

# THE MESSENGER

December 2020

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church



## CHRISTMAS for Kids

**A Drive-through Event  
for Children Age 3 - 6th Grade**

**Saturday, December 5  
10:30 am-12:00 pm**

### Receive a Christmas Gift Bag

- Advent Calendar
- Video
- Craft
- Christmas Season Devotions
- Treats

**Christ Ev. Lutheran Church  
1204 N. Sales Street  
Merrill, Wisconsin**

More information at: <http://www.christmerrill.com/christmasforkids>

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1204 N. Sales Street | Merrill, WI 54452



## Weekly Sunday Schedule

<b>8:00 – 9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Guidelines</b> such as distancing, face masks, reduced touch, etc.
<b>9:00 – 9:15 am</b>	<b>Sunday School Music Time</b> – in the basement
<b>9:15 – 10:15 am</b>	<b>Education Hour</b> – Adult, Teen, and Youth
<b>10:30 – 11:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b> conducted in a traditional format

### “This Too Shall Pass”

All of us who have children can remember how they acted in church at a young age. Sometimes they act like angels in church; other times they act the complete opposite. According to my father, when I was a young child I was the worst in church. I could never sit still, I would stare at the people sitting behind us, and I would try to crawl underneath the pews. Apparently my father would look up to heaven and say to himself, “This too shall pass.”

For the past few months we have focused on phrases that aren’t in the Bible, and this is the last of these phrases we will look at. Out of all the phrases we have looked at, this phrase is the least misleading. Although this exact phrase is not in the Bible, the thoughts behind the phrase are true. Ecclesiastes chapter 3 mentions how there is a time for everything such as: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to be silent and a time to speak, etc. So many things in our world change over time.

But there are some things that may never change. We may suffer certain ailments or diseases which have no cure. Therefore, that suffering shall not pass. We may suffer from certain temptations that we cannot conquer; we fall into them over and over again. Therefore, that temptation shall not pass. No matter what we do we will always be sinful as we live. Therefore, our sinful condition shall not pass.

But, with all of that said, there actually will be a time when all of this shall pass. Either when we pass away or when Jesus returns before that, all of our sufferings will be removed. Temptations will never occur again because God will remove the devil and his temptations from us. We will no longer be sinners but glorious saints. And this shall never pass.

- Pastor Neal Behm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 11:30 am Elders Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism 6:00 pm Christmas Decorating	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Children's Practice 10:30 - noon <i>Christmas for Kids pick-up</i>
<b>6</b> 8:00 am      Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am      Children's Choir 9:15 am      Adult Bible Study 9:15 am      Youth Education 10:30 am     Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>7</b> 5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Children's Practice 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
<b>13</b> 8:00 am      Worship w/ Guidelines 9:00 am      Children's Choir 9:15 am      Adult Bible Study 9:15 am      Youth Education 10:30 am     Worship	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Worship Aids Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Children's Practice
<b>20</b> 8:00 am      Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 9:00 am      Children's Choir 9:15 am      Adult Bible Study 9:15 am      Youth Education 10:30 am     Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00 am      Worship w/ Guidelines 10:30 am     Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**ATTENTION**

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SERVICES:** Watch the Sunday bulletins for dates and times.

## CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING:

**Wednesday, December 2** starting at **6 pm**. Everyone is welcome to come and help decorate the church for Christmas.

**POINSETTIAS:** Plants will be purchased this year based on who signs up for one **in advance**. To request a plant, sign up on the narthex bulletin board by **Sunday, December 13**. Cost is \$13 per plant, payable to Marion Schmoltd. Plants will decorate the church through Christmas Day and may be taken home after that.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Women's Bible Study meets **December 14 from 6:00-7:00 pm**. All women are welcome to attend.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Men's Bible Study of the Minor Prophets continues **Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 am**. In advance of the study, it is recommended to read the book of *Zechariah*.

There are two different ways to participate in the live study:

- 1) Join the study in person in the church fellowship hall (basement)
- 2) Join virtually with the button below.

[Join meeting](#)

**WORSHIP AIDS MEETING:** The next Worship Aids committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm**. We are working on a survey to get input from the entire congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend and vote at these meetings (men and women) as this is simply a working group and not a formal committee or board. If you are interested in attending via webex email [ken.cerney@gmail.com](mailto:ken.cerney@gmail.com) and he will send you the link.

**RADIO SERMONS:** Pastor Behm's sermons are on the air **Sunday mornings at 8:00 am** on 96.3FM, 730AM, and streaming at [bluejay963.com](http://bluejay963.com), Alexa, and TuneIn (for mobile streaming).

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS:** The Children's Christmas service will be in a different format this year. The children will be recorded saying their parts and singing; the video will be shown during the services on **Sunday, December 27**.

**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.

Please submit items for next month's Messenger by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to [Messenger@ChristMerrill.com](mailto:Messenger@ChristMerrill.com) or place them in the Messenger slot located in the top row of church mailboxes in the narthex.

