



January 2-3, 2021  
The Second Weekend  
After Christmas



*“The Captain of Our Salvation”*

Hebrews 2:10

**Messiah Lutheran Church & School**

2015 N Hastings Way

Eau Claire, WI 54703 ~ 715-834-2865

Affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession ~ CLC

[www.eauclairemessiah.com](http://www.eauclairemessiah.com)

Large-print copies are by the guest book.

## ***Today's Worship***

For a printed liturgy, see the green liturgy folder, page 1.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:9)

### **At the Saturday Service – Hymn 750**

THE BAPTISM OF CASSANDRA MARIE STRIKE

**Hymns:** 116 763 (tune of TLH 202, w/refrain) 769 315:1-3 343:5-7

### **Epistle Reading ..... Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” <sup>3</sup>Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>And this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men.

### **Gospel Reading ..... John 7:40-43**

<sup>40</sup>Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” <sup>41</sup>Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? <sup>42</sup>Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” <sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people because of Him.

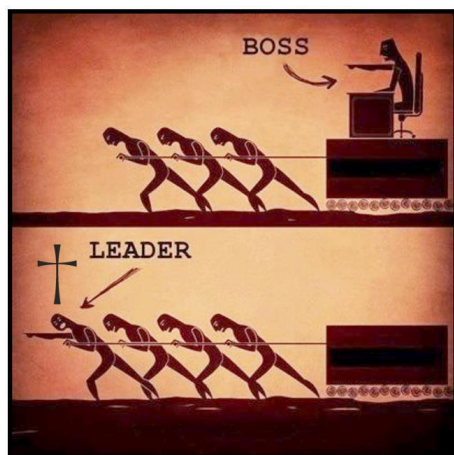
### **Sermon Text ..... Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, <sup>12</sup>saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” <sup>13</sup>And again: “I will put My trust in Him.”

And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." <sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. <sup>16</sup> For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

### FOLLOW *THIS* LEADER!

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann



Unless otherwise indicated, Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version® of the Holy Bible, ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



**Communion Announcement:** Since the Lord's Supper implies a unity of faith and confession, we ask that those who have not previously participated with us in the Lord's Supper meet first with the pastor to discuss our Scriptural doctrine before partaking of the Lord's Supper in our services. In this practice of closed communion, we seek to follow and obey the Word of God.

## ***This Week at Messiah***

**Masks required indoors as instructed by the public health department.**  
**Sunday services are live-streamed and archived on [eauclairemessiah.com](http://eauclairemessiah.com).**

**Sun, 1/3** 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #4, Counters G)  
 10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults  
 11:15 am Youth Group Church "Undecorating"

**Wed, 1/6** **Epiphany Begins**  
 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism

**Sat, 1/9** 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #3)  
 7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

**Sun, 1/10** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters H)  
 10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults  
 11:15 am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

**Coming Up:** Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm – Annual Voters' Meeting

## ***Announcements***

**Our Weekend Bible Class** continues with our series on a book entitled "Rainbow Savior." The Young Adults are meeting with this Bible class during the series. Do you have an "identity" that defines you to others? You should, and you should let it show! Come and share in this timely topic!

**Church Undecorating** - Help is needed to put away the sanctuary Christmas decorations this Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following Bible class/Sunday school. We encourage Messiah Youth Group to join, though all are welcome.

**Building Fund Update** - As of Dec. 27, we are now within about \$44,000 of our initial goal of \$425,000 in contributions in order to go ahead with our school expansion project. We thank God for moving the hearts of our members to support this work! Messiah's Stewardship Committee has written a letter with detailed information about this. There are hard copies on the kiosk in the narthex, and you can also see it at [www.tinyurl.com/stewardship12-29](http://www.tinyurl.com/stewardship12-29).

**Pastoral COVID cases** – Pastor Tiefel and Pastor Naumann are both now released from quarantine, following their COVID cases. Pastor and Eileen Tiefel are still dealing with some after-effects. Pastor Naumann is feeling well; Paula has also tested positive and has mild symptoms. Retired Pastor John Schierenbeck reports great improvement, after suffering from a COVID fever for more than a week. Our prayers continue for all of our members who have been impacted during this pandemic, as well as for others all over the world.

**A Special Note of Thanks:** Pastor and Eileen would like to thank the members for the many prayers and words of encouragement over the past two weeks while they recovered from COVID. It was not pleasant but God spared much more serious problems and both are regaining strength and are out of isolation. Eileen expects to be teaching after Christmas break. Pastor would like to thank his co-pastors for covering his two preaching dates during the holidays. Thank you, Lord, the blessing of our church family.

