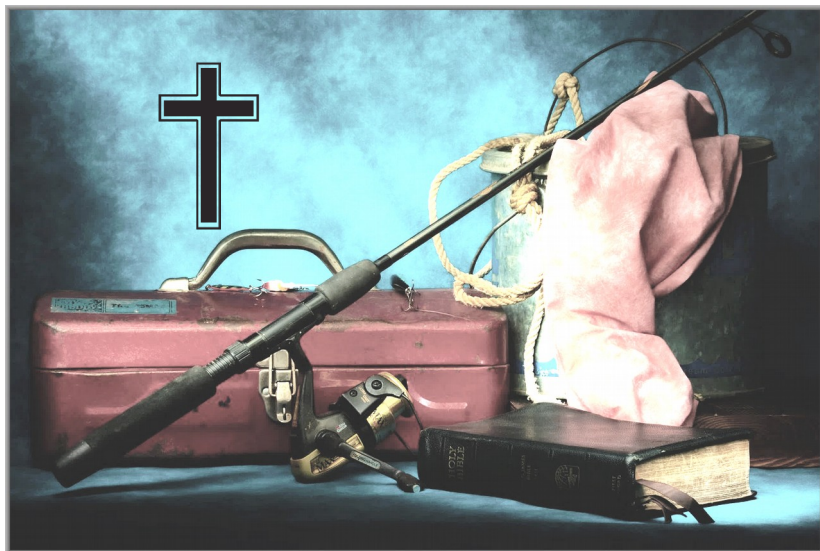




**January 23-24,  
2021  
The Third**



*"Repent, and believe in the gospel...Follow Me, and  
I will make you become fishers of men."*

Mark 1:15, 17

## **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.  
For hearing assistance, ask an usher.**

## Today's Worship

For a printed liturgy, see the green liturgy folder, page 21.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations..." (Luke 24:46-47)

**Hymns:** 761      498:1-4      Offertory – 498:6      773  
505

**Old Testament Reading.....Jonah 3:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. <sup>4</sup>And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. <sup>6</sup>Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. <sup>8</sup>But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup>Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? <sup>10</sup>Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.


**New Testament Reading.....Acts 17:22-34**

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; <sup>23</sup> for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom

you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: <sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. <sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' <sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. <sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." <sup>32</sup> And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." <sup>33</sup> So Paul departed from among them. <sup>34</sup> However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

**Sermon.....Mark 1:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." <sup>16</sup> And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> They immediately left their nets and followed Him. <sup>19</sup> When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. <sup>20</sup> And in them, and they left their father the hired servants, and went after Him.



Ι	Ιησους	=	Jesus
Χ	Χριστος	=	Christ
Θ	Θεός	=	God
Υ	Υιός	=	Son
Σ	σωτήρ	=	Savior

# JESUS' SCHOOL OF ICHTHYOLOGY

Repent...Believe...Follow...  
Fish...*REPEAT*

Preaching Today:  
Pastor Bruce Naumann



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## ***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, 1/24** 9:00 am                      Worship Service (Ushers #2, Counters B)

10:15 am                      Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

**Wed, 1/26** 4:30 pm                      Afternoon Catechism

**Thur, 1/27** 6:30 pm                      Board of Education (special meeting)

**Fri, 1/29** 4:00 pm                      **Youth Group:** Snow party at Pinehurst until 7:00 pm

**Sat, 1/30** 9:00 am                      Church Workday  
6:30 pm                      Worship Service (Ushers #1)  
7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

**Sun, 1/31** 9:00 am                      Worship Service (Ushers #4, Counters B)  
10:15 am                      Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

**Coming Up:**     • Feb 17, Ash Wednesday

## ***Announcements***

**In this Weekend's Bible Class** Pastor Schaller will present the final video installment on congregational outreach, produced by the CLC Committee on Domestic Fields, entitled "Bringing the Message Home." He begins a new series next weekend.

**Our Annual Voters' Meeting** will be on January 31, at 6:30 pm. Several important items are on the agenda including matters of soul care, two calls for teachers, and the latest on

the building project. The **Voters' packet** has been distributed to the mailboxes of our voters, and extra copies are available on the narthex and in the church entry. You may also see the packet at [tinyurl.com/vpacket-01-31](http://tinyurl.com/vpacket-01-31). If you would like to monitor the meeting remotely, email [brucenaumann@gmail.com](mailto:brucenaumann@gmail.com).

