

THE MESSENGER

July 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Open Forum

On Sunday, **July 10**, there will be an open forum in the church basement starting at 10:00 am. An open forum is an avenue to have an informal discussion on various topics. Topics to be discussed are the church picnic, fall worship service schedule, input on using *A God Lived Life* stewardship challenge, and feedback on the new hymnal demo. All are welcome to attend.

Voters' Meeting

The quarterly Voters' Meeting will be **Sunday, July 24**, starting at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. Topics to be voted on include electing two delegates to Northland Lutheran High School, the church picnic worship service start time, the fall worship service schedule, and a report on what happened at the district convention. **To receive a link to the live meeting email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com.**

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 – 10:00 am **Worship Service**

Monday 6:30 – 7:30 pm **Worship Service** (no service will be held on July 4)

The summer worship schedule has worship services being conducted in the traditional format on Sundays and Mondays. Please provide feedback about services through your elder or via email to elders@christmerrill.com.

Updated Communion Procedure

Holy Communion will be available on the first and third Sundays of the month and on Mondays following a Sunday with Holy Communion. To accommodate the differing spacing needs of members, ushers will bring tables of 20 forward like normal, then come back around a second time after assistants have communed to usher those who desire more spacing in groups of 10 or less; Pastor will handle distribution of both bread and wine for the latter format. Please reach out to Pastor Behm or your elder for any clarification.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Open Forum
- 1) Voters' Meeting
- 1) Summer Worship
- 1) Communion Procedure Update
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Service Opportunities
- 4) Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4) Thanks for Serving
- 4) Friendship Registers
- 4) New Hymnal Service Usage
- 4) Softball Games
- 5) Worship Services Online & On Air
- 5) NLHS Wildcat Open
- 5-6) Pictures



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God and Government

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

On July 4th we will be celebrating the birth of our nation. Ever since the Declaration of Independence was signed **the Lord has greatly blessed our nation**. He blesses our nation with bountiful harvests. He has blessed our nation by making us incredibly prosperous. Since the Civil War he has blessed our nation by not having any wars fought in our country. He has blessed our nation with a government that has provided us with multiple freedoms that other nations do not have.

But what if our nation was no longer prosperous? What if our government removed certain freedoms from us? What if our government becomes corrupt and ungodly? As Christians how are we to respond? We follow what God tells us in the fourth commandment. **We respect, honor, and submit ourselves to the governing authorities**. The Israelites in the Old Testament submitted themselves to the Persian government even though the Persians didn't worship the true God. Paul told the Christians to submit to Roman government even though they would persecute and kill Christians. Jesus himself submitted to the Roman emperor who viewed himself as a god. So even if our own government becomes corrupt and ungodly we still submit to them.

And think of this, what sticks out more: Christians submitting to a government that we approve or Christians submitting to a government that we don't approve and a government that harms us? Certainly, the latter sticks out more. Even unbelievers submit to governments they approve of, but if we submit to a government we don't approve of and possibly harms us that shows true Christian love. This is why **God wants us to pray for those in authority**. Let us pray for them that God will help them to rule justly so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. And even if the government won't rule justly, we still pray for them to be brought to faith. This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved.

Therefore as we celebrate the birth of our nation on the Fourth of July, let us pray to God thanking him for greatly blessing our nation. Let us pray to God thanking him for giving us government to protect us, to establish peace for us, and to give us certain freedoms. Let us pray for our government to rule justly and that their work will not be a burden for them but a blessing for them and us. And let us pray for all people to be brought to faith in God their Savior who died for all and wants all to be saved.

- Pastor Neal Behm

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	2
3 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	4 <i>No Worship Service</i>	5	6	7 4:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	8 7:10 pm WELS Night @ Am Fam Park	9 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
10 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Open Forum 3:30 pm Softball @ St. John's	11 6:30 pm Worship	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	18 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	19	20	21	22	23 Softball Lower Tournament (Sat. & Sun.) @ Immanuel, Corning
24 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Voters' Quarterly Meeting	25 6:30 pm Worship	26 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	27	28	29	30 Softball Upper Tournament (Sat. & Sun.) @ St. John's, Hamburg
31 9:00 am Worship						

8:00 am Sundays - worship service on the radio (96.3FM, 730AM)

9:00 am Sundays - worship service on **Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS** YouTube channel

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? Find a WELS church in which to worship at <https://yearbook.wels.net/>.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are in need of volunteer(s) to serve as **church custodian**. Also, we are in need for people to help with **lawn mowing**. You may talk with Larry W. if you are interested in serving. Thank you to all who volunteer.

