

THE MESSENGER

October 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

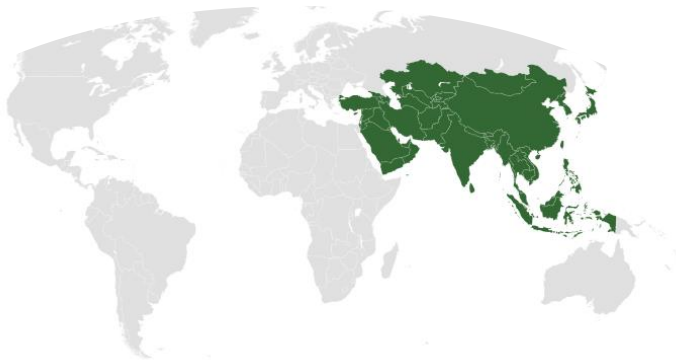
Mission Sunday

Sunday, October 23

Pastor Robert Raasch will preach during the worship service and will give a presentation about mission work in Asia beginning at 10:30 am. After serving an exploratory mission in Houghton, Michigan, for nine years, Pastor Robert Raasch was called to serve at Mount Olive, Appleton in 1995. He also serves the WELS as a circuit pastor and Chairman of the Asia One Team Administrative Committee (AOTAC). AOTAC coordinates WELS mission efforts in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific Rim.

A meal will start at 11:30 am. More details to come.

The Sunday School children will be supporting an Asian mission with their offerings during this school year.



In this Messenger:

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The Only Thing That Matters

[5] The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Ephraim, and whenever a survivor of Ephraim said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead asked him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he replied, "No," [6] they said, "All right, say 'Shibboleth.' " If he said, "Sibboleth," because he could not pronounce the word correctly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites were killed at that time. (Judges 12:5-6)

How do you say the word "syrup"? You may say "Seer-up," or you may say "Sir-up." Personally, I say this word in both ways. But just imagine being put to death for saying this word in the wrong way. That's the context of the words from Scripture I have chosen. Without going into too much detail, Israel was dealing with a minor civil war, and those who chose not to fight in the battle were put to death depending on how they said the word "Shibboleth." This may surprise us but during this time in Israel's history Scripture says, "In those days, everyone did as he saw fit."

The reason I bring all of this up is because for the past few months we have been using the various settings for the new hymnal our synod has produced. We all have different feelings about this new hymnal. I, personally, will admit to you that there are things that I don't love about the new hymnal, but there are things that I do like about the new hymnal. We all can have these same feeling one way or another about the new hymnal.

As I am writing this devotion, our congregation is not forcing one way or another with this new hymnal, but the reason I am writing this devotion is because of what I have heard about this new hymnal. I have heard that if we change to the new hymnal then people will become unhappy and leave the church, and I have heard if we don't change to the new hymnal then they will become saddened that we aren't willing to change.


So, putting yourself in my position as a pastor, how do you respond? That's why I'm writing this devotion to you. Regardless of our personal views about the new hymnal, **we all need to realize that the only thing that matters is the Word of God. The Word of God is in the old hymnal and the new hymnal. The hymnal is here to assist us in worship so that we will give glory to God and to encourage one another in worship.**

So as we move forward one way or another with the new hymnal, let it not divide us. **Let us work together so that, regardless of the old or new hymnal, we all will join together in worship to praise our God.**

- Pastor Neal Behm

October 2022

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | | | | | | 1 Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip (Friday through Sunday) |
| 2 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study | 3 | 4 | 5 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice | 6 | 7 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower | 8 9:00 am Men's Bible Study |
| 9 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Open Forum | 10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | 11 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 12 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study | 17 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting | 18 | 19 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice | 20 6:00 pm Youth Education Meeting | 21 Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip (Friday through Sunday) | 22 8:00 am – 3:30 pm Men of His Word conference, Rochester |
| 23 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Asian Mission Presentation 11:30 am Meal 5:45 pm WELS Youth Night @ NLHS | 24 | 25 | 26 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Voters' Quarterly Meeting | 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



A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life lived for others

This month, the particular focus of the God-lived life is a *life lived for others*, a life of generosity. God allows us the opportunity to serve and love one another, especially those who are part of our communities.

The God-Lived Life program includes opportunities for personal growth centered around each monthly topic in the form of “challenge cards.” The challenge cards are an anonymous way for us to consider how we can identify and set individual goals for our Christian lives.

Our challenge card this month will focus on being a good neighbor. What makes someone a good neighbor? How can you show God’s love to others by being a good neighbor? How can our church be a good neighbor to our community? How can we be present for others?

May God bless us as we live a God-lived life, serving others!

CAMP PHILLIP DOOR OFFERING: As we focus this month on living a life for others, a door offering to support Camp Phillip will be held on **October 9, 16, 23 and 30**. Offerings result in 10% discounts to corporation congregation members each year. Our congregation is a corporate member.

DIGITAL DISPLAY WORSHIP AIDS: On certain Sundays in October, worship services will include a demo of a digital display that will have elements of the service. Feedback on them will be taken at the October 9 open forum and by contacting your elder.