**The 2020 contribution statements** are available in the member mailboxes this weekend. If you are unable to pick up your statement and would like to have an electronic copy sent to you, please email Dennis Oster (Financial Secretary) at [dcoster620@gmail.com](mailto:dcoster620@gmail.com) with your request.

**Updating our Membership Directory:** In the narthex you will find the draft copy of our membership directory for 2021. You may also record new contact information on the sheet in the narthex vestibule. Please check your information – leave a checkmark if it is correct, or make any necessary edits. Thank you!

**From Mike and Kathy Marcus** (Mike returned home from the hospital on Wednesday): *“Dear members of Messiah, My family and I would like to thank all of you for the abundant thoughts, prayers, and concern shown to us during my hospitalization. We have been overwhelmed by your outpouring of Christian love and support. Thanks be to God, our Great Physician, for His love and mercy. My hope is to be able to worship with all of you at church soon.”*

**CLC Call News:** <> Pastor David Ude and Pastor Mike Eichstadt returned calls from Cheyenne and Eden Prairie respectively. <> Joshua Ohlmann, Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN has accepted the call to West Columbia, SC as teacher and principal.

**ILC Mini-classes** - Because of distancing restrictions, the Miniclass team at Immanuel is hoping to offer more classes for this year's Miniclass event being held February 17-19. If you are willing to spend 100 minutes to present a hobby, life skill, game, or other interest you have to a small group of students, please contact Prof. Ross Roehl at [ross.roehl@ilc.edu](mailto:ross.roehl@ilc.edu) or 715-864-1764. We try to break up the long winter hall by doing something different and yet beneficial for our students. Thank you for considering!

**Youth Group Snow Party at Pinehurst!** Come join us January 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 at Pinehurst Park. We will begin with devotion at Pinehurst and then have many different activities to choose from. We can borrow gear for free on a first-come first-serve basis, so we need everyone who wants to attend to be there at 4pm. They have snowshoes, sleds, hockey sticks, soft hockey pucks and kubb available to borrow. If you have your own equipment to bring, you can do that as well. Parents please drop off your kids at Pinehurst, 3523 Delbert Rd Eau Claire, at 4pm and pick up at 7pm. If you have any questions about the event or during the event you can contact Amanda Roth 715-577-0190 or Anne Vaver 715-456-3418.



**God's Kids Bible Camp** - Dates are set (July 5-8, 2021) and planning is just getting started. We have an announcement regarding co-director positions. Zack Sippert and Emily Zimmerman have made the difficult decision to step down as co-directors after 2021. This means, we are looking for two new directors (typically one male, one female) to be counselors in 2021, to shadow both Emily and Zack with intent to become GKBC co-directors in 2022. Co-directors participate on the planning committee, recruit counselors/volunteers, conduct counselor orientation, assign cabins, plan camp activities, and manage day-to-day camp operations. If you are interested, and you are between the ages of 17-early 20's, please contact Pastor Caleb or Anne Vaver at 715-456-3418.

## Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

### GOD'S WORD SERVING US:

**Bible Readings** - Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Cor. 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

**Bible Class** - To be announced

### CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

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

Joel Carstensen	George Carstensen
Dennis Oster	Jason Zimmerman
Ryan Zimmerman	Rich McGeorge

#### Sunday 1/31 9:00 am: Usher Team 4

Dave Johannes	Joel Gullerud
Kevin Hulke	Jeff Rutz
Brent Rutz	Britten Rutz
Carter Rutz	

**Counters for the week following 1/31 – C**



Mike Markus, Tom Joos, Barry Schlegelmilch

*Thank you!*

**The Messiah S.T.E.A.M. Club** starts this new year with activities for our students' minds. For students 5-8 attending Messiah Church and School. Adults welcome as coaches and mentors. Our Initial Meeting is on Jan 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm. To join the Zoom Meeting: [tinyurl.com/MessiahSteamMeeting](https://tinyurl.com/MessiahSteamMeeting) ~ Meeting ID: 982 5074 8858 Passcode: 821344



**Call for Nominations:** Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals for the following synodical offices to be elected at the 2021 CLC Convention: ☐CLC President ☐CLC Vice-President ☐CLC Moderator ☐CLC Secretary ☐Board of Trustees--Called Servant ☐Board of Trustees--Lay Member ☐Board of Regents--Called Servant ☐Board of Regents--Lay Member ☐Board of Missions--Called Servant ☐Board of Missions--Lay Member ☐Board of Education--Teacher Member ☐Board of Education--Lay Member

- Member nominations will be received January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Nomination forms, lists of eligible called servants, and submission information are available on the [clclutheran.org](https://clclutheran.org) website. Those candidates nominated this past January through March will be retained on the 2021 ballot. - *Pastor Paul D. Nolting, Moderator*

**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), Paul Tiefel, Sr. (2455 Sawgrass Rd #419, Altoona), Johanna Williams (2118 Augusta St.) and Shelly Williamson (Bellevue, IA).



## Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ January 16 & 17, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 72 - Sun. 104) 176  
 Bible Class: (Sat. 24 - Sun. 33) 57      Sunday School: (Sat. 3 - Sun. 19) 22  
 Online: (Worship: 300, Bible Class: 119)  
 Young Adults: met with Bible Class      Ruth's Retreat: 9

### ***Weekly Offering Information***

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$190,000.00
YTD Budget	\$44,885.00	\$10,962.00
YTD Offerings	\$31,034.31	\$8,221.25
Weekly Need	\$15,244.00	\$3,710.00
Last Weekend (1/17)	\$14,066.01	\$3,007.50
Amount Still Needed	\$746,965.69	\$181,778.75

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$406,685.64	Offerings-to-date
\$18,314.36	Still Needed
\$13,605.00	Last Week (1/17)



### **CLC Financial Report - December**

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2020	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 6 Months	Balance 12/31/2020
<b>General Fund</b>	0	496,854	518,310	548,700	- 21,456
ILC Operations... (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	695,273	630,027	689,070	65,246
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	201,448	15,316	127,936		88,828
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	14,542	2,085,120	1,063,241		1,036,421
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	84,054	125,537	97,203		112,388
Kinship	86,093	98,915	60,972		124,036
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,914,371	1,744,915	142,530		3,516,756
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	84,280	50,741	70,541		64,480
Reserve Fund	294,092	26,232	0		320,324
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,678,880</b>	<b>\$4,146,776</b>	<b>\$1,562,423</b>		<b>\$5,263,233</b>

**General Fund – December** offerings of \$101,036 (incl a special gift of \$23,000) vs disbursements of \$73,291, resulting in a net gain, reducing our operating deficit by \$27,745. Regular & special General Fund CBP offerings over the last several months have reduced a -\$72,440 deficit by \$51,000. Praise the Lord for moving hearts to remember our General Fund needs, and blessing their resources to support it, since it gives major subsidy for **the work of our Boards of Trustees, Regents, Missions, & Ed/Publications**. Looking down the Balance column above, our aggregate balance was blessed with \$474,310 in revenue in December, described in the following reports.

**ILC Operations** – ILC revenue of \$114,476 (incl \$49,500 subsidy) vs disbursements of \$112,947, a net flow of \$1,529. Halfway through the fiscal year, disbursements are \$59,000 under budget needs.

**ILC Building Projects** – Dec. receipts were \$84,005 vs disbursements of \$2,805 for the Building Planning Committee expenses. Receipts for the month included \$995 in offerings and \$83,009 in earnings & final revenue transfers to the fund to close out the donated CRT. The Planning Committee is moving forward with a recommendation for consideration by our next CLC Convention this June for a new gym and repurposing the 50-year-old gym for ILC chapels, band/choir practices, plays, musicals, and CLC Conventions & large gatherings. Praise, Oh, Praise, our God and King!

**CEF** – December revenue was \$333,000 (including \$275,868 investment gains and \$57,062 from CEF loan repayments, including a congregation mortgage retirement) vs disbursements of \$10,848 in debt service & monthly admin expenses. The \$3.5 million balance may be needed in the near term for several large CLC & congregational loans which are anticipated.

**MDF** – December offerings of \$38,307 (including special offerings of \$1,500 & \$26,000) vs disbursements of \$13,146, which includes the 7<sup>th</sup> \$10,000 construction loan installment (of 12 planned) for the Nepal Bible Institute classroom, & \$2,000 for an India CLCI parsonage repair.

**IIF** – December revenue of \$13,179 (investment gains of \$11,189 thru Dec, congregation offerings of \$990, and a special offering of \$1,000) vs \$0 disbursements.

