

THE MESSENGER

March 2021

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

2021 Lenten Services

The Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held at 6:30 pm using a traditional format. Attendees are asked to be mindful of others' possible desire for physical distancing while in the church.

The 2021 Series is called **The Hands of the Passion.**

Area pastors will be leading worship with the schedule below:

Mar. 3	Pastor Willitz	Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas)
Mar. 10	Pastor DeGier	Hands of Repentance (Tax Collector)
Mar. 17	Pastor Behm	Hands of Self-Preservation (Pilate)
Mar. 24	Pastor Bittorf	Hands of Brutality (Soldiers)

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.

In this Messenger:

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Meet our Members



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March through Holy Week

I, as your pastor, have to be honest with you about this month's devotion in *The Messenger*. I am using the same devotion that I used last year in the March edition of *The Messenger*. Why am I admitting this to you and why am I using the same devotion? It's because I don't want to lie or deceive you with my devotion, but more importantly, last year we weren't able to celebrate Holy Week in the typical way. This year I want to reuse this same devotion to make us prepared and appreciate what Jesus did for us. So, as Holy Week begins on the last Sunday of this month, let us, Lord-willingly, celebrate as we march through Holy Week.

Palm Sunday: This is the day that begins Holy Week. Jesus entered into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, and the people praised God and shouted, "*Hosanna to the Son of David!*" (Matthew 21:9). Two things we take note of on this day. First of all, the reason why Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey was to fulfill Scripture. This brings us comfort because every single prophecy about the promised Messiah was fulfilled in every detail in Jesus' life. The other thing we take note of is that Jesus entered into Jerusalem to die. There were other times when people threatened to take his life, but Jesus would say that his hour had not come. With his entrance into Jerusalem Jesus showed that his hour had finally come to fulfill his Father's will.

Maundy Thursday: Do you know what the word "Maundy" means? It's a Latin word which means "command." One command that Jesus made was when he commanded the disciples to wash one another's feet to show love by being a servant. Another command from Jesus was when he said, "*Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, this is my blood of the new covenant*" (Matthew 26:26-28). Here Christ instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion. When we take and drink the body and blood of Christ connected with the bread and the wine, we receive our Lord's forgiveness from our sins.

Good Friday: Yet there is no way that our sins could be forgiven unless Good Friday happened. Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested in Gethsemane. He was put on trial before Pilate, and the crowd that once shouted, "Hosanna!" now shouted, "Crucify him!" But what is important for us to notice is what Jesus shouted. On the cross he said, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). When Christ said these words, he declared that all of our sins were paid for in full. Then Jesus breathed his last and died.

Easter Sunday: Good Friday could not be called good unless Easter Sunday happened. For if Christ had remained dead then our faith is futile, and we would still be in our sins. But Christ is risen, therefore, our faith is not futile and we are no longer in our sins. We have eternal life because of Christ. Our fellow believers who have passed away are experiencing that Easter joy right now with their Savior, and we have that same guarantee as well. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is what truly makes Holy Week so holy. For what Christ has accomplished for us during that first Holy Week still applies to us each and every week of our lives. We receive his forgiveness in Communion. Our sins have been paid for in full. We will live with God forever. For this we gladly praise our God and shout, "Hosanna in the highest!"

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	2	3 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	4 4:15 pm Catechism	5	6
7 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	8 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	11 4:15 pm Catechism 4:45 pm Bylaw Review Committee Meeting	12	13 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
14 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	15 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	16	17 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	18 4:15 pm Catechism	19	20
21 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	22	23	24 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Fellowship Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	25 4:15 pm Catechism 4:45 pm Bylaw Review Committee Meeting	26	27 10-11 am Easter for Kids drive- through Event
28 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	29	30	31			

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/Music 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Fellowship Committee needs volunteers to sponsor meals before the Lenten midweek worship services. A sign-up sheet is posted on a communication board in the narthex.

CHURCH COUNCIL VACANCY: The position of **Board of Christian Education Chairman** needs to be filled. If interested in serving, please contact Pastor Behm or Losha Heisinger.

