

# THE MESSENGER

September 2021

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Fall Kick-off

On **September 12** there will be multiple ways to experience Christian community as we welcome in the fall season:



The church will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items throughout the morning. Items may be placed in the wooden box in the narthex. Everything collected will be taken to the local food pantry.

Enjoy some time with others and a snack after the 9am worship service in the basement.



*Everyone* (adults and children) is invited to come to help kickoff the new season of Bible studies by making crafts and playing games starting at 10:30.



After 11:30 there will be a meal with a main dish provided. In order to help provide an estimate for how much is needed, please sign up on the fellowship bulletin board by September 5.

Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share.



### In this Messenger:

- 1) Fall Kick-off
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) September Weekly Schedule
- 4) Worship Livestream
- 4) Services on the Air
- 4) Worship Service Updates
- 4) Gather for Worship
- 4) Greeters & Fellowship Host Signups
- 5) Roadside Cleanup
- 5) Men's Bible Study
- 5) WELS Convention
- 5) *Meditations* Signup
- 5) Birthdays
- 5) Sunday School & Teen Bible Study Updates
- 5) Prayer Partners
- 5) Christmas for Kids
- 6) Ironmen of God Conference
- 7-8) Meet Our Members



715-536-3313  
www.christmerrill.com  
www.facebook.com/christmerrill  
1204 N. Sales Street | Merrill, WI 54452



# Why did God Bring This Tragedy?

“Be still, and know that I am God...The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress” (Psalm 46:10,11)

It was a Tuesday morning, and I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To my left was my fellow classmate, Ryan, as we shared a table together in the front of the classroom. The principal came into the classroom to deliver a special announcement. This didn't surprise me since the principal made an announcement the day before, and I thought this announcement would just be an update on what he said earlier. But the principal told us that our nation was under attack. The date was September 11, 2001. This is where I was and what I was doing when I heard the news, and you probably have your own memories of where you were and what you were doing when you heard the news.

It has now been 20 years since this tragedy happened. When the tragedy happened many people were asking, **“Why did God bring this tragedy?”** One answer to that question is because **God brings tragedies to move people to repent.** But why do people need to be moved to repent? Well, unbelievers don't care about the seriousness of their sins, but a tragedy can make them see that they need forgiveness. For us believers, it should be a given that we would repent everyday, but there can be times that we don't do that. **Therefore a tragedy, whether it's national or personal, can move us to seek God and his forgiveness.**

Another answer to the question, “Why did God bring this tragedy” is what God said in Psalm 46, “Be still, and know that I am God.” God doesn't reveal everything about his will and purposes to us. His ways and his thoughts are higher than our ways and thoughts. What God has revealed to us is everything we need to know about him and salvation. So when God does things we don't fully understand, he tells us to be still and know that he is God. And what is our God like? Our God is love. **Everything God does is done out of love even when he brings tragedies because God works for the good of those who love him.**

But not only is our God love, he is also almighty. He is our fortress. I would encourage you to read Psalm 46, and you will see how he is our fortress. This Psalm mentions how God is our ever-present help in trouble. We don't have to fear a single thing even if the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. God is with us. We will not fall. God will help us at the break of day. **So even when tragedies, such as 9/11 or personal tragedies, happen we can trust that God will help us and protect us for he is almighty and our fortress.**

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower  Fall Family Camp @ Camp Phillip (Fri-Mon)	4
5 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	6	7	8	9 6:30 pm Ad hoc Constitution and Bylaw Committee	10	11 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
12 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Fall Kick-off	13	14 6:30 pm Council Meeting	15 9:00 am Adult Bible Study  4:15 pm Catechism	16	17	18
19 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Education Hour	20 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	21 6:30 pm Council Budget Meeting	22 9:00 am Adult Bible Study  4:15 pm Catechism	23	24	25 Iron Men of God Conference
26 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Education Hour	27	28	29 9:00 am Adult Bible Study  4:15 pm Catechism	30		

# September Weekly Schedule

## Sundays

**8:00 am** **Worship Service with Guidelines** such as distancing, face masks, reduced touch, etc.

**9:00 am** **Worship Service** (traditional format)

**10:00 am** (*starting Sep. 12*) **Fellowship Time**

People are welcome to stay past 10:30 am to enjoy additional fellowship time in the basement.