**Kinship** – Congregation offerings of \$5,794, specials \$4,235, sponsors \$9,765 vs \$150 for widows.

*"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory,*

**Good Stewardship Tax Deduction Info:** A CLC pastor recently shared this information and it seemed wise to pass it on: The CARES Act included a provision to claim up to \$300 in charitable contributions in 2020 even if you claim the standard deduction. This is an "above the line" deduction, which means it is subtracted from gross income and does all kinds of good stuff to your final tax bill. The deduction is taken on Line 10b of the 2020 Form 1040. Cash contributions to churches qualify. Obviously, you will need records to verify, but your year-end statement from your financial secretary satisfies that requirement. Saving cancelled checks (or images thereof) is also recommended.

## Highlights from the January 20, 2021 Church Council meeting

<> **The meeting began** at 7:20 pm with a devotion based on Psalm 20. There were 8 members present, including church officers, board chairmen, and pastors.

<> **Elders:** We are still working with a member who is living in impenitent sin, whose soul care will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. Changes to our church family: transfer out of Rhiannon Roehl (cs) to Berea, Inver Grove Heights, MN. Termination: motions carried to recommend to the voters include termination of Melissa née Otte (Parker) Owen by 2.08d (unable to contact); Maggie Caird, Lindsey (nee Matysik) Johnson and Rayne Reetz by 2.08c (request for release). Potential termination of Chong, Ger, and Mai Ka Vang will be announced at the Jan. 31 Voters' meeting, for action on Feb. 23. Baptisms: Skylar Kristyl Raine Sandhoefner, baptized 12/13/20; Cassandra Marie Strike, baptized 1/2/21; Bennett Richard Schlegelmilch, baptized 1/17/21. <> **Deacons:** We continue to work on COVID-19 safety measures. The new hymnal committee is meeting and will report back. We are proposing service schedule adjustments for Lent and Easter. We are also exploring post-COVID options for Communion distribution.

<> **Pastors:** all pastors have recovered from COVID, and two are scheduled for vaccinations. There will be no pulpit exchange for this year's Lenten season. Ted Thurow, Nona Schaller, and Mike Markus are all recuperating back at home. Pastor Tiefel is planning a trip to visit some members at a distance. <> **Outreach:** We are trying to be flexible with planning this year due to COVID and the potential building project. We are planning an evangelism webinar for the spring. We plan to put out a tri-fold handout for the congregation in March. <> **Property:** Tom Beekman has finished siding the shed, and the roof will be shingled in spring.

<> **Board of Education and Principal:** We are discussing possible options for summer VBS in view of the building project. Info for at-home Sunday school is being made available. The CLC grade school basketball tournament has been cancelled for 2021. New rug runners were purchased and will be installed. We are working on teacher/staff appreciation for Kâren Franson, Carrie Reim, & Paul Tiefel III, who have served for many years. The Board has requested initial slates from the CLC president to fill Mrs. Reim & Mr. Tiefel's positions. One new kindergarten student has enrolled. <> **Treasurer:** A motion passed to approve the current list of bills for payment as presented.

General fund total receipts for 2020 were \$713K and disbursements were \$693K, so our balance went up. Total receipts were about \$9,500 more than 2019. Missions received \$189K, slightly under our CBP estimate of \$190K. Messiah ILHS Student Aid Fund has had a deficit for the last few months. Our budget for 2021 compared to what we received in 2020 requires an increase of about \$65K (9%); if we move forward with the building project, this will increase even more. <>

**Miscellaneous:** The Building Committee received a timetable for construction that stretches into the fall. We are working on keeping within budget as much as possible. The Building Committee and the Finance/Publicity committee meet on 1/21. The Council discussed the report from the CLC Board of Trustees on the needs for our mutual work in the CLC. This report will be presented at the Annual Meeting on 1/31. They are asking for a 13.5% increase over 2020. A motion passed to propose to the voters a CBP estimate of \$200,000 (our 2020 estimate was \$190,000). <> **The next Council meeting** is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. **Our Annual Voter's Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. **A Special Voter's Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss the Building Committee report, teacher calls (if necessary), and membership items. <> **The meeting adjourned** at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

## He Shall Reign Forever and Ever!

By Pastor John Klatt

Reprinted from the January, 1999 *Lutheran Spokesman*

The approach of the year 2000 has caused much excitement, with people expecting great changes in our world. Some are hoping for great new things to happen in the next millennium. Others are forecasting fearful things. But as we survey the world scene at the beginning of this new year, what we see is a world in which the passage of time changes things very little.

One feature of the world scene that does not really change is the constant struggle for power. The mighty of this world--and those who want to be mighty--are vying with one another for power. This was so a thousand years ago, and it is safe to say that this situation will not change as long as the world stands. There will always be struggles for power, by legitimate and illegitimate means. The mighty of this world will rise, and they will fall.

