

THE MESSENGER

December 2019

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

SPECIAL SERVICES

December 4, 11, and 18: Advent Services at 6:30 pm.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm.

December 25: Christmas Day Service at 9:00 am.

December 31: New Year's Eve Service at 6:30 pm.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The children's Christmas service, "Gifts From the Manger," will be a part of the **morning worship service** on **December 15**.

Practices will be from **9-10:15 am** on these **Saturdays**:
November 30,
December 7, and
December 14.

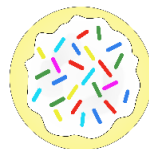
CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Christmas for Kids is offering a time to help our children focus on the reason for the Christmas season, Christ.

On **Saturday, December 14** from **9:00 am to noon** we will be providing a morning of fun and fellowship at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for **kids in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 5**. Congregation members are encouraged to invite friends and family members to attend the event. Sign up on the hall bulletin board or contact Cynthia at 715-360-1622 to register.

Anyone wishing to donate some unfrosted sugar cookies for the children to decorate or a container

of sprinkles or other decorations, please sign up on the hall bulletin board.



In this Messenger:

- 1) Evening Services
- 1) Children's Service
- 1) Christmas for Kids

- 2) Pastor Behm's Devotion - Luke 2:10-11

- 3) December Calendar

- 4) Church Decorating
- 4) Packers Party
- 4) OWLS Bake Sale
- 4) Winter Parking
- 4) Men's Bible Study
- 4) Women's Bible Study
- 4) Contact Information
- 4) New Room Names
- 4) Birthdays

- 5) Feature: Where to Find Information at Church



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Keep Christ in Every Day

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

During this time of year we usually hear the phrase, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Certainly this is a good thing to keep in mind during the Christmas season. As our country becomes more secularized during this time when people are concerned about buying all the right gifts, as people become busy to go to all of the parties, and as people stress over making the desserts and treats, it’s easy for anyone to forget the main reason to celebrate Christmas.

But after the Christmas season when the lights come down, the Christmas sales are over, and the Christmas songs and movies stop playing, people go back to their lives and seem to lose the joy we just celebrated. Why is that? Why is it that after Christmas we do not hear people say we should keep Christ in everyday of our lives?

This was the message of the angels to the shepherds on that first Christmas night. They proclaimed a message of great joy that was meant for all people for all time: Christ the Savior was born! Later on we read about how the shepherds went to see Jesus lying in the manger, they praised God, and they told others about what they had seen and heard.

Let this Christmas joy, the message of Christ’s birth, remain with you even after the Christmas season. Keep Christ in everyday of your lives. Rejoice every day that our Savior was born to live and die for you. There is no greater joy than this! The message we hear on Christmas that a Savior was born for us fills us with joy because we are forgiven. And this forgiveness we have received from Christ remains with us always.

Therefore let this joy of the birth of Christ our Savior be evident in your lives every day. Keep Christ in Christmas. Keep Christ in New Years. Keep Christ in Easter. Keep Christ in your birthday. Keep Christ in your anniversary. Keep Christ in your days of sorrow and in your days of joy. Keep Christ in every day. May God keep this Christmas joy in you as you celebrate our Savior’s birth not only during this season but also during all the days of your life.

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class 11:30 Church Decorating 12:00 Packers Party	2	3	4 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	5 11:30 OWLS	6	7 9:00-10:15 Children's Practice
8 9:00 Worship 10:15 OWLS Bake Sale 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	9 6:00 Women's Bible Study	10 6:30 Council Meeting	11 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	12	13	14 9:00-10:15 Children's Practice 9:00-12:00 Christmas for Kids
15 9:00 Worship (Holy Communion) Children's Service 10:30 Adult Bible Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Teen Bible Class	16	17	18 3:30 Catechism Class 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	19	20	21 9:00 Men's Bible Study
22 9:00 Worship	23	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28
29 9:00 Worship	30	31 6:30 New Year's Eve Worship				

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: will take place on **Sunday, December 1** at 11:30 am. Everyone is invited to help.

PACKERS PARTY: December 1 at noon. Sign up on the hall bulletin board and bring your favorite tailgating food.

OWLS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE will be held following the worship service on **December 8**. Donations of baked goods, candy, snacks, and any other items are welcomed. Bring the items the day of the sale and the OWLS will price them.

