

THE MESSENGER

June 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekly Worship Schedule through June 5

Sunday 8:00 – 8:30 am **Worship Service with Guidelines** such as distancing, face masks, reduced touch, etc.

Sunday 9:00 – 10:00 am **Worship Service** conducted in a traditional format

Summer Weekly Worship Schedule beginning June 12

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 will start June 12th, with worship services being conducted in the traditional format on Sunday at 9:00 am and Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. We are blessed to have such a loving congregation that cares for the various needs of fellow members. Please be mindful of those who need space. This worship service schedule will run through the summer months of June, July and August. Please continue to provide feedback about services through your elder or via email to elders@christmerrill.com; the Board of Elders will continue to evaluate the worship service schedule and offerings in light of the congregation's needs.

Communion Procedure starting June 19 and 20

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.

Friendship Registers

With the return to traditional services starting June 12 and 13, all those who attend worship are asked to use the pew friendship registers to indicate attendance and other needs and to update contact information.

In this Messenger:

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Rejoice in the Light

Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. (Isaiah 60:20)

What are your favorite days of the year? Maybe it's Christmas or other holidays. Maybe it's your birthday or anniversary. Maybe it's a day that's only special to you and no one else. If you were to ask my father about his favorite day of the year it would be the day of the summer solstice which is the longest day of the year. Countless times I witnessed my father sitting on his deck watching the sun set on this day.

It's interesting how often Scripture talks about light. The first thing God created was light. Jesus calls himself the light of the world. In the passage above it mentions how the sun and its light will never set again.

But why does Scripture emphasize light so much? It's because night is often associated with things that are negative. During the night it becomes colder and we become tired. During the night typically crimes and other sinful actions happen. During troubles we often view this as times of darkness.

This is why **the message of Scripture that in heaven the sun and its light will never set gives us comfort.** In heaven we won't have to worry about becoming cold or tired because those things won't exist. In heaven we won't have to be afraid of crimes or acts of sin happening because we will all be perfect. In heaven we won't have to worry about troubles because God will keep all of those things from us.


But do we deserve this glorious light of heaven? We don't. By nature we are spiritually blind to the glorious message of God's Word and won't accept it. By nature we are spiritually sinful; we commit countless crimes against God which separate us from God. By nature, because of our sins, we deserve times of trouble and hardship in life.

But the Lord our God didn't want us to remain in the darkness of sin. **The Lord our God sent the Holy Spirit to reveal the light of the gospel to see how much God loves us. Jesus, the light of the world, suffered and died on the cross for our sins.** This is why the sky during the middle of the day became dark when he was crucified because he was being punished for our sins. But then the Lord our God raised Jesus from the dead at daylight of that first Easter morning to assure us that since Jesus lives he is preparing a place for us in heaven where we will have no troubles anymore.

So let us rejoice in the light we have in God. Since he has revealed his gospel to us, since he suffered and died for us, since he rose from the dead for us, we all have the promise of the eternal light of heaven which will never end.

- Pastor Neal Behm

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 pm VBS supper 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	2	3 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	4 11:30 am Youth Group @ Skate City
5 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 1:30 pm Softball @ Faith	6 District Convention No Worship Service	7 District Convention	8 5:00 pm VBS supper 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	9	10	11 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
12 9:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Softball @ St. John's	13 6:30 pm Worship	14 6:30 pm Council Meeting	15 5:00 pm VBS supper 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	16	17 Family Fest @ Camp Phillip (through Sunday)	18 12:00 pm Camp Phillip Annual Meeting
19 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 1:30 pm Softball @ Faith	20 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	21 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	22 5:00 pm VBS supper 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Softball @ St. John's	27 6:30 pm Worship	28 WELS International Youth Rally (through July 1)	29 5:00 pm VBS supper 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School	30		

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

Road Trip Route 3:16 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (FOR ALL AGES) Remember that Vacation Bible school is held **every Wednesday in June at 5 pm**. It's time to learn God's Word, meet new friends, and have lots of fun as we take a VBS road trip. If you haven't registered, that's okay! For more information talk with Colleen or Scott, email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com or call 715-536-3313.

NEW HYMNAL SERVICE USAGE:

Starting with the June 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.



