

# THE MESSENGER

September 2023

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

**Saturday, September 9: Open House/Free Garage Sale/Cook-out**  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Please consider donating clothes and other various items by September 7.



Volunteers are needed to help **set up on Friday, September 8, welcome visitors on Saturday, show our guests around or answer questions they may have of our church** and for members to **help run the garage sale in the basement**. We are also asking for some **baked goods** to be donated so our visitors may have a snack when they come.

Contact Christy C. or Pastor for more information, to arrange a drop off time for donations, or to volunteer to help with the event.

**Saturday, September 16: Fall Highway Clean-up.** Meet at church at 10:00 am. Vests and trash bags will be provided.



**Starting September 17: Fellowship Time Treat Providers/Servers.**

Sign up on the hallway bulletin board for this weekly after-service activity.

**Shut-in Visitation:** The Elders welcome help from members visiting our shut-ins: **Brad B., 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.

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# Leap for Joy!

*“But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.” (Malachi 4:2)*

Just recently we had our county fair and there are many attractions for people to enjoy at a fair. Whether it's the special events such as the demolition derby, all the games that you can play, or the rides you can go on. One thing that people enjoy seeing are all the animals. When you see those animals where are they kept? They are penned up in stalls, and let's be honest, those stalls don't seem that big. But these animals are used to being in stalls. Yet have you seen a young animal, such as a young calf or a puppy, penned up in a small space? You can see that they want to get out, and when they finally can how do they act? They are filled with joy. They run around and jump up and down.

This is the illustration that Malachi uses, but he isn't talking about a literal penned-up situation but a spiritual one. Malachi was the last prophet of the Old Testament. After Malachi there would be no prophet for 400 years until John the Baptist. Therefore, **Malachi's final words to God's people were pointing them ahead to the promised Savior who would come and bring them joy.** That's exactly what Jesus did. He brought the people joy not just because he healed their sick but also because he spoke the gospel to them. The message of the gospel brought joy to those people because they knew their sins were forgiven.

As Christians who have heard that same gospel message, we look forward to the day that Jesus returns. We know that day will happen, but as we wait are there things in your life that stop you from leaping for joy? Maybe it's the stress of your job feeling like you're penned up in your office or cubicle that stops you from enjoying the blessings in your life. Maybe you feel penned up because you're in a nursing home, hospital room, or health problems that stop you from doing things you used to do in life. Maybe you feel penned up because of the sins you commit and how you can't escape from them.

All these things can stop us from leaping for joy, but what does Malachi tell us? He tells us that soon the sun of righteousness will come with healing in its wings, and then we will leap for joy. **Jesus Christ, the Son of righteousness, has already come to us with healing by forgiving us our sins. Soon he will come with healing, and we will leap for joy. We will leap for joy because everything we do in heaven will be joyful. We will leap for joy because every physical problem that we have will be healed and made perfect. We will leap for joy because in heaven there will be no sin. Jesus will come again, and when he does, we will all leap for joy!**

- Pastor Neal Behm

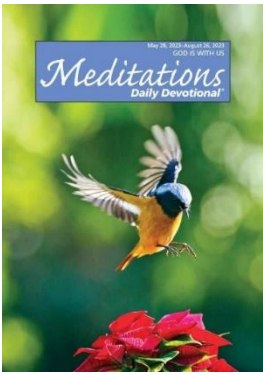
# September 2023

View the most up to date calendar at [christmerrill.com](http://christmerrill.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	<b>2</b> Fall Family Camp @ Camp Phillip (Fri-Sun)
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Open House/ Free Garage Sale/ Cook-out
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Photo Session for Church Directory	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b> Time to be Determined - Catechism Class	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Men's Bible Study  <b>10:00 am</b> Highway Clean-up
<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study  Time to be Determined - Catechism Class	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 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	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study  Time to be Determined - Catechism Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Women's Retreat  @ Camp Phillip  (Fri-Sun)</b> </div>

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at [youtube.com/@christmerrill](https://youtube.com/@christmerrill)



## MEDITATIONS SIGN UP

*Meditations* is an inspiring, personal devotional booklet offering daily Scripture-based, soul-searching studies of God's Word. Each meditation is clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayer for each day. *Meditations* provides scriptural guidance and encouragement for daily living. **If you would like to get a copy of this periodical for the next church year, please sign-up on the narthex bulletin board by September 17.**

**CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY** Can you help? 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) and contact information this fall and have a new directory in the hands of our members by the end of the year. The first day for filling in forms and having photos taken will be **Sunday, September 10** after the worship service. Persons willing to help take photos and gather information may contact Scott. Any amount of assistance is appreciated.



