

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



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 346

228 Martin Street

Sharon, WI 53585

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September

2021

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	6	7 1-6 PM Blood Drive	8	9 6:00 - Council Meeting	10	11
12 *RALLY DAY* 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live Backpack Blessing	13	14 6:00 - WELCA Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship - In Person and Facebook Live	27	28	29	30	Please Note: Pastor Kalen will be attending the Bishop's Convocation September 26th-27th.	

Second Sunday Offering: The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization. The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Christ Lutheran News

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A Word From the Pastor

When I was living in Iowa, I met a woman who was connected to a ministry in Haiti. Shortly before I moved to Wisconsin, she made the decision to move to Haiti to do ministry there. Periodically, I receive group emails from her in which she updates her friends on how things are going. After the earthquake in Haiti on August 18th, I checked my email each day waiting to hear that she was okay. A few days later, she sent her "Hugs from Haiti" group an update. She was okay. The earthquake's epicenter was four hours away, so there was not damage near her. She felt the quake and ran outside. She said the earth rolled like ocean waves, and the gate of the guest house trembled. Imagine what it must have been like near the epicenter if that's how the quake was experienced 4 hours away! She sent several pictures from people she knows who work and live in the affected part of Haiti and urged us to pray for the "humongous suffering" going on right now in Haiti and Afghanistan. Since that email I have been thinking about her words, humongous suffering.

It was hard to look at the pictures from Haiti. They were images of total destruction, death, sorrow, and need. As I went to my next task, it felt strange to turn immediately to everyday work and other emails. I wondered what I should be thinking, feeling, and doing. There is humongous suffering in the world. What should we do? In my conversations with all of you, I hear many of you asking that same question. I hear you struggling with how to respond to the suffering in the world. When the humongous suffering in the world leaves us with questions about how we should respond, could it be that God is putting the questions in our hearts? Of course, we can always pray, but prayer can become a way of avoiding action, a quick solution for finding relief from our own guilt. We think, "The suffering is just so overwhelming, and there's nothing else I can do. At least I prayed. I can stop thinking about it now."

In addition to praying that God would alleviate the suffering, we can ask God to help answer our question of how to respond. Maybe the answer is simply to learn more about the situation by reading and seeking out information. Maybe the answer is to give a donation to Lutheran World Relief. Maybe the answer is that even though you feel you cannot do something for people in Haiti, God is calling you to help alleviate the suffering of someone here. There is humongous suffering, and there are no easy answers to explain it away. By his death on the cross, Jesus comes near to all who suffer, and after his time of suffering he rose from the dead. This is the mystery and the hope of our faith. We don't have any easy answers. Don't rush to close the questions that arise when you feel a connection to others who are suffering. We are people of the cross, people of questions, people of hope because of Jesus. Continue to ask questions. God gave you your prayerful questions. The questions that arise in your heart in response to suffering are an open place for God to enter, not just your life, but the lives of others too.

God's Peace, *Pastor Kalen Barkholtz*

Sunday School is Back!

Sunday School begins on September 12th for children ages 3-6th grade! This year Miss Stacie will be teaching all age levels together using a curriculum designed for smaller churches who combine ages into one Sunday school group. Older children who participate will learn by helping younger children. All are welcome. If you have a child who would like to join us, they can be registered for Sunday school on our church website. On Rally Day, September 12th, kids can bring their backpacks to worship for a special beginning of the school year blessing!

Bible Study Update

This summer our Bible Study group had great conversations as we discussed the book Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson. We will continue to have Bible studies in the fall and winter. Scheduling will depend on the confirmation schedule. Most likely classes will be on Wednesdays. Information about the next class will be shared via the church email and in the bulletin.

Confirmation

Do you know of a seventh or eighth grade student who is interested in being a part of confirmation, or do you know an older student who is not yet confirmed who would like to learn more about faith and affirm his or her baptism? Please contact Pastor Kalen. The class format this year will depend on the ages and number of students involved.

ELCA National Youth Gathering

The National Youth Gathering is happening July 24-26th 2022 in Minneapolis, and we are hoping to take a group of high school students from Christ Lutheran. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The time to start thinking about the trip is now, as we can receive a discount if we register before November 21st. If you are a youth who will be going into 9th-12th grade next summer, or graduating high school in the spring of 2022, let Pastor Kalen know if you are interested.

Orange Banner to Remember the Children of Kamloops School

Included in this month's newsletter is a letter sent to the ELCA from the American Indian Alaska Native Association requesting that ELCA congregations hang orange banners in their sanctuaries for 225 days to remember the indigenous children whose bodies were recently discovered in mass graves at Canadian residential schools. The high school students who attended the mission trip to the Leech Lake Reservation learned about the harmful impacts of residential schools. While on the trip, our group met an eighty-year-old woman who had experienced abuse in a Catholic residential school, and she shared her story with us. Please take time to read the letter. Carol Frederick has designed a banner for us to hang in the sanctuary.

