

THE MESSENGER

April 2021

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

2021 Holy Week Services

To meet the various worship needs of the congregation, services will be held as follows:

Thursday, April 1: A combination Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service for those who wish to attend with COVID-19 guidelines in place. Worship will begin at 6:30 pm and Holy Communion will be offered.

Friday, April 2: A combination Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service for those who prefer the traditional worship service. Worship will begin at 6:30 pm and Holy Communion will be offered.

Easter Sunday: The **first service will be held at 7:30 am with guidelines.** This half hour time change accommodates those who wish to participate in our **Easter breakfast, which will be held between 9 and 10 am** in the church basement. The **second service will be held at 10:30 am.** Both services will offer Holy Communion. No education studies will be conducted.

Worship Livestream

To better serve the worship needs of our members, we will be providing an internet livestream broadcast during the 10:30 services **beginning Easter Sunday, April 4.** Please subscribe to our YouTube channel (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) to get updates about the live streaming schedule.

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He is Risen!

He is not here; he has risen! (Luke 24:6)

On Easter Sunday it is customary to greet one another by saying, “He is risen!” to which the other person will respond by saying, “He is risen indeed!” It’s such a simple sentence, but it’s a very important sentence. In this devotion I want us just to focus on that one word “is.” Why is that one word so important? Imagine if we greeted each other by saying, “He was risen.” This wouldn’t be the worst thing to say but it could give the impression that what Jesus did no longer applies for us, as if it were just a random past event. Or it could give the impression that Jesus was risen but he no longer is. Or imagine if we greeted each other by saying, “He will be risen.” If that were the case then Jesus is still dead and therefore there would be no reason to celebrate Easter Sunday.

But Jesus is risen indeed! Since he is risen there are many comforts in this fact. First of all, **we have the comfort that Jesus is true God.** No one took his life from him but he gave it up on his own accord. Not only by his own power did he give up his life but also by his own power he took up his life again.

Another comfort we find in the fact that Jesus is risen is that our sins are forgiven. Scripture says, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” If Christ were still dead then we wouldn’t have a Savior from our sins. But since Christ is risen we are not in our sins anymore; they have been forever removed from us.

Since Jesus is risen this means that he is living right now. A comfort we find in this fact that our risen and ever-living Savior is preparing a place for us in heaven. He is ruling over all things for the good of his believers. As the famous hymn I Know My Redeemer says, “He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears. He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.”

And since Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven another comfort of his resurrection is that we have eternal life in him. As Jesus promised, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” But what about death itself? It can feel like death still has the victory as it takes away the life of our loved ones and one day will take our life as well. What comfort can we find? **One more comfort of the fact that Jesus is risen is that one day we will be raised from the dead.** Jesus said, “Because I live, you too will live.” On the Last Day Jesus will raise us believers from physical death to everlasting life, and on that day we can say about ourselves, “I am risen indeed!” This is why the Easter greeting of, “He is risen indeed” is so important; let us rejoice to use this greeting not only on Easter but on every day of our lives.

- Pastor Neal Behm



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 6:30 pm Lenten Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) | 2 6:30 pm Lenten Worship (Holy Communion) | 3 |
| 4 7:30 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion) | 5 | 6 | 7 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism 4:45 pm Bylaw Review Committee Meeting | 8 | 9 | 10 9:00 am Men's Bible Study |
| 11 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Children's Group Time 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Congregational Forum 10:30 am Worship | 12 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 13 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 14 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism | 15 | 16 Spring Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip (through Sunday) | 17 Men of His Word Virtual Conference |
| 18 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Children's Group Time 9:15 am Youth Education 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion) | 19 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting | 20 | 21 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Confirmand Class 4:45 pm Bylaw Review Committee Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Children's Group Time 9:15 am Youth Education 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Voters' Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 9:00 am Adult Bible Study | 29 | 30 | |

Weekly Sunday Schedule

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

CONGREGATIONAL INPUT on SUMMER

WORSHIP: Each household has received a survey in their mailbox regarding member needs for worship this summer. **A congregational forum will be held on April 11 at 9:15 am** to give members an additional opportunity to provide their input. Virtual attendees may use this link: <https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=mae7d2dd32e1bf0b17a2def7d92bcea47>. The Elders will review the answers received and consider them as part of a final decision on the 2021 summer worship schedule.

OFFICIAL CHURCH CONSTITUTION

MISSING: The official copy of the church constitution and bylaws that contains the signatures of the congregation's voting members may have been borrowed. It is enclosed in a clear front report cover with the back portion being red. If you happen to have it, please return it to the president mailbox or give it to President Willi Heisinger. Thank you.

USHERS: A temporary ushers' roster is posted in the Ushers section on the bulletin board next to the elevator.

CALLED WORKER TUITION ASSISTANCE:

Applications for those that are preparing for full-time ministry are due May 1.

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE?

Please write your current address, phone number(s), and/or email address on the Friendship Register page next to your name. Thanks.

UPDATE TO COUNCIL & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD:

Board of Christian Education Chair: Scott Schult

Board Members: Curt Whitson, Tom Marheine, and Al Zimmerman

A complete listing of board and committee members is on the bulletin board next to the elevator. If interested in serving on a board or committee, contact the chairman.

