

THE MESSENGER

July 2023

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Open Forum

We want to hear from you!

Join us for an open forum after worship on **Sunday, July 9** at approximately **10:30 am**, in the church fellowship hall. An open forum is an avenue for all members to have an informal discussion on various topics. Items to be discussed include:

Recap May 20 event

Interest in having a church directory

Digital display update

Upcoming church events

Voters' Meeting

The quarterly Voters' Meeting will be **Sunday, July 23**, starting at **10:30 am** in the sanctuary. Topics to be discussed include voting for two Northland Lutheran delegates (1 year term), worship schedule for August 13 and 14, and an update on digital displays. **To receive a link to the live meeting, email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com.**

Church Outdoor Worship & Picnic

Sunday, August 13 there will be an outdoor worship service at **10:30 am** at **Riverside Park** in Merrill followed by a **picnic at 11:30 am**, with outdoor games afterward. The meat will be catered for the picnic; attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Regular worship services will be held at the church on Sunday, August 13 at 9:00 am as well as **Monday, August 14 at 6:30 pm**.

Open House/Free Garage Sale/Cook-out

Saturday, September 9 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Start collecting your gently worn clothing items and household items in good condition to donate for the event.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Open Forum
- 1) Voters' Meeting
- 1) Outdoor Worship & Picnic
- 1) Free Garage Sale
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Refresh the Church
- 4) CW '21 Offering
- 4) Lost & Found
- 4) Birthdays and Anniversary
- 4) Church Softball
- 4) Attendance & Finance Numbers
- 4) Online Giving
- 5) Youth Group Pics
- 6) Synod Convention
- 7) WELS Happenings
- 8) NLHS Golf Outing



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



Government and Leaders are Blessings from God

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Romans 13:1)

On July 4th we will be celebrating the birthday of our nation. Ever since our nation came into existence God has greatly blessed our nation. God has blessed us as citizens of our nation for we have the freedom to vote for our leaders, freedom of speech, and freedom to practice our religion. **Government is a tremendous blessing from our God, for God established government for our good and to keep peace and stability to our society. Therefore, God tells us to submit to our government, to respect our leaders, and to pray for them.**

But do we always view the government as a blessing? If you watch the news or talk to people, it's easy to hear people critique our government and assume the worst about our leaders. At times we don't want to submit to our government. At times we don't show them respect. At times we don't speak a prayer for them but instead speak out against them. We may do this because we don't think our leaders deserve it, or because we didn't vote for them, or because they're not doing everything we want them to do. We can even feel justified in thinking this way.

But God doesn't tell us to submit, respect, and pray for our leaders if they deserve it. God tells us to do these things because our government and its leaders come from God. If we only submitted, respected, and prayed for the leaders whom we like then there would be chaos in our nation, for no leader is perfect. The only one who is perfect is our God and, although there is no authority higher than him, God's Son, Jesus Christ, humbled himself and submitted to his government. Even though in his day the emperors viewed themselves as being divine, Jesus still respected and prayed for them and told others to do the same. Even when the Roman government began to persecute Christians God's message about how to respond to government never changed.

Following Christ's example when it came to government is the perfect example to follow when it comes to our government. It can be easy to submit, respect, and pray for our leaders whom we approve, but when our government and its leaders do things we don't approve of and yet we still do what God wants us to do, that will stick out to people. And if people wonder why you act the way you do then you can point them to God and how he submitted to government as one of the things he did to save us and how God and his salvation motivates us to do what he asks and to view our government as a blessing from him. **So as we celebrate July 4th let us rejoice in the blessings that God has given to our nation and let us rejoice in the government that God has established for our good.**

- Pastor Neal Behm

July 2023

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	3 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	4	5	6	7 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower 7:10 Brewers WELS Night	8 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Open Forum 1:30 pm Softball @ Immanuel	10 6:30 pm Worship	11 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 1:30 pm Softball @ Faith	17 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	18	19	20 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Voters' Quarterly Meeting 3:30 pm Softball @ Immanuel	24 6:30 pm Worship	25	26	27	28	29 Softball Tournament (Sat. & Sun.)
30 9:00 am Worship	31 6:30 pm Worship	WELS Synod Convention (Monday – Thursday)				

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at youtube.com/@christmerrill

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? Find a WELS church in which to worship at <https://yearbook.wels.net/>

REFRESH THE CHURCH INSIDE AND OUT

We need your help making the buildings and grounds the best that they can be. Join us to tackle some outstanding projects. If you would like to help us refresh the church indoors and outdoors, please join us on **August 19 at 8:00 am**. We can work with whatever amount of time you can give us. There are jobs that fit the many talents of our people and their busy schedules. August 26 is another date, if needed.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP '21 SPECIAL OFFERING:

Our special offering for the new hymnals continues with 18 additional copies arriving soon. With shipping, the cost is about \$30 per hymnal. **Offerings should be given to the Memorial Fund and designated for "Hymnals."** This can be done by writing "Hymnals" on the envelope or in the memo line of a check. Envelopes should be placed in the offering plate. If you wish to have your donation recorded with your other church offerings, please write your name or envelope number on the Memorial Gift envelope.

