

THE MESSENGER

May 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Saturday, May 14: Spring Highway Clean-up. Meet at church at 10:00 am. Vests and trash bags will be provided.



Saturday, May 14: Community Cook-out at 1:00 pm. Invite neighbors, co-workers, and friends to a cook-out (brats, hot dogs, chips & soda will be provided); you may bring a dessert to share. Our new neighbors from the housing unit next door are invited. Some games will be provided for entertainment.

Vacation Bible School for all ages **every Wednesday in June.**

Pack your suitcases and bring your camera. We're going on a road trip - *Road Trip: Route 3:16. We need road trip travelers of all ages to invite their friends, relatives, and neighbors to learn about their Savior, Jesus.* Take some flyers from the table near the front doors to share with others. Register on the bulletin board in the hallway, call 715-536-3313 or go to ChristMerrill.com/VBS.



Vacation Bible School: Teens and adults are needed to help with games, monitoring recess, crafts, decorating, music and the welcome table. Even if you can spare only an hour, we can use your help. Sign up at the back of church, email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com, or say YES if someone asks you to use your talents to serve the Lord and others.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Highway Clean-up
- 1) Community Cook-out
- 1) Vacation Bible School
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Weekly Worship Schedules
- 4) Bible Studies
- 4) Car Wash
- 4) Fish Contest & Meal
- 5) Interest Surveys
- 5) Graduates
- 5) Delegates
- 5) Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 5) Food Pantry
- 5) Worship Services Online & On Air
- 6) WELS Night at a Brewers Game
- 6) WELS Resources
- 7-8) New Library Items



715-536-3313
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Called Out

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

Just recently I asked my Wednesday morning Bible class what the word “church” meant? Many of us might say that church is where we meet for worship. That’s the practical thing about church, but the word **“church” literally means, “called out.”** So the reason we call ourselves a church is because we have been called out of spiritual darkness and death into God’s spiritual light and life. **In this aspect all believers are called out.**

But in certain aspects, some believers are called out to serve in the public ministry. This is why they are called, “called workers.” Our church knows how important it is to have a called worker. We went through a long period of not having a called worker of our own. And I just want you to remember how difficult that was for you, and the joy you had when you received a called worker.

The reason I bring this up is because this month our synodical college and seminary will be having graduates hoping to receive a divine call into ministry. It is not a guarantee that those who graduate will receive a divine call. I know of classmates who didn’t receive a divine call until years later. Therefore pray for them that everything they have done to prepare for the ministry will come into fruition.

Also pray for the churches and schools that are requesting a graduate to be their called workers. Right now there are more vacancies than those graduating to be called workers. So it’s not a guarantee that every church and school will receive a called servant this month. Therefore pray for these churches and schools that they will receive a called worker, and if they don’t, pray that they will receive one soon.

And finally also pray for those who are called workers who are currently contemplating taking another divine call. Pray that they will do what is best for themselves, for their families, and for the best of God’s kingdom.

And the ultimate motivation to pray for all of this is not only because Jesus’ commands us to pray for this, but also because Jesus also prayed for us as well. **Therefore pray for your called workers, pray for those who are hoping to be a called worker, pray for those who are calling called workers, and pray for God’s kingdom in general.**

- Pastor Neal Behm

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	2	3	4 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	5	6 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	7
8 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	9 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 6:30 pm Council Meeting	11 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	12	13	14 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Highway Clean Up 1:00 pm Community Cookout
15 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 3:30 pm Softball	16 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	17	18 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	19	20	21
22 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 1:30 pm Softball	23 4:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship	30	31				



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

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

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.

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)

Holy Communion will be available on the first and third Sundays of the month and on Mondays following a Sunday with Holy Communion.

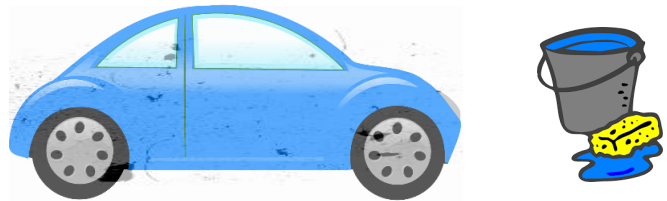
Women's Bible Study will be held from 6:30-7:30 pm on **Monday, May 9**. The topic is *Parables about the Wedding Feast*. All women are welcome to attend.

Men's Bible Study will be held at 9:00 am on **Saturday, May 14** in the church basement. Neil Varnum 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.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. The final class date for this spring is May 18.

Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. The final class date for this spring is May 22.

Growing Together in Christ will be taking a hiatus after the end of the current series ends the week of May 15. Participants will have the opportunity to complete a survey on the offering.



YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH: May (date to be determined) at church. For a free-will donation, the Youth Group will wash your car. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board to reserve your car wash time.



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.

INTEREST SURVEYS: are available in front of the church mailboxes. Please pick one up and mark the various church activities in which you are willing to serve.

Congratulations 2022 High School Graduates!

Adeline H.

Decilyn C.

Allie M.

Michael N.

Ariana R.

Kayoda R.



DELEGATES: Mr. Jerry N. was elected to serve as a **congregational delegate** to both the **Western Wisconsin District Convention** June 6-7 and the **Camp Phillip** Annual Meeting on June 18. Mr. Alan Z. was elected to serve as our other delegate to **Camp Phillip**. Reach out to them with any questions.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Donna P.	17 Dave P.
6 Frank A.	20 Avery K.
7 Robert D.	23 Lily K.
8 Ken N.	25 Mitchell S.
10 Daniel W.	26 Brenda R.
10 Renee W.	26 Wally P.
14 Kathleen P.	29 Russ R.
15 Joe P.	30 Grace B.
16 Karen Y.	



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Karen Y.

Matt & Diane T.



CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE?

Please write your current address, phone number(s), and/or email address on the Friendship Register page next to your name or on a colored paper found in the pew rack. Thanks.

THANK YOU: Deepest and most sincere appreciation goes out to the congregation for the generous and helpful gifts over the past months to assist our members who have been in need of support. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: There is a wooden collection bin in the narthex for non-perishable items for the Merrill Food Pantry. From September 2021 to March 2022 our church donated approximately 181 pounds of food. In addition to non-perishable food items, toiletry items are also needed. Examples include shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.

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).



CALLED WORKER TUITION ASSISTANCE: The fund designed to financially assist students is currently below its maintenance goal; please consider making an offering.

P-16 TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: The P16 Tuition Assistance Fund is designed to financially assist those who attend WELS preschools, grade, middle and high schools. Please consider contributing to the fund.

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.

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. May games include:



Sunday, May 15 at 3:30 pm at Immanuel, Corning

vs. St. Paul's, Irma

Sunday, May 22 at 1:30 pm at St. John's, Hamburg

vs. St. Paul's, Pine River



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

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 MEMBERS CONNECT

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

Check out what's NEW in our church library!

I Know That I Know

THE CERTAINTY OF
CHRISTIAN FAITH

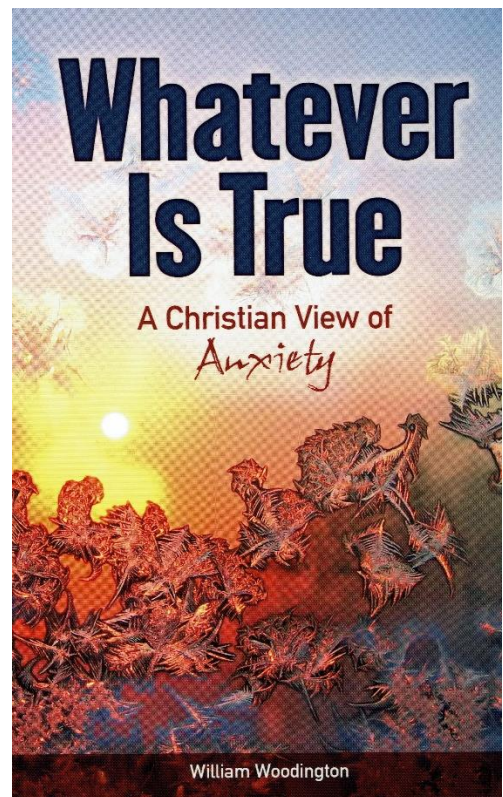
JACOB BEHNKEN

Sometimes having faith doesn't feel like enough. Whether your faith in Jesus is new or you've been walking with him for decades, you might still lie awake at night wondering, "How do I know that I believe? What if my faith isn't strong enough to get me to heaven? What must I do to be saved?"

Author Jacob Behnken helps you clear away confusion about what faith is and what it does by introducing you to relatable people in the Bible who had their faith put to the test or their doubt challenged by truth. In every chapter, you will examine a unique facet of the Christian faith and its relationship to topics such as conversion, reason, emotions, doubt, good works, and more. Using God's Word, Behnken peels away layer after layer of uncertainty to reveal the true secret of strong faith: a Savior who will never let go of you.

