

THE MESSENGER

October 2023

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



Connecting Our Community

We're looking for you! Our last directory was done just less than ten years ago. The plan is to update the pictures of our members (both individual and family groups) this fall and have a new directory in the hands of our members by the end of the year. There will be another opportunity to have your picture taken and provide information on October 15 after the worship service.

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Swing Dancing

Friday, October 13 at 6:30 pm come to the fellowship hall in the lower level of the church for a fun night of **swing dancing!** Beginners' lesson will start at 6:30 pm followed by open floor dancing. No partners needed. Please bring slippery bottom shoes like bowling shoes or something that won't scuff the floor. See Rusty G. for more details.



**Thank
You**

Pastor & Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday, October 15

Special Cake at Fellowship Time
Potluck at 11:30 am

In this Messenger:

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- 1) Swing Dancing
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- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
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- 4) P-16 Tuition Assistance
- 4) Camp Phillip Collection
- 4) Attendance & Finance Numbers
- 4) Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 5) Help Needed: Cleaners; Ushers
- 5) C23 Program
- 6) Mini Golf & September 9 Event Pictures



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Some Things Never Change

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

In my opinion there is something about the month of October that you notice changes. There's a change in weather. Not too long ago we were using our air conditioners, and now we have the heat turned on in our homes. Although the days have been getting shorter since June you really start to notice how short they are by now. The leaves on trees are starting to turn color. Farmers are harvesting their crops. Multiple changes are happening.

Changes are not always a bad thing, but in our lives we like to have things as they are. We like to be in control in our lives and to have stability. But changes do happen that change everything. You get that one phone call out of the blue that changes your life. The health that you once enjoyed changes and makes life more difficult. The business you work at downsizes and you lose your job, and therefore your financial situation changes.

The reason we have changes that cause loss and pain and struggles is because of us. Our God, who is love, created us to live perfectly with him in paradise on earth. God never intended that to change, but our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and brought the biggest change in history. Sin had entered into the world, and from Adam and Eve we inherit a sinful nature. That's something about us that never changes. Even though Christ has set us free from the power of the devil we still fall prey to Satan's temptations and disobey God. Even when we try our hardest to fight against sin and to change our lives we can still sin against God. For this we should be punished by God since yesterday, today, and forever in hell.


But notice what the above passage says. Jesus Christ is the same from all eternity. God's plan to have us live with him forever never changed. Although we disobeyed God and deserve his wrath and punishment, God sent Christ to be our perfect Savior and to lay down his life for our sins. This salvation is ours through faith and that promise from God about our salvation will never change. God made us to be his own and when he adopted us as his children, he promised to do all things for us and to keep us connected with him. That promise in Christ will never change. One day God will take us to our heavenly home where we live with him forever. That promise will never change. God will never change his mind that the salvation and the promise of eternal life is in Christ.

So when changes happen in life, whether they are good or negative changes, remember that Jesus Christ our God and Savior never changes. Turn to him for help, for forgiveness, and for comfort and he will give that to you for he loves us and we are his, and that will never change.

- Pastor Neal Behm

October 2023

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	2	3	4 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir	5 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	6	7
8 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 Adult Bible Study	9	10 2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower 6:30 pm Council Meeting	11 9:00 am Adult Bible Study Time to be Determined - Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir	12	13 6:30 pm Swing Dancing	14 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
15 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Open Forum 11:30 am Pastor & Volunteer Appreciation Potluck	16 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	17	18 9:00 am Adult Bible Study Time to be Determined - Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir	19	20	21 Fall Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip (Fri-Sun) 10:30 am Small Engine Workshop
22 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' Meeting 5:00 pm WELS Youth Night	23	24	25 9:00 am Adult Bible Study Time to be Determined - Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir	26 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	27	28
29 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 Adult Bible Study	30	31				

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at youtube.com/@christmerrill

OPEN FORUM On **Sunday, October 15**, there will be an open forum in the basement of the church starting at 10:30 am. An open forum is an avenue for all members to have an informal discussion on various topics. The main items to be discussed will be the 2024 budget, worship calendar, and future evangelism opportunities. No Sunday School or Bible Studies will be held. All youth and adults are welcome to attend.

