

THE MESSENGER

November 2022

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fellowship Events

Each Sunday following the 9:00 worship service, everyone is welcome to join **fellowship time** in the basement. Snacks and coffee are available.



Sunday, November 6 starting at 11:30 am the Fellowship Committee will be having a **Chili Cook-Off**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hall for those who wish to try their hand at making chili for the rest of us. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the maker of the chili voted the favorite. Others attending can bring foods like cheese, crackers, side dishes that complement chili, or desserts.

Wednesday, November 16 from 5:15-6:00 is the traditional **Deer Hunters' meal**. A sign-up sheet is on the hall bulletin board for the food items to bring. Following the meal is a worship service at 6:30 pm.



Sunday, November 27 at 11:30 everyone is welcome to help **decorate the church for Christmas**.



Midweek Advent Worship

This year, midweek Advent worship services will be held in the church basement in an informal, modified Bible Study format. Services will include: confession and absolution, opening and closing hymns, and a Bible study. Advent worship begins on **Wednesday, November 30, starting at 6:30 pm**.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Fellowship Events
- 1) Midweek Advent Worship
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) *A God-Lived Life* Stewardship Challenge
- 4) Prayer Requests
- 4) Shut-in Visits
- 4) Leaf Raking
- 4) Birthdays
- 4) Members of Christ Facebook Group
- 5) Updates on CW '21 & Digital Displays
- 5) Bible Studies
- 5) Worship Services Online & On Air
- 5) Online Church Resources
- 5) Children's Christmas Service
- 6) Voters' Meeting Handouts
- 6) Food Pantry Needs
- 6) Financial Update
- 6) Kronenwetter Mission
- 6) Special Offering Envelopes



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



Military, Government, War

On November 11th our nation celebrates Veterans Day. On this day we remember those who have served and are serving in the military and thanking them for their service. But throughout time Christians have wondered, “Is it right for a Christian to serve in the military? Should a Christian serve a government that may not be a Christian government? Should Christians fight in a war?” Let’s look at what Scripture has to say about these questions.

Is it right for a Christian to serve in the military? During John the Baptist’s ministry some who came to visit him were Roman soldiers. They asked John what they should do, and he responded, “*Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.*” Notice that John the Baptist did not tell these soldiers that they had to leave the military. If serving in the military was a sin then he certainly would have told them that. But instead he told them to do their jobs faithfully and be content with their pay. Therefore a Christian can serve in the military.

Should a Christian serve a government that may not be a Christian government? Romans 13:1 says, “*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*” These words don’t just apply to those serving in the military but to all of us. Even if a government is not Christian we still serve them because God has established our government. As long as the government does not force us to disobey God we obey our government. Therefore it is not wrong for a Christian to serve the government even if that government is not Christian.

Should Christians fight in a war? Still speaking about the government Romans 13:4 says, “*He is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing.*” If our country is attacked then the government has the right to bear the sword and fight back. Our country has the right to defend itself, or to protect the lives of others. Therefore it is not wrong for Christians to fight in a war.

Also, let’s look at the words of Jesus who once said, “*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*” We have soldiers who have given up their lives for us and to protect our country with its freedoms. Because of them we are able to live in a country where we are able to worship our Savior who gave up his life for us while we were still his enemies. This is a great act of love our military does for us, and therefore let us remember and thank them for their service. And **ultimately let us thank our God that he has established our government for our good and that he has provided us with those who serve in the military to protect us.**

- Pastor Neal Behm

November 2022

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:00 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	2 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	3	4 1:45 pm Worship @ Bell Tower	5
6 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Chili Cook-off	7	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	10	11	12 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
13 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	14 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15	16 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Meal 6:30 pm Deer Hunters' Service (Holy Communion) 7:20 pm Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:20 am Children's Group Time 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	21 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	22	23 6:30 pm Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Children's Christmas Service practice 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Church Decorating	28	29 6:00 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:15 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	30 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:20 pm Choir Practice			

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



A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life of hospitality

This month, we look at the God-lived life as one that *opens our lives to others*. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to share Jesus as we build relationships with them.

Our challenge card this month will focus on living a life of hospitality—opening our hearts and homes to others. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared.

The God-Lived Life program includes opportunities for personal growth centered around each monthly topic in the form of “challenge cards.” The challenge cards are an anonymous way for us to consider how we can identify and set individual goals for our Christian lives.

May God bless us as we live a God-lived life, loving others!

PRAYER SUPPORT: Are there things going on in your life, or the life of others, that you would like your church family to pray about at a church service or during the week? Contact Pastor with a prayer request.