**10:20-10:30** (*Sep. 19 & 26*) **Children's Group Time** (for youth in grades PreK – 12) **in the basement**

**10:30-11:30** (*starting Sep. 19*) **Sunday School & Teen Bible Study** in the basement,  
**Adult Bible Study** in the sanctuary

## Wednesdays (*starting Sep. 15*)

**9:00 am** **Adult Bible Study** in the basement

**4:15-5:45** **Catechism Class** (for youth in grades 6-8) **in the basement**

## Worship Livestream

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church provides an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services** (9:00 am). Subscribe to the YouTube channel (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.

## Services on the Air

A Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church worship service is on the air **Sunday mornings at 8:00 am** on 96.3FM, 730AM, and streaming at [bluejay963.com](http://bluejay963.com), Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).

### UPDATES TO TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES

**STARTING IN SEPTEMBER:** The worship needs survey resulted in about 80% of households indicating they would prefer the worship service to average one hour. An effort will be made to accommodate this preference, though some services, especially on communion Sundays, could last longer than 60 minutes. Additionally, an offering hymn will continue to be a part of non-communion worship services. The worship leader may diversify the hymns used to add variety. Lastly, parishioners will be ushered to the communion table in groups of 16. This number was chosen to create an opportunity for more space between people.

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP:** The pandemic made us realize how God blesses us when we gather and how much we miss it when we can't. Feel free to personally, and respectfully, encourage attendance of fellow members whom you may not have seen in worship for a while. Starting this month, the Elders will begin to lovingly address attendance concerns with strayed, or straying, individual members.

**GREETERS and FELLOWSHIP sign-up sheets:** There are two sign-up sheets asking for volunteers to serve as greeters at the 9:00 am service and/or to host fellowship after the service. Thank you to all who volunteer.

**COMING SOON:** Opportunity for able-bodied people to participate in the cleanup of a section of Hwy G that our church sponsors. Watch upcoming bulletins for date and time.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is held at 9:00 am on the **second Saturday** of the month in the church basement. Neil Varnum will lead the study on the book of Job. **To join the class virtually**, use this link: <https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=m009f131e1cbdced169578ba2886bb5f4>

**WELS SYNOD CONVENTION:** WELS held its biennial synod convention July 26-28. Visit [wels.net/2021synodconvention](https://wels.net/2021synodconvention) to catch up on all the news from the convention, see photos, watch the archived livestream, view presentations and videos, and access the committees' reports and resolutions.

**MEDITATIONS SIGN UP:** *Meditations* is an inspiring, personal devotional booklet offering daily Scripture-based, soul-searching studies of God's Word. Each meditation is clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayer for each day. *Meditations* provides scriptural guidance and encouragement for daily living. **To get a copy of this periodical for the upcoming church year, please sign-up on the narthex bulletin board or call 715-921-5132 by September 19.**

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jaycie Stockowitz	11 Andy Schmidt
6 Billie Revie	14 Danielle Boehm
10 Don Pagels	18 Alexei (Losha) Heisinger
11 Blake Griesbach	29 Tom Stockowitz

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to the Messenger slot in the top row of narthex mailboxes or email [Messenger@ChristMerrill.com](mailto:Messenger@ChristMerrill.com).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & TEEN BIBLE STUDY UPDATES

Room capacity numbers will remain in place and air will continue to be circulated into the rooms. It will be up to the individual to take other precautions such as spacing, wearing a mask, etc. The following groups will meet in designated areas with their teachers:

**Grades Pre-Kindergarten-1** (Faith classroom):  
Mrs. Deana Jankowsky

**Grades 4-6** (Joy classroom): Mrs. Ellen Cerney

**Grades 7-12 Teen Bible Study**  
(Kindness classroom): Mr. Willi Heisinger

#### Typical Sunday Schedule (September-May)

10:00-10:30 Fellowship

10:30-11:30 Sunday School, Teen Bible Study

Either **Children's Choir** will be held from **10:05-10:15** (in the sanctuary) or **Group Time** from **10:20-10:30** (in the basement) on a particular Sunday. Please check the church calendar or ask a teacher for specifics.

**PRAYER PARTNER SIGNUP:** A prayer partner is an adult member of the congregation who will encourage and pray for one or two children of our Sunday School (grades PreKindergarten-6) during the coming school year. Participants will receive a packet of cards that may be given to the children throughout the year to encourage them in their Christian faith and Sunday School participation. Please sign up on the service bulletin board to volunteer.

### CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS COORDINATOR

**NEEDED:** One or more individuals are needed to plan activities, coordinate other volunteers, assemble goodies, etc. Contact Scott Schult or email [christmerrilleducation@gmail.com](mailto:christmerrilleducation@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer.