LONGEST FISH CONTEST: June 4 & 5 (This is the 'free fishing' weekend) **Take a picture of yourself with your fish next to a tape and text it with your name to 715-351-0972** or bring it along to the **potluck meal on Sunday, June 5 at 5:00 pm** (some fish will be provided for meal). No fish on your line this weekend? Come anyway to enjoy the meal and share your fishing tales.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY will be held at 9:00 am on **Saturday, June 11** in the church basement. Neil V. is leading the study on the book of *Job*. This group will continue to meet during the summer on the second Saturday of each month.

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. June games include:



Sunday, June 5 at 1:30 pm at Faith, Maine
vs. St. Paul's, Pine River

Sunday, June 12 at 1:30 pm at St. John's, Hamburg
vs. St. John's, Hamburg/ Faith, Maine

Sunday, June 19 at 1:30 pm at Faith, Maine
vs. St. Peter, Schofield/ Grace, Maine

Sunday, June 26 at 1:30 pm at St. John's, Hamburg
vs. Immanuel, Corning/ St. Paul, Hamburg



TOM M. SUPPORT: At the **June 5 1:30 softball game** at Faith, everybody is welcome to wear their **Team Tommy** shirt (or an orange one). The intent is to show support for Tom as he continues his treatments this summer. He has been a member and leader of the softball team for a number of years. Please note that for people coming from Merrill that CTH K will be closed south of CTH FF. Take CTH FF to 60th Avenue to Rainbow Drive.

EDUCATION SURVEYS: During the month of June members will have an opportunity to participate in two surveys that will be on one back-to-back piece of paper. The first one deals with various Bible studies and the second is for the *Growing Together in Christ* study. This is being done in an effort to meet the needs of our congregation. Please return the survey back to the survey mailbox by **June 27**.

BEN STAHOSKI AWARD: This annual award is given out to a catechism class youth that can recite all the books of the Bible in order in the fastest time. This year **Derek** had the fastest time of **37.49 seconds**.

CALLING COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS!

Are you heading to college this fall? Do you know someone who is going to college? Don't leave your faith life at home! Sign up with WELS Campus Ministry to get connected with the local campus pastor near your school and to receive free copies of *Meditations* devotions and *Forward in Christ* magazine. Sign up at wels.net/college.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 Megan C. | 19 Michael K. |
| 4 Sullivan R. | 20 Leon M. |
| 9 Terry F. | 23 James D. |
| 9 Ruth K. | 23 Katelyn S. |
| 12 Nicole Z. | 25 Alan Z. |
| 13 Brad D. | 30 Adelin D. |
| 15 Robert S. | |

JUNE ANNIVERSARY

June 23 Cody & Leah G.

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).



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: There is a wooden collection bin in the narthex for non-perishable food and toiletry items for the Merrill Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off whenever the church is open.

THRIVENT CHOICE: Thrivent Choice® provides a platform for members to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. **Monies designated for Christ Lutheran Church are placed into the P-16 Tuition Assistance Fund.** Please call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" or visit thriventchoice.com for more information.

Are you struggling with talking to your friends and neighbors about God's love? **Let's Go** is designed to encourage and equip Christians to connect unchurched people in their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It consists of seven lessons in which Christians are taught a simple, three-part process for sharing their faith—*Love* the unchurched people God has brought into their lives; *Listen* carefully to their cares, concerns, and questions; and *Lead* them to the gospel so that the Holy Spirit can change their hearts and lives. Find it at welscongregationalservices.net/lets-go.

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.



WELS NIGHT AT AMERICAN FAMILY FIELD

FRI, 7/8  VS  7:10 PM

Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for the return of WELS Night at American Family Field! Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas.

50% OFF SELECT TICKETS

TICKET PRICES

50% OFF SELECT TICKETS		
TICKET PRICES		
FIELD OUTFIELD BOX \$21	LOGE OUTFIELD BOX \$17	TERRACE RESERVED \$9

Tickets can be purchased online at brewers.com/wels
Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, June 10.

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

WELS FAMILY DEVOTIONS: Get your family into God's Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at wels.net/family-devotions.

WELS TOGETHER E-NEWSLETTER: Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Go to wels.net/together to read more and subscribe today.

WELS MEMBERS CONNECT

Join the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welstweets, instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

Easter



Youth Education Boot Painting Project



Painted ceramic boots were given to this year's teachers – **Deana, Ellen, and Willi** - in appreciation for their service.

