

THE MESSENGER

May 2024

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Saturday, May 11: Spring Highway Clean-up. Meet at church at 10:00 am. Vests and trash bags will be provided.



Saturday, May 18: Open House/Free Garage Sale/Cook-out



8:00 am to 2:00 pm



Christ Lutheran Church will be hosting another garage sale where the items are offered for free. Donations of clothing and housewares may be brought to church any Sunday and placed in the coat room. For larger item donations, talk to Al. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board to volunteer; consider how you can be a part of this special community outreach event.

All-Ages Vacation Bible School

We need hot air balloonists of all ages to invite their friends, relatives, and neighbors to come learn about our best treasure—Jesus.

We also need teens and adults to help with meals, decorating, setting up, music, making copies, the welcome table, crafts, and Bible stories. Even if you can spare only an hour, we can use your help. Sign up at the back of church, call 715-536-3313, or say YES if someone asks you to use your talents to serve the Lord and others.

The five-day program runs Wednesdays from May 29 through June 26. Each week has a free 5:00 supper followed by upbeat songs, study of God's Word, crafts, and games.



In this Messenger:

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- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Women's Bible Study
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- 4) Attendance & Financial Updates
- 5) May 12 Car Wash & Sun. School Activity Day
- 5) Church Softball Schedule
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- 5) Growing Together Bible Study
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- 6) Board/Committee List
- 6) *Forward in Christ* Bible Studies
- 6) WELS Night at the Brewers
- 7) Lord's Prayer Update
- 8) NLHS Updates



715-536-3313
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www.facebook.com/christmerrill
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The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Martin Luther once said, "The Lord's Prayer is the greatest martyr on earth. Everybody tortures and abuses it; few take comfort and joy in its proper use." The reason Luther said this was because although many people say the Lord's Prayer only a few properly understand it.

For the next two months our congregation will be using a newer version of the Lord's Prayer to try it out. Regardless of which version we will use in the future, the most important thing is for us to understand what exactly we are praying for in the Lord's Prayer. Therefore, for this month and next month's edition of our newsletter the devotions will focus on the Lord's Prayer in brief detail.

Our Father in heaven: By faith God has adopted us as his children. Therefore, as we pray to God we don't have to be afraid of him for although he is a just God he is also our merciful Father. God wants us to approach him in prayer and to pray boldly and confidently that he will hear and answer our prayers.

Hallowed be your name: God's name is everything he has revealed about himself in his Word. God's name is holy by itself. God doesn't need our help to keep his name holy. But since we belong to God and carry his name we are asking God to help us keep his name holy in our lives. We accomplish this by teaching his Word in its truth and purity and by leading holy lives by obeying his commands.

Your kingdom come: Very likely, most people assume God's kingdom is heaven. This isn't technically wrong but it isn't completely correct. God's kingdom is God's rule in our hearts by faith. Therefore we are asking God to keep us in his kingdom strengthening our faith and to bring others to faith so that one day all of us believers will be in heaven.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: God's will is to have everyone saved. The only way someone can be saved is by hearing the truth of God's Word as God brings that person to faith. The devil, the world, and our sinful nature does it best to stop God's will from being done. Therefore we are asking God to defeat the plans of every evil and to help us curb our sinfulness so that God's will can be done here on earth as it is always done in heaven.

- Pastor Neal Behm

May 2024

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com/calendar.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir	2 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study/ <i>(mis)Understanding Mental Health</i> Webinar	3	4
5 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	6	7	8 4:30 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	9 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	10 Disc Golf Retreat @ Camp Phillip (Fri - Sun)	11 10:00 Highway Cleanup
12 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School Activity Day 10:30 am Youth Group Car Wash 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 3:30 pm Softball @ St. John's	13	14 2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower 6:00 pm Council Meeting	15	16	17 6:30 pm <i>How to Respond</i> Training 7:00 pm Northland Lutheran Spring Pops Concert	18 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Free Sale & Open House
19 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 3:30 pm Softball @ Immanuel	20 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	21	22	23	24	25 1:00 pm Northland Lutheran High School Graduation
26 9:00 am Worship	27	28	29 5:00 pm VBS Meal 5:30 pm All-Ages Vacation Bible School	30	31	

