

THE MESSENGER

June 2021

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 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)

Wednesday 5:00 – 7:30 pm **Family Vacation Bible School**

Worship Livestream

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church will be providing an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services** (9:00 am starting May 30). Please subscribe to the YouTube channel (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos will also be available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.



Family Vacation Bible School

This engaging program *for the whole family (children and adults)* shows everyone that they have been granted the greatest win through Jesus Christ.

The gospel-centered lessons and Olympic-themed activities emphasize **training** in the Word, **trusting** in God as a part of his team, **servicing** our fellow Christian teammates, and **celebrating the victory** through our Savior.

Register for any of the Wednesday sessions on the narthex bulletin board or at christmerrill.com/vbs.

In this Messenger:

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- 2) Pastor's Devotion
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- 4) Summer Worship Considerations
- 4) Men's Bible Study
- 4) Birthdays
- 4) Stewardship Committee Updates
- 4) New Summer Devotion Series
- 5) Youth Car Wash Pictures
- 6) Softball Pictures



715-536-3313
www.christmerrill.com
www.facebook.com/christmerrill
1204 N. Sales Street | Merrill, WI 54452



“Our Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:9)

Pop Quiz: what do the universe, Jesus Christ, and Christians have in common? They all have the same father. In June we celebrate Father’s Day. There are many things from Scripture that can be said for fathers such as: fathers instructing their children in the faith or taking care of their children. These things are vital for fathers to do, and by no means am I ignoring this for this month’s devotion, but I am writing this devotion to focus on how God is the Father.

God is the Father because of creation. Malachi 2:10 says, *“Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?”* Although God the Son and God the Holy Spirit also played a part in creation, it is God the Father who is credited as the one who made us. The biggest things of creation, the stars and planets, and the smallest things of creation, cells and atoms, were created by God the Father. Yet the greatest thing God the Father created was us, mankind. We were created in the perfect image of God.

But we ruined God’s creation and lost the perfect image of God when we fell into sin. We see this in our relationship with our fathers and children. As fathers, we are not perfect. We can be harsh with our children, punish them unfairly, or take them for granted. As children, we didn’t always listen to our fathers, accept their discipline, or we took them for granted. This is the sin of our sinful nature rising up against us. Because of our sins we don’t deserve to call God our Father.

But here we see another reason why **God is called the Father. He is the Father of Jesus Christ.** How exactly God the Father and Jesus Christ who are both eternal can have this relationship of father and son our minds can never understand. But this is what Scripture says. Another surprising thing about this relationship is what God the Father sent his Son to do. Would any of you fathers send your son whom you love to die for the worst of people? None of us would, but that’s what God the Father did. Jesus said, *“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.”* Because of Jesus, God’s Son, we have been saved from our sins.

And this brings us to the final reason why God is the Father. Although all creation calls God their Father, as believers we call God our Father for a special reason. Galatians 3:26-27 says, *“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”* **As believers we call God our Father because we have been adopted by faith. As believers we call God our Father because through baptism we are connected with Christ, God’s Son.**

So as we celebrate Father’s Day this month, let us not only show appreciation to our earthly fathers, but let us also show appreciation to God our Father. He is our Father for he made us. He is our Father for he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. He is our Father because we have been adopted by him through faith and baptism.

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:00 – 7:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School	3	4 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	5
6 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 2:00 pm Softball @ Faith, Maine	7 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 5:00 – 7:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School	10	11	12 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
13 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Softball @ St. John's, Hamburg	14 6:30 pm Worship	15	16 5:00 – 7:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School	17	18 Family Fest @ Camp Phillip (through Sunday)	19 12:00 Camp Phillip Annual Meeting
20 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 4:00 pm Softball @ Immanuel, Corning	21 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	22 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	23 5:00 – 7:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School	24	25	26
27 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Softball @ St. John's, Hamburg	28 5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting 6:30 pm Worship	29	30 5:00 – 7:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School			

SUMMER WORSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

Sunday, 8:00 am: This worship service will be approximately 30 minutes in length and is intended for those who prefer distancing, masks, reduced touch, etc. To reduce congestion between services, 8:00 am attendees may exit the sanctuary via the main entrance doors, the exit door near the sound booth or use the elevator to exit through the basement.

Sunday, 9:00 am: To avoid traffic bottlenecks in the entryway between services, 9:00 am attendees are asked to arrive at church no earlier than 8:40 am. If you do need to come early, please be respectful of others and social distance as the 8:00 am service dismisses. The open area near the picture board has been designated as an informal waiting area.

All services: Sermons will be approximately 10-12 minutes in length. This allows everyone to hear the same message in a time that fits all service formats.

Feedback: The Board of Elders will be reviewing these formats at its monthly meetings and will make adjustments as needed. Please continue to provide feedback through your elder or via email to elders@christmerrill.com.

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 *Patience Gives Way to Complaint (Job 2:11-3:26)*.

To join the class virtually, use this link:
<https://kennethcerney.my.webex.com/kennethcerney.my/j.php?MTID=m009f131e1cbdced169578ba2886bb5f4>

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Megan Cordova	19 Tiffany Braunel
4 Sullivan Revie	19 Mike Kropp
9 Ruth Kriewald	20 Leon Marheine
12 Nicole Zeinert	23 Jim Dehnel
13 Brad Dehnel	23 Katelyn Schult
15 Bob Secora	25 Alan Zimmerman

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATES:

The Stewardship Committee is going to be starting up **HuTerra** again. HuTerra is a Fundraising Program for Northland Lutheran High School. The committee will be educating our members on this opportunity to support Northland on **June 27th** after the worship service.

Members are still welcome to bring canned goods or non-perishable items to church and put them in the donation box in the narthex.

Reminder that the committee will be rolling out **Interest Surveys** in July.



Are women today still called to fulfill the role of helper? Can women serve in leadership positions in the church? Should a woman hold a job where she has men working under her? For many of us, these questions are difficult to answer and present a sharp contrast between a society that offers seemingly endless possibilities for women and a church body where it can sometimes feel as though more doors are closed for women than are open. But...

As members of the body of Christ, men and women are privileged to share blessings and responsibilities in partnering together to serve their Savior. *Reflections on Our Unique Callings* is a **three month series of twice-weekly devotions** from WELS Women's Ministry that explores biblical principles and applications, poses thoughts and questions for further reflection, and encourages conversations on how these unique callings find their fulfillment in the home, the church, and the world.

Sign up to receive these devotions directly to your inbox at <https://wels.net/unique-callings>

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

Youth Group Car Wash



L to R: Sonia, Kaylynn, Derek, Megan, Adeline, Katelyn



Church Softball



Leon



Michael



Jerome



Ethan



Tom



Losha



Losha Jerome



Derek



Scott
Katelyn



The softball team is made up of members of Christ Lutheran, Trinity, and Mountain of the Lord.