MESSENGER SIGN-UP: To get an electronic copy of each month's *Messenger* in your email, go to ChristMerrill.com/email and subscribe to *Messenger*. Paper copies will continue to be available at church.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Sandra Abbrederis | 22 Jacob Marheine |
| 9 Preston Collins | 23 Steve Huth |
| 9 Don Paroubek | 23 Christina Weiland |
| 12 Derek Schult | 24 Lisa Kohnhorst |
| 14 Grace Golomb | 24 Laura Pierzchalski |
| 17 Marion Schmoltd | 27 Rachel Berg |
| 20 Pastor Behm | 30 Willi Heisinger |
| 21 Dick Stahoski | 30 Lois Woller |
| 22 Trina Green | |






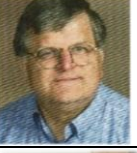

Please submit items for next month's *Messenger* by the 20th of this month to Messenger@ChristMerrill.com or place them in the *Messenger* slot located in the top row of church mailboxes in the narthex.

MEMBER CARE

The Board of Elders is ready to serve to you!

Contact information for your Elder may be found on the bulletin board by the elevator; or call 715-539-0250; or email elders@christmerrill.com.

Here is a listing of member households and the Elder assigned to each group:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Abbrederis - Byer | Mr. Willi Heisinger |  |
| Cerney - Griesbach | Mr. Phil Marheine |  |
| Hackbart - Kleinschmidt | Mr. Carl Christian |  |
| Kohnhorst - L. Marheine | Mr. Chris Revie |  |
| P. Marheine - Polak | Mr. Dan Kohnhorst |  |
| Pontel - Mike Stockowitz | Mr. Bill Wendorf |  |
| Mitchell Stockowitz - Zimmerman | Mr. Scott Schult |  |

Bible Studies at Christ

Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 9:15 am in the sanctuary; a new study will begin soon.

To join the class virtually, use this link:

<https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=mae7d2dd32e1bf0b17a2def7d92bcea47>

To join by phone, call: 1-415-655-0001 US Toll and enter meeting number (access code) 126 863 6922 and meeting password 23858242.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study meets at 9:00 am; the current study is about the book of *John*.

Men's Bible Study is held at 9:00 am on the **second Saturday** of the month in the church basement. In April Neil Varnum will lead the study "From Riches to Ashes" based on Job 1:6 - 2:10. To prepare for the study, read Job chapters 1 and 2.

To join the class virtually, use this link:

<https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=mee950ca2249b82e65b6797a72758a2b1>

Women's Bible Study is held from 6-7 pm on the **second Monday** of the month through May. April's topic is *Martha and Mary, the Sisters*. To join the class virtually, use this link: <https://meet.google.com/egv-bntw-ewt>



Virtual Conference

Saturday, April 17

8:30 - 12:30

Keynote: Pastor Mike Novotny

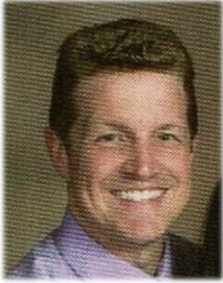
COVID & Mental Health: Dan Nommensen

Digital Outreach & Discipleship: Pastor Michael Ewart

Space for this ZOOM conference is limited to the first 500.

Details and registration available on the website: www.menofhisword.org

Meet our Members



Chris Revie

Married to **Billie Jo** 8 years

Children: Sullivan, age 3

Job Title: Marketing Manager

Describe the type of things you would do during a general workday: Directly or indirectly facilitate the successful deployment of print and digital marketing materials, campaigns or resources for Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I, and its affiliates. Directly oversee the marketing efforts for Pennsylvania affiliate CM Regent Insurance Company.

About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church? 13

Share a memory of the church from when you first started attending. Valeria Schield was my step-grandmother so I already knew Gib and Eunice Koehler well [Eunice was Valeria's daughter]. Being able to worship and fellowship with them before their passing will always be special to me.

What position of service do you have within the church? Evangelism Chair, Digital Content Manager, Technology Committee, Elder, Worship Aids Advisory Committee

What do you enjoy about serving in that capacity? These positions allow me to use my talents to serve God and his people while also engaging in activities I enjoy.

Share a Bible verse that is a favorite of yours and tell why it is meaningful to you. My confirmation verse: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." - Revelation 2:10 (EHV)



Katelyn Schult

Parents: Scott & Colleen

Brother: Derek

What are your favorite school classes and what do you enjoy about them? My favorite classes are Woods and Art because I like getting to make my own projects that can be displayed, used or given to others as presents.

What types of books do you enjoy most? Mystery and Fantasy

What are your hobbies? I enjoy reading, taking nature pictures, climbing trees, and 4-wheeling with my cousins.

What church-related activities do you most enjoy? I like making posters to promote events. I also like the youth group raking because I like to help others who can't do it themselves.

What pets do you have? Two cats. One of them is adventurous and the other one is scared a lot.

What is your favorite holiday tradition? My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is to go hunting with my extended family.

Share a favorite Bible verse: My confirmation verse: John 14:6 – Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

In an effort to promote the feeling of community and friendship amongst church members, each month's Messenger will feature one or more individuals of our congregation. Questionnaires are available for all members below the narthex mailboxes. Completed forms can be placed in the Messenger slot in the top row of narthex mailboxes. Information can also be submitted using this Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/oGZcXKTbpa5mPW8K8>