## Youth Group Leaf Raking



## WELSMEN

**Men:** With the holidays quickly approaching and the uncertainty surrounding each of us every day due to the pandemic, joining the WELSMEN could be a new way of strengthening your faith and networking with other men who share the same visions and goals. Check out their website: [welsmen.com](http://welsmen.com) for more information.



## *women's* **MINISTRY** WELS.NET/WOMEN

**Women:** The new December devotion series from Women's Ministry is designed to help you stay refreshed in the Word and focused on Christ. Written by your sisters in Christ, these daily devotions will bring you Biblical encouragement and insights. [Sign up to receive these devotions in your e-mail](mailto:welsmen@welsmen.com) at [WELS.NET/WOMEN](http://WELS.NET/WOMEN), and feel free to forward and share them with others everywhere. Built on Scripture, these devotions will give different perspectives of Christmas from many different women in the account of Christ's birth. Stop for just a moment to receive the peace and strength that only God's Word can bring.

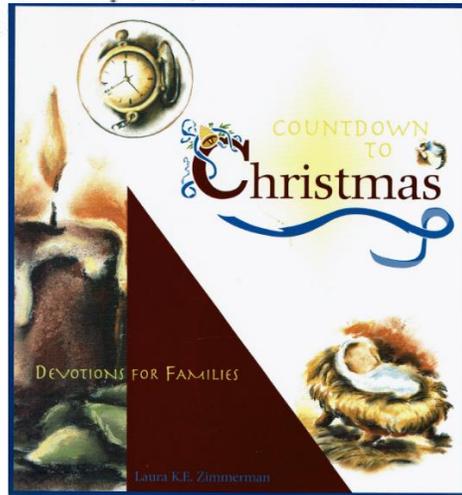


## Check out what's NEW in our church library!

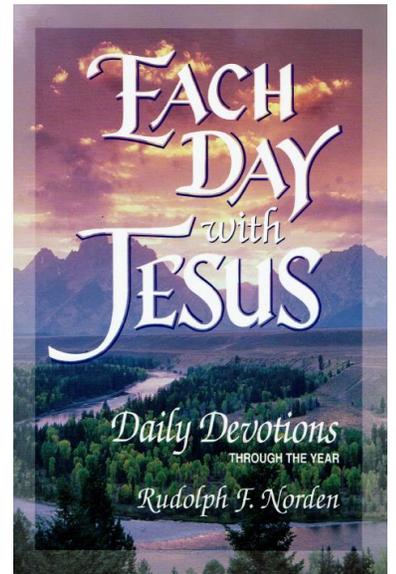
### For Advent ~

#### COUNTDOWN to Christmas: DEVOTIONS FOR FAMILIES

This book is meant to assist you as you prepare for the birth of Jesus. It is offered to help people focus on the true meaning of Christmas. It begins with the very first day of Advent and continues through all 12 days of Christmas. Venturing through this book can help you and your loved ones learn that preparation for Christmas is important, but so is the celebration following the birth of our Lord.

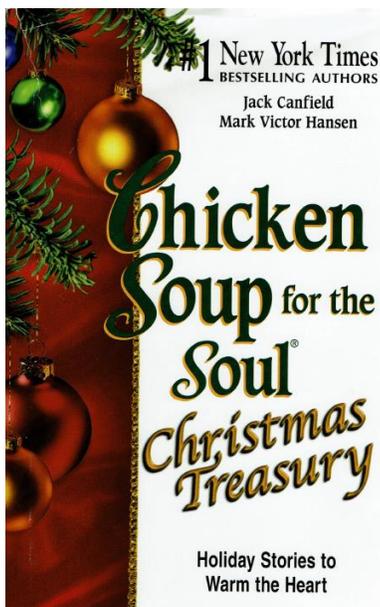


### For the New Year ~



Grow each day in Christ's love!

### For Christmas ~



#### A Timeless Holiday Collection That Celebrates the Season

Christmas is truly a magical time of the year. The smell of fresh pine fills the air, the taste of hot apple cider tantalizes our taste buds and sparkling lights brighten our homes. Yet despite these sensory sensations, it is the thing we cannot see or smell or taste or touch that affects us most deeply: the spirit of love and giving that is the *true* meaning of Christmas.

Now you can foster this holiday spirit with those you love, by sharing with them the first-ever *Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury*, a timeless collection of stories that celebrate the magic of the season. In this special volume, you'll find some of the most treasured gems from previous *Chicken Soup* books plus a wealth of new stories from real people who share with you their most cherished holiday moments—from the humorous to the hopeful, from the sentimental to the silly, from the memorable to the truly miraculous . . .

The church library, located in the lower level near the windows, has many more items available to help you and your family grow in faith. Take a look at the resources and take home a book, CD, or DVD today!