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.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: To better serve the worship needs of our members, we will be providing an internet livestream broadcast during one of the services **beginning Easter Sunday, April 4**. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) so that you get updates when we schedule any live streaming. (There happen to be a lot of churches with this name so make sure you are at the correct church channel.) This will be our first test of our livestream capabilities and we look forward to your feedback on our efforts to provide worship options to any of our members or visitors who are unable to join us face-to-face. Please note that your participation in this service is filmed if you pass in front of a camera during worship.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Melisa Kropp	19 Danielle Thoun
3 Svetlana Heisinger	22 Jim Nigh
10 Carrie Berg	23 Matthew Dehnel
11 Sally Anderson	23 Jerry Schoepke
11 Michael Nofsinger	24 Jenny Seeger
17 Wayne Pfaff	28 Laurene Herdina
18 Andrei Heisinger	29 James Pagel

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

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

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS: In the city of Merrill during **March**, no person shall park any vehicle on any street except on:

The **odd-numbered side** of any street on **odd-numbered days**.

The **even-numbered side** of any street on **even-numbered days**.

Since the church's address is **1204 N. Sales Street**, vehicles not in the church parking lot should be parked on the church (west) side of Sales Street on even-numbered days and on the east side of Sales Street on odd-numbered days.

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.

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 new Board of Elders is ready to serve to you! Every member household has been paired with an Elder. Communicate with your Elder regarding significant events and concerns: births, graduations, relocations, illness, death, hardship, promotions, change of address or phone numbers, etc. Members can request to be paired with a different Elder than the one assigned; just ask any Elder.

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	

CURRENT COUNCILMEN & MEMBERS OF THEIR BOARDS/COMMITTEES:

President: Hans (Willi) Heisinger

Financial Secretary: Ken Neff

Secretary: Curt Whitson

Treasurer: Bill Wendorf

Board of Christian Education Chair: vacant

Board of Church Properties Chair: Nick Cordova

Board Members: Dan Kohnhorst, Mike Stockowitz, and Tom Duerr

Board of Elders Chair: Scott Schult

Board Members: Carl Christian, Chris Revie, Dan Kohnhorst, Phil Marheine, and Bill Wendorf

Church Fellowship Committee Chair: Leon Marheine

Committee Members: Jackie Marheine, Al & Diane Zimmerman, and Jennifer Marheine

Evangelism Committee Chair: Chris Revie

Committee Members: Jacob Marheine, Brenda Rasmussen, Al Zimmerman, and Billie Jo Revie

Stewardship Committee Chair: Losha Heisinger

Committee Members: Jacob Marheine and Diane Zimmerman

Technology Committee Chair: Ken Cerney

Committee Members: Losha Heisinger, Jacob Marheine, Tom Marheine, Chris Revie, Scott & Colleen Schult, Katelyn Schult, and Diane Zimmerman

Are you interested in serving on a board or committee? Contact the chairman.



Bible Study Opportunities at Christ

Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 9:15 am in the sanctuary; the current study is *Our Christian Response to Blessings and Challenges Part 2*.

We always need God's guidance and the reassurance that He loves us, especially when we face difficult challenges. We also need to remember that God uses even our most difficult challenges to bless us. But sometimes obvious blessings cause us to stumble just as much as the challenges do. This Bible study leads us to think about how redeemed children of God respond to blessings and challenges in a way that glorifies our Lord.

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 in the sanctuary; the current study is about the book of *Revelation*.

Men's Bible Study is held at 9:00 am on the **second Saturday** of the month in the church basement. In March, Neil Varnum will lead the group to start a study on the book of Job. To prepare for the study, read Job chapters 1 and 2.

To join the class virtually: meet.google.com/nza-fgir-omb

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

Growth Opportunities



LET THE BIRD FLY PODCAST: "A podcast about living freely in a world given back to us. When we see the world for what it is and offers (and what it doesn't), and when we live baptismally, we are freed to enjoy the things around us and the life of the mind for what it is: a gift!" If you are looking for a truly Lutheran podcast, *Let the Bird Fly!* certainly fits the bill. Wade Johnston and Mike Berg, two pastors who serve as theology professors at Wisconsin Lutheran College, usually lead the discussions. Listen at letthebirdfly.com.

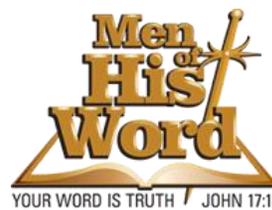


RETREATS: For more information, call 920-787-3202 or visit <https://www.campphillip.com/retreat-groups>.

March 5-7 Women's Retreat: a weekend of relaxation for your body and renewal for your soul!

March 19-21 Quilting Retreat: Suitable for both new and experienced quilters.

