

THE MESSENGER

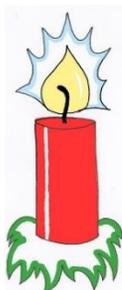
November 2019

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

EVENING SERVICES

Deer Hunter Service will be **Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 pm**. There will be a meal before the service at 5:15 pm. Tator Tot Hot Dish will be provided. Those that will be attending are asked to bring something to add to the meal. Suggestions to bring are cheese, sausage, rolls, butter, pickles, veggies, salad, desserts, milk, juice, or coffee. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on **Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 pm**.



Advent Services

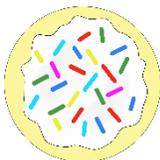
will be at **6:30 pm** on **December 4, 11, and 18**.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Each year, the secularization of Christmas pushes the celebration of Christmas earlier and earlier. **Christmas for Kids** is offering a time to help our children focus on the reason for the season, Christ.

On **Saturday, December 14** from **9:00 am to noon** we will be providing a morning of fun and fellowship at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for **kids in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 5**. Congregation members are encouraged to invite friends and family members to attend the event. Sign up on the narthex bulletin board to register.

Anyone wishing to donate some unfrosted sugar cookies for the children to decorate or a container of sprinkles or other decorations, contact Cynthia Varnum at 715-360-1622.



In this Messenger:

- 1) Evening Services
- 1) Christmas for Kids
- 2) Pastor Behm's Devotion - Romans 1:16
- 3) November Calendar
- 4) Church 360 Training
- 4) Chili Cook-off
- 4) Youth Leaf Raking
- 4) Youth Group Meeting
- 4) WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership
- 4) Email Sign-up
- 4) Birthdays
- 5) Feature: Choir
- 5) Feature: Youth Group
- 6) Education Updates
- 6) On the Lighter Side



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Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone

**“I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”**

(Romans 1:16)

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses speaking out against the abuses of the selling of indulgences. At Luther’s time the people were led to believe that they could buy their way into heaven. Martin Luther spoke against this false teaching, and the events that followed led to the Reformation of the Christian Church.

Two years ago, Lutherans throughout the world celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation...except me. Please understand, I fully wanted to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, but my mind was focused on something else. October 31, 2017 was the day of my grandmother’s funeral. On this day my mind was focused on countless various thoughts, and one of these thoughts was me wondering, “Why can’t I be celebrating the 500th anniversary of Reformation instead of mourning at my grandmother’s funeral?” Yet, on that same day, I realized that actually I was celebrating Reformation because, although I was mourning, I was rejoicing that my grandmother was saved.

Celebrating the Reformation is not about focusing on Martin Luther; rather, celebrating the Reformation is focusing on how God used Martin Luther. God used Martin Luther and the other reformers to bring **the message of the gospel** back to light. The people realized that they were no longer saved by their good works or by purchasing indulgences. Rather the people realized that they were **saved by grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone**.

This was the main message of the Reformation, and not because the Reformation made up this message, but because the Reformation clearly focused on what the gospel tells us. The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Think of how powerful the gospel is in our lives. When we deal with the guilt of our sins and how we constantly disobey God, we are still saved because of **God’s grace**, his undeserved love for us, which Jesus won for us. When we wonder if our faith is strong enough to save us, we are still saved because it is not the strength of our faith that saves us but the fact that our **faith** is connected to Jesus who has saved us. When we doubt if we are truly believers, we are still saved because it is **Scripture** that saves us because through God’s Word the Holy Spirit, who creates faith, enters into our hearts.

So, when I was at my grandmother’s funeral on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I could still rejoice and celebrate because my grandmother believed in Jesus and, therefore, she was saved. And this same joy, certainty, and comfort is for us all because this is what God’s Word tells us, which is what the Reformation focused on. Therefore, as we celebrate the Reformation, let the truths of the Reformation not only apply to us now but also to each day in our lives.

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	4 5:00 Board of Christian Education Meeting	5 6:00 Fellowship Committee Meeting	6 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Choir Practice	7 11:30 OWLS Meeting	8	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class 11:45 Chili Cook-off	11 6:00 Women's Bible Study	12 6:30 Council Meeting	13 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 5:00 Youth Group Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice	14	15	16 9:00 Men's Bible Study
17 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	18	19	20 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 5:15 Potluck Supper 6:30 Deer Hunter Worship Service 7:30 Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	25	26	27 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	28	29	30 9:00 Children's Christmas Service Practice

CHURCH 360 TRAINING WEBINARS

Training will be offered at church or may be done at home. Contact Ken Cerney at 715-218-5393 for more information.