SHUT-IN VISITATION: The Elders welcome help from members visiting our shut-ins. Members are encouraged to visit and/or keep them in our prayers. Please reach out to Pastor or an elder for contact information.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Laurene H. | Tom L. | Phil M. |
| Lorna P. | Kathleen P. | |



Recently the youth group raked leaves at some members’ homes. Pictured left to right: Katelyn, Derek, Megan, Danielle, Sonia, Kaylynn, Scott, Jennifer, Willi, Pastor.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 3 Phil M. | 17 Jeffrey P. |
| 5 Kaylynn Z. | 19 Paul W. |
| 7 Kelly V. | 20 Tim W. |
| 11 Eileen L. | 21 Wanda K. |
| 12 Diane Z. | 22 Renee S. |
| 15 Cody G. | 25 James C. |
| 17 Alvin K. | 26 Lorna P. |



MEMBERS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK GROUP:

This group is a place for members of the congregation to interact, ask questions, get information about church happenings, and build each other up as the body of Christ. To join, go to: facebook.com/groups/christmerrill

Please submit items for next month’s Messenger by the 20th of this month to ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP '21 UPDATE: At the October Quarterly meeting, the voters expressed their support for continuing the demonstrations. The plan is to do this on the third and fourth Sundays in November, pause for December due to the special services, and resume on the third and fourth Sundays in January.

DIGITAL DISPLAY WORSHIP AIDS: The voters expressed their support for the demonstration of a digital display that will have elements of that day's service. It is anticipated that this will start in early 2023.

BIBLE STUDIES AT CHRIST:

Sunday at 10:30 am - *Revelation*.

Wednesday at 9:00 am - Augsburg Confession

Women's Bible Study at 6:30 pm on the **second Monday** of the month through May. November's study is on *Ephesians* chapter 2.

Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am on the **second Saturday** of the month. We will be starting a new Bible Study on the Genesis Flood.

"Destruction and Deliverance"

Lesson One – The Bible Record

Lesson Two – The World of that Time

Lesson Three – By Faith Noah

Lesson Four – Destruction and Deliverance

Lesson Five – Into a New World

Lesson Six – But what about . . . ?

Lesson Seven – For Our Learning and Hope

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST:

Growing Together is an ongoing congregational Bible study intended to provide mutual support to each other to grow through individual, family or small group study. Those interested in receiving a copy of the lesson in their mailbox may sign-up on the narthex sign-up board this month. **To get an electronic copy in your email, sign-up at ChristMerrill.com/email and subscribe to the *Growing Together Bible study.***

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).



EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE CHURCH RESOURCES: Visit christmerrill.com and click on the Facebook icon to go to the church's public Facebook page; click on the YouTube icon to visit the church's channel and view previously recorded worship services. Both icons are in the upper right corner of the page.



BELIEFS NEWS ONLINE GIVING EMAIL SIGN-UP



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

Practices will be held in the sanctuary from **10:30-11:30 am** on the following dates: **November 27, December 4, and December 11.** The Sunday Adult Bible Study will meet in the basement on these dates.

The Children's Christmas service will be a part of the **9:00 am** worship on **December 18.**

NO regular Sunday School or Teen classes will be held November 27 through January 1.

VOTERS' MEETING HANDOUTS from the October meeting are available on the bulletin board by the elevator.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

September average: 54
2022 average: 65

THANK YOU to all who donated to the special collections in October for Camp Phillip and Asian missions.

DONATIONS NEEDED: In addition to non-perishable food items, the Merrill Food Pantry is in need of toiletry items including shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, toilet paper, and hygiene supplies. Donations may be placed in the wooden box in the narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION OFFERINGS: During the last school year, youth donated \$170.40 for mission work in Ukraine. This year's offerings are designated for Thailand.

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Expected (budgeted) expenses through 9/30: \$115,662.27
Actual expenses through 9/30: \$102,829.73
Actual offerings through 9/30: \$100,837.21

Offerings for the year continue to trend below budget, but expenses are also trending below budget. While actual offerings are approximately \$14,825 below budgeted offerings, we are carrying a positive amount of approximately \$27,230 in the general fund.

For more information see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

ONLINE GIVING: You can now support Christ Lutheran with online gifts and offerings via credit/debit card or through your savings or checking account. For more information or to give your offering online, visit www.christmerrill.com/giving.

PLANTING A NEW MISSION NEARBY:

The Core Group for mission outreach in the Kronenwetter area meets **every Sunday evening at 6:00 pm at Northland Lutheran High School** as they continue to make plans for an **outdoor Nativity coming up on December 16th & 17th**. All are welcome to join! For information, call or text Guy at 715.297.1106.

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the far-right narthex mailboxes to be taken as needed. They include Benevolences, Called Worker Training Fund, Memorial Gift, P-16 Tuition Assistance Fund, Northland Lutheran High School, and Sunday School.

