

THE MESSENGER

September 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Service & Fellowship Opportunities

Brighten someone's day – **be a greeter** before a church service and welcome everyone to worship. Sign up for a specific date(s) on the hall bulletin board.

Starting September 11: Fellowship Time in the basement following the worship service. There are many ways to participate:



- 1) Come on down and visit for a little while and enjoy a light snack.
- 2) Donate small plates for treats or canisters of regular or decaf coffee.
- 3) Fill and start up coffee pots before the service.
- 4) Sign up on the hall bulletin board to provide treats for a fellowship time. Then bring some sweet or healthy treats for people to enjoy. Serve food and drinks and clean up afterward.



Talk with Al or Diane Z. if you have any questions.

September 10: Highway Cleanup

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Meet at church



Safety vests and garbage bags provided.

September 18: Mini Golf

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: 107 Bait Shack

(near Council Grounds)

Cost: \$5 for 18 holes or

\$7 for 18 holes and an ice cream cone

Sign up on the hall bulletin board.



In this Messenger:

- 1) **Service & Fellowship** - Greeters, Fellowship Time, Highway Cleanup, Mini Golf
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) *A God-Lived Life* Stewardship Challenge
- 4) *Meditations*
- 4) **Fall Worship** Services, Communion, Ushers & Offering Help, Seating
- 4) Hymnal Open Forum
- 5) Photo Request
- 5) Kitchen Shower
- 5) Prayer Partners
- 5) Church Members Facebook Group
- 5) Worship Services Online & On Air
- 5) Online Church Resources
- 5) Birthdays
- 6) Softball Trophy
- 6) WELS Events
- 6) Tom M. fundraiser



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www.wels.net

Sabbath Rest

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (*Exodus 20:8-11*)

The month of September has a national holiday called Labor Day. On this day most people have a vacation day from work. It's a time when many people travel, go to family gatherings, have picnics, or just relax at home. The gift of rest and not working is something we cherish.

It's something that God also cherishes. In the above section of Scripture you will see that it mentions how God rested on the seventh day of creation. Does this mean that God actually fell asleep as if he needed rest? No, because our God does not become tired. He doesn't need rest. **So what does it mean that God rested on the seventh day? It means that God stopped creating, and he blessed the seventh day making it a day of rest. That's why it's called the Sabbath Day because the Hebrew word "Sabbath" means rest.**

Why did God set apart this day for a day of rest? God knows how much we need physical rest for our bodies. We can't work nonstop for if we did our bodies would no longer be able to function as well as they should. We would become filled with anxiety. We would have no joy in life if we were just working all the time. So **God established a day to give us rest so that our bodies can be restored, to relieve stress, and to give us time to have joy.**

But there's a bigger reason God set apart one day for rest. He set apart one day for rest so that we can find spiritual rest. Just like with our physical bodies, our spiritual lives need rest. For if we had no spiritual rest then we wouldn't be able to function as we should in our spiritual lives. We would become filled with stress and anxiety because the weight of our sins weighs us down. We would have no spiritual joy because Satan is always there accusing us of our trespasses.

So where do we find spiritual rest? We find spiritual rest in Christ. He once said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (*Matthew 11:28-29*) Christ our Savior came to bring spiritual rest for our souls by living and dying to take away our sins. This forgiveness is offered to us from his Word which we focus on in worship. **This is why we set apart one day for God's Word and worship to find spiritual rest for our souls so that our spiritual lives can be restored, so that we can be relieved of the stress of sin, and to find spiritual joy from God.**

So as you all enjoy your Labor Day and any other day of rest, give praise to God that he cherishes both physical and spiritual rest for us. May you always find rest in our God who blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- Pastor Neal Behm

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	3 Fall Family Camp @ Camp Phillip (Friday through Monday)
4 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	5	6 4:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	7 6:30 pm Liturgy Music Practice	8	9	10 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Highway Cleanup
11 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	12	13 6:30 pm Council Meeting	14 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Liturgy Music Practice	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Hymnal Open Forum 2:00 pm Mini Golf	19 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	20 7:00 pm Northland Lutheran High School Delegate Meeting	21 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Liturgy Music Practice	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	26 6:00 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	27 6:30 pm Council Budget Meeting	28 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	29	30 Women's Retreat @ Camp Phillip (Friday through Sunday)	

8:00 am Sundays - worship service on the radio (96.3FM, 730AM)

9:00 am Sundays - worship service on **Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS** YouTube channel



A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life of being a disciple

This month, the particular focus of the God-lived life is that of being a disciple, a learner, one who grows in God's Word. May God's Word cause us to crave that pure spiritual milk so that by it we grow up in our salvation.

The God-Lived Life program includes opportunities for personal growth centered around each monthly topic in the form of "challenge cards." The challenge cards are an anonymous way for us to consider how we can identify and set individual goals for our Christian lives.

Our challenge card this month will focus on growing and learning in God's Word. What's your biggest motivation for spending time in God's Word? What's your biggest obstacle to spending time in God's Word? What can help you overcome that obstacle? How can you build Bible study and prayer time into your regular routine?

