

THE MESSENGER

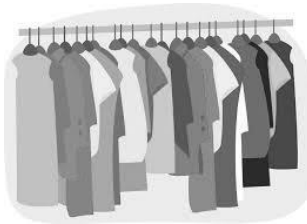
September 2024

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Special Upcoming Events and Services

Open House/Free Sale on Saturday, September 7.

Setting up for the event will take place the week of September 2-6. Volunteers are also needed the day of the event to bring treats, greet visitors, serve food, and supervise the bouncy house and other children's activities. See the hallway bulletin board or speak to pastor or a council member for more information and to volunteer to help.



Join us for a special **Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 am** at Christ Lutheran! We'll gather on the hill 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). If the weather is bad, we'll 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:

- 1) Open House/Free Sale
Outdoor Worship/Picnic
Welcome Home Sunday
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) *Meditations* Signup
- 4) Church Choir
- 4) Fall Education Schedule
- 4) *Welcome Home Sunday*
- 5) *How to Respond* Training
- 5) Birthdays
- 5) Attendance &
Financial Updates
- 5) Church Phone Calls Info.
- 5) Online Messenger Signup
- 6) Pictures from Church
Campout/Fellowship



715-536-3313

www.christmerrill.com

www.facebook.com/christmerrill

1204 N. Sales Street | Merrill, WI 54452



www.wels.net

Come Together

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

(Ephesians 4:3-6)

Back in college my friend and I wanted to grill some food. We didn't have a gas grill but we did have access to a charcoal grill. Unfortunately, my friend and I never used a charcoal grill so foolishly we spread out all the charcoal and had great difficulty getting the coals on fire. We eventually realized that what you are to do is put all the coals together in order to get the coals burning and then you spread them out.

In a way this is what our faith is like. We all are different people, with different personalities, from different walks of life, dealing with different problems and issues, but through faith we all are united as one. We were all called to faith by our one God and Father. We all were baptized into the one name of our Triune God. We all have the one hope of forever being united in the one place of heaven.

But until this day happens God in his wisdom wants us to be united as brothers and sisters in the faith as we encourage one another. Once again using the example of the charcoal grill if you removed one coal from the group of coals that one coal will still be on fire but eventually it will burn out. So also if we remove ourselves from the unity that we share as believers, our faith may still burn for a time but eventually faith will burn out.

This is why we come together for worship. As one we all confess that we are sinners. As one we all put our faith in our one Savior Jesus Christ. As one we sing hymns, offer our prayers and offerings, and hear what God's Word tells us. As one we partake in the sacred meal of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that will be ours. The only way to keep the unity of faith and peace is through God's Word and Sacraments.

So let us come together to encourage and pray for another as we carry each other's burdens. Let us rejoice in the faith and hope we have in Jesus Christ. Let us keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- Pastor Neal Behm

September 2024

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com/calendar.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	2	3 4:30 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	4	5	6	7 8:00 am- 2:00 pm Open House & Free Sale
8 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Picnic	9	10 2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower 6:00 pm Council Meeting	11	12	13	14 10:00 am Roadside Cleanup on Hwy. G
15 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 4:00 pm Mission Pastor Installation Service at NLHS	16 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	17 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00 NLHS Delegate Meeting	18 9:00 am Adult Bible Study Time to be Determined - Catechism Class	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	23	24	25 9:00 am Adult Bible Study Time to be Determined - Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	26	27 Women's Retreat at Camp Phillip (Fri – Sun)	28
29 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	30					

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at 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.

CHURCH CHOIR SINGERS WANTED:

Do you like to sing for the Lord? Join the church choir! No experience needed. Most practices are Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Talk to Jennifer H. for more information.

FALL BIBLE EDUCATION INFORMATION

Sunday School, Teen Bible Study and Adult Bible Studies will start September 15.

Sunday School (grades PreK-5) will be held in the Kindness classroom. The Teen Bible Study led by Willi H. will be held in the Joy classroom. Adult Bible Study led by Pastor will be held in the sanctuary. All classes begin at 10:30 am.

Fellowship treats will be available after worship services. Parents are asked to monitor their children until 10:30 am so that the teachers may participate in fellowship time and prepare for class.

Men and Women Bible Studies will begin October 3 at 6:30 pm.

WELCOME Home

Welcome Home Sunday: **October 13**. Whom will you reach?

It happens for a variety of reasons. Christians stop going to church. Do you know one of the reasons people cite for not coming back to church? Fear. They are afraid they are going to be judged or someone is going to make a joke about their being gone.

Welcome Home Sunday is intended to be a celebration of the blessing of Christian community our God gives to us. He intends his church to be just like a home: a safe place where we can live without fear. He intends believers to love and treat one another as kin. Our goal is to have 100% of our members in attendance on that Sunday. Thus, it is the perfect Sunday for someone who has been away from church for a while to come back.

