

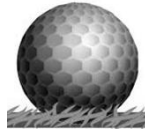
# THE MESSENGER

August 2024

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Special Upcoming Events and Services

**Mini Golf on Sunday, August 18.** See the signup sheet on the hallway bulletin board for more information.



**Open House/Free Sale on Saturday, September 7.**

See the hallway bulletin board or speak to pastor or a council member for more information and to volunteer to help in some way. Clean, sorted items to be donated may be brought any Sunday in August.



Join us for a special **Outdoor Worship Service** on **Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 am** at Christ Lutheran! The service will be held on the hill space between the church and shed, with a flatter area available at the lower level. Enjoy worship in a unique setting and invite your family and friends. Dress casually and bring comfortable seating (blankets or lawn chairs). In case of bad weather, we will move indoors. Please note there will not be a worship service at 9:00 am this day.



**A church picnic with games and a bouncy house will follow the service.**

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and lawn games to enjoy.

**Save the date for *Welcome Home Sunday: October 13***

See the article on page 4 for more information.

## In this Messenger:

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- Outdoor Worship/Picnic
- Welcome Home Sunday*
  
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
  
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# Prayers for All People

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people. (1 Timothy 2:1)*

With the purchase of the new hymnals last year also came a personal pastor's companion book that as a pastor I can use for various situations. As I have begun to examine this book, I found it interesting that it offers various people to think about in your prayers throughout the week. Therefore, I'll provide what the pastor's companion offers that you may use for your prayers.

**Sunday:** For the holy Christian Church and the congregation, that the blessing of worship and preaching may continue through the week; for the practice of family worship; for the baptized and communicants; for those absent from worship.

**Monday:** For the missions of the Church; for the proclamation of the gospel in all the world; for organizations that promote and support missions and missionaries; for the raising up of leaders at home and abroad; for oneness in spirit and brotherly love. For one's own vocation and daily work; for the unemployed.

**Tuesday:** For fellow workers in the parish: Sunday school and Lutheran elementary teachers, musicians, elders, church council members, and volunteers of every kind in the congregation. For the congregations, clergy, laity, officers, and teachers and students of theology of our synod.

**Wednesday:** For families, children, relatives, and friends; for Christian marriages; for the nurture of children in the gospel. For young people and young people's work in the church. For single people and their labor in the Lord. For households; for the men and women of the congregation.

**Thursday:** For our country and its people; for unity, justice, and peace; for those in authority: the president, the congress, the governor, city officials, and all those who make and administer laws; for our armed forces at home and abroad; for good citizenship. For the commerce, industry, and agriculture in our land. For enemies; for the indifferent; for the lapsed.

**Friday:** For the suffering; for the poor; for the hungry and cold; for refugees; for prisoners; for the oppressed; for the mentally ill; for the despairing. For social workers; for chaplains; for doctors and nurses; for hospitals and other relief agencies. For those in the congregation who suffer: the aged, the sick, the dying, the bereaved, and the lonely.

**Saturday:** For the worship services tomorrow: for worshipers, listeners, and communicants. For other congregations, their services and ministers. For the remembrance of the departed; for the preparation of the coming of Christ. For the remembrance of the brevity of life and of judgment to come.

- Pastor Neal Behm

# August 2024

View the most up to date calendar at [christmerrill.com/calendar](http://christmerrill.com/calendar).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Every Sunday in August:</b> Drop off donations at church of clothing &amp; small items for September Free Sale</p>				1	2	3 Softball Tournament @ Faith
<p><b>4</b> 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)  Softball Tournament @ St. John's</p>	<p><b>5</b> 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> 4:30 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting</p>	8	9	<p><b>10</b> Northland Lutheran High School Wildcat Open Golf Event</p>
<p><b>11</b> 9:00 am Worship</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:30 pm Worship</p>	<p><b>13</b> 2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower  6:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	14	15	16	17
<p><b>18</b> 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)  2:00 pm Mini-golf</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)</p>	20	21	<p><b>22</b> 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting</p>	23	24
<p><b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship</p>	<p><b>26</b> 6:30 pm Worship</p>	27	28	29	30	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                     Fall Family Camp @ Camp Phillip (Friday – Monday)                 </div>

8:00 am Sundays - worship service on the radio (96.3FM, 730AM)  
 9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at [youtube.com/@christmerrill](https://youtube.com/@christmerrill)

## SIGN UP FOR MEDITATIONS

*Meditations* is an inspiring, personal devotional booklet offering daily studies of God's Word. Each meditation is clearly written and easy to understand, with a special Scripture reading, devotion, and prayer for each day. *Meditations* provides scriptural guidance and encouragement for daily living. If you would like to get a copy of this periodical for the next church year, **please sign up on the narthex bulletin board by September 15**. The individual cost of the periodical is \$18 for the next church year. Consider providing an additional offering in your white envelope to help cover some or all the cost.

