

THE MESSENGER

June 2024

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship



All-Ages Vacation Bible School

Remember that Vacation Bible School is held on **Wednesdays in June from 5:30-7:00 pm** with a meal starting at 5 pm. It's time to soar high in God's Word, meet new friends, and have lots of fun at VBS. If you haven't registered, that's okay! All are welcome to attend!

USHERS NEEDED: Looking for a way to get involved? We are looking for confirmed men to help support the worship services and to provide a warm welcome to our members and guests. Want to learn more? Usher procedures have been updated and are posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator or reach out to Dan K. for more information. The sign-up sheet is in the entry on the fellowship and service bulletin board. Find a date that works for you.

MONDAY SUMMER MUSIC LEADERS WANTED! The Lord has blessed our congregation with a qualified organist. However, we would like to try *CW: Playlist* on Mondays this summer. Join us as a *Playlist* operator to lead music via computer. No prior experience needed, just a willingness to click a mouse. Speak with Ken or Scott to learn more.

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.**

In this Messenger:

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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Note: This is a continuation of last month's edition focusing that, regardless of which translation we use for the Lord's Prayer, the most important thing is to understand what we are praying in the Lord's Prayer.


Give us today our daily bread. This is the only part of the Lord's Prayer that doesn't focus on spiritual things but on earthly things. This teaches us that there's nothing wrong with praying for earthly things, in and of itself. As we pray for earthly things, we know that God gives us everything we need simply because of his grace. Since God daily provides for us, we have nothing to worry about in the future.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Why is it that in the Bible it says to forgive our debts instead of saying to forgive our trespasses/sins? It's because typically when we hear the word debt we think of money, but that's not the debts we are asking God to forgive. When we sin against God, we owe a debt to him that needs to be paid, but there is nothing we could do to repay that debt. Thankfully Jesus has paid that debt with his holy precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. Therefore, God forgives us of our sins, and as God forgives us, we are to forgive each other.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. At first glance this seems to suggest that God is the one who brings temptation into our lives, but this isn't correct. It is the devil, the world, and our sinful nature who tempt us. Therefore, we are asking God who defeated the devil, the world, and our sinful nature to keep temptations away from us or, when they come, to give us the power to resist those temptations. In the same way, we are asking God to keep the devil and his evil ways away from us. Sometimes, God will permit evil to enter into our lives, but he promises to make it work for our good. And ultimately one day God will remove all temptation and evil from us as he brings us to heaven.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen. If you notice very carefully in the passages above, Jesus never said this line as he gave us the Lord's Prayer. This line comes from a prayer David offered to God in 1 Chronicles 29:11. Very early on, the Christian Church added this line to the Lord's Prayer assuring us that God has the power to make all things happen. Therefore, we have the assurance that God hears and answers our prayers which means God receives all the glory from us both now and forever more.

- Pastor Neal Behm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 3:30 pm Softball @ Faith	3 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	4	5 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm All-Ages Vacation Bible School	6 4:30 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	7	1/8
9 9:00 am Worship <i>Drop off donations at church of clothing & small items for September Free Sale</i> 3:30 pm Softball @ Immanuel	10 6:30 pm Worship District Convention (Monday & Tuesday)	11	12 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm All-Ages Vacation Bible School	13 6:00 pm Council Meeting	14 15 <div> Family Fest @ Camp Phillip (Friday – Sunday) </div>	
						10:00 am Camp Phillip Annual Meeting
16 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 3:30 pm Softball @ St. John's	17 6:30 pm Worship (Holy Communion)	18 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	19 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm All-Ages Vacation Bible School	20 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 3:30 pm Softball @ Immanuel	24 6:30 pm Worship	25 WELS International Youth Rally (Tuesday – Friday)	26 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm All-Ages Vacation Bible School	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Softball @ St. John's						

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/>.

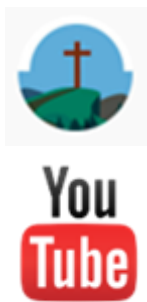
SAVE THE DATE: A Family **Campout** is being planned for **July 12-13** at Rusty's - he has an area for tents and RVs to park and a fire pit. Everyone will bring their own food.