# Sharpen Your Faith.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

- PROVERBS 27:17 -

## 2021 IRONMEN OF GOD CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER

25

8am - 2pm



N8345 Park Street  
Ixonia, WI

Join us at the **2021 Ironmen of God Conference** to hear some great speakers, strengthen each other's faith, and have a fantastic catered lunch.

Register Today & Learn More At: [ironmenofgodwi.org](https://ironmenofgodwi.org)

### This Year's Speakers

**Pastor Ben Sadler**  
Victory of the Lamb  
Franklin, WI

**Pastor Peter Zaferos**  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
Suamico, WI

**Pastor Richard Warnecke**  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Pewaukee, WI

**Pastor Greg Lyon**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College  
Milwaukee, WI

# Meet our Members



## Eileen Luedtke

Parents: Walter & Virginia Luedtke  
(past members, deceased)

**Job Title:** Strawberry Farm worker

**About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church?** 18

**Share a Bible verse that is a favorite of yours.** Psalm 23:1

**What are your hobbies?** Bicycling around town

**What book do you enjoy most?** The Bible

**What is your favorite holiday?** Christmas



## Sonia Thoun

Parents: Matt & Diane

Sister: Danielle

**Favorite school classes and what you enjoy about them?** English/Language Arts because I like to read and write; Math and Social Studies because I like the homework they give.

**Favorite types of books?** Fantasy and Historical Fiction. **Favorite authors?** J.K. Rowling, Rick Riordan, Richard Peck.

**Which states have you lived in or visited?** Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana, Montana, Florida

**What church-related activities do you most enjoy?** I like Sunday School and learning about God's Word.

**What pets do you have?** I have had 2 dogs before and they were very cute and nice. We also had 2 barn cats; they were nice because they killed the mice. We had 2 horses that we looked after for 6 months. Now we have one dog named Hank and he is naughty.

*In an effort to promote the feeling of community and friendship amongst church members, the Messenger will periodically feature one or more individuals of our congregation. Questionnaires are available for all members below the narthex mailboxes. Completed forms can be placed in the Messenger slot in the top row of narthex mailboxes. Information can also be submitted using this Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/oGZcXKTbpa5mPW8K8>*



## Danielle Thoun

Parents: Matt & Diane

Sister: Sonia

**Favorite school classes and what you enjoy about them?** Art because I am a little crafty and Music because it is entertaining.

**Favorite book?** Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling

**What church-related activities do you most enjoy?** Camp Phillip because of the campfire skits.

**What's your favorite way to spend a day off?** Watching YouTube videos.

**What topic would you like to learn more about?** Horses

## Meet our Members



### **Mike and Lynda Kropp**

**Married** 43 years

**Children:** Melisa, Amanda, Matthew, Danielle

**Grandchildren:** Alexia, Bentley

#### Mike

**Job Title:** Lead Loader

#### **General workday**

**duties:** Load steel to go to job sites; keep co-workers under me working.

**About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church?** 26

**Share a memory of the church from when you first started attending.**

How friendly the members were when we joined

**What positions of service do you have within the church?**

Treasurer, Elder

**How many states have you lived in or visited?** Ten

**What is your favorite sport to watch?**

Football with family and friends

#### Lynda

**Daily activities:** Keep our house in order; Cook meals; Care for my father-in-law; Enjoy the beauty around me.

**About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church?** 26

**Share a memory of the church from when you first started attending.** Pastor Lillo was here. We felt so welcomed by all the members when we joined. Just like an extended family.

**What positions of service do you have within the church? What do you enjoy about serving in those capacities?** Prayer partner: it is nice to be part of children's world. I mail sermons to shut-ins, birthday cards to members, and notes to visitors. I like staying connected to the members and friends we have at Christ Lutheran.

**Share a Bible passage that is a favorite of yours and tell why it is meaningful to you.**

Psalm 55:22 My Confirmation verse. It's what I live by.

**What are your hobbies?** Making blankets for babies

**What's your favorite way to spend a day off?** Read or spend time outdoors in good weather

**What types of books do you enjoy most?** Variety

**What type of pet do you have?** A dog named Sully

**What is an activity you enjoy doing with your children or grandchildren?** Having picnics or get-togethers

**What is your favorite holiday tradition?** Spending it with family

**What is your favorite sport to watch?** Packers

I enjoy spending time with family and friends. My family is what I like to think of as my richest blessing – I am truly blessed. God is good! I also enjoy visiting with others. I can't always get around, but I can visit in a phone conversation or sometimes have visitors at my home or get together somewhere else. Every day is a blessing.