

THE MESSENGER

February 2025

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 9 @ 11:30 am

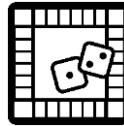


Sign up on the bulletin board to enter a soup in the competition or just bring a dish to pass and come be a taster and choose your favorite soup.



Pizza & Game Night

Saturday, February 15



5:30 pm Pizza – sign up on the bulletin board so enough is ordered.

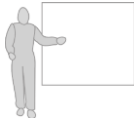
6:00 pm Game Night – Join in the fun and bring a game to share!

Mission Sunday



KINGDOM PREP
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Seminary student Ryan Halter, a religion instructor at **Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School in Wauwatosa**, will join us for our worship service on **Sunday, February 23**. In addition to teaching religion, Mr. Halter is involved in preaching and outreach for the school.



After the service and fellowship time, he will give a **presentation about the school and its ministry**. Sunday School and Teen Bible Study will be held.



A **potluck meal** will begin in the fellowship hall at 11:30 am.

For a preview of the school's work, you can view the WELS Connection video from June 2022, which featured Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School. Visit <https://vimeo.com/> and search for 2022 WELS Connection.

To help offset the costs of Mr. Halter's visit, a door collection will be available.

In this Messenger:

- 1) Souper Bowl Sunday
Pizza & Game Night
Mission Sunday
- 2) Pastor's Devotion
- 3) Calendar
- 4) Men's Bible Study
- 4) Women's Discipleship
- 4) Daily Bible Reading
- 4) WELS National Online
Teen Bible Study
- 4) Prayer Requests
- 4) Attendance
- 4) Financial Update
- 4) Birthdays/Anniversaries



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Jesus Reaches Out to Sinners

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13)

No boys/girls allowed! Employees only. Only immediate family is allowed to visit. These are just a few examples of separating people whether it's because as a young child you didn't want the opposite gender to be around you, or because you don't work at a certain job so you're not allowed to enter a room, or because the hospital will only allow close family to visit someone in the hospital room. We all have had times when we were separated from others.

In the above account from Scripture we see another type of separation, but in this case it wasn't right. After Jesus called Matthew to follow him Jesus ate in Matthew's house and many tax collectors and "sinners" were there. When the Pharisees saw this, they were offended that Jesus would eat with them. They thought he should have separated himself from these types of people. Why did the Pharisees think this way? It was because of how these tax collectors and "sinners" lived their lives. The very fact that Jesus called a tax collector to follow him would have offended many Jewish people. The Jewish people viewed tax collectors as people who betrayed the Jewish people to serve the Roman government. Many times tax collectors would make people pay more money so that the tax collectors would gain some money for themselves. This is why the Pharisees were offended that Jesus would associate with these people.

But Jesus corrected the Pharisees. He told them that he came to heal the sick and to call sinners. That's why Jesus quoted Scripture to the Pharisees about how he desired mercy not sacrifice. God desires hearts that turn to him. This is why Jesus reached out to these "sinners" so that he could bring them to faith, and in turn these people would reach out to others to bring them to faith.

Jesus has done the same for us. At one time we were separated from God for the prophet Isaiah tells us, "Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." This separation from God happened as soon as we were conceived. We were sinful at birth. All of the sins we commit only prove to us how much we deserve to be separated from God. And because of our sins we will die and we should be eternally separated from God as we suffer in hell.

But Jesus came to call us sinners. Because of his perfect life and death God has taken away our sins. At our baptism God made us his own children and united us with him. God assures us that absolutely nothing will separate us from him. When we die we won't be separated from God but will live with him. Until that day happens let us also reach out and call sinners so that they too can be united with God and with us who believe in him.

- Pastor Neal Behm

February 2025

View the most up to date calendar at christmerrill.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	3	4	5 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 6:30 pm Women's Discipleship Group 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	7	8 7:30 – 3:30 Men of His Word Conference, Oshkosh
9 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Souper Bowl	10 6:30 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	11	12 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	13	14 7:30 pm Swing Dancing	15 5:30 pm Pizza Supper 6:00 pm Game Night
16 9:00 am Worship (Holy Communion) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	17	18 2:00 pm Worship @ Bell Tower 6:00 pm NLHS Open Forum 7:00 pm NLHS Delegate Meeting	19 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Teen Bible Study 10:30 am <i>Kingdom Prep High School, Wauwatosa</i> Mission Presentation 11:30 am Mission Sunday Lunch	24	25	26 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Catechism Class 6:30 pm Choir Practice	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Dare to Lead Conference (Fri- Sat) </div>	

8:00 am Sundays - worship service on the radio (**96.3FM, 730AM**)
 9:00 am Sundays - worship service online at [youtube.com/@christmerrill](https://www.youtube.com/@christmerrill)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

Join us on **February 6** at **6:30 pm** for Bible Study in the entry! 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. The current study is on leadership principles from the Bible.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP:

Women, come join us as we begin a new study about spiritual gifts on Thursday, **February 6** at **6:30 pm**. in the church library area.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who support the different aspects of the elders and education ministry areas. Your service is truly appreciated.

THROUGH MY BIBLE IN THREE YEARS

It's a new year! Did you resolve to spend more time reading God's Word? Did you know that wels.net has a Through My Bible in Three Years Bible-reading series? You can subscribe now at <https://wels.net> to get daily Bible readings delivered to your inbox.

WELS NATIONAL ONLINE TEEN BIBLE STUDY: Sunday, February 16 @ 6:00 pm

The WELS National Teen Bible Study is an online opportunity for teens across the country to connect around the Word. Held quarterly, teens can sign up and meet through Zoom. Bible study topics will be relevant to teens and are led by various WELS pastors. Teens will be able to interact with one another through breakout rooms.

Registration Information:

<https://wels.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tf-mtqzsqEtfxetlOW3lTKWtXTg8glsXJ#/registration>

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.

<i>Spiritual Growth Weekly Averages</i>	December
Sunday worship/Online	62/7
Bell Tower worship	--
Christmas Eve worship/Online	53/3
Christmas Day worship/Online	38/8
Midweek Advent Worship	17
Men's Bible Study	3
Sunday Bible Study	17
Wednesday Bible Study	11
Women's Discipleship	4
Sunday School & Teen Bible Study	4

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our Offerings to the Lord (as of 12/31/24)

Approved budget: \$162,771

Actual offerings: \$140,114

Actual spending: \$140,766

Your offerings help to support the ministry of the congregation. For more information, see the Treasurer Report on the bulletin board by the elevator.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Neil V. 10 Jenny Z. 18 Jim Y.
3 Connor M. 17 Amanda K. 20 Jennifer M.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

21 Jason & Deana J.