OPEN FORUM: On **Sunday, October 9** there will be an open forum in the basement of the church starting at **10:30 am**. An open forum is an avenue to have an informal discussion on various topics. The main items to be discussed will be the 2023 budget, worship calendar, *Christian Worship* ‘21 and digital display worship aids. No Sunday School or Bible Studies will be held. All youth and adults are welcome to attend.

WORSHIP CALENDAR: The elders have drafted a proposed worship schedule, including services and times, **for November of this year through the end of 2023**. It may be viewed on the Elders’ portion of the bulletin board next to the elevator.

The three most significant changes in the proposal include: (1) having a modified service on Wednesdays in Advent, (2) discontinuing services on Thanksgiving Eve and New Year’s Eve (due to low attendance), and (3) offering communion on the first and fourth Sundays in the month of December to accommodate the children’s Christmas service held on the third Sunday. Please reach out to Pastor or an elder with any feedback that you may have.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 2 Jackie M. | 15 Jerry N. |
| 2 Bill W. | 22 Delainy S. |
| 6 Rusty G. | 24 Brittany F. |
| 10 Chris R. | 31 Marcella J. |
| 14 Janet P. | |



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

- 9 Terry & Danielle F.

PHOTO REQUEST: Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way!

The church family picture board, that is in the hallway to the basement, is being updated! Find **Brenda R. to take your picture.**

Need another option? Maybe you have a favorite picture from your vacation, family gathering or a professional portrait. Place your photo (which will be scanned and returned to you) in the Survey mailbox or email it to ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com. Thanks.



This memorial stone will be added to those in front of the church during the month of October.

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20th of this month to ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com.

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).



EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE CHURCH RESOURCES: Visit christmerrill.com and click on the Facebook icon to go to the church's public Facebook page; click on the YouTube icon to visit the church's channel and view previously recorded worship services. Both icons are in the upper right corner of the page.



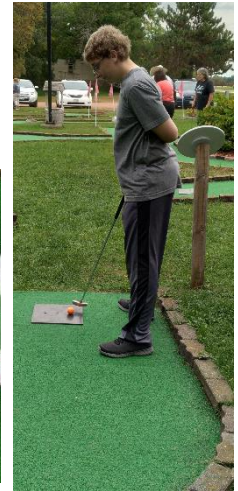
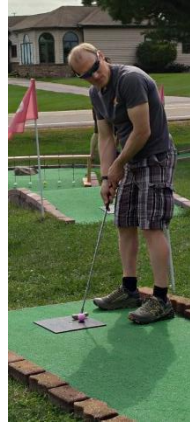
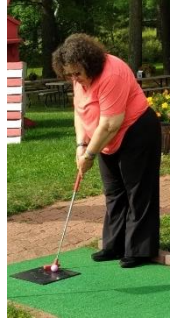
BELIEFS NEWS ONLINE GIVING EMAIL SIGN-UP



Upcoming WELS Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| October 21-23 | Fall Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip www.campphillip.com/ |
| October 22 | Men of His Word Conference @ Rochester, MN https://www.menofhisword.org/2022-rochester.html |
| January 16-18, 2023 | WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership Chicago, Illinois lutheranleadership.com Open to men and women. Registration is now open. |

Mini Golf



Check out what's NEW in our church library!

THE QUESTIONS CHRISTIANS HOPE NO ONE WILL ASK
(with answers)
FOREWORD BY LEE STROBEL
MARK MITTELBERG

Are there questions you dread being asked?

Maybe you dread asking them even of yourself. They're the ones on subjects such as hell, homosexuality, or suffering.

Through a national poll conducted by The Barna Group, Mark Mittelberg uncovered the questions Christians most fear being asked.

Complete with discussion questions, Mark's book will help you meet today's hot-button issues head on.

Mark Mittelberg is a best-selling author and a leading strategist in apologetics-oriented outreach. His books include *The Unexpected Adventure* (coauthored with Lee Strobel) and *Choosing Your Faith*. He is also the main author of the *Becoming a Contagious Christian* training course. Mark was the evangelism director at Willow Creek Community Church in the Chicago area for many years. Mark and his wife, Heidi, have two teenage children and live near Denver, Colorado.

FOR TEENS

WHO AM I?
Understanding Your Identity in Christ Through Facts Not Feelings
Phil Huebner

Pastor Huebner takes his experience from the classroom and weaves it into a relatable, heart-grabbing and encouraging book. It makes teenagers think "I'm not the only one." I would highly encourage all teens to read this book – maybe even twice!

–Kaylee Mattek, Class of 2020

Dr. Huebner appears as a sort of Mr. Rogers who has shown up to speak into the anxious lives of young people, "You are someone. You are loved." I will put *Who Am I?* unreservedly into the hands of the young people in my life to create the kind of conversation I most want to have.

–Dr. Mark Paustian, Professor at Martin Luther College

Pastor Huebner, with his years of experience working with teens, takes some of the most common teenage challenges and confronts feelings with facts, the facts of Jesus Christ crucified and what that means for each individual. This book would be very accessible for a teenager, a parent looking for some talking points, or a pastor working with a youth group.

–Rev. Greg Lyon, Campus Pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran College

Pastor Huebner's extensive and interesting use of Scripture will be appreciated by teens, parents, pastors, and teachers – anyone striving to help teens find real comfort and peace in this troubled world.

–Rev. Joel Otto, Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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!