EDUCATION MINISTRY: Are you a voting member that has an interest in having a direct voice on the educational happenings of our church? One way to provide that input is by serving as an **active member on the Board of Christian Education**. Please contact Scott S. or email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com to ask questions or express an interest.

AUDIO/VIDEO BOOTH TRAINING:

Currently we know of a couple of individuals who wish to assist with the Audio/Video (A/V) Booth and livestreaming/recording the services. At this time, we are planning to conduct training in August and will get in touch with those who have expressed interest. Anybody wishing to help on a rotating basis please let Ken C. know so you can be notified of the training time and date.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Patrick K.	15 Vicki L.
3 Ariana R.	16 Ken C.
3 Kayoda R.	19 Brian S.
9 Larry W.	20 Deana J.
10 Lynda K.	23 Peggy B.
13 Seth L.	25 Jennifer H.
13 Nikki S.	29 Bonnie H.
13 Cynthia V.	30 Nick C.
14 Carl C.	



JULY ANNIVERSARY

July 3 – Ken & Ellen C.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING

Road Trip Route 3:16 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL has come to an end. Thank you to the many volunteers who brought and served food, welcomed attendees, led devotions, taught lessons, led group singing and craft times, supervised recess, and engaged youth through active games.

Thank you to **Lori N.** for all her years of service as church custodian.

Thanks to **Scott S., Colleen S., Katelyn S., Derek S., and Ken C.** for operating the AV booth equipment for livestreaming worship services and meetings over the past year. Special thanks to Colleen for developing the service operations checklist.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

Everyone is welcome to be a spectator at the Christ Lutheran/ Mountain of the Lord/ Trinity, Berlin softball games this season. July games include:



Sunday, July 10 at 3:30 pm at St. John's, Hamburg
vs. First Riverside/Our Saviour's, Merrill

Saturday & Sunday, July 23-24 at Immanuel, Corning
Lower League Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, July 30-31 at St. John's, Hamburg
Upper League Tournament

FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS: All those who attend worship are asked to use the pew friendship registers to indicate attendance and other needs and to update contact information.

NEW HYMNAL SERVICE USAGE: During communion services, attendees will have an opportunity to experience *The Service Setting 1* from the new hymnal on a trial basis. One new hymn will also be selected. Please reach out to Pastor Behm or your elder with feedback.

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, Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).



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.



28th Annual Wildcat Open

All proceeds benefit
Northland Lutheran High School Athletics
and Engineering Programs

Pine Valley Golf Course
Saturday, August 13, 2022
10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

\$80/Adult (19 & over)
\$45/Student (18 & under)
*Entry Fee covers 18 holes,
cart, meal, chance at door
prizes*

Four-Person Scramble
Singles, Doubles,
Triples Welcome

Sponsorship Opportunities :
Major Sponsor/\$500 & up
Co-Hole Sponsor/\$300



*Please register by August 1 at nlhs.org
Questions may be directed to Beth Krueger,
414-534-1463 or kruegerbeth@yahoo.com*





Youth from grades 5-12 washed cars in May to raise funds for youth group activities. Pictured left to right: Nicole, Dawson, Derek, Katelyn, Sonia, Adeline, Megan, Danielle, Kaylynn.

May Roadside Cleanup and Church Cookout



Pictured left to right: Leon, Scott, Larry, Henry, Jennifer, Jackie, Willi, Katelyn, Derek, Al



Scott, Pastor



Diane, Katelyn, Marion



Derek



Lois, Larry, Katelyn



Phil, Lisa, Dan



Pastor, Marion, Phil, Lisa



Leon, Jennifer, Henry



Diane, Al