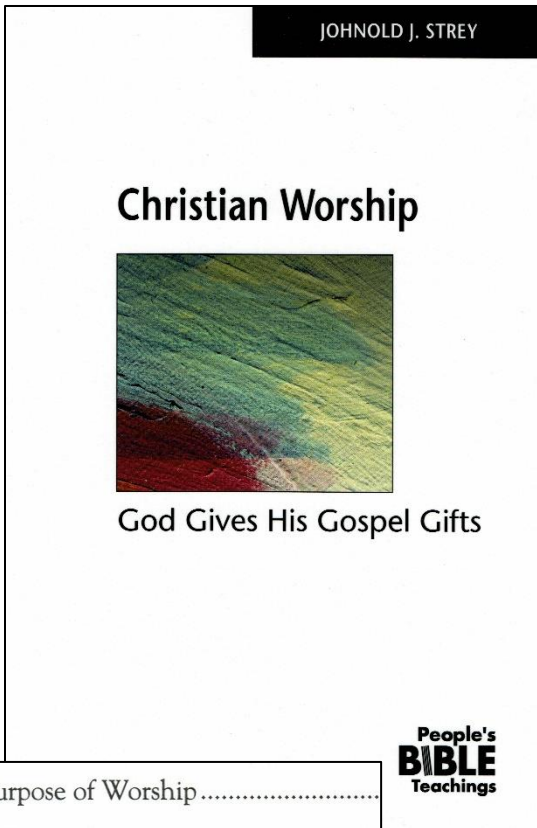
Christians suffering from anxiety often struggle with Jesus' command not to worry. What happens if you believe in Jesus but can't stop worrying? Self-help books offer the promise that if you try hard enough, you can achieve inner peace. Most know the truth: Pulling yourself up by the bootstraps produces a few helpful coping mechanisms at best and a cycle of shame and despair at worst. For Christians, the biggest danger lies in thinking that you can be your own savior.

Author William Woodington reframes anxiety as a divine tool of discipline—a way to remind you that all strength comes from God. Join him on a journey from the spiritual origins of anxiety to true peace and strength in Christ. Along the way, you will learn that staying focused on God's truth leads to acceptance, rejoicing, and perseverance. *Whatever Is True* will help you captivate your thoughts on Christ and discover where God's love lies in your anxiety.

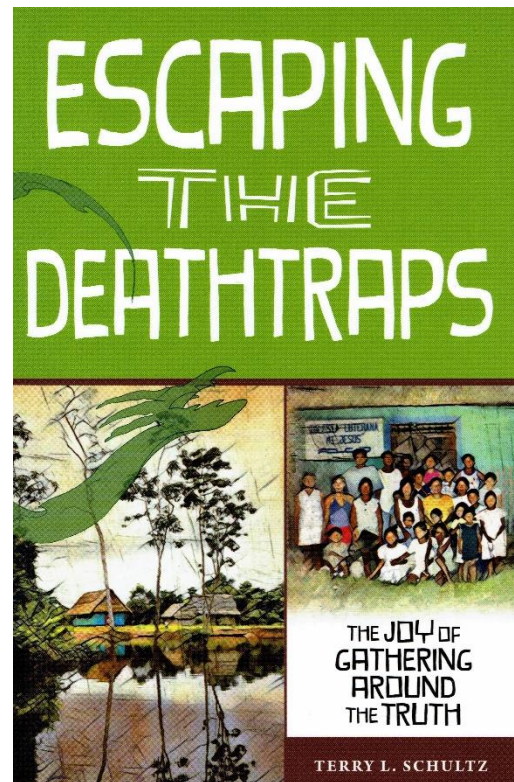


The church library, located in the lower level near the windows, has many more items available to help you and your family grow in faith. Take a look at the resources and take home a book, CD, or DVD today!

Check out what's NEW in our church library!



The Purpose of Worship
The Gospel in Worship
Principles for Worship—Part 1
Principles for Worship—Part 2
The Liturgy—An Overview
The Liturgy—Opening of the Service
The Liturgy—Service of the Word
The Liturgy—Service of the Sacrament
The Daily Office
The Church Year
Symbolism
Music in Worship
Myths About Lutheran Worship



WHY DO THERE HAVE TO BE
SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHURCHES?
DOES IT MATTER THAT CHURCHES TEACH DIFFERENT THINGS?
IS IT OKAY TO WORSHIP WITH CHRISTIANS
FROM OTHER CHURCHES?
CAN I PRAY WITH THOSE CHRISTIANS?

Join Tashi and the other members of Pastor Pedro's congregation as they find energy and encouragement in his answers to their questions about church fellowship. Pedro pulls out all the stops to teach his dear people: whimsical drawings, stories, theatrics, deep caring, and even a few practical jokes are the order of the day. Pedro's people learn how God, in his love, protects his children from the dangers of false teachings. They find new zeal to strengthen the faith of their friends who attend churches that have false teachings in them. As the often humorous, sometimes laugh-out-loud story builds to its enthusiastic conclusion, you will share in the joy they have found in their church family and Pastor Pedro's pure teaching of God's love for them.

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