregations is one of the best things about LEAD!
- Displayers from Synod and Lutheran Affiliated Organizations will be there to share opportunities for shared ministry!
- This year, we will be receiving an offering for Refugee Resettlement. Please consider taking a special offering from your congregation to bring to LEAD and help support this great cause!

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Please remember these people in your prayers: Cindy Bangert, Orson Bangert, the family of Bill Chism, Jacob Friesema, Kim Jacobs, Erik Jelinek, Tom Kleiber, Jean Kovarik, Marilyn Lowry, Ray Lowry, the family of Sam Nichols, Bill Piculas, Janet Schilke, Jimmy Sheppard, Joy Smith, Ike Strasser, and Doris Wehrwein.

Please remember our members in care facilities:

Thank you for your continued prayers and cards for those who are in care facilities.

Tom Kleiber

5277 N 29th St. Apt. 1
Milwaukee, WI 53209

Jean Kovarik

Golden Years
611 Harmony Dr.
Room 7
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

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 Brittany 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

2/9/2002 Marcus & Brandon Hardt

2/21/1987 Darrell & Beth Frederick

Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations

2/1 James Sheppard

2/10 Katelyn Jansen