There is really only one significant and lasting change in power that has taken place in this world. It happened with the coming of the Son of God as the

world's Savior, an event that established the Christian era. This great change was announced by John the Baptist when he proclaimed: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

The Son of God had come to wrest power from Satan who had gained power over mankind when he successfully tempted Eve and then Adam. And Jesus did defeat Satan and robbed him of his power over mankind. He took upon Himself our sins, the source of Satan's power over us, so that Satan can no longer accuse us or force us to follow him and be condemned with him.

It is important for us as we begin this new year to remember that it doesn't matter so much who occupies the seats of power in this world. What matters is that there is one who is above them all, whose throne is forever: Jesus Christ, who is King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is to Him that we owe allegiance above all others in authority, for He alone is worthy *"to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"* (Rev. 5:12). It is to Him that we can look at all times for salvation and for help in every need, for He is the one who *"by Himself purged our sins, (and) sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high"* (Heb. 1:3).

This same Jesus who died for us and rose again, who is Lord and King even now and reigns at the right hand of God, will come again and reveal His kingdom before all.

Now, much of mankind denies the kingship of Jesus. They do not acknowledge Him as their Lord or as their Savior. This is true even of many who speak well of Him as a good man and as a fine example of how people ought to live; they still don't regard Him as their Lord or think they need Him as their Savior. But the day will come when He will appear again, this time in glory as the Judge of all. Then every eye will see Him in His glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. Then every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. When He arrives it will be too late for those who have denied Him now in this life. They will be forced to admit His Lordship to their own condemnation.

What a blessed privilege it is for us to know Him and believe in Him as Lord and Savior now in this our time of grace. To us the kingship of Jesus is a great comfort. Jesus in whom we trust is Lord. He died for us to redeem us from sin and condemnation. He lives to bring us safely to the end of our days and to take us to be with Him. When He comes again in glory it will be to welcome us into the eternal mansions that He has prepared for those who love Him.



**Jesus is Our King!**

May Jesus our Savior and King bring us all safely to that day!

## **Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Jan. 25-30, '21.**

**Mon Jonah 3:1-4:1** God had spared Jonah for good reason: *Go to Nineveh and preach to it the message that I tell you.* So Jonah trekked overland 400 miles to metro Nineveh and proclaimed its downfall via God's hand—which scared them enough *to believe God, turn from their evil behavior,* and hope that God would relent. God did relent—so that Jonah could assure souls already humbled that God forgave them their sins. That's God's M.O.!

**Tues Mark 1:14-20** It was Jesus' M.O. too: exhort the sinner to repent, then deliver the good news that God has a way to save you from disaster. God had prepared Simon and Andrew spiritually and emotionally to leave their secular employment and let Jesus prepare them to carry His message. Same with James and John. When Jesus calls, God promotes repentant hearts to turn their lives around -- and the world will never be the same again.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 7:29-31** Our world is changing, too, in ways we don't understand—so we need to adjust our personal lives to meet the challenges, control our emotions to suit each situation, monitor our financial endeavors, and make use of every opportunity to salvage what can be salvaged from the impending disaster. Lord, have mercy on our generation!

**Thurs Psalm 62** David's psalm starts on an island of calmness (1-2) before he attacks the hostiles (3-4). Now, whom does he have "at his back"? *God alone, his Rock and Salvation, his defense and refuge* (5-7) – and not for him alone (8). In balance, human endeavors are a bad dream (9-10), in contrast to being wide awake in God's presence (11-12). Praise the Lord!

**Fri Luke 9:57-62** Sometimes converts (raw recruits?) aren't entirely convinced about Jesus and are not yet committed to a new start in life. Perhaps dedication to Jesus will mean giving up comforts (58), or it may mean cutting ties with the dead past (59-60), or even saying goodbye to those we have loved

(61-62). We are crossing our own Samaria, too, as we follow Jesus.

**Sat Acts 20:17-27** It has happened in our generation, that our overseas missionaries are not permitted to stay close to their dear friends, even though they have *served the Lord Jesus with all humility* as God's messengers (17-21). We trust God to take care of their personal safety (22-24) as they return home (25), and we will bank on the Lord supporting His children by the *whole counsel of God*, which they received from the traveling missionary.

Such events are heart-breaking; we take comfort in knowing that we will meet again at Jesus' feet. Lord Jesus, come quickly to our rescue! Amen.