

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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January
2021

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day <i>Happy New Year</i>	2
3 10:15 Worship (Facebook Live) 10:45-11:15 Drive-through Communion	4	5 1:00-6:00 Blood Drive	6 Epiphany 5:00 Confirmation	7	8	9
10 10:15 Worship (Facebook Live) 10:45-11:15 Drive-through Communion	11	12	13 5:00 Confirmation	14 6:00 Council Meeting	15	16
17 10:15 Worship <i>*Format & Drive-Up Communion TBA*</i>	18	19	20 5:00 Confirmation	21	22	23
24 10:15 Worship <i>*Format & Drive-Up Communion TBA*</i>	25 <i>*Newsletter Deadline*</i>	26	27 5:00 Confirmation	28	29	30
31 10:15 Worship <i>*Format & Drive-Up Communion TBA*</i>						

Christ Lutheran News

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

A word from the Pastor

As I write this, I am sitting in my office a couple of days after Christmas. The light in here is fantastic! I have a crystal sun catcher that hangs in front of my window, and little dashes of rainbow are floating on the walls. There is a newness in the air that can be felt. Christmas is over. It was a hard one, a different one, but we made it. Worship was different—but meaningful. Many of our normal family and community celebrations did not happen. All the same, the Gospel, the story of God coming to be with us as a little child, was proclaimed. At one of my pastor ZOOM meetings, someone said, “Even if all the technology fails and our services don’t go as planned, if Jesus was born, it will have been a good day.”

He was born. He is born, and he is with us. This year, Christmas was different. We felt the heaviness of the world’s sorrow and crisis. During our drive-up Communion on Christmas Eve, I asked each family if there was anything special for which they needed prayer. So many families requested prayers that the world would heal, that, “all this would end.” Our Christmas was celebrated and observed as we held a prayer in our hearts for the whole world. And into that longing world, the Savior has been born. It may have been different, but Jesus was born, and it was a good day.

We are the people who sat in great darkness, as Isaiah wrote, and we have seen a great light in Christ. As I sit in this light right after Christmas and days before Epiphany, the day that we celebrate the rising star and the visitation of the magi, the light reminds me of Jesus. The light reminds me of the love present in our congregation and the goodness of all of you, the family of God. The light reminds me of hope. A vaccine is being shipped all over the country right now. The light reminds me of all the brokenness that has been exposed during this time, and all the opportunity we have now to change things.

The virus was not a gift. It was and still is a magnitudinous tragedy. It was not a gift, but the shakeup of all things has allowed some gifts to surface.

What are you going to do when all this is over? I'm going to have a dinner with extended family. I'm going to go to the nursing home and hold the hands of my parishioners. I'm going to sing with other people, and never take it for granted again. I'm going to pay attention to the lonely, the ones who were lonely and left out before all this, and who will continue to long for connection once all the extra cards and phone calls stop. When all this is over, let's not forget about them. Let's keep the lines between each other open.

Epiphany is the day we celebrate the magi and the star of wonder, but it's also a whole season of light--the revelatory light of Christ. May the Light shine on the world. May the Light shine on you.

Peace,

Pastor Kalen

Wishing Christmas Wasn't Over Yet?

One of the wonderful things about having a religion is all the celebrations and observations. Special days and seasons renew us, connect us, and remind us that in Christ, every day is special. In our culture, we pack up the Christmas decorations and put the tree to the curb by January 1st (if not sooner). If that feels a little disheartening to you, if you're not ready to be finished with the holidays, you might consider doing something special to observe Epiphany. Look online to see how different countries observe this day and create your own celebration. You might prepare a special meal, light a candle, star gaze with your kids, gift someone a special gift to remember how the magi brought gifts to Jesus, or read the story from Matthew 2:1-12. It is an old Catholic tradition to do a house blessing on Epiphany. If you wish to bless your home, Pastor Kalen will be emailing a house blessing to the congregation the first week of January. Epiphany is a season of the light of Christ. A happy and bright Epiphany to you!

