

THE MESSENGER

May 2023

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Saturday, May 13: Spring Highway Clean-up. Meet at church at 10:00 am. Vests and trash bags will be provided.



Saturday, May 20: Open House/Free Garage Sale/Cook-out
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Please consider donating clothes and other various items by May 19.



Volunteers are needed to help **set up on Friday, May 19, welcome visitors on Saturday, show our guests around or answer questions they may have of our church** and for members to **help run the garage sale in the basement.** We are also asking for some **baked goods** to be donated so our visitors may have a snack when they come.

Contact Christy C. or Pastor for more information, to arrange a drop off time for donations, or to volunteer to help with the event.

See page 4 for a related message from our church president.

Vacation Bible School for all ages **Wednesdays, May 31, June 7, 14, 21, & 28.**

See page 6 for more information.



In this Messenger:

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- 5) New Elder/Delegates
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- 5) Shut-in Visits
- 6) WELS & ELS Singles Group Retreat
- 6) WELS Night at the Brewers
- 6) Family Vacation Bible School
- 6) Northland Lutheran High School Notes



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The Blessings of Motherhood

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." (2 Timothy 1:5)

What a blessing it is to be a mother! Yet throughout Scripture we hear of women who were not able to be mothers. Sarah, the wife of Abraham, Rebekah, the wife of Isaac, Rachel, the wife of Jacob, Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, were all barren. They could not produce any children of their own, but they prayed to God to have this blessing of being mothers. God listened to their prayers and made them able to bear children.


What a blessing it was for these women to be mothers! They were able to give life to their children, to nurture their children, to take care of their children, and to raise their children. For most of you God has given that exact blessing. God blessed you by having children of your own to love them and to take care of them. But **there is one blessing of motherhood that is the most important: to instruct children about their Lord.**

What a blessing it was for Timothy to receive from his mother and grandmother! Timothy's father was a Gentile and not a believer, but his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois were believers. They saw the great need that Timothy had which was to hear about his Savior. This is the need that every child has because when children are born they receive their sinful nature from their parents, and this sinful nature is clearly seen in children. Children will throw temper tantrums if they don't get what they want. Children will disobey their mothers and not always show respect. When this happens, it can make being a mother not a blessing but rather a struggle. At times it can make any mother wish there was a book to give you every instruction to raise perfect children.

What a blessing it is that there is a book to help with those issues! **It's the Bible. It's the message of Jesus Christ that changes not only children but all people.** Does this mean that the Bible will change our children into perfect children? No, because children still have their sinful nature. But God's Word works faith in a child's heart that moves them to obey God's commands, and you don't have to wait to instruct your children about God's Word. *"And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 3:15). Even as infants children can be brought to faith in Jesus and to learn about how to please God by their actions.

What a blessing it is that God has given to parents to instruct their children about their Savior! For most of us, we first heard about Jesus from our mothers who not only told us about Jesus but also instructed us how to pray to God. Dear mothers with young children, continue to nurture your children with God's Word not only by bringing them to church weekly but also by sharing God's word with them daily in your homes for this is what they need. Dear mothers with children that are grown up, continue to take care of the spiritual needs of your children by praying for them and pointing them to God's Word which is able to make them wise for salvation. Every child, no matter how old, needs this from their parents, and God's Word tells us the blessing that can happen from this, **"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"** (Proverbs 22:6). What a blessing it will be one day when parents are joined together with their children to live forever with their Savior in heaven!

- Pastor Neal Behm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	4	5 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	6
7 9:00 am Worship & Confirmation (Holy Communion) 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Lunch & Reception for Confirmands	8 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10	11	12	13 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Highway Cleanup
14 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Youth Group Car Wash 10:30 am Sunday School Activity Day 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 3:30 pm Softball @ Faith, Maine	15 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	16	17	18	19 Fri – Sun Twenties & Thirties Retreat @ Camp Phillip	20 8:00 am Open House, Garage Sale & Cookout
21 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 1:30 pm Softball @ St. John's, Hamburg	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship	29	30	31 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm Family Vacation Bible School			

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

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

Church Members Invitation

You are invited to witness and celebrate the confirmation in the Christian faith of

*Derek S.
and
Sonia T.*

May 7, 2023

9:00 am Worship Service including the Confirmation Rite and Holy Communion

11:30 am Lunch and reception
at the church

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The final study of the year will be on **May 8 at 6:30 pm**. The topic of putting on the armor of Christ will be discussed. All women are invited to attend.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The study of the series *Destruction and Deliverance* will continue on **May 13 at 9 am**. The topic *By Faith Noah...* will be discussed. All men are invited to attend.

YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH: May 14 at church following the worship service. For a free-will donation, the Youth Group will wash your car. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board to reserve your car wash time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY DAY: May 14 during regular class time, youth will play games, sing songs, and do crafts.

CHURCH SOFTBALL SEASON: May 14 at 3:30 pm is the team's first game. Visit <https://sites.google.com/view/ncwchurchsoftball> for the complete schedule.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH PRESIDENT

With the community outreach event quickly approaching, I have a few thoughts to share. When I was in Sunday school, I was told this story related to evangelism. Evangelizing can be like a fisherman who goes fishing with the wrong bait, at the wrong time of day, and in the wrong spot. And yet, a fish jumps into his boat. Would he have gotten the fish if he hadn't made an effort to go fishing? You know the answer.

This is how it can be with evangelism and outreach. The Bible says, *"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose"* (Phil 2:13). We may host an event in which very few show up, bumble our words, say the wrong things, and speak up at the most inopportune time. Yet God promises His Word will accomplish whatever He pleases and our efforts in working for the Lord are never without purpose (Isa 55:11; 1 Cor 15:58 NIV). What a privilege we have that God chooses to use us to, *"fulfill his good purpose."*

Furthermore, the prayers and efforts being put into the outreach event we are hosting this month could be compared to two farmers in a drought praying for rain. One of the farmers prepares his field for rain and the other does not. Who is trusting more that God can bring rain? Again, you know the answer.