SMALL ENGINES WORKSHOP **Saturday, October 21** at 10:30 am Christ Lutheran will be hosting a free workshop on how to winterize your lawn mower and get your snowblower ready for the upcoming winter season. Everyone's welcome. The workshop will be held outside unless the weather dictates otherwise. See Rusty G. for more details.

P-16 TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND Looking for a way to support those in our church that go to a WELS school? The P-16 Tuition Assistance Fund is designed to financially assist those who attend WELS preschools, grade, middle and high schools. Please consider contributing to the fund as it is currently below its target goal.

CAMP PHILLIP DOOR OFFERING A door offering to directly support Camp Phillip will be held during the month of October. Offerings result in 10% discounts to corporation congregation members each year that make use of the different programs that are offered. Our congregation is a corporate member.

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 youtube.com/@christmerrill to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.




<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	August
Combined Sunday & Monday worship	71

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 8/31/23)
 Anticipated offerings: \$105,609
 Actual offerings: \$90,405
 Actual expenses: \$96,675
 General Fund balance as of 9/10/23: \$17,798

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. Giving continues to trend below budget. Please consider how your offerings benefit our church, our fellowship events, and our ability to reach our community. For more information, see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

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 ANNIVERSARIES

9 Terry & Danielle F.	10 Phil & Jackie M.
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SHUT-IN VISITATION The Elders welcome help from members visiting our shut-ins: **Laurene H., Tom L., Phil M., Lorna P., and Kathleen P.** Members are encouraged to visit and/or keep them in their prayers. Please reach out to Pastor or an elder for contact information.

CHILI COOK-OFF & PACKERS PARTY

Sunday, November 12

at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall.

The Packers game is scheduled for noon against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Sign up if you want to bring a chili.



CHURCH CLEANING HELP NEEDED: Who doesn't like a clean house? I think we can all agree a house feels more comfortable after it is vacuumed, the windows are washed, the shelves are dusted, and the laundry is put away. We probably all have a cleaning list for our homes we follow on a regular basis to help keep them – and our lives – in neat and regular order.

Apply the same feeling to our church. Vacuumed carpets, cleaned windows, emptied trash containers, dusted furniture and sanitized, working bathrooms all contribute to the sense of “home” we feel when we are in God’s house. If you agree – and I’m sure you do – we have an opening for individuals and families to volunteer their time and talents to clean our church home. If there is enough interest, a rotating schedule can be established to spread the work among many hands.

We thank Ellen C. for using her time and talents for the diligent upkeep of the church. If you have questions about the duties involved, talk to Ellen or speak with our Board of Properties chair or the church president.

USHERS NEEDED: We are looking for confirmed men to provide a warm welcome to our members and guests and to help support the worship service. Want to learn more? Usher procedures have been updated and are posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator or reach out to Dan K. for more information. The sign-up sheet is in the entry on the fellowship and service bulletin board. Find a date that works for you.

COMMUNION REMINDERS: White grape juice is offered as an alternative for those that have a need for it. When the individual cups come around, the grape juice is available on the outside rim of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Please speak with Pastor, an elder, or an usher before the service to express your desire for gluten-free wafers or with any questions.



BE PART OF CHRISTMAS 2023!

Keeping with our congregational goal to increase our evangelism efforts in the Merrill community, we will be undertaking a program called “C23” (short for “Christmas 2023”) to share the gospel with souls in our area prior to and on Christmas Eve. A simple way to do that—invite them to come with you to our congregation’s 6:30 pm Wednesday Advent and 9:00 am Christmas Eve worship services. Each member, young and old, can embrace the privilege and responsibility of sharing Christ with unchurched friends, relatives, and neighbors.

C23 is a program produced by WELS Congregational Services to help our church and members undertake this effort. Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the worship service unchurched individuals are most likely to attend. A recent survey found 80% of unchurched adults would seriously consider accepting an invitation, extended by a friend, to attend a Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve will be here before you know it. Whom will you reach?

MESSENGER SIGN-UP: Anyone can get an electronic copy of each month’s *Messenger* in their email! Simply go to ChristMerrill.com/email and subscribe to *Messenger*. Paper copies will continue to be available at church.

Mini Golf Outing



Community Free Sale & Cookout



Thank you to everyone who donated items; helped with set up; donated, prepared, or served food; organized tables; greeted visitors; and helped with clean up.

