

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



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 346

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September

2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Worship	5	6 12:00-6:00 Blood Drive 6:00 - WELCA Meeting	7	8	9	10 6:00-8:00 Campfire with Christ - See flier below
11 *RALLYDAY* 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship *Backpack Blessing* 5:00 Mission Trip Shareholder' s Dinner	12	13	14 6:00 Council Meeting	15	16	17
18 *No Choir* 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship <i>'Be A Reader' Crash Course following worship!</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Choir 10:15 Worship <i>'Be An Acolyte' Crash Course following worship!</i>	26	27	28	29	30	

Christ Lutheran News

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A Word From the Pastor

The below article was circulating about 10 years ago. It first appeared in a blog called I am Totally *That* Mom. The article is by Jamie Bruesehoff, and she gave permission for people to share it in their publications if they gave her credit. I published the article in my church newsletter at the time because I felt like it was a message self-conscious, tired, church-going parents needed to hear. 10 years later, as I see my current church grow with children, and I hear from parents who worry that their children's moving bodies and voices are distracting to other worshippers, I feel the need to pass on this article again. I did not write it, but I completely agree with the author. Parents, thank you for bringing your children to church. We are blessed by their presence in worship, and they are learning so much by being a part of the worshiping community! I know that not all our young families have time to read the newsletter because they have many things going on. Please share this article with those who are doing the hard, important work of bringing their young children to church.

God's Peace, *Pastor Kalen Barkholtz*

Dear Parents of Young Children in Church,

You are doing something really, really important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and behave in worship. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echoes of "Amen" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people...and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family - with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy - are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 11th!

We will begin our fall worship schedule on September 11th with worship at 10:15 and Sunday school at 9:00. Please note that this worship time change takes place **after** Labor Day weekend. Worship on September 4th will still be at 9:00.

Blessing of Backpacks



All kids are welcome to bring their backpacks to worship on September 11th. We will have a special backpack blessing for all ages. Our backpacks go with us everyday to school and come home with us. Blessing backpacks is a way of asking God to be with us during the school year. Those who bring backpacks to daycare all the way through high school can come forward for a blessing.

Worship Volunteer Crash Courses

Are you interested in helping with worship, but don't sign up because you're not sure what to do? In the next weeks, we will be holding "crash courses" for kids interested in acolyting (lighting the candles before and after worship), lectors (those who read the scripture lessons and prayers during worship), communion assistants (those who help serve communion), and communion preparers (those who fill the wine cups, prepare the bread, and clean the communion dishes). These how-to meetings will be held on different Sundays after worship. If you are interested in volunteering in one of the areas, but cannot be at the meeting, contact Pastor Kalen and she will connect you with information.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Do you like to make a joyful noise? Are you looking for some fellowship while adding to the church service? Then come join the choir! We will resume choir on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am beginning September 11th. We would love to have you join us! Please see Cindy Wuttke if you have any questions.



Vacation Bible School Success!



We enjoyed a wonderful week of VBS. We had 45 children participate and 20 volunteers. Thank you to all who helped welcome children into the building and show them how much God loves them. Special thanks to Stacie Sheppard for her work in coordinating this year.

WELCA

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, September 6th at 6 pm. This meeting is open to all. It is time to begin planning for the turkey dinner. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please feel free to come and share.

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.

Bagged Lunch for Kids Provided by Christ Lutheran



This August members of Christ Lutheran assembled bagged lunches that were handed out on Thursdays in August at the library in Sharon. On Thursdays in August, the library provided materials for a take home craft. We supplied bagged lunches to be handed out on those days. Kids received a sandwich, fruit, vegetable, drink, chips, and a small treat. Many families rely on lunches at school to supplement their meal planning and budgeting. The end of the summer can be a difficult time for family budgets. We thought having once less lunch to provide might give families a little break. WELCA provided the funds for the meals. Thank you to all who helped with this ministry.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



Please remember these people in your prayers: Cindy Bangert, Orrin Bangert, Orson Bangert, Betty Chism, Jacob Friesema, Larry Hardt, Kim Jacobs, Erik Jelinek, Tom Kleiber, Jean Kovarik, Marjorie Krause, Bill Piculas, Janet Schilke, Joy Smith, and Ike Strasser.

Please remember our members in care facilities:

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

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

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

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

9/2 Randy & Cindy Wuttke
9/11 Steve & Kim Jacobs

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

BACK TO SCHOOL
CAMPFIRE WITH
CHRIST!



Join us for

SNACKS & S'MORES

September 10th

6-8 PM



Christ Lutheran Church

Bring your family & friends!