
THE MESSENGER

April Updates 2020

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

COVID-19 RELATED UPDATES

Visit www.christmerrill.com/covid19 for the most up-to-date information.

Pastor Behm will continue to post a weekly **sermonette** by Sunday morning at 9 to the church's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).

From **11 am to 1 pm each Sunday**, people may **drive up** to the church to deliver their offerings and to pick up paper copies of the sermonette, Adult Bible Study guide, and *The Messenger*. Offerings may also be mailed to Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, 1204 N. Sales St., Merrill 54452.

NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTION: Christ Lutheran has recently gone live with online giving to provide a safe (physically and financially), efficient, and simple way for members to give their offerings directly from their checking/savings account or with a credit card. To participate in online giving, go to the 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**.

In this Messenger:

- 1) COVID-19 Related Updates
- 1) Online Giving
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Pastor and Council Contact Information
- 3) New Christ Lutheran Facebook Group
- 3) WELS Resources
- 4) Adult Bible Class
- 4) Devotions
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- 4) Christ for Disciplers Podcast
- 4) Lutheran Leadership Conference Resources

If you would like to have a paper copy of

The Messenger mailed to you,

please include your name and address and email

Messenger@ChristMerrill.com

or call/text 715-921-5132.



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



Faith in Jesus, our Living Redeemer

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eye – I, and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!” (*Job 19:25-27*)

Job was a man who had everything. He was incredibly wealthy. He had a happy family with ten children. He had a good reputation among other people. Most importantly, he had faith in God. But then, just like that, Job essentially lost everything. All his wealth was gone. All ten of his children died. He became sick with a horrible illness. People no longer had respect for him. His “friends” told him that he had done something to deserve this. Even his own wife told him to curse God so that God would maybe take away his life. And all the while Job was wondering why God had allowed all of this to happen to him.

Yet what remained was his faith. Even before Job’s life became better, he still confessed his faith in his Redeemer and how he lives. Job believed in the resurrection, not only in the sense that his Redeemer would rise from the dead, but also in the sense that Job himself would rise from the dead. Job confessed that even when his body was destroyed and decayed, he would see his God in his flesh with his own eyes. Job’s heart yearned within him for this day, and that’s what ultimately gave Job comfort during his sufferings.

Have you ever felt like Job? We have received countless blessings from God. We can have incredible wealth, a happy family, good health, and a respectable reputation among others. And yet, just like that, these things can disappear from us. When that happens, like Job, we can wonder why God has allowed these things to happen to us. Sometimes these feelings can overwhelm us and fill us with depression and despair.

But just like Job, **we still have our faith in our Redeemer**. Jesus as our Redeemer bought us back with his holy precious blood and his innocent suffering and death in order to set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. This is why Easter Sunday is a cornerstone of our Christian faith and why Easter Sunday is a great celebration for us. Jesus our Redeemer raised himself from the dead. **Through faith in Jesus we too will participate in the resurrection from the dead and see God with our eyes**. So even though life can be hard, just like Job’s life was hard for a time, our hearts yearn within us because our Redeemer lives.

- Pastor Neal Behm

If you or a loved one is in need of some assistance during this time, please contact Pastor or a member of council. Whether it's a trip to the grocery store, the pharmacy, home/personal essentials, or just a check-in call we would love to help. Also feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

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Board of Elders Chairman: Willi Heisinger	715-432-9019	hanswilhelm.heisinger@gmail.com
Church Fellowship Committee Chairman: Leon Marheine	715-921-2641	
Evangelism Committee Chairman: Chris Revie	715-741-0700	
Stewardship Committee Chairman: Ken Neff	715-218-0519	kenner59@charter.net
Technology Committee Chairman: Ken Cerney	715-218-5393	ken.cerney@gmail.com

INTRODUCING THE NEW CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK GROUP: This group will be a place for members and friends of the congregation to interact, ask questions, participate in Bible studies and build each other up as the body of Christ. To join, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/christmerrill>

AVAILABLE WELS RESOURCES:

Live streamed services: <https://yearbook.wels.net/streaming>

Daily devotions: <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/>

Check the WELS website <https://wels.net/> often for new updates and other resources!

Spiritual and mental health support is available through Christian Family Solutions

<https://christianfamilysolutions.org/>

Northwestern Publishing House is offering free digital access to:

Forward in Christ <https://online.nph.net/fic-free-issue-form>

Christ Light lessons <https://online.nph.net/cl-ss-downloads> and the

Kids Connection <https://online.nph.net/kidsconnection2020> to help your family stay connected to Jesus!

Facebook resources include

Time of Grace Talks <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TOGGraceTalks/>

Koine Music <https://www.facebook.com/koinemusic> and

Bread for Beggars online nightly music festivals <https://www.facebook.com/breadforbeggarsfestival/>



ADULT BIBLE CLASS UPDATE: The class will be held on Sundays at 10:00 am.

Tuesday and Thursday Adult Classes will no longer be offered virtually since attendees prefer Sunday. Topic is "Reviewing the Basics of Luther's Small Catechism."

There are two different ways to join the live study:

- 1) Call **1-408-418-9388** and enter the meeting number **623 780 608** and password **47374784**
- 2) Go to <https://globalpage-prod.webex.com/join> or click the Join meeting button below. Enter in the meeting number **623 780 608** and meeting password **hPfP4QVhj56** (case sensitive) to join the class.

[Join meeting](#)

For technical assistance, call Ken C. at 715-218-5393 or Scott S. at 715-539-0250.

A [study guide](#) is available. If you would like to have a paper copy of the study guide mailed to you, please include your name and address and email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com or call/text 715-921-5132.

Now available! Five-minute devotions

from a son of our congregation, Pastor Jake Schram, who currently serves Salem Lutheran Church (WELS) in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Please go to the [Salem Lutheran website](#) or join [the Christ Lutheran private Facebook page](#) to access the devotions.



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

www.nph.net

Visit nph.net/free-resources to download these **free** spiritual resources for yourself and your family during this challenging time:

- [98 Christian Worship Hymns](#)
- [Devotions for coping with the pandemic](#)

CHECK OUT THIS PODCAST:

<http://www.christfordisciplers.com/>

Christ for Disciplers, a weekday message for educators and parents of young disciples.

Each episode lasts about 10 minutes.



podcast

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON

 **LUTHERAN
LEADERSHIP**

More than 800 people representing about 350 congregations attended the first WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership in January. Check out some of the presentations, including the recently released breakout session on small groups by Rev. James Hein at <https://lutheranleadership.com/resources/>