

THE MESSENGER

October 2020

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Worship Service Schedule

beginning Sunday, October 4th, 2020

8:00 – 9:00 am	Worship Service with Guidelines such as distancing, face masks, reduced touch, etc.
9:15 – 10:15 am	Education Hour – Adult, Teen, and Youth
10:30 – 11:30 am	Worship Service conducted in a traditional format



CAMP PHILLIP DOOR COLLECTION: Donations will be collected on Sunday, October 4 following both worship services. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregational member of Camp Phillip.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Worship Service Schedule
- 1) Camp Phillip Collection
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Leaf Raking
- 4) Women's Bible Study
- 4) Men's Bible Study
- 4) Faith Care Packages
- 4) Birthdays
- 4) Library Furniture
- 4) Camp Phillip Retreats
 - o Women
 - o Teen
- 5-6) Article: Transforming Youth Ministry
- 7) Marriage Moments
- 7) Christian Leadership Seminar
- 8) Youth Education Update
- 8) Remote Sunday School
- 8) Kids Connection



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“Forgive and Forget.”

In last month’s edition of the Messenger I focused on the phrase, “God helps those who help themselves.” I mentioned that this phrase is not mentioned in the Bible, but many people think it is in the Bible. I focused on how this phrase can be properly understood. This month’s edition of the Messenger will focus on another phrase never actually mentioned in the Bible, and it is: Forgive and Forget.

Personally, this phrase is a pet peeve of mine because I have heard multiple people use this phrase without understanding what the Bible tells us to do when we forgive, specifically about the idea of forgetting. Many people have this idea that if you forgive then you must forget what happened. But is it possible to forgive and forget? In many ways, yes this is true. I have done some stupid things as a young child in the classroom, and even though I remember what I did, I am sure my classmates have completely forgotten about it. So, in those cases the phrase “forgive and forget” is correct.

But it is also true that in some cases you cannot forget what happened, and in a few rare cases you should not forget what happened. First let us talk about why you can’t always forget what happened. Let’s say I was married, and I committed adultery. I repented to my wife what happened, and she forgave me. She chose to remain with me as my wife. But could she honestly forget what I did? It is impossible for that to happen. We would have to work on building up our trust and relationship for each other again.

And in the rare cases of when you shouldn’t forget what happened, I mean this: Let’s suppose I had a member confess and repent to me that they have a history of harming children in whatever way, and they have gone to prison for the crime. I would assure that member that they were forgiven, but should I forget what that member has done? Would it be right for me to make that member a Sunday School teacher of young children because we are to forgive and forget? Of course, that wouldn’t be right for me to do. I would need to remember what the member did to protect the children.

So, in these cases the phrase, “forgive and forget” can be impossible, misleading, or possibly harmful. But **how can this phrase properly be understood and applied?** First, **apply this to our God.** God says to us, “I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” What an amazing thing this is! **Our God who knows all things has chosen to make an everlasting promise to us to forget our sins.** The only reason he can do this is because Christ took away our sins from us forever.

But we are not God. We can’t completely or always forget sin. So **how does this phrase apply to us?** Although we can’t completely or always forget the sin committed, **we do forget the guilt of the sin committed. We hold no grudges** against the individual. We rebuild the trust, respect, and relationship with the individual. We do this because of the New Man in us that God has created to be like him. That is how **we forgive and forget by following the example of our God.**

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	5 5 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	6	7 9 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	8	9 7 pm Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip	10 Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip 9 am Men's Bible Study
11 Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip 8 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	12 6 pm Women's Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Council Meeting	14 9 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	15	16	17 8-3 Christian Leadership Seminar @ St. Peter, Schofield
18 8 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	19 6:30 pm Worship Aids Meeting	20	21 9 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	22	23 7 pm Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip	24 Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip
25 Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip 8 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship TBD Voter's Meeting	26	27	28 9 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	29	30	31

YOUTH GROUP LEAF RAKING:

Congregational members may sign up on the narthex bulletin board if they would like the youth to rake their property.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: begins **Monday, October 12 at 6:00 pm.** The topic for the month is *Names of God*.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The Men's Bible Study continues **online or at church Saturday, October 10 at 9:00 am.** In advance of the study, it is recommended to read the book of *Malachi*.

