



**January 9-10,
2021
The First**



Messiah Lutheran Church & School

2015 N Hastings Way

Eau Claire, WI 54703 ~ 715-834-2865

Affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession ~ CLC

Large-print copies are by the guest
book.

Today's Worship

For a printed liturgy, see the green liturgy folder, page 14.

Pre-Service Devotion: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2).

Hymns: 717 134 272 119

Old Testament.....Isaiah 49:1-6 (NASB)

¹ Listen to Me, you islands,
And pay attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called Me from the womb;
From the body of My mother He named Me.
² He has made My mouth like a sharp sword,
In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me;
And He has also made Me a sharpened arrow,
He has hidden Me in His quiver.
³ He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel,
In whom I will show My glory."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent My strength for nothing and futility;
Nevertheless, the justice due to Me is with the LORD,
And My reward is with My God."
⁵ And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to
be His Servant,
To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered
to Him
(For I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
And My God is My strength),
⁶ He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My
Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the protected
ones of Israel;
I will also make You a light of the nations
So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

New Testament History.....Acts 16:25-34 (NKJV)

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing
hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to
them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the

foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. ²⁷And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

²⁹Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Sermon.....Mark 1:4-11 (NIV84)

⁴And so John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

"Suddenly, the Answers Came"



For decades, centuries, and millennia, questions concerning the Savior of sinners went unanswered. But then John came preaching in the wilderness, and Jesus was baptized. The Light of the world was dawning.

Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller

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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.

- 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
- Wed, 1/13** 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
6:30 pm Elders
- Sat, 1/16** 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #5)
7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School
- Sun, 1/17** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters A)
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

- Coming Up:**
- TBD, Youth Group Snow Event
 - Jan 31, Annual Voters' Meeting at 6:30pm

Announcements

Our Weekend Bible Class will view a video presentation prepared by the Committee on Domestic Fields (4 of 5 that we

are viewing from time to time). This installment is titled, "Big Picture Mission Work." After the video we'll have some time to discuss. Pastor Naumann's series on "Rainbow Savior" will conclude on the weekend of January 16-17.

Young Adults Bible Study: Prof. Gullerud will continue with discussion of the book *Red Sea Rules: 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times*. Contact Prof. Gullerud (715-544-8446) if you are interested in joining the study remotely.

Newborn Boy: We give thanks to the LORD along with Brian and Emily Schlegelmilch for His gift to them of a newborn son. Bennett Richard Schlegelmilch was born on January 6, and both mother and child are doing well. Bennet's baptism is being planned for Sunday, January 17 at Messiah. "All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children." (Isaiah 54:13)

Saint called home: The LORD in His wisdom called Desirae Naumann of Clarkston, WA home to heaven on January 3, after her struggle with brain cancer. She was the wife of CLC Pastor David Naumann, and also leaves behind five children, numerous grandchildren, and many other family members and good friends. Her victory service took place in Clarkston, WA on Saturday, January 9. Please pray for the LORD to comfort the many people who grieve this loss.

Building Fund Update: As of Jan. 3, we are now within about \$34,000 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.

Youth Group Snow Event: The YG Committee is working on a snow event. Maybe snowshoeing, sledding, tubing, or ice skating. We hope to have details to announce soon. Watch for that announcement!

Offering Envelopes and DVDs 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. **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.

Sanitizing Help Still Needed: We could use a few more to help sanitize after Saturday night church services. Please consider if you can help once a month. It can also be done before Sunday morning worship. Contact Jerry LeDuc 715-379-5020 (text/call) or Lynette Roehl 715-831-8306 (text) lynette.roehl@ilc.edu. Specify if you can help Saturday or Sunday.



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



Bible Readings - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Bible Class - *Rainbow Savior (part 4)*

CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

Saturday 1/16 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5

Mike Markus	Mark Franson
Jim Sydow	Ben Thurow
Jim Lau	Andy Buck

Sunday 1/17 9:00 am: Usher Team 8

Paul Heinze	Seth Schaller
Christian Schaller	Tim Schaller
Jim Sandeen	Peter Reim
Dave Cavanaugh	

Counters for the week following 1/17 – A

Jim Lau, Gary Meyer, Dan Kelly

Thank you!

Last Billboard for Outreach: Have you seen the billboard for Outreach on the corner of Brackett and Rudolph? This is the last of 5 billboards that were put together. Please check it out if you haven't seen it and offer your comments/opinions to a member of the Outreach Committee.

Zachary Franson
Josh Gurgel
Caleb Oster
Pastor Naumann

Jared Swyter
Zach Wry
Jason Zimmerman
Pastor Tiefel

In the Hospital: ● Mike Markus continues his recovery in the hospital. He has been moved to the physical therapy floor. ● Ted Thurow is still undergoing physical therapy at a temporary care facility in Altoona. He hopes to be released to his home this next week.

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).