A Message From the Council

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a busy couple of months for the council and me. In July, we laid the groundwork for repairs to the bell tower and the drain on the flat roof on the front of the church. At a Congregational meeting held after worship on August 8th, the congregation voted to approve the repairs as submitted by the council and approved by the finance committee. Barring any large or unforeseen problems, the cost of the repairs is \$52,000. We are hoping that the work can be done yet this fall. We have begun accepting special donations for these repairs and have started a fundraising campaign. This project is an idea from Beth Frederick and will be talked about further in this newsletter.

Over the years, this congregation has been faced with many large repairs and replacements, in addition to the building of the Fellowship Hall. As a group, we have always found the strength and means to fund these projects and we pray this will be no different.

Anyone driving into the parking lot will notice that part of the large tree in the corner is missing. It was blown down in a windstorm a couple of weeks ago. We have decided to remove the rest of the tree as a precaution to any future damage or injury. This will be done soon by a local tree service. Once the tree has been removed, we will make the necessary repairs to the fencing. Materials have already been purchased for these repairs.

Looking forward, we need to begin talking about council members for next year and beyond. As council sits right now, we are one member short due to the family relocating. In January, the terms of three current members will expire. That means we will be needing four people to come forward and be willing to sit on council. I am putting this out now; not to give more time to think of all the reasons not to be on council, but to think of a few reasons you should. Start thinking now. Pray about it, talk about it, ask about it. For me it has been a great experience. I have learned a lot. Not only about how the church works, how the council works, but also me as a person.

Working with the council as a group is very rewarding when you see the work that is done and can be done.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Pray a Lot,

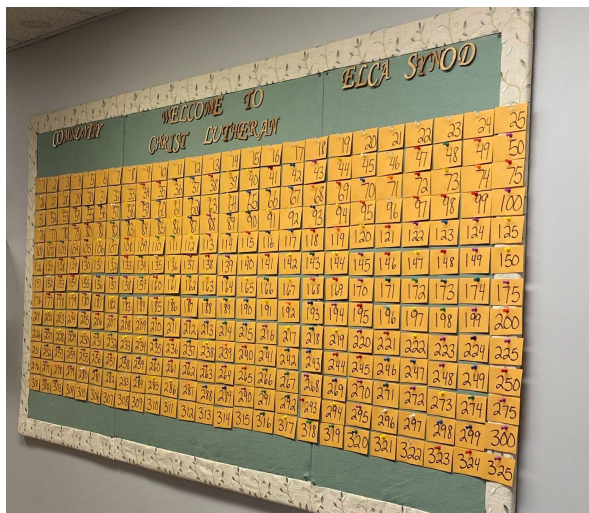
Dan Way

Council President

WELCA

WELCA has resumed in person meetings beginning in August. All women are welcome to attend as all women are members of this group. We typically meet the first Monday of the month at 6 pm, however, in September we will meet Tuesday, September 14th at 6 pm. Presently, we plan to hold a Carryout Only Turkey Dinner on November 6th. Although we will not have an open dining room, we are planning to serve 600 meals and will need lots of hands to do so. Please stay tuned for sign ups and opportunities to help us restore this tradition for Christ Lutheran! The South-Central Synod WELCA is hosting its biennial Convention at Lutherdale on September 24th and 25th. The theme is “Just Love in the Neighborhood.” Any woman at Christ Lutheran is welcome to attend, and our WELCA group will pay your registration! Please see Cindy Wuttke for details. Registration deadline is September 9th!

Help Christ Lutheran Fix the Bricks!



Our beautiful old bell tower is in need of repair. The bricks are deteriorating. Not fixing them soon will result in further damage to the building and could create a safety hazard as bricks begin to fall. Doing this project well so that it will last for years to come is the goal. It's a lofty goal, which will cost about \$52,000 once the project is completed. Our little church has always come through during times of need, and we have faith that this project can be a “towering” success!

If you want to help your church fix the bricks, you can! In an attempt to raise funds for the brick project, we should ‘fill the envelopes’. We have placed 325 numbered envelopes on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Each envelope represents the dollar amount of donation made to the project. For example, if a person wants to donate three dollars, they can choose the #3 envelope, or the #1 and #2 envelopes.

When donating, be sure to include your name on the envelope if you want a receipt for your records. Your donations can be mailed to the church, PO Box 346, Sharon WI 53585. You can also drop your donation in the offering plate. If you do not have an envelope, we will pull envelopes to match your donation. When all the envelopes have been claimed and filled with the appropriate dollar amount, we will have collected \$52,975.00. This is an easy and private method to collect funds to preserve our church building.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Please remember these people in your prayers: Cindy Bangert, Orson Bangert, family of Ginny Bursh, Tom Fredrick, Kim Jacobs, Erik Jelinek, Tom Kleiber, Mary Kline, Jean Kovarik, Marilyn Lowry, Ray Lowry, Bill Piculas, Janet Schilke, Jimmy Sheppard, Joy Smith, Flo Supay, Jacqueline Webster, Doris Wehrwein, and Toad Wenzel.