There are two different ways to participate in the live study:

- 1) Join the study in person in the church fellowship hall (basement)
- 2) Join virtually. Call/text 715-921-5132 to get the link.

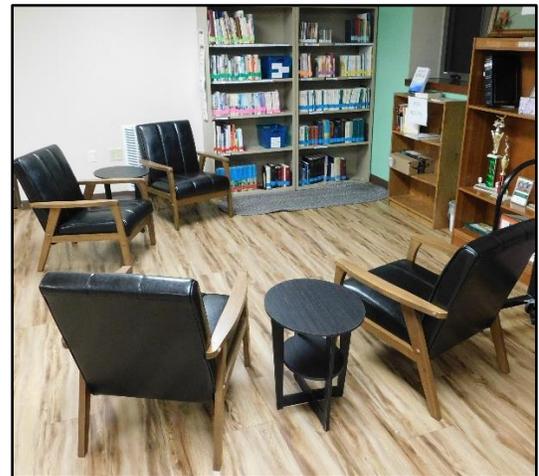
NEW FAITH CARE PACKAGES: Looking for ways to reconnect with loved ones during these uncertain times? Send them a Faith Care Package from Northwestern Publishing House! Each care package features thoughtfully selected, Christ-centered books and resources for college students, aging adults, children, families, and more. NPH will ship the package directly to a loved one with the option of including a free personalized message from you. Just write your message in the comments section of your order. Discover the full collection of care packages at nph.net/carepackages!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Jackie Marheine | 18 Bob Schuch |
| 2 Bill Wendorf | 22 Delainy Stockowitz |
| 10 Chris Revie | 24 Brittany Fregine |
| 14 Janet Plautz | 31 Marcella Jaeger |
| 15 Jerry Natzke | |

NEW LIBRARY FURNITURE!

Four chairs and two end tables are now in the library area in the basement. Thank you to those who donated funds to purchase the furniture at previous years' chili cook-offs and to Dave Polak and Curt Whitson for assembling the pieces.



CAMP PHILLIP RETREATS:

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Friday, October 9 (7 pm) – Sunday, October 11 (noon). Adult women of any age can "get away" on this special weekend planned just for them. The retreat includes Bible studies, praise time, campfires, and more. For more information visit campphillip.com/womensretreat or call 920-787-3202. Christ Lutheran is a corporation congregational member which offers our church's members a reduced rate.

TEEN RETREAT: Friday, October 23 (7 pm) – Sunday, October 25 (noon). There will be crazy games, praise and worship campfires, teen-focused Bible studies and great food. Get more information at <https://www.campphillip.com/teenretreats> or 920-787-3202. You can get a reduced rate as Christ Lutheran is a corporation congregational member.

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.

Transforming Youth Ministry

WELS congregations are helping adults build strong foundations for their families—which ultimately impacts youth.



“I asked the youth leaders who attended the pilot for my marriage-building session, ‘Are you wondering why we’re spending an hour on marriage building? Your youth members aren’t married,’” says Randy Hunter, pastor at St. Andrew, Middleton, Wis. “Everyone there understood that when the parents have a strong marriage, the kids will do better. And that’s the way God designed it.”

Hunter says this topic has also come up in conversations with community leaders. “I met with the police chief, the principal of the public high school, and the director of a local food pantry. I asked them, ‘What can we, as a church, do to help?’ Their answers were the same: Fix the family.”

BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES

Hunter says one way to do this is by improving marriages—something St. Andrew is actively working on. The congregation has committed itself to becoming a marriage-building church by helping Christian couples live the strong connection between the gospel and their marriage.

“Everyone wants a strong marriage, and there’s no shortage of marriage materials out there,” Hunter says. “But so many of those materials lack the gospel of who Jesus is and what he’s done for you. We want to connect the gospel to your marriage. That’s really what makes this distinct.”