LOST AND FOUND: Located in the coat room on top of the shelf at the far end is a clear bin containing items that have been found at the church. **Please take a few moments to look through the bin and take anything that belongs to you.** Any unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of August.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Patrick K.	14 Carl C.
3 Ariana R.	15 Vicki L.
3 Kayoda R.	16 Ken C.
9 Larry W.	20 Deana J.
10 Lynda K.	23 Peggy B.
13 Nikki S.	25 Jennifer H.
13 Cynthia V.	30 Nick C.



JULY ANNIVERSARY

July 3 – Ken & Ellen C.

CHURCH SOFTBALL: Come out and watch a Christ Lutheran/ Mountain of the Lord game this season. Go to <https://sites.google.com/view/ncwchurchsoftball> for the complete schedule.

<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	May
Sunday worship	67
Men's Adult Bible Study	7
Sunday Adult Bible Study	18
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	11
Women's Adult Bible Study	6
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	11

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 5/31/23)

Anticipated offerings: \$66,006

Actual offerings: \$58,289

Actual expenses: \$62,799

General Fund balance as of 6/11/23: \$18,450

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. We are currently trending below budget. For more information see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

ONLINE GIVING OPTION: Christ Lutheran has an online giving option for members to give their offerings directly from their checking/savings account or with a credit card. To participate, go to www.christmerrill.com/giving. You can also give through the GivePlus app available from the App Store or Google Play. You will be given the options to give to your preferred church fund and choose to pay directly from your checking or savings account or use a credit or debit card. You will also be able to do one time giving or set up recurring giving. There is a small cost to the church to use the service; there is an option available for you to offset the processing fee when using a credit/debit card.

Your gifts will be automatically deposited in the church bank account and your giving details imported directly into Church 360 and will be tracked the same way as our current regular giving. And if you are using the app please confirm that you are giving to the correct Merrill church, **Christ Ev. Lutheran Church**.

Youth Group at Bay Beach Amusement Park



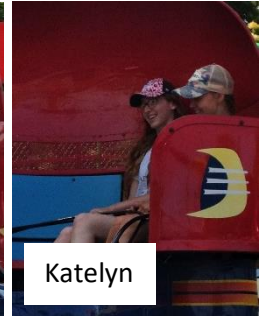
Youth from Christ Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, Berlin, along with friends, recently enjoyed a day of rides in Green Bay. The chaperones had fun, too!



Kaylynn, Nicole



Kaylynn



Katelyn



Nicole

Pastor

Kaylynn



Derek

Ken

Katelyn



Kaylynn

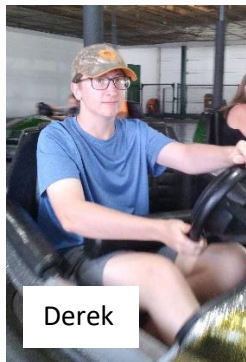
Nicole



Katelyn



Scott



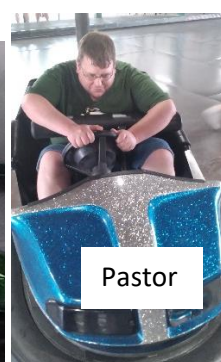
Derek



Scott

Colleen

Pastor



Pastor



Ken



2023 Book of Reports and Memorials available online

The 2023 *Book of Reports and Memorials* is now available online. This book summarizes the activities of each area of ministry over the last year and contains the proposed ministry financial plan for the next biennium. The information in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* will help guide the 400 delegates at WELS' 67th biennial convention, which is being held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich., July 31–Aug. 3, under the theme “Embrace the Cross—Anticipate the Crown.”

“This theme reflects the biblical truth that Christians in this world live under the cross,” says WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. “We live under the cross in the sense that our relationship with God as his people was brought about by the sacrificial death of our Savior on the cross. Living under the cross also means that we recognize, as Jesus himself told us, that in this world God’s church will endure difficulties and trials but that all of those difficulties and trials are intended by God for our eternal good. And when we embrace the cross we can look forward with joyful anticipation to when we and all believers will receive the crown of life.”