8:00 am Sundays - worship service on the radio (**96.3FM, 730AM**)

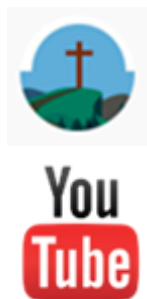
9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at youtube.com/@christmerrill

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The **May 2 Women's Bible Study** will consist of viewing and discussing the webinar ***(mis)Understanding Mental Health: A Christian Look at Today's Epidemic*** presented by **WELS Women's Ministry**. There's been a lot of focus on mental health in recent years. Current generations are growing up using vocabulary that expresses this reality while older generations aren't used to discussing something they grew up thinking was taboo. This webinar will be unique in that we will be hearing from licensed professional counselors from Christian Family Solutions. Guided by their insight, we'll get an overview of what is going on, what we can do, and when and where to get help.



WORSHIP LIVESTREAM: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church provides an internet livestream broadcast during many of the **Sunday services (9:00 am)**. **The service is simultaneously streamed to a TV in the lower level of the church for anyone not able to be in the sanctuary.**

Subscribe to the YouTube channel youtube.com/@christmerrill to get updates about the live streaming schedule. The videos are available on the channel to watch at one's convenience.



HOW TO RESPOND TRAINING:

After our past two free garage sales we have heard comments such as "I didn't know how to answer their question," "What happens if someone asks this?" or "What should I do if 'this type of person' shows up?" Because of these comments, on **May 17th at 6:30 pm** Pastor will be leading us in a *How To Respond* Training. Although the aim of this class is how to respond in a brief conversation for the garage sale, what is mentioned in the class can be used whenever these types of scenarios happen.



<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	March
Sunday worship/Online	65/4
Midweek Lenten worship/Online	24/2
Holy Thursday worship/Online	36/4
Good Friday worship/Online	37/2
Bell Tower worship	9
Sunday Adult Bible Study	13
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	8
Wednesday Bible Study	10
Women's Bible Study	3

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 3/31/24)

Anticipated offerings: \$40,693

Actual offerings: \$35,108

Actual expenses: \$40,288

General Fund balance as of 4/25/24: \$19,074

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. Giving continues to trend below budget. Please consider how your offerings benefit our church, our fellowship events and our ability to reach our community. For more information, see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH: May 12 at church following the worship service. For a free-will donation, the Youth Group will wash your car. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board to reserve your car wash time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY DAY: On May 12 during class time, youth will play games and do crafts.

CHURCH SOFTBALL SEASON: May 12 is the team's first game. The complete season schedule is posted on a bulletin board and at <https://sites.google.com/view/nwchurchsoftball>.

SAVE THE DATE: A Family Campout is being planned for July 12-13 at Rusty's - he has an area for tents and RVs to park and a fire pit. Everyone will bring their own food.



AUTOMATED PHONE CALLS FROM CHURCH: Members are asked to **add the phone number of 855-248-7295 to their caller ID or their phone address book** and entitle that contact as the church so that it will be identified properly on their caller ID. Automated calls from the church will come from this phone number. **Reach out** to Ken or Colleen to **opt-in your cell phone number for receiving text messages** from the church.

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.

Brad B. Laurene H. Tom L. Phil M.
Lorna P. Kathleen P.

FAITH QUESTIONS? Do you have a question about what the Bible says about a topic? An envelope will be available on the education bulletin board for people to turn in anonymous questions about faith or life. In addition to the question, some brief comments for background can be included. Pastor will review these and address them in some forum. If a name is included, he will address the question individually.