Worship Plans for January

Online worship will continue along with drive-up Communion through January 10th. The council will meet on Thursday, January 14th to discuss worship for the remainder of January. They will communicate worship plans through congregational email and our Facebook page. Drive-up Communion will be offered even if in person worship resumes. The time of drive-up Communion may be later to accommodate a longer worship service.

Thank Yous!

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift of a VISA gift card from the congregation. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. - Pastor Kalen

Thank you to all who purchased gifts for Sharon children this Christmas, and to those who donated winter clothes to the mitten tree. Your generosity is bringing joy and keeping kids warm this winter!

The Sharon Food Pantry wishes to thank you for the generous donation of food and cash this past week. Your donations helped during a time of great need and hope that the needs of so many will always be met.

Thank you to all of the children who participated in this year's Virtual Advent Calendar and for helping us share the story of the coming of Jesus. Thank you to Pastor Kalen for writing the script and to Mike Dowden for putting it all together.

Second Sunday Offering

January's Second Sunday Offering benefits Sharon Fire & Rescue which proudly protects the citizens of the Village and Township of Sharon and Boone County Fire Protection District #4, over a 54 sq. mile first due response area. Our department is staffed by well trained and skilled Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) working hard to provide the finest service 24/7 when you need us.

Sharon Fire & Rescue is staffed with volunteer members all responding from home or work. We operate as one department providing both Fire & EMS (Emergency Medical Service), most members are cross trained in both fields and all members respond to calls. We provide EMS to the Wisconsin EMT – Basic IV Tech Level and transport to several area medical centers. If anyone is interested in joining the Fire Department or would like more information call: 262-736-4543.

A Message From the Council

Happy New Year!

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." - Eleanor Roosevelt

With the new year comes a new group of Council members. We look forward to new strengths and new thoughts. We are looking for three members to serve on council. Each would be three year terms. If you have never served, please consider it. If you have served in the past, we welcome your experience. We are currently meeting on the second Thursday of the month; however, that can be changed if needed.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th. New members will be elected at this meeting. At this time, we are planning to hold the meeting in person at the church and virtually via Zoom. Watch for more details as we get closer to the date. Following the annual meeting a new Council President will be elected. January will be my last month as president. I would like to thank the council members and congregation for your support throughout the year. We have had a few challenges this year to work through. I appreciate the extra work and time all of you have put in.

Happy New Year,
Beth Frederick
Council President

Sexton Transition

Sue Rambatt has served as our sexton since 2013. Sue will be finishing her time with us as sexton at the end of December. We have been blessed by her dedicated care of the building and her efforts to make it a safe, welcoming, and friendly space. We thank Sue for her hard work and the many times she went above and beyond. Her work was truly a ministry of hospitality.

We are pleased to announce that Jaqueline Webster will begin as our new sexton this January.

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

1/2 Jeff Crump	1/9 Karen Ross	1/22 Mike Lynch
1/3 Lin Stafford	1/10 Dani Lawler	1/24 Sarah Berryman
1/4 Travis Berryman	1/10 Carrie Zimmerman	1/31 Logan Crump
1/6 Kendra Janes	1/13 Diane Lowry	1/31 Irene Hammett
	1/19 James Stafford	

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

1/4/2020 Gage & Racquelle Wuttke
1/5/1952 Ray & Marilyn Lowry
1/26/2002 Jeff & Marlo Crump

Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations

1/11 Mia Dowden
1/13 Kaycee Fredrick
1/20 Robin Ruosch
1/29 Joe Maas

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



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

Please remember our members in care facilities:

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

Ginny Bursh is at Golden Years

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

Tom Fredrick is at Delavan Health Services

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

Featured Family of the Month

Starting next month, we are going to start something new! Each month, the newsletter will include a “Featured Family” in the hopes of getting to know one another a little better and stay connected during this difficult time. Stay tuned for more details!

Newsletter

If you would like to include something in the monthly newsletter, please e-mail it to Dani Lawler at danilawler22@gmail.com. The deadline for each month is noted on the calendar.