

THE MESSENGER

January 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Annual Voters' Meeting

Sunday, January 30 at 10:30 am

Elections will be held for the following positions of the church council for two-year terms except for Christian Education chair, which is for one year:

Vice President,
Secretary,
Board of Christian Education chair,
Board of Church Properties chair,
Fellowship Committee chair, and
Evangelism Committee chair.

Amendments to the Constitution will be considered and are posted on the bulletin board near the elevator. There will also be recommendations on when various delegates may be elected. All members, especially voting members, are encouraged to attend.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Annual Voters' Meeting
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Fellowship Events
 - Packers Potluck
 - Game Night
 - Sleigh Ride
- 4) Tuition Assistance Applications Due
- 4) Northland Open House
- 4) Northland Videos
- 4) Childcare Bible Study
- 4) Open Forum
- 5) Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 5) Christmas Decorating Pictures
- 5) Winter Parking
- 6) Sunday School and Teen Bible Study
- 7) Thomas M. Update
- 7) Benevolence Fund
- 8) Updated Elders Listing



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



Read God's Word

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen (2 Peter 3:18)

As children of God, our God wants us to grow in the grace and knowledge about him. The only way this can happen is by reading his Word. In this month's edition of the Messenger you will find a copy of a Bible reading schedule to help you read through the whole Bible in one year. I would have given you a copy for the year 2022, but it wasn't available yet on the website. You may look up other schedules if you want, and if you already have one then use what you have.

The concept of reading the whole Bible in a year may seem challenging. It may seem challenging because of how long the Bible can seem to be. It may seem challenging because there are portions of the Bible that can be hard to understand. It may seem challenging because we may not fully understand the history or the customs of the people that are mentioned in the Bible. Therefore we may not want to read through the whole Bible.

If that is the case then look to Christ. Scripture tells us that Christ grew up in his wisdom and stature. As true God Christ already knew the Bible perfectly, but as true man Christ had to read and study the Bible to grow in his knowledge and understanding. Therefore follow Christ's example as you read and study the Bible for as you do you will grow in his grace and knowledge of Christ. **All of Scripture testifies about Christ. So as you read the Bible you will see Christ who is described as the Word who was with God in the beginning and was God. You will see Christ the Word made flesh full of grace and truth and made his dwelling among us. You will see Christ the Word who gave up his life to save us and sent his Holy Spirit to reveal to us the plan of salvation in his Word.**

This is our motivation to read the Bible - to grow in his grace and knowledge about Christ our Savior. And if you have any questions about what is written in the Bible, please come to me and I will do my best explain it to you. **May the Lord bless you as you read his Word and grow in your love for him.** To him be glory both now and forever!

- Pastor Neal Behm

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion)	3 5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	4	5 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Catechism Class	7 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	8 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
9 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Education Hour 11:30 am Packers Potluck 12:30 pm Northland Lutheran High School Open House	10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11	12 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	13 6:30 pm Catechism Class	14	15 9:00 am Childcare Bible Study
16 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Youth Education Hour 10:30 am Open Forum	17 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	18 6:30 pm Council Meeting	19 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Catechism Class	21	22 5:30 pm Game Night
23 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Education Hour	24	25	26 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	27 6:30 pm Catechism Class	28	29 3:00 pm Sleigh Ride – Bryant, WI
30 8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Youth Education Hour 10:30 am Annual Voters' Meeting	31					

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service on **Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS** YouTube channel

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Sunday, January 9 at 11:30 am: **Packers Potluck.** The Green Bay Packers will play the Detroit Lions at noon. Pizza will be provided; desserts & snacks will be potluck. **A special collection for Tom M. will be taken at the event and matched dollar for dollar up to \$500.**

Saturday, January 22 at 5:30 pm: **Family Game Night.** Baked Potatoes will be provided; everyone is welcome to bring potato toppings of choice or other meal items. Attendees may bring along card and board games.

Saturday, January 29 at 3:00 pm: **Sleigh Ride** at Brandt's Sleigh Rides in Bryant. We have been there several times in the past and had enjoyable rides. There is a resting spot mid-way where we are welcome to prepare some pre-cooked food over a campfire or just enjoy the additional fellowship time. With the timing of our ride, we are riding back into the sunset on the way back to the barn, and that is a pretty part of the ride, too. Plan to dress warmly so you can enjoy the ride.

P-16 & CALLED WORKER TUITION APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 1

P-16 Tuition Assistance applications for assisting students attending WELS preschool, elementary, secondary, and college level schools are due February 1 for the spring semester. Likewise, called worker applications which assist students going into ministry are due February 1. Applications for both are available in the narthex to the right of the education bulletin board. Please place completed applications in the Board of Christian Education mailbox.

SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR will not be held on January 2. Classes resume January 9, 2022.

NORTHLAND OPEN HOUSE: Northland Lutheran High School is holding an Open House on **Sunday, January 9.** Any and all interested parties are invited to look around and see what they have to offer. Families with 7th and 8th graders are especially encouraged to attend--they'd love to add you to the ranks of the Wildcats! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4ba9a623a2fb6-northland> or call 715-359-3400 or send email to nlhsoffice@nlhs.org for more information.

NORTHLAND VIDEOS: Northland now has a YouTube channel which should make their videos clearer and easier to load. Please check out their weekly videos by subscribing to Northland Lutheran High School's YouTube channel or by going to www.nlhs.org.

CHILDCARE BIBLE STUDY: On January 15 at 9:00 am all adults are welcome to participate in a Bible study based on questions asked during pre-marriage counseling. Childcare is available.

