
THE MESSENGER

October 2019

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

MEN AND WOMEN OF CHRIST GET INTO HIS WORD

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

will begin a new study in October. (Pastor) Neil Varnum will be leading the group through a study of The Book of the Twelve (The Minor Prophets). The Minor Prophets are the last 12 books of the Old Testament, *Hosea - Malachi*. They are called Minor Prophets because they are much shorter in length than the Major Prophets (*Isaiah - Daniel*).

The group will meet at **9:00 am** on the **third Saturday** of the month to consider one of the Minor Prophets. Each class will be an introduction to the book and an overview of its message. It may be helpful to read the Minor Prophet ahead of time to get a flavor of the book before coming to the Bible study.

Upcoming Studies:

October 19: Hosea

November 16: Joel

December 21: Amos

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

will be from **6:00 to 7:00 pm** on the **second Monday** of each month.

Each month's class, led by Colleen Schult, will cover a different topic.

The **October 14th** study is **"Back to Our Root"** based on the parable of Jesus found in John 15:1-6.

6:00 Get-to-Know You Activities

6:15 Bible Study

6:45 Closing & Conversation

Save the Date for future studies on **November 11th** and **December 9th**.



In this Messenger:

- 1) Men's Bible Study
- 1) Women's Bible Study

- 2) Pastor Behm's Devotion 1 John 4:16

- 3) October Calendar

- 4) Youth Leaf Raking
- 4) OWLS Bake Sale
- 4) New Member Potluck
- 4) Corn Maze/Hayride
- 4) Growing Together in Christ
- 4) Choir Practice
- 4) Youth Group Meeting
- 4) Youth Movie/Game Night
- 4) Birthdays
- 4) Email Sign-up

- 5) LWMS Fall Rally
- 5) WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership
- 5) Men of His Word Conference

- 6) Feature: OWLS



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We See God's Love

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.” (1 John 4:16)

Back in 2003 Thrivent Financial produced a movie about Martin Luther. I don't know how many of you saw this movie, but one scene that stuck out to me is when a young child took his own life. The father asked Luther what God had to say about suicide. The caretaker of the church's graveyard refused to bury the child, but Luther did. He told the parents that God is mercy. Although, according to my knowledge and education, we have no example of Luther doing this, the scene illustrates a point about the Reformation.

In the very next scene Luther is preaching to his congregation and he says, “Terrible, unforgiving, that's how I saw God, punishing us in this life, sentencing sinners to burn in hell for all eternity. But I was wrong. Those who see God as angry do not see him rightly. If we believe that Christ is our Savior then we have a God of love, and to see God in faith is to look upon his friendly heart.”

Luther spent the first thirty years of his life viewing God as being angry against him because he was a sinner. If we lived our lives that way we would view God as being hateful since he demands us to follow his law perfectly even though we can't. Or we may view God as being hateful because he doesn't do everything according to our thinking. If God only treated us according to his law or didn't do everything according to our own thinking, then the only conclusion we can have is that God is not a God of love.

We shouldn't have a God of love, but we do! That's what this passage from 1 John emphasizes. Think of how we see God's love in our lives. **We see God's love** in simple things. Perhaps randomly out of nowhere something good happens to you and you don't know exactly why: that's an example of God's love. **We see God's love** in significant ways. Maybe you have had a loved one who is sick and dying and the doctors tell you that they have done everything for that loved one but they will pass away. But then your loved one lives: that's an example of God's love. **We see God's love** in personal ways. There are times when we offer our prayers to God and he answers our prayers exactly as we have asked: that's an example of God's love. **We see God's love** in the ultimate way. He sent his Son to save us from our sins: this is God's love.

As we view God through faith we no longer view God according to our thoughts but according to his good and loving will. Through faith we no longer see a God of hatred but a God of love who no longer sees us as sinners but as his perfect children. This is the main message of the Reformation; as we celebrate the Reformation this October let us continue to rejoice that we have a God of love and share this God of love to all people.

- Pastor Neal Behm

CHRIST

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Choir Practice	3 11:30 OWLS Meeting	4	5
6 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	7	8 6:30 Council Meeting	9 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 5:00 Youth Group Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice	10	11	12 1:00 Youth Group Leaf Raking
13 9:00 Worship 10:15 OWLS Bake Sale 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class 11:45 New & Returning Member Potluck 2:00 Corn Maze/Hayride	14 6:00 Women's Bible Study	15	16 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Choir Practice	17	18	19 9:00 Men's Breakfast Bible Study
20 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	21	22	23 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Choir Practice	24	25 5:00 Youth Movie/ Game Night	26
27 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class 10:30 Voters' Meeting	28 6:00 Youth Education Meeting	29	30 9:00 Adult Bible Class 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Choir Practice	31		

YOUTH GROUP LEAF RAKING: Youth Group members will be raking leaves and doing yard clean up on **Saturday, October 12th** beginning at 1:00 pm. Congregation members may sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex if they would like the youth to clean up and/or rake their property. Youth (grades 6-12) should meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 pm and bring a rake or blower, if possible, as well as water and a snack. Youth will return to church about 4:00 pm for hot dogs and s'mores.