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The group will resume its study of *Destruction and Deliverance*, a series about the flood, on **September 16** (third Saturday) at 9:00 am. All men are invited.

**BIBLE STUDY ON YOUR SCHEDULE:** *Growing Together* is an ongoing congregational Bible study intended to provide an avenue to hold individual, family or small group study at a time that works for you. **To receive a paper copy of each week's lesson in your church mailbox, please sign up by October 1** on the hallway bulletin board. To receive each week's lesson in your email, please or sign up at [ChristMerrill.com/email](http://ChristMerrill.com/email) and subscribe to the Growing Together in Christ Bible study.



## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP '21 UPDATES:

The fundraising goal for purchasing new hymnals has been met and the transition continues to the new hymnal. Beginning September 17, *CW: Hymnal* will be located in the hymn racks and will be utilized for the Psalm of the Day and hymns; the liturgy settings will still be printed in the bulletin. This will help to reduce paper usage, copier expenses, and bulletin printing time. In October, *Christian Worship (CW) '93* and *CW: Supplement* will be placed on the pews at the services using them. Please reach out to Pastor or your elder for additional information.

<b><i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i></b>	July
Combined Sunday & Monday worship	75
Men's Bible Study	3

## Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 7/31/23)

Anticipated offerings: \$92,408

Actual offerings: \$81,216

Actual expenses: \$86,548

General Fund balance as of 8/6/23: \$15,853

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. We are currently trending below budget. For more information see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

## ONLINE GIVING NO LONGER AVAILABLE:

Due to lack of use, a decision has been made to deactivate the online giving page on our website. We will revisit this topic again if the need arises. **Contributions can still be given in-person or via mail.** If you have questions, please speak with the Technology Committee chair or the vice-president.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jaycie S.	10 Don P.	18 Losha H.
6 Billie R.	11 Blake G.	29 Tom S.

Please submit items for next month's *Messenger* by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to  
[ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com](mailto:ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com).



**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:** Looking for a way to get involved? We are looking for confirmed men to help support the worship service and to provide a warm welcome to our members and guests. 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.

**KEYBOARDIST INTEREST:** Marion S. continues to be our organist and we appreciate her ongoing service. Anyone interested in playing, or learning to play, the keyboard for our worship services as a substitute, seasonally or some other time frame may reach out to Pastor or an elder to express an interest by the end of September.

## MEMBER ENCOURAGEMENT

Our member, **Sveta**, was hospitalized in July and continues to recover at home. She will be returning to work again soon. Prayers, words of encouragement, letters and cards are appreciated. Items may be placed in her church mailbox.

**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.

**CHURCH REFRESH THANKS:** A big thank you goes out to those that were able to help with sprucing up the church grounds as part of a “spring cleaning” effort in August. It is appreciated!

**WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** Christ Ev. Lutheran Church provides an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services** (9:00 am). **The service is simultaneously streamed to a TV in the lower level of the church for anyone not able to be in the sanctuary.**

Subscribe to the YouTube channel [youtube.com/@christmerrill](https://youtube.com/@christmerrill) to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.



**HOLY SMOKE BBQ CONTEST:** Redeemer Lutheran Church, Weston will be hosting this event **Saturday, October 7** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more information, see the flyer on the WELS bulletin board in the narthex or visit [redeemerweston.com](https://redeemerweston.com).



### 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.

### Sunday, October 15

**Pastor & Volunteer Appreciation**  
Special Cake at Fellowship Time  
Potluck at 11:30 am



### Sunday, November 12

**Chili Cook-off & Packer Party**  
at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall.

### 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.

## Church Softball 2023

In the league tournament, the team earned the Consolation Trophy. For the season, the team placed 4<sup>th</sup>.



Back row: **Ethan, Tom**, Luke, Nate, Adam

Front row: **Scott, Jerome**, Owen, Derek, Katelyn

**Bold names** are members of Christ Ev. Lutheran Church.



# Church Outdoor Worship & Picnic



Pastor Behm leading the service at Riverside Park



Marion playing keyboard for the outdoor service.



How many are in the jar? Winners Jacob, Ken, Kaylynn



Cornhole players Pastor, Megan, Jackie, Kaylynn



Marshmallow Golf winners Lisa and Leon



Leon, Henry, and Alan marshmallow golfing



Cornhole winners Leon and Jennifer



# Church Refresh



Thank  
You

