

# THE MESSENGER

August 2021

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## August Weekly Schedule

**Sunday @ 8:00 am**      **Worship Service with Guidelines**  
such as distancing, face masks, reduced touch, etc.

**Sunday @ 9:00 am**      **Worship Service** (traditional format)

**Monday @ 6:30 pm**      **Worship Service** (traditional format)

## 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 (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.

## Services on the Air

A Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church worship service is on the air **Sunday mornings at 8:00 am** on 96.3FM, 730AM, and streaming at [bluejay963.com](http://bluejay963.com), Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).

## Special Voters' Meeting

**August 8 at 10:15:** A calendar of worship services that covers the church year has been developed by the Board of Elders. The proposal includes times, a schedule and number of communion services. A presentation was given at the July Quarterly to allow time to consider the information ahead of a vote. If you were unable to see the presentation or have questions or comments, please reach out to Pastor or an elder.

### In this Messenger:

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# Back to the Word

*When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! (Isaiah 8:19-20a)*

It is August and we begin to realize that summer is almost over, which means children will be going back to school soon. Stores are having their back-to-school sales. For young children this means things like folders, markers, crayons, backpacks, etc. are on sale. For those who are going back to college you might see sales for books or laptops. For parents this means your schedules might change since you have to wake up earlier to get the children ready for school.

Regardless of your age and regardless of if you're going back to school or not, **all of us are students of God's Word. All of us need to read and study God's Word.** But as you look at the above passage you will see that the people in Isaiah's day weren't going to God's Word. Instead, they were turning to mediums and spiritists. Of course, this didn't just happen in Isaiah's day; it has happened throughout history.

But why is that? Why do you people like to consult mediums and practice some form of sorcery? I can think of one reason why people like to do this. People want to know the future and the Bible doesn't always give them the specific answers they are looking for. The Bible will not tell you who your significant other might be. The Bible does not tell you if you will be rich or not. Because of this we all might be tempted to find answers in other places. Maybe you have used a Ouija board and asked it questions. Maybe you read the horoscope in the newspaper and then live your day by what that says. Maybe you haven't done those things, but **when you want an answer to your questions do you go to the Word to see what God says to you?**

To the law and to the testimony! Let us always go back to the Word. Even though Scripture may not give you specific answers to your specific questions, **Scripture does give you everything that you need to know. Scripture has revealed that Jesus Christ, the Word, who is God took on human flesh to save us from our sins. And Scripture also guides us in our understanding of what God wants for us and how he blesses us. So let us go back to the Word each day as God makes our faith and knowledge about him grow.**

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>2</b>  5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting  6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship  10:15 am Special Voters' Meeting	<b>9</b>  6:30 pm Worship	<b>10</b>  6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  9:00 am Men's Bible Study
<b>15</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>16</b>  6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>17</b>  6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship	<b>23</b>  6:30 pm Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship	<b>30</b>  5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting  6:30 pm Worship	<b>31</b>				

**P-16 TAP APPLICATIONS DUE:** The P-16 Tuition Assistance Program applications for assisting students attending WELS preschool, elementary, secondary, and college level schools are due on **September 1** for the fall semester. Applications are available in the narthex to the right of the education bulletin board. Please place it in the Board of Christian Education mailbox when completed.

### **UPDATES TO TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER:**

Time is a valuable resource that we all share. The needs survey resulted in about 80% of households indicating that they would prefer the worship service average one hour. An effort will be made to do this. Additionally, an offering hymn will continue to be a part of non-communion worship services. The worship leader may diversify the hymns used to add variety. Lastly, parishioners will be ushered to the communion table in groups of 16. This number was chosen to create an opportunity for more space between people.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is held at 9:00 am on the **second Saturday** of the month in the church basement. Neil Varnum will lead the study on the book of Job. **To join the class virtually**, use this link:

<https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=m009f131e1cbdcde169578ba2886bb5f4>

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED:** Do you have a talent teaching children? We are looking for you to fill-in as needed when our teachers need a day off. Please contact Scott Schult or email [ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com](mailto:ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com) for more information or to express an interest in serving.