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ January 2 & 3, 2021

New Year's Eve 12/31: 69 New Year's Day 1/1: 16
Online New Year's Day: 271
Weekend Worship: (Sat. 38 - Sun. 75) 113
Bible Class: (Sat. 15 - Sun. 26) 41 Sunday School: (Sat. 3 - Sun. na) na
Online: (Worship: 258, Bible Class: 97)
Young Adults: met with Bible Class

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2020 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$190,000.00
YTD Budget	\$14,962.00	\$3,654.00
YTD Offerings	\$6,401.75	\$1,886.25
Weekly Need	\$15,129.00	\$3,689.00
Last Weekend (1/3)	\$6,401.75	\$1,886.25
Amount Still Needed	\$771,598.25	\$188,113.75

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$390,540.64	Offerings-to-date
\$34,459.36	Still Needed
\$1,390.00	Last Week (1/3)

Given in memory of...

Micah Gurgel

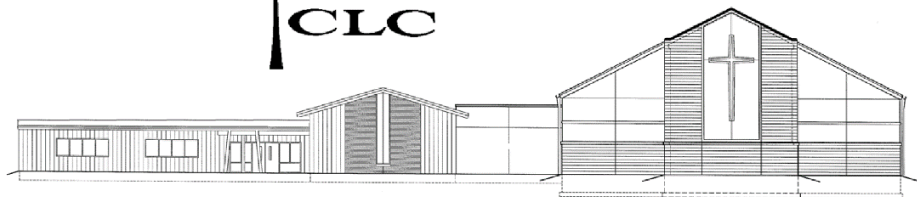
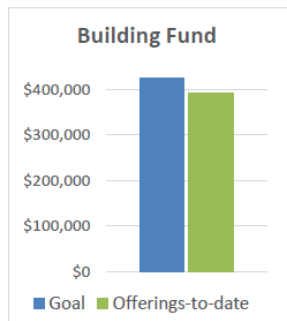
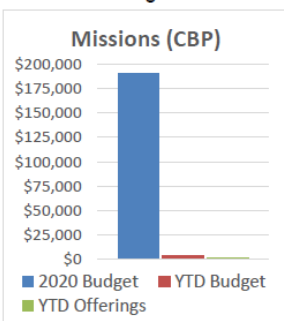
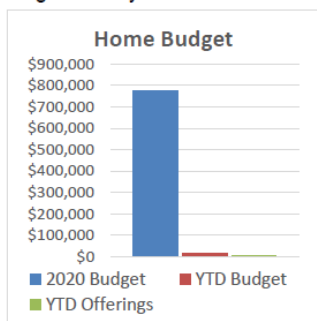
LeRoy Hulke

Roger & Mary Lou Lentz

50.00 Mission Development Fund

200.00 Messiah Building Fund

200.00 Undesignated



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Jan. 11-16, '21.

Mon Isaiah 49:1-6 The speaker in verses 1 and 2 (and again in verses 5 and 6) is Jesus, while the speaker in verses 3 and 4 is Isaiah. It figures, for Jesus is the *Light of the Gentiles, salvation unto the ends of the Earth*, and Jehovah's Son (5). Moreover, God wanted ancient Israelites to know that He had prepared Jesus deliberately and generously (1-2) to *raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel* (6). God is generous!

Tues Mark 1:4-11 takes us to the Jordan valley, and we watch from the side-lines while John baptizes Jesus. Now, for what purpose or function was Jesus baptized? Well, a) the Spirit's descent, b) God the Father's blessing, and c) the baptism all work together for Jesus' inaugural ceremony as God's chosen Servant for the public good. [The current Presidential inauguration pales in comparison—and that's understandable—for many reasons.]

Wed Acts 16:25-34 We see a deeper meaning—when other doors were opened and other chains loosed, for those miracles opened human hearts to God. Which led to the question, *"What must I do to be saved?"* and to the answer, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!"* Next came a Bible class (32), then conversion (between verses 32 and 33) marked by Christian baptism and humble service given lovingly to God's spokesmen (33-34). Praise the Lord!

Thurs Psalm 2 provides perspective as our generation slides downhill—and that's hardly due to the pandemic. *"Why?"* is a good question. For what good reason do people rebel against God and choose their own downfall? None at all! Now then, since Jehovah is still God, and Jesus is still His Son, dominant over Earth (8-9), it would be better for humans to seek His favor (10-12).

Fri Matthew 3:13-17 For what good purpose did Jesus meet up with Baptizer John? Since Jesus was sinless (14), remission of sins couldn't be the point of His baptism. Rather, this baptism would fulfill a specific and special factor in God's great salvation enterprise; we see that the time had arrived for Jesus to become inaugurated into His public ministry, with Holy Spirit support and the Father's benediction. Timing is important in everything.

Sat Acts 19:33-41 There was/is nothing trivial about Christian witnessing, especially when the apostles were under attack by religious fanatics who staged a street riot (33-34). Since the timing was right, God made use of a city official (even though he was an idolater) to put a lid on it. He presented the fair assessment that the missionaries were not criminals, and if someone wanted to press charges, lawyers and courts were available. Evidently nobody put God to the test—and we come full circle back to Psalm 2. Amen.