A highlight of this year’s synod convention is the anticipated declaration and affirmation of fellowship with two Lutheran church bodies, one in Uganda and the other in Latin America.

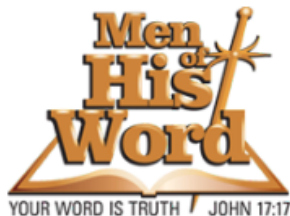
Three memorials are also included in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. A memorial is a formal request to the synod convention for specific action.

One printed copy of the *Book of Reports and Memorials* is being mailed to each delegate, congregation, and male called worker. These printed copies should arrive by the end of May.

To view the online version of the *Book of Reports and Memorials*, visit <https://welsconvention.net/boram>.

Did you know?

Men of His Word educates and equips Christian men to be leaders within their families, congregations, and communities. As Christian men, we are committed to:



1. Strengthen men in their spiritual journey
2. Mentor men to be Christian leaders
3. Equip and encourage men to share and live their faith
4. Provide a community of Christian fellowship for men
5. Support and encourage other Men of His Word ministries throughout our synod

Our primary ministry is done through annual conferences. Three different groups of volunteers plan and lead the conferences in Oshkosh, WI (2/17/24), Rochester, MN (10/28/23), and Phoenix, AZ (1/20/24). In addition, we are working on expanding our digital assets to serve men wherever and whenever works best for them (<https://www.menofhisword.org/videos.html>).

More information is available on our website, www.menofhisword.org.

WELS/ELS Singles Group

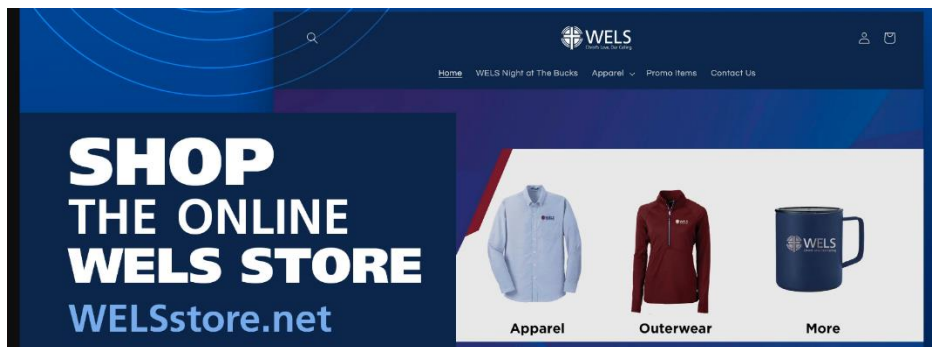
There are over 1000 members in their Facebook group. It's a great place to discuss things related to single life, to ask questions about dating, encourage other people in their singleness, or share things that make you laugh. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles>

You can also sign up to receive monthly emails at wels-els-singles.com/subscribe.

WELS/ELS Singles Retreat

**November 10-12, Camp
Phillip, Wisconsin**

Registration is open; rate is **\$140**. Early bird registration will continue through August 1. Regular registration will be \$150. All registration will close on October 1. More details and register at <https://wels-els-singles.com/2023-retreat/>



Save the Dates!

WELS Women's Ministry Conference, July 28-30, 2024, Pewaukee, Wisconsin

2024 National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts, July 30-August 2, 2024, Kenosha, Wisconsin

More information at https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/worship/national-worship-conference/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MinistryConnection-June2023

Northland Lutheran High School Golf Outing

29th Annual Wildcat Open

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Registration appreciated by August 1

*Benefitting Northland
Athletics and Tuition Assistance*



Pine Valley Golf Course
301 136th Avenue
Marathon, WI 54448
715-443-2848

Tournament Information

Four-Person Scramble

Singles, Doubles, and Triples welcome.

Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, food and prizes.

All proceeds benefit
Northland's Athletics and Tuition Assistance

Tournament Schedule

9:00-9:50 a.m. — Golfer Check-in

9:50 a.m. — Golfers to Hole

10:00 a.m. — Shotgun Start

2:30 p.m. — Meal and Prizes



Event Registration

☐ Golf Adult (19 & over): \$80
Student (18 & under): \$45

☐ Unable To Attend
Please accept my gift to NLHS.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____

- ☐ Single
☐ Double
☐ Triple
☐ Foursome

Please list all players and fees for group:

\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____
\$ _____

*Registration form and payment are appreciated
by August 1, 2023.*

*Please make checks payable to
NLHS Wildcat Open*

Send completed form and payment to:

NLHS Wildcat Open
2107 Tower Road
Kronenwetter, WI 54455
715.359.3400
nlhsoffice@nlhs.org
Website: nlhs.org