BIBLE STUDY ON YOUR SCHEDULE:

Growing Together is an ongoing congregational Bible study intended to provide an avenue to hold individual, family or small group study at a time that works for you. The next study will be on 2 Kings. To receive each week's lesson in your email, please sign up at ChristMerrill.com/email and subscribe to the Growing Together in Christ Bible study.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2 Donna P. | 14 Kathleen P. | 20 Avery K. |
| 10 Renee W. | 15 Joe P. | 25 Mitchell S. |
| 10 Daniel W. | 16 Karen Y. | 26 Brenda R. |
| 13 Austin W. | 17 Dave P. | 29 Russ R. |



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Jesse & Jenny Z.
- 18 Jim & Karen Y.
- 19 Matt & Diane T.
- 29 Jim & Donna D.
- 31 Chris & Billie R.



Congratulations to Confirmand, **Kaylynn Z.**



Ethan R.,
Northland Lutheran High School

Katelyn S.,
Merrill High School

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Councilmen &
Board/Committee Members**

See the complete list on the bulletin board near the elevator. Contact the chair if you are interested in serving on a board or committee.

President: Hans (Willi) H.

Vice President: Chris R.

Secretary: Bill W.

Treasurer: Bill W.

Board of **Christian Education** Chair: Scott S.

Board Members: Nick C., Rusty G.,
Leon M., Al Z.

Board of **Church Properties** Chair: Mike K.

Board Members: Nick C., Dan K., Mike S.

Board of **Elders** Chair: Scott S.

Board Members: Carl C., Mike K.,
Chris R., Bill W.

Church Fellowship Committee Chair: Al Z.

Committee Members: Christy C.,
Megan C., Rusty G., Lisa K., Leon and
Jennifer M., Diane Z.

Evangelism Committee Chair: Jacob M.

Committee Members: Megan C.,
Losh H.

Stewardship and Finance Committee Chair:

Leon M.

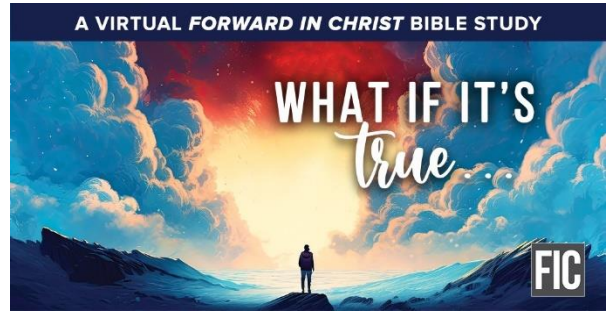
Financial Secretary: Losh H.

Committee Members: Christy C.,
Losh H., Diane Z.

Technology Committee Chair: Ken C.

Committee Members: Nick C.;
Jennifer H.; Scott, Colleen, and
Katelyn S.; Diane Z.

Thank You for Serving!



Join *Forward in Christ* for its first live Bible study series! Bible study author Greg Lyon will lead a study at 7:00 pm on selected Tuesdays of each month until June. The study will examine six scriptural truths in which we, as Christians, put our trust.

What if it's true that . . .

- Jan: God made mankind in his image
- Feb: You are a sinner
- March: God wants your broken heart
- April: You are forgiven
- **May 28: You are a child of God**
- June 25: You are free

Go to <https://forwardinchrist.net/online-study/> to register for upcoming studies, read the written studies that correspond with the live studies, or watch recordings of the previous studies.



FRI, 7/12  **VS**  **7:10PM**

Back and better than ever, plan to join thousands of WELS members for another exciting WELS Night at American Family Field!

TICKET PRICES - Up to 50% Off		
FIELD OUTFIELD BOX \$23	LOGE OUTFIELD BOX \$17	TERRACE RESERVED INFIELD \$10

Individual tickets and parking can be purchased at brewers.com/wels.