**Available in the narthex:** 1) **Contribution envelope boxes** have arrived; please pick yours up if you use this method of giving. Anyone who would like a box of envelopes is encouraged to contact Dennis Oster at [dcoster620@gmail.com](mailto:dcoster620@gmail.com). 2) **DVD copies** of Messiah's Children's Christmas Eve service are available on our narthex kiosk. They are marked either "3:30 pm" or "6:30 pm." Help yourself!

**Church Mailbox Reorganization:** We are now using the new bank of mailboxes located by the bathrooms in the narthex. The names now **appear above**, not below, your mailbox. We hope this makes it easier to find your mailbox – especially those who are on the bottom row. Change is always difficult, but we have been blessed with growth in our membership to need the extra space. Please take the time to locate your mailbox and any contents that might be in it.

**A New VBS Sign!** For years, the Outreach Committee has been discussing improvements to the popular VBS yard sign. Previous signs were not aging well; brackets breaking, and replacement was costly. A new design was needed. After months of prep work and due to a budget surplus because of COVID-cancelled events, we just got 100 new signs. See the display in the narthex. Our thanks in particular to Kelly Beekman for her design and to Lawrence Bade for coordinating the printing. May God bless the use of these signs.

**In the hospital:** <> Mike Markus continues his recovery in the hospital, after emergency surgery last week to clear blood clots in his legs. <> Leanne Boyea was hospitalized with her heart condition and breathing problems, and hoped to be released this past Friday. <> Kayla Strike had to return to the hospital with complications after giving birth to her and Carl's daughter, Cassandra Marie, on Dec. 23. She has since returned home. <> Ted Thurow is still undergoing physical therapy at a temporary care facility in Altoona. He hopes to be released to his home early in the New Year.

**Messiah Shut-ins:** Ida Drews (2455 Sawgrass Place #213, Altoona), Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave.), Shirley Johnson (2512 New Pine Dr. Altoona), Mae Noeldner (3706 Damon St. #17), Ellen Knuth (Care Partners, 887 Brian Lane, Altoona), Connie Larson (1500 S. Edgewater Dr.), Tom and Linda Larson (3134 Eldorado Blvd.), Betty Nolting (HeatherWood Assisted Living #213), Mavis Thelen (418 N. Barstow), Ted Thurow (2512 New Pine Dr, Altoona), Paul Tiefel, Sr. (2455 Sawgrass Rd #419, Altoona), Johanna Williams (2118 Augusta St.) and Shelly Williamson (Bellevue, IA).



Here at Messiah, the pastors and teachers whom you've called to serve you with the Word of God are especially privileged. We not only have the joy of serving the LORD as called servants of the Word, we have the loving support of a congregation who keeps food on our tables, a roof over our heads, and so much more! We join the Apostle Paul in saying of you, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now." (Phil. 1:3-5)

Especially at this time of year we are reminded of the blessings of our fellowship in the Gospel. Your annual Christmas gift, organized by one of our ladies' circles, is a reminder of the greatest gift that we all share in our Savior, the Lord Jesus. We thank you all for your generosity, and we look forward to another year of God's blessings through His Word. In Him,

*The Pastors and Teachers of Messiah Lutheran Church and School*



## Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend GOD'S WORD SERVING US:

**Bible Readings** – Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 16:25-34, Mark 1:4-11

**Bible Class** – Rainbow Savior (part 4)

### CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

#### Saturday 1/9 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3

Gary Meyer	Blane Knutson
Luke Knutson	Tom Beekman
Jon Oster	Jack Mielke

#### Sunday 1/10 9:00 am: Usher Team 6

Darin Oster	Ben Oster
Tim Oster	Jeremy Plath
Isaiah Plath	Gabe Plath
Andrew Plath	

#### Counters for the week following 1/10 – H

Jeff Bomber, Randy Wirth, Jason Zimmerman

**Thank you!**

**Sanitizing Help:** Thank you to all who have stepped up and helped sanitize the sanctuary. We will need to continue sanitizing in 2021. The Board of Property is organizing groups to help do this job. If you wish to help or wish to continue to help, please contact Jerry LeDuc 715-379-5020 (text/call) or Lynette Roehl 715-831-8306 (text) [lynette.roehl@ilc.edu](mailto:lynette.roehl@ilc.edu). Specify if you can help Saturday or Sunday.





## Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ December 26 & 27, 2020

Christmas Eve: (3:30 Service: 142 - 6:30 Service: 117) 259

Online: (3:30 Service: 289 - 6:30 Service: 275)

Christmas Day: 88 Online: 225

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 36 - Sun. 84) 120 Online: 238

## Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2020 Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00
YTD Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00
YTD Offerings	\$698,064.66	\$186,324.32
Weekly Need	\$37,935.00	-\$1,324.00
Last Weekend (12/27)	\$12,938.52	\$3,051.83
Amount Still Needed	\$37,935.34	-\$1,324.32

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$380,767.60	Offerings-to-date
\$44,232.40	Still Needed
\$29,905.00	Last Week (12/27)

Given in memory of...

Gerhardt Mueller

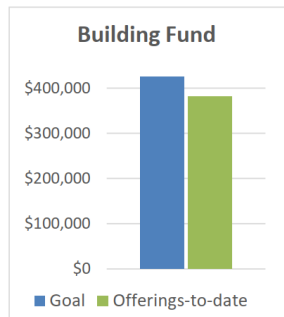
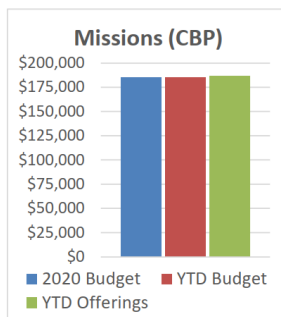
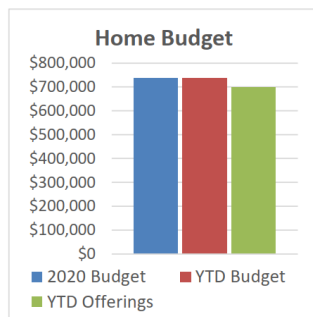
Sonja Olmanson

Jan Rothbauer

20.00 Project Kinship

20.00 ILC Student Aid

480.00 Messiah Building Fund



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Jan. 4-9, '21

**Mon Micah 5:2-5a** For 700 years Israelites had known Micah's prophecy of the Savior, so why was it a *mystery* to them? Let's connect the dots: David had been dead for centuries, so Micah wasn't pointing to him as *ruler in Israel*, but to someone who has been functioning *from everlasting*. Besides, He shall be *great to the ends of the Earth, and He shall be Peace*. All the data point to the Messiah, and Bible believers have been correct in recognizing Jesus of Bethlehem as the Messiah, God's saving gift to humanity. Thank You, Jesus!

**Tues John 7:40-43** Folks who knew the prophecies were trying to figure out if Jesus could be the Prophet predicted by Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18). Since Jesus came from Nazareth, that seemed to disqualify Him—but they should have checked it out to discover that He had been born in Bethlehem and was a blood relative of King David. [Matthew and Luke did the research.]

**Epiphany Wed. Ephesians 3:2-12** God has placed you and me atop a tall step ladder, from which we see God's whole enterprise from beginning to end. From a lower step (in an earlier century) the Apostle Paul admitted that God opened up the *mystery of the ages* to him, a *latecomer* into God's family (8)—revealing that God embraced non-Jews also in His great love and mercy (12).

**Thurs Psalm 72** God opened mysteries to Solomon (shared with us) that via His coronation as King (1) Jesus has been authorized to bring justice (3-4) for all time (5), generously (6-7), over the whole planet and all sorts of people (8-10), for all human needs (12-14), convincingly and for their blessing (15-17). All of which we appreciate amid our troubled times. Amen and Amen!

**Fri Matthew 2:1-12** We would be surprised to find an obituary that praised the deceased for having been *wise*. Smart, witty, loving, etc., but what's missing is *wise* – *wise* for coming from afar to worship the Christ-Child. We continue to pray that God would bring travelers from afar to Bethlehem, and beneath that star open their hearts to God's gift from heaven.

Dear God, make more people *wise* unto salvation! In Jesus' name.

**Sat Hebrews 2:10-18** Why was it *fitting* for the Son of God to become human? Because salvation depends on a genuine human regaining what the first humans lost. [That seems fair and square—*just* in Scripture language.]

By His genuine human life (not by a wave of His hand), by becoming our Brother (11) to defend us, fight for us, suffer for us, and even sacrifice Himself for us in order to save us, Jesus fits the bill. Everything in the entire enterprise was *fitting for Him* (10).

So that's why the Trinity did it that way. For you and me.

Praise the Lord! Amen!