Please remember our members in care facilities:

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

Tom Kleiber is at St. Michael's Manor

St. Michael's Manor
% Tom Kleiber
1516 Russet
Racine, WI 53402

Tom Fredrick is at Delavan Health Services

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

Featured Family of the Month



The Hyndman Family - Both originally from Sharon, Josh and Katie met in 2011 at the Walworth County Fair. After building a house in Orfordville, WI and Katie (not so) patiently waiting, Josh finally popped the question in 2016! They were married in Burlington, WI in July 2017.

Josh and Katie moved to Orfordville, in 2014 as a more central point between

their jobs. Katie is the Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator at Taylor Company in Rockton, IL and Josh is the Water Utility Superintendent for the Village of Mount Horeb, WI. Josh and Katie welcomed twin baby girls, Avah Grace & Quinn Kristine on April 2, 2021. The girls were 7 weeks early but are thriving. Josh, Katie, Avah and Quinn enjoy going camping with their black and yellow labs, Ruger and Oden.

Whenever Josh has the spare time, he enjoys farming for his parents, hunting, golfing and teaching as a fire instructor at Madison Area Technical College (MATC). Katie enjoys crafting, sewing, organizing and spending time with friends and family. Josh, Katie and family plan to move back to the Sharon area sometime in 2022.



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

9/1 Laura Bursh	9/10 Josh Crump	9/18 Katelyn Jansen
9/1 Charlie Mizelle	9/11 Zoe LaFrance	9/20 Kaycee Fredrick
9/6 Peggy Rotta	9/12 Josh Kalb	9/27 Christa Jacobs
9/8 Marcus Hardt	9/13 Lawrence Diderich	9/29 Marilyn Lowry
9/8 Kim Jacobs	9/13 Tyler Frederick	9/30 Daniel Rambatt
	9/17 Jaxson Janes	

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

9/2 Randy & Cindy Wuttke

9/11 Steve & Kim Jacobs

9/14 Butch & Linda Schutt

Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations

9/2 Kenny Sheppard	9/10 Kyle Rambatt	9/18 Evie Barkholtz-Dowling
9/2 Kensington Frederick	9/17 Susie Rambatt	9/30 Wayne Smith

AMERICAN INDIAN ALASKA NATIVE LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION

July 23, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Creator, in the name of Jesus, Savior of all. We speak to you all today on behalf of the Indigenous people throughout North Americas. We come with sad hearts at the news of 215+ children of the Kamloops Residential School whose remains were recently found in a mass grave and of the children of the Rosebud Sioux whose bodies were returned to their homeland this past week. They are being remembered by many by the color orange.

The color orange is symbolic and came from the inspiration of a survivor of that era, Phyllis Webstad, who stated that when she was a 6-year-old girl arriving at a residential boarding school, she was stripped of her clothes which included a new orange t-shirt her grandmother had gifted her and was never given back. The orange shirt/color now symbolizes how the church and the schools they administered took away the Indigenous identity of the children in their care.

In honor and memory of the children of the First Nations people and of our Native children who never made it home, and for those still living the nightmare imposed on them as children of Canada and the United States we humbly ask our brothers and sisters of the church to hang an orange banner in the sanctuaries of your churches for 225 days. In remembrance and lament of each child that was thrown into those graves, and those yet to be discovered we honor each of their lives.

Please grieve with us and remember us as the Indigenous people of this land who are going through a very sad and heartbreaking time in our collective psyche. We invite all our Christian brothers and sisters, in solidarity with us, to honor all our First Nations and our Native children that never made it out of residential schools by hanging an orange banner for 225 days.

We now call on the Church to acknowledge and confess its complicity in all the atrocities committed against the Indigenous peoples of North America and throughout the world where western Christianity colonized Indigenous peoples. Please stand in partnership with us for the children.

The true history of the western church in America has been participation in acts of ethnic cleansing, genocide through warfare including biological and chemical, sterilization, depletion of our main food source, the taking of land and resources for personal gains. We ask you, the ELCA Church and Bishops Church leaders and congregations to support our people in remembering the children.

Many Tribal nations have had church groups offer apologies on behalf of their ancestors, which is well and good, but that only serves to assuage any feelings of guilt or shame for them and does not bring about true repentance. So in light of these past gestures we call upon the churches serving in the United States to advocate the U.S. Government to fully acknowledge all the atrocities it has committed against the indigenous peoples of this land now known as the United States of America and for the future of Christianity in Indian Country.

Wopila

In Christ,

Pr. Joann Conroy, President Loni Whitford Pr. Manuel Ratamoza, Vice President Vicar Jonathan Old Horse
Pr. Will Voss, Treasurer Pr. Jack Russel Kelly Sherman-Conroy Ph.D. Candidate, Secretary Amanda Straw
Pr. Larry Thiele, Incorporator Lisa Whitford Patterson Yazzie Teri Arlene