Getting Started

Thursday, October 31 at 8:00 am

Tracking Church Attendance

Thursday, October 31 at 9:30 am

Recording Offerings

Friday, November 1 at 12:30 pm

Generating Reports

Monday, November 4 at 12:30 pm

CHILI COOK-OFF: As the weather is turning colder, it's time to bring out your favorite chili recipes. Whose chili is the best??? Bring your chili to our annual taste testing and see if it's yours! If you don't want to bring chili but love to eat it, bring your taste buds and help determine the winner. This year's event will be **Sunday, November 10** starting about **11:45 am**. Please sign up on the Fellowship Board in the narthex whether competing or judging. The **Green Bay Packer game** will also be playing so fans can cheer them on against the Carolina Panthers.

YOUTH GROUP LEAF RAKING: Thank you to those who participated in the leaf raking event. Fun was had by all, and the work performed was much appreciated.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING: will be **Wednesday, November 13th** at **5:00 pm**. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: will take place on **Sunday, December 1** at 11:30 am. Everyone is invited to help.



WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP**

January 21-23, 2020

Chicago, IL

Registration Fee: \$249 before Oct. 31
\$289 after Oct. 31

The conference is open to men and women and includes 5 keynote sessions and more than 20 breakout sessions to choose from.

Visit lutheranleadership.com for more information. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jacob Marheine or Scott Schult.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST! Christ Lutheran is building an email contact list for members, visitors and friends of the congregation. If you or someone you know would like to receive news, updates, alerts or Bible Study materials in your email inbox, visit www.christmerrill.com/email and fill out the form to sign up. We are building our database with plans to begin email campaigns soon. Paper copies will continue to be printed for those not signed up for the email service.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Gladys Hintze	17	Jeffrey Plummer
3	Phillip Marheine	17	Alvin Kleinschmidt
5	Kaylynn Zeinert	18	Tom Duerr
7	Kelly Varnum	19	Paul Waliczek
11	Eileen Luedtke	20	Tim Woller
11	Rebekka Huth	21	Wanda Kleinschmidt
12	Diane Zimmerman	22	Renee Stockowitz
14	Nadia Schmidt	23	Dave Edelberg
16	Jackie Johnson	25	James Cordova
		26	Lorna Pfaff

Would you prefer your name to be printed in a different way than above in the future? Put a note in the Messenger mailbox.

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20th of this month to Messenger@ChristMerrill.com or place them in the Messenger slot located in the top row of church mailboxes in the narthex.

CHOIR

Any confirmed member who enjoys singing is welcome to participate in the adult choir. No special musical skills are required. The choir is as much a social group as it is a musical group. Anyone who plays an instrument is also welcome to accompany the choir for selected songs.



The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from mid-September to early May and sings during church services for Reformation, Thanksgiving, Advent, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter and Confirmation.



For more information or to join, contact choir director Jennifer Heisinger after a church service or call her at 715-536-4180.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is for all church members in **grades 6-12**. The youth group meets about 5 times during the school year and holds activities throughout the year. The youth group **rakes leaves** for members' yards each fall and offers a **car wash** in May; donations for these projects help to pay for other events.



An ongoing **fundraiser** for the youth group is the weekly sale of the Sunday Wausau Daily Herald. **The paper can be purchased in the church entryway for \$2.25.**

During the past year the youth group invited youth from other WELS churches and other friends to participate in a **lock-in** at church, a **movie** and **bowling** event, **roller-skating** outing, and a day trip to **Bay Beach Amusement Park**.



For more information, contact Youth Group leaders Willi and Jennifer Heisinger after a church service or call 715-536-4180.

EDUCATION UPDATES

If you have **missed a Bible study** at church or are unable to attend, you can pick up the study handouts to take home. They are located in the clear rack to the right of the Education bulletin board which is located at the top of the stairs in the narthex.

Mark your calendar:



The Teen Bible Class is starting a new series called, "**How Can I Get Along Better...**" that deals with family, friends, people of other cultures, those who do not share my beliefs, and more. **Youth in grades 6-12** are invited to attend **Teen Bible Classes** on **Sundays at 10:30 am**.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

12 reasons Christians don't attend sporting events

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. Every time I went, they asked for money.
3. The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
4. The seats were very hard.
5. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites – they only came to see what others were wearing!
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled on my only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

<http://christianfunnypictures.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/sporting-events-christian.jpg>