

# THE MESSENGER

November 2020

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## FAITH CARE PACKAGES

Northwestern Publishing House has new Faith Care Packages available for Christmas. Share the true meaning of Christmas by giving your loved ones any of the care packages below:

- **Family Advent Devotions Care Package**. Inspire your loved ones to rejoice in the Savior's birth all year long! This care package includes a compilation CD of Christmas music by a variety of Christian artists, a Christmas devotion book, and a prayer book for the entire year.
- **Celebrating Our Savior Care Package**. Friends and family will enjoy counting down to Christmas while spending time in God's Word daily! This care package includes two Advent-themed devotion books—one for families containing devotions with an Advent Calendar and one based on the book of Revelation. The package also includes an Advent wreath and four candles to mark the progression of the Advent season.

NPH will ship the package directly to a loved one with the option of including a free personalized message from you. Just write your message in the comments section of your order. Discover the full collection of care packages at [nph.net/carepackages](http://nph.net/carepackages)!

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## 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>8:55 – 9:10 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

### “What Would Jesus Do?”

During the 1990’s the phrase of “what would Jesus do” abbreviated as “WWJD” made a huge impact in our culture. Still to this day you can see this phrase on bracelets, bumper stickers, etc. At first glance it seems like there is nothing wrong with this phrase. In fact, it sounds like something that would be found in the Bible. But for the past few months we have been looking at phrases that are not in the Bible. So, let’s examine this phrase to see how it can be misunderstood/misleading and what is good about it.

Of course, we want to do what Jesus would do. Scripture tells us to be imitators of Christ and to have our attitude like his. So then how can this phrase of “what would Jesus do” be misleading? It can be misleading for two reasons. One, it can give the impression that Jesus was just a really good person who is our example to follow. Two, this phrase does not give us the motivation to do what Jesus would want us to do. You almost feel forced to do these things since Jesus would do them.

Since this phrase can be misleading, many pastors have dealt with this phrase by first talking about what Jesus did do. Jesus didn’t come to be a good person as our example to follow. Jesus did what he did so that he could be our perfect Savior. He gave up his life so that everything Jesus did would be credited to our account. Because of Jesus we are already perfect in God’s sight.

Jesus and what he has done becomes our motivation to do what Jesus would do. We do not do these things to make ourselves feel better or to receive praise from others. We do these things out of love for Jesus and our neighbor. With this viewpoint in mind we can properly understand the phrase of “what Jesus would do?” So even though this phrase isn’t the worst phrase in the world, let us first focus on what Jesus has done for us as our motivation to live our lives for him.

- Pastor Neal Behm



<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>1</b>	8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 8:55 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>2</b> 5:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>8:00-3:00 Life of Luther Seminar @ St. Peter, Schofield</i>
<b>8</b>	8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 8:55 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
<b>15</b>	8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines (Holy Communion) 8:55 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship (Holy Communion)	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Worship Aids Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:15 pm Catechism	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 8:55 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	8:00 am Worship w/ Guidelines 8:55 am Children's Choir 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:15 am Youth Education 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b>					

**NORTHLAND FRUIT SALE:** A variety of fruit and other foods are being sold through December 1. Place completed order forms along with payment in an envelope in the Heisinger mailbox. For more information, contact Jennifer or Adeline Heisinger.

**NLHS SCRIP SALES:** You can purchase gift cards for your everyday expenses such as gas, groceries, or dining out. A percentage of each gift card you purchase is given to NLHS as a rebate. Want to learn more? View the video *What is Scrip?* at <https://youtu.be/WwkeGiRuYVY>. The order form is available online at [http://www.nlhs.org/uploads/3/4/4/3/34436888/2019-2020orderform\\_2.pdf](http://www.nlhs.org/uploads/3/4/4/3/34436888/2019-2020orderform_2.pdf). Cindy Whitson is available at church to assist you with SCRIP questions or purchases.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Women's Bible Study meets November 9 from 6:00-7:00 pm. The group exists to help women "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). All women are welcome to attend.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Men's Bible Study of the Minor Prophets continues **Saturday, November 14 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](#)

**CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK GROUP:** This group is a place for members of the congregation to interact, ask questions, and build each other up as the body of Christ. To join, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/christmerrill>

<b>NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS</b>	
2 Gladys Hintze	17 Alvin Kleinschmidt
3 Phillip Marheine	18 Tom Duerr
5 Kaylynn Zeinert	19 Paul Waliczek
7 Kelly Varnum	20 Tim Woller
11 Rebekka Huth	21 Wanda Kleinschmidt
11 Eileen Luedtke	22 Renee Stockowitz
12 Diane Zimmerman	23 Dave Edelberg
14 Nadia Schmidt	25 James Cordova
17 Jeffrey Plummer	26 Lorna Pfaff

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** to play the *WELS Connection* video after the 10:30 service on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Colleen Schult for details.

**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.

**P-16 TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND** is designed to financially assist those who attend WELS schools. Special envelopes are located to the right of the Christian Education bulletin board to use to contribute to the fund.

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.



