

# THE MESSENGER

November 2024

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Cosmic Bowling

**Friday, November 1 from 7:00-10:00 pm**

Join us for a night of fun! We'll start at church with a devotion, activity, and chat about a future event. **Bowling and shoes are covered for youth members (grades 6-12).** Others are welcome to join at their own cost.



## Chili Cook-off

**Sunday, November 10 at 11:30 am**

See sign-up sheet if bringing a chili. Others attending are asked to bring a dish to pass.



## Evening Worship

Do you prefer to attend evening worship, or will you be out deer hunting on opening weekend? Join us on **Wednesday, November 20, at 6:30 pm** for a worship service that will be the same as the one on the following Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

**A meal will start at 5:15 pm.** Hot potato casserole will be provided, and others can bring a dish to pass (fruit, veggies, milk, juice, cheese, sausage, rolls/butter, and desserts are suggestions).

## Advent Wednesday Meals & Worship:

December 4, 11, and 18 a potluck meal begins at 5:30 pm; worship will be held in the fellowship area at 6:30 pm.



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# Simon the Zealot

*“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.”*  
(Romans 13:1)

Simon the Zealot was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. We don’t know much about him, but Scripture describes him as being a Zealot. What does that mean? The Zealots were a group of people who hated the Roman government ruling over Israel. The Zealots vehemently opposed the Roman government and would cause riots and uprisings against the Romans. Did Simon ever participate in these violent actions? We don’t know. We do know that Jesus reached out to Simon, and Simon would have seen Jesus respecting the government, and that would have influenced Simon.

So what can we learn from Simon? There’s a reason that Simon the Zealot was picked for this month’s edition of the Messenger. In this month our nation will be electing a new president to rule our country. As you have seen and heard, people have varying opinions about the candidates running for office. Sometimes people may say nasty and hateful things about these candidates. Maybe even you yourself have done some of these things.

If we have done this, let us not just think, “Well, this just deals with politics. Everyone is thinking and speaking in this way.” God tells us to submit to our government and to respect them. The reason why we submit to our government and respect them is because every government has been established by God. But there have been times that we have shown disrespect to our government. There have been times that we have taken what they have said and done in not the kindest possible way. There have been times that we scrutinize everything our government does and grumble and complain about our government. Is our government perfect? No, but God has still established our government. Therefore, if we don’t respect our government then we are not respecting God.

Therefore, let us ask God for forgiveness for the times we have sinned against our government, and ask God to move us to respect and appreciate our government. God has established government to enforce laws, to protect us, and to take care of us. And whoever ends up winning the election and whoever will rule our nation in the future, remember that God is always in control. He rules over all things including our nation. Therefore, put your trust in him and respect the government he has established. That’s what Simon the Zealot did, and that’s what we can learn from him.

- Pastor Neal Behm

# November 2024

View the most up to date calendar at [christmerrill.com/calendar](http://christmerrill.com/calendar).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 7:00 pm Youth Outing	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:30 pm Board of Christian Education Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Women's Discipleship Group	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm Swing Dancing	<b>9</b> <b>Twenties &amp; Thirties Retreat at Camp Phillip (Fri – Sun)</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Chili Cook-off <i>Bring Clothes Closet donations</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm Catechism Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Board of Elders Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:15 pm Potluck Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 5:30 pm Catechism Class	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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

9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at [youtube.com/@christmerrill](https://youtube.com/@christmerrill)

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Join us for Bible Study in the entry at **6:30 pm** on **November 7**! It's an opportunity to read

Scripture, discuss it, and see how it relates to our lives today. **All men are welcome**, no matter your age or previous Bible Study experience. We'll be continuing with Genesis 3.

## WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

We'll gather on Thursday, **November 7** at **6:30 pm** in the west end of the church's lower level.

We will be using the *Time: It's a Gift* Bible study which provides a rich foundation of Scripture, both law and gospel, to guide us as we open up and look into using God's gift of time. The goal is to equip us in the midst of a "no limits" society to make wise decisions in scheduling each day; to live biblically in all the seasons of our lives.

Even in the midst of full schedules or time-on-our-hands schedules, may we say with the Psalmist David "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:15).