INFORMATION

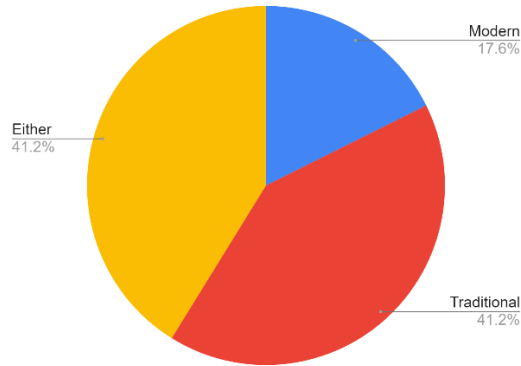
Please submit items for next month's *Messenger* by the 20th of this month to ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com



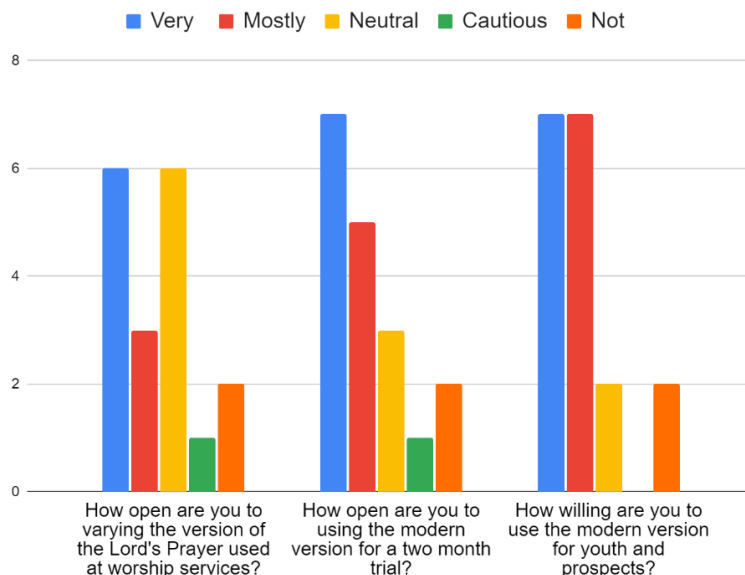
Lord's Prayer Follow-up

The Sunday Adult Bible Study has been using the modern version of the Lord's Prayer since February. Now, based on the survey results from the April open forum, the opportunity is being extended to the entire congregation. Throughout May and June, parishioners will be using the modern version during worship services. Results of the open forum survey are printed below. Contact Pastor or an elder for additional information.

<i>18 surveys returned</i>	Modern	Traditional	Either		
Which version of the prayer do you prefer?	3	7	7	(one circled	between trad and either)



<i>18 surveys returned</i>	Very	Mostly	Neutral	Cautious	Not
How open are you to varying the version of the Lord's Prayer used at worship services?	6	3	6	1	2
How open are you to using the modern version for a two month trial?	7	5	3	1	2
How willing are you to use the modern version for youth and prospects?	7	7	2	0	2



Northland Lutheran High School Updates



- We have 111 students and their families as part of this ministry. As of now, we have 122 students for next year and are still working toward our goal of 128 students.
 - Thanks to God's blessings through wise spending, sacrifice, and Christ-compelled hearts, the debt has been reduced from \$3,500,000 to \$1,080,294. With \$80,295 in gifts by June 30, we will reach our goal of getting the debt under \$1 Million. May Christ compels hearts to reach this goal.
 - Everyone has their own way in which they prefer to receive information. We try to share Northland information and updates in many different ways (Northland Notes email, Facebook, etc). If you have ideas for something different that you think would be effective for your congregation, please let us know. Thank you for your support of Northland and the opportunity to educate students from your congregations.
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- We continue to make plans to build sustainability in this ministry while supporting growth and moving from old debt & surviving to new opportunities & thriving.
 - Please let Ryan Wiechmann know if you have any connections for partners to help with funding for our Biomedical Program starting next year.
 - Dime and Dollar income was budgeted for \$200,000 for this fiscal year, and through March is on pace to meet that amount. Please encourage your congregations to consider donating their items and their time to this important resource for NLHS.

Northland Lutheran High School

Mission


TOGETHER training leaders by following Christ.

Vision

Prepare all students for this life and eternity
through premier Christ-entered education.

Values

God's Word † People † Families
Effectiveness † Excellence

www.facebook.com/northlandlutheranhighschool  [@northlandluth](https://twitter.com/northlandluth)