Let us saturate our hearts and minds for evangelism by drinking deeply from God's life-giving Word, praying for the Lord to bless our efforts, and confidently pressing on with our plans as the Lord is Almighty and can bring rain to the prepared field of our community event. *"So let's learn, let's press on to know the LORD. His appearance is as sure as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, As the spring rain waters the earth"* (Hosea 6:3 NIV).

- Willi H.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP '21 SPECIAL OFFERING:

A fundraising plan has been established for those that would like to give a special offering toward the new hymnals. The goal is to purchase 44 additional hymnals. With shipping, this will amount to about \$26 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.



Memorial Gift envelopes are available in the far-right narthex mailboxes.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Donna P.
- 7 Bob D.
- 10 Renee W.
- 10 Daniel W.
- 13 Austin W.
- 14 Kathleen P.
- 15 Joe P.
- 16 Karen Y.
- 17 Dave P.
- 20 Avery K.
- 25 Mitchell S.
- 26 Brenda R.
- 29 Russ R.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Jim & Karen Y.
- 29 Jim & Donna D.



Congratulations 2023 High School Graduate Jaycie S.!

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

BOARD OF ELDERS MEMBERS CHANGES:

Mr. Phil M. resigned from the board due to personal reasons. His valuable service on the board for the last 2+ years has been appreciated. Mr. Mike K. is now serving as an elder and will provide member care for members Maschke - Polak. Thank you Mike for your willingness to serve.



Mr. Mike K.

CAMP PHILLIP DELEGATES:

Mr. Jerry N. and Mr. Alan Z. were elected to serve as our congregational delegates to Camp Phillip. Their Annual Meeting will be held on June 17. Reach out to them with any questions.

<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	March
Sunday worship	55
Lenten midweek	28
Men's Adult Bible Study	6
Sunday Adult Bible Study	12
Wednesday Adult Bible Study	10
Women's Adult Bible Study	5
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	8

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD (as of 3/31/23)

Anticipated offerings: \$39,603

Actual offerings: \$32,625

Actual expenses: \$40,907

General Fund balance as of 4/9/23: \$21,352

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.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

So far in 2023 our congregation has donated 28 pounds of food and personal care items.

SHUT-IN VISITATION:

The Elders welcome help from members visiting our shut-ins. Members are encouraged to visit and/or keep them in our prayers. Please reach out to Pastor or an elder for contact information.

Brad B., Laurene H., Tom L., Phil M., Lorna P., Kathleen P.

WELS/ELS Singles Group

There are over 950 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. On Facebook, check them out at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles>

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

WELS/ELS Singles Retreat

November 10-12, Camp Phillip, Wisconsin

Registration will open on May 1; rate will be \$140. Early bird registration will continue through August 1. Regular registration will be \$150. All registration will close on October 1.

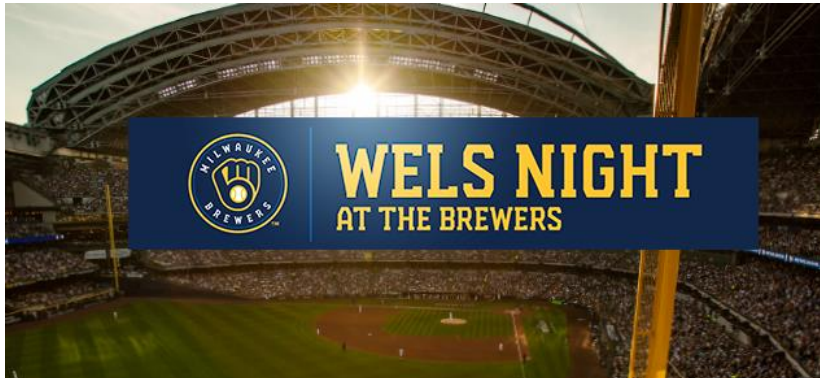


Come join us at Vacation Bible School (VBS) as we travel back in time—*Back to Jerusalem!* VBS will be held **May 31, June 7, 14, 21 and 28** with a meal at 5:00 pm and programming from 5:30–7:30 pm. Adults and children are welcome.

Please invite friends, relatives, and neighbors. At the back of the church there are flyers to share with them.

We still could use some volunteers to help with **monitoring recess, decorating, crafts, the welcome table and music.** It'll be fun! And remember, 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. Please see Scott or Colleen S. after church or sign up in the entry.

Take some flyers from the table near the front doors to share with others. Register on the bulletin board in the hallway, call 715-536-3313 or go to ChristMerrill.com/VBS.



FRI, 7/7  **VS**  **7:10PM**

Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for another exciting WELS Night at American Family Field! Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating categories.

TICKET PRICES		
FIELD OUTFIELD BOX \$21	LOGE OUTFIELD BOX \$17	TERRACE RESERVED INFIELD \$10

NEW FOR 2023! - Each church that purchases 20 or more tickets will qualify for the opportunity to have a member from their congregation throw out a 1st pitch prior to the game

Tickets can be purchased online at brewers.com/wels
Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, June 9.

Northland Lutheran High School Notes

- 81 students this year, projection of over 90 students next year.
- Thanks to God's blessings through wise spending, sacrifice, and Christ-compelled hearts, the debt has been reduced from \$3,500,000 to \$1,586,000. Praise God!
- We have many projects that could use Thrivent Grants and volunteers.
- We are asking parents and supporters of Northland to consider donating \$150 to purchase one or more of 348 seats so we can get new bleachers.