April 16-18 Teen Retreat: For youth in grades 9-12. An opportunity to connect with other teens about real, relevant issues and also have a phenomenal time enjoying creative activities.



A virtual **Men of His Word Conference** will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 with the theme, "Separated yet United". Find more details at <https://www.menofhisword.org/>

Meet our Members



Hans (Willi) Heisinger

Married to **Jennifer** 18 years

Children: Svetlana, Alexei, Andrei, and Adeline

Job Title: Director of Planning, Technology Supply Chain and Safety

Describe the type of things you would do during a general workday: Process mapping, Project management, Direct/Assign/Acquire resources, Problem solving - 8Ds, 5-Whys, Fishbones etc., Planning - Sales and Operations short and long term.

About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church? 17

Share a memory of the church from when you first started attending. Gib and Eunice were very loving and inviting along with others at the church. Gib and Eunice often encouraged Jennifer and me. They liked to have our kids over at their house. I have many fond memories of being over at their house and I know my children do, too.

What position of service do you have within the church? Church Council member

What do you enjoy about serving in that capacity? The joy of getting to work for Christ's church on earth. I am privileged to be able to do such work. Furthermore, I enjoy working with people.

Share a Bible verse that is a favorite of yours and tell why it is meaningful to you. Jeremiah 17:7-8. This is a strong reminder to me of God's promises to be with me even during the most trying times and not to get discouraged in times when it seems like all my striving to live out the faith isn't amounting to anything.

What's your favorite way to spend a day off? Spend time with family which usually involves taking a family walk/hike or spending some one-on-one time.

How many states or countries have you lived in or visited? Lived in 2 states and 2 countries; Visited 48 states; many provinces, and a few countries.

What authors or types of books do you enjoy most? Mostly non-fiction. C. S. Lewis

What type of pets do you have? 2 cats and 1 dog

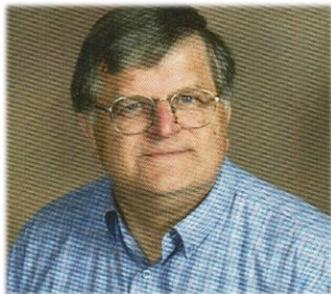
What is an activity you enjoy doing with your children? running, x-country skiing, camping, hiking, basketball, softball - pretty much anything they enjoy doing I will join them

What is your favorite holiday tradition? It's a toss-up between painting/coloring Easter eggs or decorating Christmas cookies with the family and large family get togethers for Memorial/Independence/Labor/Thanksgiving Days.

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and/or play? To watch: the Olympics; to play: soccer

In an effort to promote the feeling of community and friendship amongst church members, each month's Messenger will feature one or more people/families 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>

Meet our Members



Bill Wendorf

Married to **Carol** 45 years

Children: Sarah, Pamela, Benjamin, & Matthew

Job Title: Mechanical Engineer, currently semi-retired

Describe the type of things you would do during a general workday: Design machinery, make drawings, perform design calculations, purchase steel & parts

About how many years have you been a member of Christ Lutheran Church? 21

What position of service do you have within the church? I am currently the Treasurer. I have been the Treasurer for 16 of the 21 years I have been a member of CELC. I was the Secretary for the first 3 years I was a member.

What do you enjoy about serving in that capacity? I'm an engineer so numbers & dealing with details come naturally. Like the typical engineer, I'm not a people person so the position allows me to contribute in a comfortable environment.

Which countries have you visited? I have traveled to Brazil and India, both for business.

What type of pets do you have? None currently. However, we have had 5 dogs: three Golden Retrievers; one Flat Coated Retriever; and a Lab. All 5 were trained to retrieve ducks including the use of hand signals while the dog was out on a retrieve.

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and/or play? Ice Hockey. Several of us started the youth hockey program *Price Ice* in Price County. I currently referee high school and younger. I also referee soccer.



Derek Schult

Parents: Scott & Colleen

Sister: Katelyn

What are your favorite school classes and what do you enjoy about them? Art class because I enjoy making art projects; Literacy because I like to read.

What's your favorite way to spend a day off? Reading

What types of books do you enjoy most? Fiction; Series; Humor

What are your hobbies? Reading, building things, LEGOs

Share a favorite Bible verse: John 3:16-17

What pets do you have? Two cats

What is your favorite holiday tradition? To see relatives.

What is your favorite game or sport to watch and/or play? Minecraft

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