FAITH QUESTIONS? Do you have a question about what the Bible says about a topic? An envelope will be available on the education bulletin board for people to turn in anonymous questions about faith or life. In addition to the question, some brief comments for background can be included. Pastor will review these and address them in some forum. If a name is included, he will address the question individually.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church provides an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services (9:00 am)**. **The service is simultaneously streamed to a TV in the lower level of the church for anyone not able to be in the sanctuary.**

Subscribe to the YouTube channel youtube.com/@christmerrill to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, July 14: Open Forum in the lower level of the church (Topics including Lord's Prayer) after the 9:00 am service

Monday, July 15: Mini Open Forum in the lower level of the church (Single topic – Lord's Prayer) after the 6:30 pm service

Sunday, July 28: Quarterly Voters' Meeting in the sanctuary after the 9:00 am service

Sunday, September 8: 10:30 am Outdoor Worship followed by the Church Picnic

Saturday, September 14: Free Sale/Open House

<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	April
Sunday worship/Online	65/4
Bell Tower worship	11
Sunday Adult Bible Study	15
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	6
Wednesday Bible Study	12
Women's Bible Study	4

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 4/30/24)

Anticipated offerings: \$54,257

Actual offerings: \$45,141

Actual expenses: \$51,638

General Fund balance as of 5/12/24: \$18,252

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.

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

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 the 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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



1 Megan C.	19 Mike K.
4 Sully R.	20 Leon M.
9 Terry F.	23 Jim D.
9 Ruth K.	23 Katelyn S.
12 Nicole Z.	25 Alan Z.



JUNE ANNIVERSARY

24 Mike & Renee S.



Join *Forward in Christ* for its first live Bible study series! Bible study author Greg Lyon will lead a study at 7:00 pm on selected Tuesdays of each month until June. The study will examine six scriptural truths in which we, as Christians, put our trust.

What if it's true that . . .

- Jan: God made mankind in his image
- Feb: You are a sinner
- March: God wants your broken heart
- April: You are forgiven
- May: You are a child of God
- **June 25: You are free**

Go to <https://forwardinchrist.net/online-study/> to register for upcoming studies, read the written studies that correspond with the studies, or watch recordings of the previous studies.

CHURCH SOFTBALL SEASON: The full schedule is posted on the hallway bulletin board and at

<https://sites.google.com/view/ncwchurchsoftball>.



(mis)Understanding Mental Health

Watch the webinar here: <https://vimeo.com/944877900>

Christian Family Solutions – The Resilience Project

<https://christianfamilysolutions.org/mental-health-ministry/the-resilience-project/>

The Resilience Project by Christian Family Solutions empowers congregations to embrace mental wellness education as a ministry. This program provides congregations with the opportunity to reach people through practical resilience skills while simultaneously opening the door for the Gospel to be shared.

The Resilience Project has a variety of adaptations, including all of the following:

- An adult member service
- A community outreach program
- A [teen] high school workshop
- A middle school mental health curriculum enhancement
- An independent [virtual] self-paced course for individuals

Each model is designed to use a series of 6 one-hour lessons. Through these six lessons, participants gain insight into how to improve overall mental wellness and increase their ability to “bounce back” in times of transition or challenge.

Mental Health Book Resources: *these books are all available in our church library

*** *Look Up From Your Phone So I Can Love You* by Amy Vannieuwenhoven**

This book contains detailed devotional prompts that ask parents and children alike to consider their use of technology and the health of their relationships.

*** *Whatever Is True - A Christian View of Anxiety* by William Woodington**

Written by a sufferer from chronic anxiety, this book offers gospel comfort and a solid Scriptural foundation to help Christians put their own worries at ease.

*** *Deep As the Sea - Letters to Survivors of Trauma* by Pastor Timothy Bourman**

This book is not a devotional or self-help guide, but a carefully written walkthrough of the healing process. Pastor Bourman provides an overview of current psychological treatment models and many comforting Scripture readings to address the grief, sorrow, shame, anger, and other emotions that accompany traumatic events.

*** *Purposeful Grieving: Embracing God's Plan in the Midst of Loss* by Dr. Stacy Hoehl**

This book provides 56 devotions that recognize the challenges of grief but also lift your eyes to the comforting cross of Christ.

*** *For Such A Time As This: Comfort From Meditations***

The three hundred devotions from *Meditations* are based on texts from the Old Testament, the gospels, and the epistles. All of the devotions emphasize gospel comfort, especially meaningful during times of struggle or grief.

Unanswered Questions: There were quite a few comments and questions being submitted through the chat and Q&A feature of the webinar. *Christian Family Solutions* (CFS) has tried to answer or address many of those in this extra **BONUS** resource!

<https://wm.welsrc.net/download-wm/general-resources/?wpdmdl=3251&refresh=6644f855086891715796053&ind=1715796003687&filename=WELS%20Womens%20Ministry%20Webinar%20Q&A.pdf>

May Volunteering



Youth Group Car Wash Participants:

Sonia, Nicole, Kaylynn,
Danielle, Katelyn, Derek

Highway Cleanup Crew: Katelyn, Scott, Ken, Alan, Jackie, Henry, Leon



May Events



Free Sale/Open House



Clearing Trail and Woods Area



All-Ages Vacation Bible School