PROCEEDS FROM THE OWLS HARVEST BAKE SALE in October and more were given to:
Northland Lutheran High School (\$200) and Vietnam School for Pastors (\$200).
Thank you everyone who donated!

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS: In the city of Merrill during **December, 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.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: (Pastor) Neil Varnum will be leading the group through a study of The Book of the Twelve (The Minor Prophets). The Minor Prophets are the last 12 books of the Old Testament, *Hosea - Malachi*. They are called Minor Prophets because they are much shorter in length than the Major Prophets (*Isaiah - Daniel*).

The **December 21** class will be an introduction to the book of **Amos** and an overview of its message. It may be helpful to read the book of Amos ahead of time to get a flavor of it before coming to the Bible study.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The topics for **December 9** include symbols and decorations in a church and their meanings.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED? Please write your current address, phone number(s), and/or email address on the Friendship Register page next to your name. Thanks.

NEW ROOM NAMES: The four classrooms in the basement are now named after some fruits of the Spirit – green room is **FAITH**; blue room is **PEACE**; red room west is **JOY**; and red room east is **KINDNESS**.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Julie Maschke	17 Adeline Heisinger
4 Rick Kohnhorst	21 Jerome Bonke, Jr.
6 Abigail Rasmussen	21 Pam Parent
8 Marlene Edelburg	21 Scott Schult
9 Sarah Whitson	22 Annie Kleinschmidt
12 Randy Woller	29 Marsha Borelli
15 Liam Schmidt	29 Cindy Whitson
15 Tatum Schmidt	30 Eli Boehm
16 Joy Kolar-Schleicher	30 Melissa Schwab
16 Tom Lehman	

Would you prefer your name to be printed in a different way than above in the future? Put a note in the Messenger mailbox.

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.

Where to Find Information at Church: Part 1 – Narthex Bulletin Boards

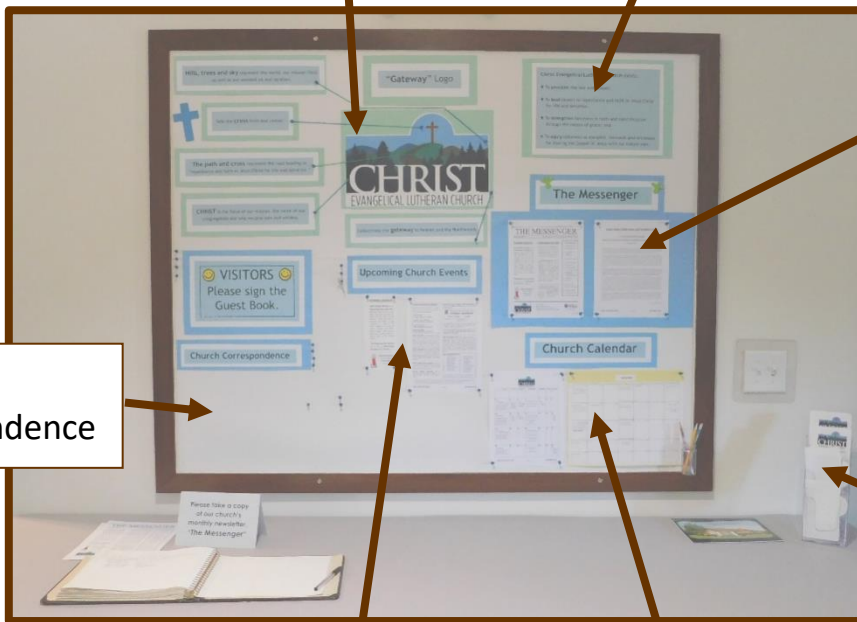


Church Logo,
with explanation

Church Mission



Current Church Newsletter



Church
Correspondence

Church Brochures
and Window Decals–
Please take one!

Upcoming
Church
Events



Future Calendars –
**Please write in
when your
group is meeting
or doing an
activity.**



Where to Find Information at Church: Part 1 – Narthex Bulletin Boards

Community News & Events

Includes posters of upcoming events in the area and newspaper clippings of church members.

WELS News & Events

Includes information on various WELS missions and programs, as well as the latest edition of the WELS Connection handout.



Merrill Enrichment Center publications—**Please take one!**

Collection bin for non-perishable items for the Merrill Food Pantry—**Donate any time of year!**