**All women are invited!**

**FREE SWING DANCING CLASSES:** Friday, **November 8** free swing dancing for anyone in the community will be held in the fellowship area. Classes start at **7:30 pm**; open dance until 10:00 pm. No partner is needed. Classes will continue the second Friday of each month until spring.

**DONATIONS WANTED:** Clean, folded, sorted clothes for the Clothes Closet can be dropped off in the coat room on the second Sunday of each month.

## UPCOMING FUN AND FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, December 1 @ 11:30 am  
Church Decorating for Christmas season

Potluck Advent Meals @ 5:30 pm.  
Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



3 Phil M.	11 Eileen L.	22 Renee S.
5 Kaylynn Z.	12 Diane Z.	25 James C.
7 Kelly V.	17 Butch K.	26 Lorna P.
9 Paul W.	21 Wanda K.	

**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.

<b>Brad B.</b>	<b>Laurene H.</b>	<b>Tom L.</b>
<b>Phil M.</b>	<b>Lorna P.</b>	<b>Kathleen P. Dick S.</b>

**MESSENGER SIGN-UP:** To get an electronic copy of each month's *Messenger* in your email, go to [ChristMerrill.com/email](http://ChristMerrill.com/email) and subscribe to *Messenger*. Paper copies will continue to be available at church.

Please submit items for next month's *Messenger* by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month to [ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com](mailto:ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com)

**2025 DIRECTORY UPDATE:** We are getting ready for the 2025 directory! Update your picture after church on **November 10**. Contact information forms are by the mailboxes and a signup sheet for getting a copy is on the bulletin board. For more information, reach out to Diane Z. or Colleen.

<i><b>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</b></i>	September
Sunday worship/Online	59/6
Bell Tower worship	3
Sunday Bible Study	14
Wednesday Bible Study	14
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	7

## CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 9/30/24)

Anticipated offerings: \$122,078

Actual offerings: \$102,053

Actual expenses: \$106,288

General Fund balance as of 10/7/24: \$14,844

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.

## SIGN UP FOR CHURCH TEXT ALERTS

Our church is inviting members to sign up for text notifications about important church information. What does this mean? We don't want you to miss out on anything from church. We want to make sure that quick text updates can be sent to you using our church software, Church360, so you can get notified without having to check your email. In order to do this, you must confirm that you would like to opt-in to these text messages or else we cannot send you these important messages via text. If you'd like to opt-in to the program contact Ken, Colleen, Scott, or Diane Z.

## SOUL-SATISFYING OPPORTUNITY



**WANTED:** Choir members

**POSITIONS:** Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass

**PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Must be able to carry light musical notes across the church. Must have sufficient vision to see director 10 feet away.

**EXPERIENCE:** Applications accepted from people who have sung, hummed, or whistled.

**WAGES:** Satisfaction and joy in God's service

**FRINGE BENEFITS:** Social Security – we promise you the security of social fellowship with other members of the choir.

**HOURS:** Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings.

**RETIREMENT BENEFITS:** God's Word in beautiful lyrics and melodies will remain in your heart and mind even after you no longer can vocalize them.

**TO APPLY, CONTACT:** Director Jennifer H. or Accompanist Marion

**BE PART OF CHRISTMAS 2024!** Whom will you reach? Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the number



one service that people not belonging to or connected with a church are willing to attend. Multiple studies have shown the majority of people will accept a direct invitation to Christmas Eve if asked by someone they trust. Those same studies show that people who have left the church but may not have left their faith enjoy singing Christmas carols that are familiar. C24, short for Christmas 2024, is an opportunity to share the gospel with souls in our area prior to and on Christmas Eve. Invite them to come with you to our congregation's 6:30 pm Christmas Eve worship service. Christmas Eve will be here before you know it.

# Welcome Home Sunday 2024

## Worship



**Choir under the direction of Jennifer H.**

**Left to right: Cindy, Pastor, Diane Z., Leon, Marion, Bill, Renee, Ken, Ellen**



## Welcome Home Sunday 2024

### Celebration



**Celebrating Pastor Neal Behm's 10 years in pastoral ministry.**



**A slideshow of pictures from church events of the past 5 years ran during the fellowship and meal times. A video of the slides can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Tg8qzlwDqZQ>**

# Welcome Home Sunday 2024

## Fellowship & Food



**Thank you to everyone who  
attended this special  
*Welcome Home* event!**