**Help Youth Create Meaningful Relationships with Each Other, their Church and God's Word**

A child belongs to a WELS congregation when he is 13. What are the chances he will belong to a WELS congregation when he is 33? The answer: about 50/50. **Approximately half of young WELS members drift away.** Some drift into other Christian churches. Most drift into nothingness. They stop going to church altogether. - "WNCLL - Restoring the Family Altar - Dr. Phil Huebner." [vimeo.com/396943263](https://vimeo.com/396943263) January 2019

*Transformed* shares ideas and resources to help congregations transform their youth ministries. Each [Messenger, June - September 2020](#), explains different aspects of the *Transformed* resources available. Making small changes or refocusing some time and energy can have a big impact on a congregation's youth.

**Congregational help is needed** to pray for God's blessings, to help plan and to carry out the following at Christ Lutheran:

- Seven Year Ministry Plan for Teens:  
Connecting Youth to Congregational Life
- Mentoring: Christian adults intentionally involved in every youth's life
- Partnering with Parents: Birth - 6th grade
- Marriage Building Ministries
- Faith Experiences
- Games, Mixers and Activities

**To volunteer or for more information**, please contact Scott Schult at 715-539-0250 or [christmerrilleducation@gmail.com](mailto:christmerrilleducation@gmail.com).

WELS Congregational Assistant Program (CAP) presents:

## Life of Luther Seminar

**Instructor:** Dr. Joel Pless, Professor of Theology, WLC

**Location:** St. Peter Lutheran Church

**Address:** 1351 Grand Ave Schofield, WI

**Registration Cost:** \$10 per person

**Sat., November 7, 2020**

**8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m**

- No man since St. Paul has played a more important role in the history and direction of the Christian church.
- This seminar is intended to help Christians become better acquainted with the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther.
- Learn why people who claim that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation still name their churches after this man!
- See how his understanding of Bible teaching allowed Luther to defy pope and emperor!!
- You will find this day of fellowship and study rewarding and strengthening for your own faith.

**Course Description:** *Life, times, writings, and impact of the great Reformer, Martin Luther. Emphasis given to how his teachings differed from those of the Roman Catholics.*

**Advance registration is greatly appreciated, as it assists the congregation in preparing for the event.**



**MEN OF HIS WORD** annual event: Feb. 20, 2021.

This Year's theme is: "More Than Conquerors." More information is available online at <https://www.menofhisword.org/oshkosh.html>.

A carpool is being organized. Please contact Willi Heisinger if you are considering attending this event.

Email: [hanswilhelm.heisinger@gmail.com](mailto:hanswilhelm.heisinger@gmail.com)

Text: 715-406-4419

Northland family member,

**The Northland family has been blessed by the Lord working through you.** Private Note Holders, Alumni, Parents, Grandparents, One-time or Regular Donors, Volunteers, Northland Founders, Prayer Warriors, or Servants in any capacity, **we thank God for you and want to share an opportunity with you.**

Background information:

- Almost every year until recently, the Northland Association made the difficult decision to borrow money from private individuals (Private Note holders) to pay the bills and keep Northland open.**
- Northland's debt grew each year, and yet we truly thank God for the Private Note holders because, without them and the money lent to us, we very likely would not exist today.**
  - Northland's Private Note debt was as high as about \$3,500,000 just a few years ago.**
- More and more, Private Note holders are requesting their money to cover retirement living expenses. In the next 12 months, more than \$1,000,000 of Private Notes will come due.**
  - There is urgency to pay off notes and erase debt, rather than additional borrowing to replace notes.**
- Reducing debt = greater financial stability and more opportunities for students: Great advantages as we get closer to including the full debt-reduction plan in our budget and eliminating all debt.**
  - As of a week ago, more than \$590,000 of debt has been eliminated.**
- This week a family gave \$50,000 and a challenge for us: through Christ-compelled hearts, let's match their \$50,000 by November 1, and meet this year's goal of \$788,000 by 12-31-2020.**
- Our Association has 6000 people: *everyone* giving a gift of \$167 OR 1000 people giving a gift of \$1000 would be \$1,000,000!** I know that not everyone would give a gift of \$1000 or even \$167. Some would give less; however, some would give more. Christ's love compels us!

**This is an incredible challenge and opportunity. By God's grace, we met last year's goal of \$500,000 in debt reduction by 12-31-2019. Let's ask God to compel hearts to meet our matching goal by November 1, and our yearly goal of \$788,000. Please consider a gift to pay off Private Notes, thus reducing the debt. Please also share this information with others to give them the opportunity to serve the Lord in this way.**

**God's people are responding in so many ways!** Some have forgiven all or part of their Private Note, changed the interest on their Note to zero, or given the interest back to Northland. Others have given part of the sale of a house, an RMD from an IRA, a one-time gift, a recurring gift, and more. We have seen gifts from kids, current students, alumni, parents, grandparents, friends, and others.

Thank you for keeping this in your hearts and prayers. Thank you for asking God how you may respond in love. Thank you for sharing this opportunity with others! **To God be the Glory!**



Ryan Wiechmann, Administrator and Mission Advancement Director of Northland Lutheran High School

Go to <http://www.nlhs.org/northlandvideos.html> to view a short video explaining simply and visually what our current and future goals are to eliminate debt.