OPEN FORUM: An open forum will be held on **January 16 at 10:30 am in the basement.** An open forum is an avenue to have an informal discussion on various topics. Topics to be covered: updating to current Bible translations, when to elect various delegates, worship, and member involvement. All members are encouraged to attend and offer their input. Please review the November *Messenger* article, *Congregational Collaboration and Communication*.

Please submit items for next month's *Messenger* by the 20th of this month to Messenger@ChristMerrill.com or place them in the *Messenger* slot located in the top row of church mailboxes in the narthex.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Decylin C.	18 Stephanie L.
3 Henry M.	25 Christy C.
4 Allie M.	26 Mike H.
5 Thomas M.	28 Mike S.
6 Diane T.	29 Corey M.
13 Nancy N.	29 Riley S.
18 Adeline H.	29 Curt W.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Mike & Rebekka H.
29 Scott & Colleen S.

WANTED! WEDDING DATES. In future issues of the *Messenger* we would like to include wedding anniversaries. If you are married, please write down your names and wedding date (month/day/year) and place it in the **Messenger mailbox** or email it to Messenger@ChristMerrill.com.

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church provides an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services** (9:00 am). Subscribe to the YouTube channel (Christ Ev. Lutheran Church :: Merrill, WI :: WELS) to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.



SERVICES ON THE AIR: A Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church worship service is on the air **Sunday mornings at 8:00 am** on 96.3FM, 730AM, and streaming at bluejay963.com, Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season.



WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS: In the city of Merrill during **January, February, and March**, no person shall park any vehicle on any street except on:

1. The **odd-numbered side** of any street on **odd-numbered days**.
2. The **even-numbered side** of any street on **even-numbered days**.

Since the church's address is **1204 N. Sales Street**, vehicles not in the church parking lot should be parked on the church (west) side of Sales Street on even-numbered days and on the east side of Sales Street on odd-numbered days.

Sunday School and Teen Bible Study

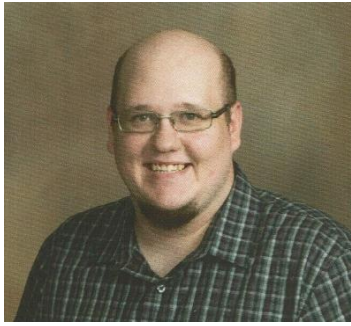


Youth members in grades 7-12:
Derek, Megan, Adeline, Katelyn, Sonia

Children of the Sunday School participated in a special worship service entitled "Signs of Christmas." The full service can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWnA2BfuMiQ>

Following the children's service, a special activity time provided fun for both staff and students.





THOMAS M. UPDATE:

On August 25th, 2021, Thomas was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This was a very rapidly progressive type of Leukemia that needed an aggressive treatment, which has been taking place at Marshfield Clinic.

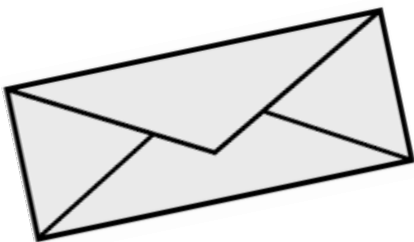
So far, Thomas has spent 6 weeks at Marshfield Clinic for one round of inpatient treatment, 8 weeks of outpatient treatment, and is currently going through another 8 weeks of high-intensity treatment at Marshfield clinic again. Shortly after this treatment schedule is completed, Thomas will be going to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for a bone marrow transplant. The timeframe given by the doctors at Mayo seem to think that this will be starting sometime in late January to early February and will last about 3 months. During this time, Thomas will need to have a caregiver (his brother, Jacob) to go with him to assist with getting to and from appointments, monitoring how the treatments are going, cooking meals, and most other duties that may not be able to be completed on his own.

Thomas's family has started some early fundraising for the upcoming medical expenses, but the need is still there for additional funds to help out with Thomas's out of pocket bills, as well as to help with expenses that his caregiver might need help with by not being able to work for the three months of the bone marrow transplant.

A door collection will be taken following the worship services each week of January; if you wish to have your donation recorded with your other church offerings, please put your money in a Benevolence Fund envelope with your name or envelope number noted.



A collection for Tom will also be gathered at the Packer Potluck on January 9; this money will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$500.








BENEVOLENCE FUND: The Benevolence Fund exists to aid those seeking temporary, but immediate help. Offerings to the fund are welcome and may be made with an envelope obtained from on the right side of the narthex mailboxes and 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 envelope. The name of a specific person for whom the donation is intended may be written on the envelope.

MEMBER CARE – UPDATED LIST

The Board of Elders is ready to serve to you! Every member household has been paired with an Elder. Communicate with your Elder regarding significant events and concerns: births, graduations, relocations, illness, death, hardship, promotions, change of address or phone numbers, etc. Members can request to be paired with a different Elder than the one assigned; just ask any Elder.

Contact information for your Elder may be found on the bulletin board next to the elevator; or call 715-539-0250; or email elders@christmerrill.com.

Here is a listing of member households and the Elder assigned to each group:

Abbrederis – Byer & Pierzchalski – Plautz	Mr. Willi H.	
Cerney – Griesbach & Plummer – Polak	Mr. Phil M.	
Hackbart –Kleinschmidt & Maschke – Neff	Mr. Carl C.	
Kohnhorst – Marheine	Mr. Chris R.	
Pagel – Paroubek & Pontel – Mike S.	Mr. Bill W.	
Pfaff & Mitchell S. – Zimmerman	Mr. Scott S.	