

THE MESSENGER

March 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

“THE CRUCIAL HOURS”

LENTEN WORSHIP



**Wednesday
evenings at
6:30 pm in the
traditional
format.**

Date	Theme	Sermon Text	Pastor
March 2	I Will Keep the Passover	Matthew 26:18	Behm
March 9	Satan Has Asked to Sift All of You	Luke 22:31-32	DeGier
March 16	They Bound Him	John 18:12	Bittorf
March 23	The Semblance of Legality	Luke 22:66	Iwinski
March 30	What to Remember When You Are Seized with Remorse	Matthew 27:3,4	Russow
April 6	A Part for the Whole?	Luke 23:13-16	Willitz

In this Messenger:

- 1) Lenten Worship
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Constitution Copies
- 4) NLHS *Together We Shine*
- 4) Our Savior's Open House
- 4) NHLs Lent/Easter Concert
- 4) Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4) Women's Bible Study
- 4) Holy Week Schedule
- 4) Worship Livestream
- 4) Services on the Air
- 5) Melisa K. Update
- 5) Benevolence Fund
- 5) Council, Board, and Committee Members
- 6) Upcoming Conferences and Retreats
- 7) New Member Potluck



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Lent It Be

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (Philippians 1:29-30)

Yes, you read the title correctly. It's not a misspelling but rather a play on words of the phrase, "let it be." When people use the phrase, "let it be," they are asking a person to let something go and to let things just happen. In one way that's what we do during the season of Lent. **One major aspect of Lent is to focus on sufferings, not just the sufferings of Christ, but also our sufferings for Christ.**

If there was anyone who knew full well what it meant to suffer for Christ, it was Paul. In the book of Acts we hear God say this about Paul, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." We see Paul briefly bring up his sufferings in these words to the Philippians. At this time Paul was in prison in Rome because of a false charge against him. Even the Philippians had seen Paul suffer for Christ in their own city. On his second missionary journey Paul was flogged and imprisoned unjustly since he was a Roman citizen. If anyone had any reason to complain about suffering, it would have been Paul.

But this is where Paul says something very interesting. Paul says that suffering for Christ has been granted to us on behalf of Christ. The Greek word that Paul uses here could be translated as "graciously given." **Our sufferings for Christ have been graciously given to us by God.** That's a concept that we normally don't think of for we might view sufferings as something unpleasant or as something to be avoided.

Yet our sufferings as Christians are not by accident or due to God for being angry with us. It's quite the opposite; our sufferings have been given to us as a gift from God. Look at it in this way: if we never shared in our sufferings for Christ then our testimony for Christ might not be as powerful. But when people see us willingly and joyfully endure sufferings they might be perplexed and wonder why. This is where we can share our faith with them and explain why we do what we do.

Therefore when sufferings happen in our life we shouldn't view them as a burden but rather as a gift from God. Because of this we say to God, "Let it be. Let these sufferings be in my life so that I can carry my cross and follow you." And that's the other great thing about sharing in the sufferings for Christ. **Not only do we share in his sufferings, but we will also share in the ultimate victory won for us by Christ.** So as we enter into the season of Lent, **let us rejoice in the sufferings of Christ, our sufferings for Christ, and our victory in Christ.**

- Pastor Neal Behm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship (Holy Communion) 7:30 pm Choir	3 6:30 pm Catechism Class	4 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	5
6 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 Education Hour 12-3 pm Together We Shine at Northland Lutheran High School	7	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 9:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir	10 6:30 pm Catechism Class	11	12 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
13 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 3:00 pm King of Kings Concert at Northland Lutheran High School	14 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 6:00 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	16 9:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir	17 6:30 pm Catechism Class	18	19
20 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 Education Hour	21 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	22	23 9:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir	24 6:30 pm Catechism Class	25	26 Women's Retreat at Camp Phillip (Fri-Sun)
27 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	28	29	30 9:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir	31 6:30 pm Catechism Class		

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

CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS: Copies of the recently updated church Constitution and bylaws are available below the narthex mailboxes. Help yourself to a copy.

NORTHLAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S *Together We Shine* Friendraiser and Fundraiser will be held **March 6** from 12-3 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, eat soup, bid on silent auction items, and celebrate God's blessings through NLHS.

OUR SAVIOR'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL is having an Open House **March 9** from 4:30-6:30 pm. Our Savior's offers quality Christian education for Pre3-8th Grade youth. Visit oursaviorswausau.org or call 715-845-3253 for more information.

NORTHLAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S Band & Choir Concert *King of Kings* will be held **March 13** at 3:00 pm. The concert remembers the passion and resurrection of our Lord.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 Melisa K. | 18 Andrei H. |
| 3 Svetlana H. | 19 Danielle T. |
| 7 Jacob A. | 23 Matthew D. |
| 10 Carrie B. | 23 Jerry S. |
| 11 Sally A. | 24 Jenny S. |
| 11 Michael N. | 28 Laurene H. |
| 17 Wayne P. | 29 James P. |

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will be held **Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm** and will focus on **Deborah**. All women are welcome to attend.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- April 14** **Maundy Thursday Worship**
(Holy Communion)
6:30 pm (Traditional Format)
- April 15** **Good Friday Worship**
6:30 pm (Traditional Format)
- April 17** **Easter Worship (Holy Communion)**
7:30 am Worship with Guidelines
(masks, spacing, etc.)
9:00 am Worship (Traditional Format)
10:30 am Easter Breakfast

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. There is a link to the YouTube channel on the church's website www.christmerrill.com.



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).



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.



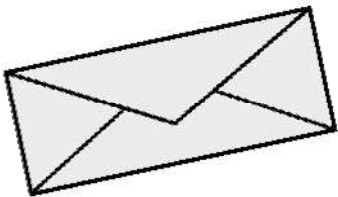
MELISA K. UPDATE:



A door offering will be collected following the worship services each week of March.

This money will help Melisa pay for gas for transportation to appointments and surgery. It will also help her pay for medical expenses and lost wages when she needs to be off work. She truly appreciates any help. She also would appreciate all the prayers she can get.

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.



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.

CURRENT COUNCILMEN & MEMBERS OF BOARDS/COMMITTEES:

President: Hans (Willi) H.

Vice President: Chris R.

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Bill W.

Board of Christian Education Chair: vacant

Board of Church Properties Chair: Larry W.

Board of Elders Chair: Scott S.
Board Members: Carl C., Willi H., Phil M.,
Chris R., Bill W.
Head Usher: Dan K.

Church Fellowship Committee Chair: Al Z.
Committee Members: Christy C., Megan C., Losha H.,
Lisa K., Leon and Jenny M., Diane Z.

Evangelism Committee Chair: Jacob M.
Committee Members: Losha H., Brenda R., Chris and
Billie R.

Stewardship and Finance Committee Chair: Losha H.
Committee Members: Christy C., Ken N., and Diane Z.

Technology Committee Chair: Ken C.
Committee Members: Nick C., Losha H., Jacob M., Tom
M., Chris R., Scott & Colleen S, Katelyn S., and Diane Z.

Are you interested in serving on a board or committee? Contact the chairman.

Upcoming Conferences and Retreats

Women's Retreat March 25-27



Cost: \$99 (<https://www.campphillip.com/>)

Ladies, let us provide you a weekend of relaxation for your body and renewal for your soul! Enjoy powerful Bible studies and conversations along with good, clean fun and lots of laughter! Choose the activities you'd like to join in, or read a book -- or take a nap! No pressure -- the weekend is yours!

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church is a Corporation Congregation; our members are eligible for discounts for any Camp Phillip camp/retreat.

Teen Retreat April 29-May 1



Cost: \$73 (<https://www.campphillip.com/>)

Calling all teens in grades 8-12! Teen retreats offer you the opportunity to connect with other teens about real, relevant issues -- and also have a phenomenal time enjoying our creative activities.

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church is a Corporation Congregation; our members are eligible for discounts for any Camp Phillip camp/retreat.

WELS International Youth Rally June 28-July 1

Knoxville, Tennessee



Registration runs March 8-May 31
\$375 early-bird rate until April 30
\$395 May 1-31

Bus transportation available from Wausau;
Contact Willi H. or email
christmerrilleducation@gmail.com to get more information.

Women's Ministry Conference July 21-23

Watertown, WI

\$130 Early bird rate until May 15
\$150 until June 30

\$47.50 for single and double occupancy dorm rooms at Luther Preparatory School for 2 nights with 2 breakfasts included.

*We will dig into Ephesians and learn about the richness of God's grace. Grace that moved Jesus Christ to the cross and won us by his blood. Grace that reconciled us with our heavenly Father. Grace that now unites us as one body to serve Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. **We have been won to be one!** Find out how that truth shapes and impacts us as women in the church, home, and workplace.*

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/>



Financial support of spiritual growth outside of our church

The Board of Christian Education recognizes the importance of the continual growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason, the BoCE wishes to reduce financial barriers that may be hindering participation in spiritual growth opportunities. The Board is requesting that people seek support ask before they register. Approved support will be given before registration so the attendee can apply the money toward their costs.

New Member Potluck



Sonia, Diane, Danielle



Peter & Dee



Terry



Karen & Jim



Rusty