Do you know someone like that? Maybe it's a sister or a son or a friend. They used to come, but for whatever reason, stopped. Reach out to them. Offer to pick them up on that day. If they are afraid, assure them that is unnecessary. We are all sinners. We are all redeemed. And we are all family. On that day, everyone receives a warm "Welcome home!"

***Welcome Home* Sunday** will have other things going on in addition to the **9:00 am worship service**. There will be a **meal after worship**. (When family gets together, there tends to be food!) We'll also be celebrating Pastor Behm's first 10 years of ministry and our volunteers. So, plan on sticking around for a while!

Please join us! Need a ride? We have people ready to pick you up. Contact Joe, Ellen or an elder for ride information.

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>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jaycie S. 06 Billie R.
 10 Don P. 18 Losha H.
 29 Tom S.



August Mini Golf



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>	July
Sunday & Monday worship/Online	69/4

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 7/31/24)

Anticipated offerings: \$94,950

Actual offerings: \$78,043

Actual expenses: \$86,766

General Fund balance as of 8/9/24: \$11,725

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.

LUTHERAN BOY AND GIRL PIONEERS

Our Savior's, Wausau and other sister churches offer this ministry for young boys and girls. *Lutheran Boy Pioneers* is a program offered to help nurture and train boys in the Lord, so that they will remain faithful to Him and faithfully serve Him throughout their lives. *Lutheran Girl Pioneers* encourages girls and leaders to do all things according to God's Word and out of love and respect for God. Contact Scott or visit the websites below for more information.

<https://www.lutheranpioneers.org/>

<https://www.lgp.org/>

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

MISSION CHURCH: Pastor Fred Berger accepted the call to be the Kronenwetter Mission Church Pastor. The installation service is at Northland on **Sunday, September 15 at 4:00 pm.** A potluck meal will follow.

THE 5K RUN/WALK IS BACK! The 5K Run/Walk is returning this year! Join us on the Saturday of Homecoming week, September 28, for a chance to run or walk with family, friends, and alumni through the streets of Kronenwetter. Cost is \$25 for an individual or \$75 for a full family. Visit nlhs.org for more information.

CALLING ALL IN THE NLHS FAMILY: My name is Stacy Summers. I'm serving TOGETHER with you on advancing the mission at NLHS as the Mission Advancement Assistant. I welcome the opportunity to chat about what NLHS has meant to you. You can contact me by phone (715) 212-4610 or email opportunities@nlhs.org.

UPCOMING CAMP PHILLIP RETREATS: Visit CampPhillip.com for more information and to register.

Teen Retreat: October 18-20 For those in grades 8-12.

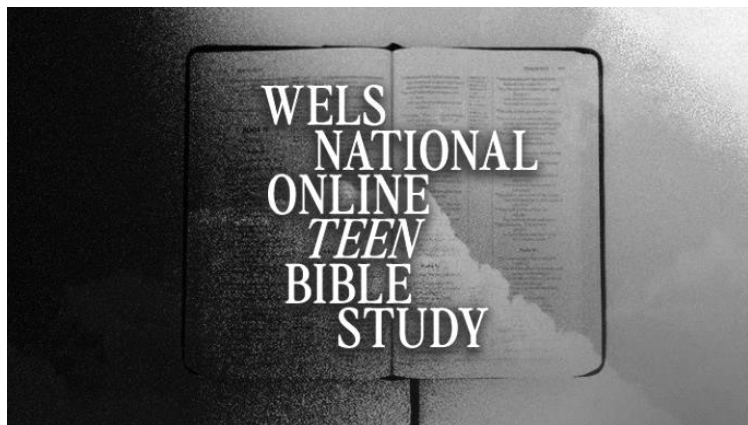
20's & 30's Retreat: November 8-10. We invite YOU (well, those of you in your 20's and 30's) to come to Camp for our 20's and 30's Retreat! Join us for a weekend of fun, playing games, relaxing, and growing closer to your friends and your Savior.



SOFTBALL TEAM CLAIMS SECOND PLACE IN TOURNAMENT AND FOR THE SEASON



Players from Christ Lutheran this year include: Scott, Derek, and Katelyn S., Melissa S., Jerome B., Ethan R., and Losha H. Tom M. is team manager.



WELS National Teen Bible Study is an online opportunity for teens across the country to digitally connect with each other around the Word. The online Bible study is not intended to replace local ministry efforts but to complement existing ministries like the WELS International Youth Rally and area WELS Youth Nights.

The first online study will be held **Sunday, September 8 at 6:00 pm** (Central). Visit wels.net for more information and to register.