**GRAPE JUICE AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNION:** White grape juice will be offered as an alternative for those members who cannot consume red wine. When the individual cups are served, the grape juice will be available in the outside rim of the tray. Please contact Pastor Behm if you have any questions.

**ATTENDANCE COMMUNICATION:** Feel free to inform your friends and family that members are being given a fresh start with their attendance records. **Starting September 1**, the Elders will begin to lovingly address attendance concerns with individual strayed or straying members. The following timeline for contacting members will be followed, keeping in mind there may be unique circumstances requiring the Elders to assess each individual one-on-one:

- Two months: Elder phone call (or letter) of encouragement.
- Three months: Elder phone call (or letter) of concern.
- Four months: Pastor makes a contact.
- Six months: A visit by Pastor or an elder.
- Eight months: A final letter expressing our heartfelt desire for the individual to return to worship.
- Ten months: A letter informing recipient(s) of impending release.
- Twelve months: A letter of release (sent by certified mail), after congregational approval.

**P-16 TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND:** The P16 Tuition Assistance Fund is designed to financially assist those who attend WELS preschools, grade, middle and high schools. Please consider contributing to the fund. Envelopes are located to the right of the narthex education board.

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

6 Gavin Schmidt	26 Jane Dehnel
8 Jonathon Dehnel	26 Sonia Thoune
10 Charlotte Boehm	27 Cindy Hackbart
11 Ellen Cerney	28 Brad Byer
13 Colleen Schult	29 Dan Kohnhorst
15 Miley Golomb	30 Bridget Schmidt
20 Donna Dehnel	31 Ethan Rasmussen
23 Kathie Baumann	31 Danielle Kropp

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to the Messenger slot in the top row of narthex mailboxes or email [Messenger@ChristMerrill.com](mailto:Messenger@ChristMerrill.com).

### **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. **To get a copy of this periodical for the upcoming church year, please sign-up on the narthex bulletin board or call 715-921-5132 by September 19.**



Congratulations to the **Christ Lutheran/Mountain of the Lord/Trinity, Berlin Church Softball Team** which recently won the Lower League Tournament.

**FORWARD IN CHRIST:** *Forward in Christ* (FIC) is the official magazine of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Published monthly in both print and digital formats (<https://forwardinchrist.net>), FIC brings Lutherans together through shared stories of faith and articles that address important issues facing Christians today. FIC also provides an in-depth look at important biblical truths while striving to inspire its readers to live lives of Christian service. As WELS' official magazine, FIC shares news from its congregations, schools, ministry affiliates, and synodical areas of ministry. **Print copies are available in the narthex.**

**COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS:** Are you heading to college this fall? Do you know someone who is going to college? Don't leave your faith life at home! Sign up with WELS Campus Ministry to get connected with the local campus pastor near your school and to receive free copies of *Meditations* devotions and *Forward in Christ* magazine. **Sign up at [wels.net/college](https://wels.net/college).**

## **Upcoming Events**

- |                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>September 25, 2021</b>   | <b>Iron Men of God Conference</b>                             | <a href="https://ironmenofgodwi.org">Ironmenofgodwi.org</a>   |
| <b>October 1-3, 2021</b>    | <b>Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip</b>                         | <a href="https://www.campphillip.com/">www.campphillip.com/</a>   |
| <b>October 22-24, 2021</b>  | <b>Fall Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip</b>                       | <a href="https://www.campphillip.com/">www.campphillip.com/</a>   |
| <b>March 4-6, 2022</b>      | <b>Pathways to Christ Retreat</b>                             | <a href="https://pathwaystochrist.org/">https://pathwaystochrist.org/</a>   |
| <b>June 28-July 1, 2022</b> | <b>WELS International Youth Rally in Knoxville, Tennessee</b> |   |
| <b>July 21-23, 2022</b>     | <b>Women's Ministry Conference</b>                            | <a href="https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/">https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/</a> |

# Family Vacation Bible School

**Ready, Set, Gold:** God . . . gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). **Thanks** to those who attended Vacation Bible school to strengthen your faith in the victory that is yours through Jesus. **Thank you** to all who supported VBS by welcoming; teaching; leading games, music and crafts; serving and providing food; and cleaning up.