Jason Teteak, member at St. Andrew, appreciates his congregation’s emphasis on strong marriages. “Before my wife, Jess, and I got married, we went through a pre-marriage workshop with Pastor Hunter,” says Teteak. “It was just fantastic because it helped us understand how to put Christ at the center of our relationship and how to grow together as husband and wife.”

The Teteaks also have attended marriage retreats. “We love to go to them,” he says. “You’ve got to get into the Bible to grow your faith, and you’ve got to work on your marriage to grow your marriage. God didn’t design us to have marriage without him. When you put him at the center and have your entire marriage founded on that central core— it’s helped us in so many ways.”

For example, he’s seen how his marriage impacts his five-year-old son. “When my son sees me give my wife a hug, he comes over and gets a hug too,” says Teteak. “When your children see the love you and your spouse have, they feel so much love because of that.”

Teteak likens it to when you’re on a plane. If the oxygen masks drop down, “you’re supposed to put the mask on yourself first, then help the others,” he says. “If a marriage is not connected to Christ and it isn’t spiritually healthy, the kids suffer. But when the parents are connected to Christ, the kids get to experience that too.”

FAITH HABITS FOR FAMILIES

Kristi Sebald, member at Crosswalk, Phoenix, Ariz., agrees that families need a strong foundation—“a strong marriage and a strong spiritual base,” she says. But for many families, that strong spiritual base is lacking.

“I’ve been doing a lot of research, and statistics say that in Protestant America regular church attendance is once a month,” says Sebald. “Of those people who say that they belong to church and regularly attend, only 10 percent practice spiritual disciplines at home. So if you think about parents who go to church, only 10 percent are reading their Bibles, or praying with their families, or doing these things that we know affect family culture and transform faith.”

Sebald used to serve as the director of children’s ministry at Crosswalk. In that role, she was looking for ways to connect to parents. “We wanted to help them be spiritual leaders at home,” she says. So she developed a curriculum that cultivates and nurtures faith habits like praying with your child, reading Bible studies, and having family devotions. “They are basically spiritual disciplines that we would do as adults, but implementing them with children,” she says.

The idea is to have parents focus on instilling one faith habit in their children per year, from infancy to fifth grade. The parents are invited to attend Sunday school with their kids once each year. They spend about half the time observing the children’s lesson, then they learn about the faith habit to do with their child at home.

“It’s amazing to see parents getting involved in their children’s faith lives,” says Sebald. “Some parents don’t know where to start, so we started introducing these habits in small, easy ways that they can absorb into their family culture. They are relieved when they find out that something like family devotions don’t have to be a huge production—you can take ten minutes to read a story, discuss two or three questions, and then pray together. These are foundational habits that really will affect a child’s faith throughout their lives.”

Stacia Weinstein, member at Crosswalk, agrees. “If the kids don’t see their parents reading the Bible, they think, Why should I do it? If kids don’t see it happening, they’re probably not going to do it.”

Weinstein, who volunteers for Crosswalk’s children’s ministry, says she’s witnessed a lot of blessings over the past year. “At one of the preschool sessions I attended, the teacher went around the circle and asked each child to say a prayer. When it was time for my friend’s daughter to pray, she didn’t say a word. So my friend went home and worked on praying with her daughter. A few weeks later in class, the teacher asked the kids to say another prayer. When it was my friend’s daughter’s turn, she had the courage to say the prayer she had practiced.”

Weinstein says this ministry helps the entire family—parents included. “Parents have the best intentions, but other things get pushed into their minds and life gets busy,” she says. “This is a great reminder about what’s really important; this is eternity. I’m doing this because I want to have my kids with me in heaven. And I want to help other parents achieve the same thing.”