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: Ask questions or share your thoughts about the lessons by contacting Pastor Behm or your fellow members or by using the online discussion board. Feel free to provide mutual support and encouragement to each other as we grow together in Christ.

CHOIR PRACTICE: takes place at **6:30 pm** on **Wednesdays**. All confirmed members are welcome to join.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING: will be **Wednesday, October 9th** from **5:00 to 5:30 pm**. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend.

YOUTH MOVIE/GAME NIGHT will be **Friday, October 25th** from **5:00 to 10:00 pm**. Dinner and snacks will be provided. All youth in grades 6 through 12 and their guests are invited to attend.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 EVENTS

OWLS ANNUAL HARVEST BAKE SALE will be held immediately following the morning worship service. All proceeds raised will support missions. Donations of baked or canned goods or other items are welcomed; simply bring the items the day of the sale and the OWLS will price them.

NEW MEMBER POTLUCK to recognize and welcome our new and returning members will begin at about **11:45 am**. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks, set up, and clean up. Please sign up and indicate what type of dish you will bring on the narthex sign-up sheet.

CORN MAZE/HAYRIDE: Members and friends are invited to a fun-filled afternoon at Helene's Hilltop Orchard (1189 Quarter Road, Merrill) beginning at **2:00 pm**. Cost is \$7.50 per person which includes the entire Barnyard Play area, Jump Pad, Wisconsin Dairy Trail Ride, Helene's Educational Wagon Ride, and Corn Maze. Please sign up on the sheet located on the narthex sign-up bulletin board.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS (inadvertently omitted last month)

11 Andy Schmidt	29 Kevin Schmidt
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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Bill Wendorf	14 Janet Plautz
2 Jackie Marheine	15 Gerald Natzke
4 Darlene Slewitzke	18 Bob Schuch
9 Chevy Schmidt	22 Delainy Stockowitz
10 Chris Revie	24 Brittany Fregine
13 Amanda Kostman	31 Marcella Jaeger

Would you prefer your name to be printed in a different way than above in the future? Put a note in the Messenger mailbox.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST! Christ Lutheran is building an email contact list for members, visitors and friends of the congregation. If you or someone you know would like to receive news, updates, alerts or Bible Study materials in your email inbox, visit www.christmerrill.com/email and fill out the form to sign up. We are currently building our database with plans to begin email campaigns in the near future. Paper copies will continue to be printed for those not signed up for the email service.

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS



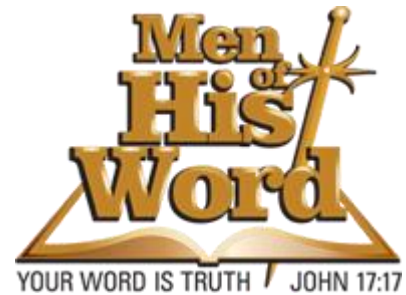
LWMS Fall Rally

Saturday, October 12

9:15 am - 2:45 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church (Town of Berlin)
137719 County Rd FF, Merrill, WI 54452

Call 715-536-9629 for more information.



Men of His Word Conference

Saturday, October 26, 2019

7:15 am – 3:30 pm

Rochester, MN

Registration Fee: \$50 before Oct. 13
\$60 after Oct. 13

“**Built on The Rock**” conference includes an inspiring keynote address and 8 challenging breakout topics to choose from.

Visit menofhisword.org for more information.

Please **contact Willi Heisinger** if you are interested in attending.



January 21-23, 2020

Chicago, IL

Registration Fee: \$249 before Oct. 31
\$289 after Oct. 31

The conference is open to men and women and includes 5 keynote sessions and more than 20 breakout sessions to choose from.

Visit lutheranleadership.com for more information.

Who are the OWLS?

The **O**rganization of **WELS** Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church offers opportunities for Christ-centered involvement. **The group is for people who are retired and/or age 55 and above. Spouses of those age 55 and over are also invited to join. Singles and couples are welcome!**



What do the OWLS do?

They **meet** at **11:30** on the **first Thursday** of each month, September through May, **at Christ Lutheran Church**. Each monthly gathering begins with a **Bible study** led by Pastor Behm, is followed by a **potluck meal with socializing**, and concludes with a **short business meeting**. The OWLS sponsor three **bake sales** at church throughout the year to raise money for missions, WELS disaster relief, and local church projects.



OWLS
ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS

Why should someone join the OWLS?

Being part of the OWLS provides an opportunity to better get to know fellow members of Christ Lutheran and nurtures a “family” feeling. Members may also choose to be part of the national OWLS group for an annual cost of \$15; they will then receive the national OWLS newsletter New Horizon four times a year.



For more information or to join, contact

Marion Schmoldt (715-722-5050) or
Marlene Edelburg (715-675-5596).