May God bless the coming weeks as we commit to living a God-lived life of discipleship!

MEDITATIONS SIGN UP:

Meditations is a personal devotional booklet offering daily Scripture-based studies of God's Word. **To get a copy of this periodical for the next church year, please sign-up on the narthex bulletin board by September 18.**

FALL WORSHIP:

Starting in September, one worship service will be offered on **Sundays at 9:00 am**. Please continue to be mindful of your neighbor's needs (Romans 15:2). As Jesus put our needs before His own, so we, propelled by His love, strive to put the needs of others ahead of our own. Feel free to share your needs with those seated around you or with an elder.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE REMINDER:

Holy Communion will be available on the first and third Sundays of the month. To accommodate the differing spacing needs of members, ushers will bring tables of 20 forward, then come back around a second time after assistants have communed to usher those who desire more spacing in groups of 10 or less; Pastor will handle distribution for the latter format. Please reach out to Pastor or your elder for any clarification.

USHERING AND OFFERING PLATE ASSISTANCE:

Confirmed men are needed to help with ushering. Those interested may contact Dan K., Head Usher. Also, while the offering is being collected, confirmed men are encouraged to help with the passing of the offering plates in the side isles; this is done rather informally by a volunteer standing up prior to the ushers receiving the plates from Pastor. Thank you for your consideration!

WORSHIP SERVICE SEATING: Reserved seating is available in the back of the church for families with young children and persons with disabilities. Please keep those pews open for those who need them.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: HYMNAL UPDATE:

Since June, the congregation has had an opportunity to experience a service from *Christian Worship: Hymnal* on days communion was offered. Your opinion is valued. **On September 18 at 10:30 am** an open forum in the basement to discuss experiences with it and next steps will be held. **No education classes will be held that day. All youth and adult members are welcome to attend.** It is anticipated that there will be additional discussion at an October open forum and then a vote on how to proceed at the October quarterly meeting.

PHOTO REQUEST: Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way!

The church family picture board, that is in the hallway to the basement, is being updated! **Brenda R. is available to take pictures September 11 & 18.**

Need another option? Maybe you have a favorite picture from your vacation, family gathering or a professional portrait. Place your photo (which will be scanned and returned to you) in the Survey mailbox or email it to ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com. Thanks.

KITCHEN ITEMS NEEDED: If you can donate any of the following items, place them on the kitchen island in the basement: divided plates; small plates; can of regular or decaf coffee. Thank you.

PRAYER PARTNER SIGN UP:

A prayer partner is an adult member of the congregation who will encourage and pray for one or two children of our Sunday School (grades PreKindergarten-6) during the coming school year. Participants will receive a packet of cards that may be given to the children throughout the year to encourage them in their Christian faith and Sunday School participation. Please sign up to volunteer on the service bulletin board by **September 25.**

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20th of this month to Messenger@ChristMerrill.com.

MEMBERS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK GROUP:

This group is a place for members of the congregation to interact, ask questions, get information about church happenings, and build each other up as the body of Christ. To join, go to: facebook.com/groups/christmerrill

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, Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).



EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE CHURCH RESOURCES:

Visit christmerrill.com and click on the Facebook icon to go to the church's public Facebook page; click on the YouTube icon to visit the church's channel and view previously recorded worship services. Both icons are in the upper right corner of the page.



BELIEFS NEWS ONLINE GIVING EMAIL SIGN-UP



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 Jaycie S. | 11 Blake G. | 18 Losha H. |
| 6 Billie R. | 14 Danielle B. | 29 Tom S. |
| 10 Don P. | | |



Church Softball

Christ Lutheran combined with Mountain of the Lord (Rib Mountain) and Trinity (Berlin) and had a **season record of 6-1** and claimed **second place for the year.**



Members of Christ Lutheran Church are listed in bold.

Back row left to right: **Scott S., Ethan R., Leon M.,** Adam K., Joel S., **Katelyn S.,** Emma S., **Losha H., Michael N.**

Front row left to right: Ronnie M., Adam B., **Henry M.,** Luke K., **Derek S., Jerome B.,** James W. Lying: DeLaurie S.

Upcoming WELS Events

September 30 – October 2	Women’s Retreat @ Camp Phillip	www.campphillip.com/
October 21-23	Fall Teen Retreat @ Camp Phillip	www.campphillip.com/
October 22	Men of His Word Conference @ Rochester, MN	https://www.menofhisword.org/2022-rochester.html
January 16-18, 2023	WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership Chicago, Illinois lutheranleadership.com Open to men and women. Registration is now open.	

EAGLES PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MERRILL EAGLES CLUB
1205 LAKE STREET
715-536-7471

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
REGULAR & POTATO PANCAKES
(CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE)

ADULTS...\$10.00
CHILDREN AGES 6–10...\$5.00
AGES 5 AND UNDER FREE

PROCEEDS WILL BE GIVEN TO
THOMAS M
TO HELP DEFRAY MEDICAL EXPENSES