### UPDATE ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thank you to everyone that gave input and completed the survey regarding the prayer. The traditional version of the prayer will continue to be used at our services. The possibility of using the modern version may be reconsidered in the future.

## SEEKING INPUT ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: PLAYLIST

This summer, we're experimenting with using *Playlist* for select Monday services to determine if it could be a helpful tool during times when an organist is unavailable. Please share your thoughts with your elder or Pastor.

## JOIN OUR USHER TEAM!

We are seeking confirmed men to support our worship services and warmly welcome our members and guests. To volunteer, please sign up on the fellowship and service bulletin board in the entryway. Choose a date that works for you.

# WELCOME Home

Worshiping our God—listening to him speak to us in his Word and responding with our praise—is always special. However, it can be especially joyful when the house is packed. Think of the singing on Christmas Eve or on Easter Sunday. Yet, even on those days, we have members who are out of town.

The goal of **Welcome Home Sunday** is to have a day when everyone that is part of our Christian family comes together. After all, church is supposed to be a home, and believers are kin. Our focus of **9:00 am worship** on this day is the blessing of Christian community. Thus, we want 100% of our members there. Please do everything possible to set aside **Sunday, October 13** so that we can pack the house!

There will be an **appreciation meal** for all the things that our members do to reflect the love of Jesus to others in the different volunteer roles at our church. We will also be showing appreciation to and **celebrating Pastor Behm's first 10 years of ministry**. Please join us!

Need a ride? We have people ready to pick you up. Contact Joe or Ellen for ride information.

## P-16 APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The P-16 Tuition Assistance Program applications for aiding families with students attending WELS preschools, elementary, secondary, and college level schools are due on **September 1** for the fall semester. Applications can be found in the narthex, to the right of the education bulletin board. Once completed, please place the application in the Board of Christian Education mailbox.

### HOW TO RESPOND TRAINING:

After our past free garage sales, we have heard comments such as "I didn't know how to answer their question," "What happens if someone asks this?" or "What should I do if 'this type of person' shows up?" Because of these comments, in May Pastor led a *How To Respond Training*. Although the aim of this class was how to respond in a brief conversation for the garage sale, what is mentioned in the class can be used whenever these types of scenarios happen. You can view the training video at <https://youtu.be/5sdoavpUk-8>

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

11 Ellen C.      28 Brad B.  
13 Colleen S.      29 Dan K.  
16 Donna D.      31 Danielle F.  
26 Sonia T.      31 Ethan R.



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Willi & Jennifer H.  
9 Corey & Julie M.  
12 Mike & Lynda K.  
27 Nick & Christy C.

**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.**

<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	June
Sunday & Monday worship/Online	62/4
All-Ages Vacation Bible School	21

## CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 6/30/24)

Anticipated offerings: \$81,385

Actual offerings: \$67,090

Actual expenses: \$72,400

General Fund balance as of 7/8/24: \$11,401

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. Giving continues to trend below budget. Please consider how your offerings benefit our church, our fellowship events and our ability to reach our community. For more information, see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

## AUTOMATED PHONE CALLS FROM CHURCH:

Members are asked to **add the phone number of 855-248-7295 to their caller ID or their phone address book** and entitle that contact as Christ Lutheran Church so that it will be identified properly on their caller ID. Automated calls from the church will come from this phone number. **Reach out to Ken or Colleen to opt-in your cell phone number for receiving text messages** from the church.

**MESSENGER SIGN-UP:** To get an electronic copy of each month's *Messenger* in your email, go to [ChristMerrill.com/email](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to [ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com](mailto:ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com)

# Tragedy Strikes World Missionary and His Family

During the early hours of Sunday, June 30, a fire broke out and killed Steve Witte and five of his family members. Witte, the team leader for WELS' Asia One Team and president emeritus of Asia Lutheran Seminary, was home on furlough from Thailand and gathering with his family at a vacation rental home. The others who also lost their lives were his daughters Lydia Witte and Charis Kuehl, as well as granddaughters Stella Kuehl, Lena Henselin, and Merci Henselin. A number of other family members survived.

As WELS President Mark Schroeder noted in his special message to members on July 1, "The pain of losing six members of one family cannot be described with words. The only thing that can begin to bring comfort in such a time of grievous loss are the words that God himself speaks to us. Those words remind us that these members of our extended WELS family are now resting in perfect joy and peace at the side of their Savior. Because he lives, they also live. Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die' (John 11:25,26). 'Death has been swallowed up in victory' (1 Corinthians 15:55)."

As WELS members seek to help the family, they are supporting them with prayers and monetary donations. WELS Christian Aid and Relief is partnering with Christian Family Solutions to provide counseling to family members and others impacted by this tragedy and is continuing to explore other ways to help. For more information, see <https://forwardinchrist.net/witte/>.

*Article taken from Forward in Christ Volume 111, Number 08 Issue: August 2024*

## Church Family Campout/Fellowship Event in July