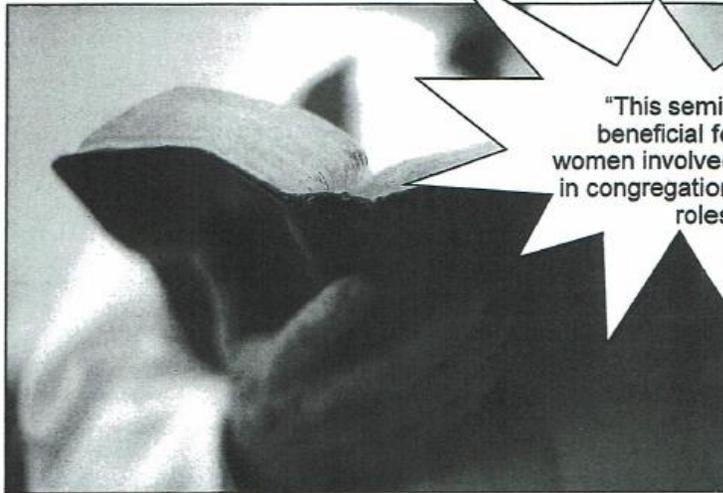
Author: Alicia A. Neumann *Alicia Neumann is a member at Christ, Zumbrota, Minnesota.*

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Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one Biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly e-mail at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/marriagemoments/>

Christian Leadership Seminar



“This seminar is very beneficial for men and women involved or interested in congregational leadership roles.”

In the early centuries Christian church leaders served the gospel, taught the word, struggled in difficulties. They trusted God to send help and encouragement, and this He did through the pens of chosen writers.

Treasured letters, carried on foot over distant paths or sailed by ship through treacherous seas, were safely delivered by God’s almighty hand. God’s children pored over these precious Words, cherishing the faith they brought and the faithful men who brought them.

This *Christian Leadership* seminar is alive with the same truths that inspired and sustained our ancient brothers and sisters. A letter from Paul to Pastor Titus and studies of Stephen, Peter and Paul show us how they served, taught, and struggled.

Sat., October 17, 2020
8:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

St. Peter Lutheran Church
1351 Grand Ave Schofield, WI

*Seminar Registration \$10 per person
Free will offering lunch will be provided*

Guest Speaker
Dr. John Boeder

*Campus Pastor
Martin Luther College, New Ulm MN*

To Pre-register by October 13
Contact Mr. Jim Ellenberger
husker9964@gmail.com
715-409-6748

YOUTH EDUCATION UPDATE:

Beginning **Sunday, October 4** the following groups will meet in designated areas with their teachers:

Grades 3-4 (Kindness): Mrs. Deana Jankowsky

Grades 5-6 (Joy): Mrs. Ellen Cerney

Grades 7-12 Teen Bible Study (Library): Mr. Willi Heisinger

For PreK-grade 2 no in-person instruction or supervision will be provided. Parents are encouraged to utilize the Christ-Light Remote Learning Program that is detailed below.



NPH is producing a Christ-Light Remote Learning Program for grades PreK-K, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. This program combines Lesson Videos recorded by experienced WELS teachers available for free via YouTube and easy activities that parents can do with their children using printed Christ-Light Sunday

school student lessons. More information and links to the lesson videos are found at <https://online.nph.net/ss-at-home>.

Printed Student Lessons for your child will be available for pick-up at church or will be mailed directly to your home at no cost to you. Email christmerrilleducation@gmail.com or call/text 715-921-5132 to request materials.

This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ. To assist you in reinforcing the message of each lesson, download this FREE excerpt from the book *You Can Teach Sunday School*. This simple resource will help you focus on the main goal of teaching Sunday school: reminding your children that Jesus lived, died, and rose for them.

The Christ-Light Remote Learning Program presents a wonderful opportunity to get parents involved and encourage families to study God's Word together. Parents are invited to download *Share the Promise with Your Children: How to Lay the Foundation for a Strong Christian Home*. This free five-lesson Bible study, written by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professor Richard Gurgel, emphasizes the critical role parents have in their children's spiritual growth and offers practical guidance to help them share God's Word with their children regularly.

Created to complement the WELS Connection monthly video news magazine, Kids Connection encourages children and their families to "stay connected to Jesus" through Christ-centered stories and segments presented by two teenage hosts.

Access the complimentary September edition at <https://online.nph.net/download-kids-connection>

