

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



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 346

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Phone: (262) 736-4757

March

2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12-6:00 Blood Drive	2 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	7 6:00 WELCA Meeting	8	9 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Service 7:15 Council Meeting	10	11	12 11:00 am Memorial Service for Tom Fredrick
13 *Second Sunday* 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	14 7:00 4H in Fellowship Hall	15	16 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Service	17 	18	19
20 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	21	22	23 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Service	24	25	26
27 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	28	29	30 6:00 Supper 6:30 Lenten Service	31		

Christ Lutheran News

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A Word From the Pastor

Someone once shared with me that she felt sadness about a long stretch of her life when she felt disconnected to God. She had been in a difficult relationship during the time and regretted that she didn't turn to God and find a way to get out of the relationship sooner. She carried guilt about what she felt was a waste of many years, a failure to see clearly in the moment, and a failure to trust in God.

She was a wonderful, caring, and delightful soul. I am positive she was the same person during those difficult years that she was when I knew her. I am also sure that God had never left her during that time, and that even though she would have liked to have made different choices then, God was creating good through many aspects of her life. There wasn't one point where God stopped being with her. When she found new life and joy after that difficult stretch of time, God did not suddenly appear because she got things right. And God was not staying away for any reason.

Somewhere along the line, many of us picked up the message that a real relationship with God is contingent upon our having everything together. I have Good News for you: God loves you now. God is with you now. God is working good in and through you now, even if you can't see it, even if you have no idea what it is. It doesn't matter if you're currently passing through a shadowy, treacherous valley, God is with you. It doesn't matter if you think you are a mess, God doesn't leave you. Love is not contingent.

As we enter into Lent, cling to that good news. Many people think of Lent as a guilt-focused time. There is a focus on confession and forgiveness, and a call to honesty and humility. These are necessary themes in our spiritual journeys, especially as we contemplate the meaning of the cross and resurrection. However, in some cases, humility becomes mired in burdensome guilt.

Guilt can be a positive emotion when it draws our attention to the ways we've behaved that are contrary to our values and faith, but guilt is only useful when it's short-lived and a catalyst for change. Let the promises of your baptism be what leads to new life this Lent: God is with you now. God is working in your life now. God doesn't hope you recognize the truth of your sin so that you will punish yourself. God is bringing you to a clearer understanding in order that you find new life. God doesn't leave you. Even when you can't see the truth of your current circumstances, God stays with you always. We may fail to keep our part of the baptismal covenant, but God does not. Lent is about God's love for us and all creation. The ultimate message of Lent is not guilt, but love.

Peace,

Pastor Kalen Barkholtz

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will be March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Services

Wednesday Evening Lenten Simple Suppers and Worship will begin March 9th. We will gather for a meal at 6:00, followed by worship at 6:30. This year we are doing a series of goofy plays called Bible Bunglers to remind us of God's grace. Every Wednesday we'll listen in as Bible characters who have messed up (like we all have) work out their issues in therapy.

Book Giveaway Committee



Want to help with a fun, joyful project? Christ Lutheran is going to host a children's book giveaway this summer funded by our endowment committee. We will be purchasing a variety of children's books, reading levels infant-high school in order to give them away to kids in the community. We will also offer a free meal that day. We'll need people to help publicize the event, plan, and choose books. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please email the church at clcsharon1845@gmail.com

Faithful Innovation

Pastor Kalen is looking for a few people to be part of a group that will participate in Faithful Innovation. Faithful Innovation is a program offered by our synod to help congregations discover the unique story God wants to tell through their church. Congregations will receive ideas, inspiration, and tools for ministry. Participants will take part in three trainings (all on Sunday afternoons, tentatively in Elkhorn) May 22, August 21, and November 6. In addition to participating in the trainings, Faithful Innovation Team members will apply what they learn by trying some new things in their own congregations. Congregations will be asking the question, "As we listen to God, one another, and our neighbors, what future do we imagine God bringing forth in our midst?" If that question sounds interesting to you, you might enjoy being a part of the group. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Pastor Kalen at the church (262) 736-4757, or email: clcsharon1845@gmail.com

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 sign up on the sheet by the sanctuary door. Bread can be baked or bought. Please make sure it is an unsliced loaf and set it on the island in the church kitchen by 9:55 Sunday morning.



Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Mark your calendars for Holy Week Services. Please note that the Good Friday time has changed from previous years:

- Maundy Thursday - April 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday - April 15th at 6:00 p.m.
- Easter - April 17th at 8:00 a.m. **and** 10:15 a.m.

Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candle

Please sign up to bring flowers to place on the altar to recognize a special occasion or just because. Also, please consider sponsoring the sanctuary candle for a month. The cost is \$15. The sign up sheets for both are located on the far right bulletin board.

WELCA Needs Your Help!

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the US and the Caribbean for service, study, fellowship and more. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Every woman attending church is automatically a member of this group. We do so much to support our community and our church and are much more than just the turkey dinner.

- We use monies raised from the turkey dinner to support the needs of the church. We take care of communion set up and clean up.
- We order the easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias.
- We put together small gifts at Christmas for those of our congregation whom we do not see regularly to remind them that they are with us always.
- We have served the Lenten meals in the past (and are very happy to share the task with others now), and we act boldly when and where we see a need.

Won't you please consider joining this ministry so we can do even more! WELCA meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6 pm, and our meetings are usually an hour long. Hope to see you there.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Please remember these people in your prayers: Rich Austin, Cindy Bangert, Orrin Bangert, Orson Bangert, Jacob Friesema, Kim Jacobs, Erik Jelinek, Tom Kleiber, Jean Kovarik, Marjorie Krause, Ray Lowry, Bill Piculas, the family of Carl Reiher, Janet Schilke, Joy Smith, Ike Strasser, Doris Wehrwein, the family of Jimmy Sheppard.

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
270 Ridge Road

Room 44

Walworth, WI 53184

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

3/2 Toby Fredrick	3/9 Kensington Frederick	3/19 Orrin Bangert
3/3 Kaden Rambatt	3/9 Daniel Huff	3/19 Robert Webster
3/4 Brandon Hardt	3/10 Mark Ruosch	3/22 Jerry Gibbons
3/4 Conner Ruosch	3/13 Tom Dowling	3/23 Steve Jacobs
3/4 Karly Ruosch	3/13 Chet Forsythe	3/24 Makenzie Dowden
3/5 Daniel Mizelle	3/14 Gage Wuttke	3/25 Franchezka Hardt
3/5 Kelly Timmons	3/17 Marlo Crump	3/27 Stephanie Smith
3/8 Kimberly Casteel	3/18 Travis Frederick	3/28 Alex Zimmerman
3/8 Chris Lynch		3/29 Terry Berryman

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

3/8/2014 Travis & Kaylee Frederick

3/20/1993 Terry & Sarah Berryman

3/31/2012 Michael & Caitlin Dowden

Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations

3/9 Dani Lawler	3/22 Orson Bangert	3/29 Kim Jacobs
3/22 Orrin Bangert	3/25 Carol Frederick	3/30 Brooke Berryman
	3/27 Beth Frederick	