



**January 30-31,
2021
The Fourth**



“Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” -Mark 1:27 (NKJV)

Messiah Lutheran Church & School

2015 N Hastings Way

Eau Claire, WI 54703 ~ 715-834-2865

Affiliated with the *Church of the Lutheran Confession* ~ CLC

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**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 28.

Pre-Service Devotion: See front cover.

Hymns: 4 395:1-5 383:1-4
774

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20
(NIV84)

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

New Testament Letter. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NIV84)

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But the man who loves God is known by God.

⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is

but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷ But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak consciences, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Sermon.....Mark 1:21-28 (NKJV)

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and

they obey him.”²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

**“Jesus Uses His Authority
to Benefit the People”**

1. Wiser than the Educators
2. More Powerful than the Demons



Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller

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This Week at Messiah

**Masks required indoors by state mandate.
Sunday services live-streamed/archived at
eauclairemessiah.com.**

Sun, 1/31 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #4,
Counters C)

10:15 am

Adults Bible class/Sunday School/Young

5:45 pm

Hymnal Committee

6:30 pm

Annual Voters' Meeting

Wed, 2/3 4:30 pm

Afternoon Catechism

8:00 pm

Ruth's Retreat

Sat, 2/6 6:30 pm

Communion Service (Ushers #3)

7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

Sun, 2/7 9:00 am

Communion Service (Ushers #6,
s D)

10:15 am

Adults Bible class/Sunday School/Young

Coming Up: • Feb 17, Ash Wednesday

Announcements

Weekend's Bible Class: After Paul left the Galatian churches to preach elsewhere, men came and tried to dismantle the Holy Spirit's work. Paul's letter is the Holy Spirit's response. This week we consider Galatians 1:1-2:10 (1 of 4 on Galatians).

Young Adults Bible Study: How can Christians respectfully interact with those who hold radically different beliefs, and also remain faithful to the gospel? Join us Sunday morning for a series based on *“Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully In a World of*

Difference” by Timothy Keller and John Inazu. - Prof. Joel Gullerud

Our Annual Voters’ Meeting is this Sunday, January 31, at 6:30 pm. Agenda items include: soul care, two teacher calls, and a building project update. Copies of the **Voters’ packet** are available in the narthex, church entry, and at tinyurl.com/vpacket-01-31. Email to view remotely: brucenaumann@gmail.com.

Call Received by Teacher Roehl: “To the members at Messiah in Eau Claire, I have received a call to serve as principal and teacher at Grace Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN. Please keep this in your prayers as I deliberate this call along with the call I am currently serving at Messiah. Any thoughts or wisdom you would share would be appreciated. Your brother in the faith, Andrew Roehl” Please pray for the LORD to guide Mr. Roehl according to the Holy Spirit’s direction.

Immanuel Dorm Supervisor Positions Opening: After serving faithfully as dorm supervisors, both Gus Falkenberg and Beth Sandeen will be resigning at the end of this academic year. We thank them both for their faithful service to the LORD and for being such positive role models to our dorm students. ILC is accepting applicants for these two positions to begin the 2021-22 year, an adult male for the boys' dorm and an adult female for the girls' dorm. These roles are vital to our campus given how they provide spiritual counsel and a fatherly or motherly role to those students who are living away from home. Those who are CLC members in good standing and are able and willing to fill this position may contact ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck (dan.schierenbeck@ilc.edu/660.864.9231) for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. An application is available online at ilc.edu > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Review of applications begins March 8.

The 2020 contribution statements are available in the church mailboxes. Need an electronic copy? Email Dennis Oster (Financial Secr.) at dcoster620@gmail.com.

Last Call for Updating our Membership Directory: In the narthex is a draft copy of the 2021 membership directory. Record new contact information in the 3-ring binder in the narthex vestibule. Please check your information - leave a

checkmark if it is correct, or make any necessary edits. Thank you!



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



Bible Readings - Job 7:1-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39
Bible Class - Galatians (2 of 4)

CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

Saturday 2/6 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3

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

Sunday 2/7 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 2/7 – D

Joel Carstensen, Dave Johannes, Matt Kelly

Thank you!

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 or 715-864-1764. We try to break up the long winter haul by doing something different and yet beneficial for our students. Thank you for considering!

God's Kids Bible Camp: Dates are set (July 5-8, 2021) and we are looking for two new directors to be counselors in 2021, to shadow both Emily Zimmerman and Zack Sippert with intent to become GKBC co-directors in 2022. 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.

The Messiah S.T.E.A.M. Club is a mentally stimulating club for students 5-8 attending Messiah School. Adults are welcome as coaches and mentors. If you would like to be part of this year's Build a Game activities, join us Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm at this zoom link: tinyurl.com/MLSsteam (Meeting ID: 987 7696 7041 Passcode: 111350)

Thank the LORD for His ongoing care of... ● Virginia Carstensen, who is recovering at home from double knee

replacement surgery. ● Cindy Schlegelmilch, who is recovering from a broken wrist; ● Tom Skinner, who was hospitalized due to complications with his heart condition.

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).

From Prof. Paul and Nona Schaller - *"Nona and I are thankful to God for all the friends and family with which He has blessed us, especially in these past weeks. Your thoughts and prayers, food gifts and greetings are all so much appreciated and counted as God's blessings to us in a time of need. Although Nona's speech ability has been affected, there have been small signs of improvement, and she is still able to sing and pray along with you all by means of the streaming services, which we count as a great blessing that the Lord has brought us from the COVID pandemic. May His blessings continue to all of you, through Christ our Lord."*

The Messiah ILHS Student Grant Fund is for those families that need financial assistance for their children to take advantage of the Christian education available through Immanuel High School. For 2020-2021 there are 9 students receiving funding. The total need was set at \$12,500 and approved by the voters, which requires \$1,150 a month in contributions. We are meeting our monthly goal. Questions? Contact: David Johannes at bitbybitcomputer@gmail.com.

CLC Call News: The CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions extended a call to Pastor David Schaller, Redeemer, Sister Lakes (Dowagiac), MI, to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. This call is for replacing Prof. John Reim who is retiring in June of 2021. ● Pastor Mark Tiefel, Redemption, Lynnwood, WA has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY. ● Mrs. Megan Goodwin, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL. has resigned her call as lower grade school teacher. ● Neil Bernthal has returned the call extended to him to be principal and upper grade teacher by Faith, Markesan, WI. They have now called Ross Kok, Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ. ● Mr.

Sherman Carstensen has resigned his call as teacher at the high school of Immanuel, Mankato. ● Mrs. Jennifer (Dan) Roehl, member at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to serve as ILC's part-time on-campus mentor, the female counterpart in the on-campus counseling program. Note: This role is to complement Steve Sydow in his current role as the part-time on-campus counselor.

Call for Nominations: Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals for a number of synodical offices to be elected at the 2021 CLC Convention. Member nominations will be received January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Nomination forms, eligible servant lists, etc. are available at clclutheran.org. Those candidates nominated this past January through March will be retained on the 2021 ballot. - *Pastor Paul D. Nolting, Moderator*

Lord's Supper Next Weekend: Communicants, remember to prepare your hearts for Communion. See pages 18-20 in the Sydow Catechism.

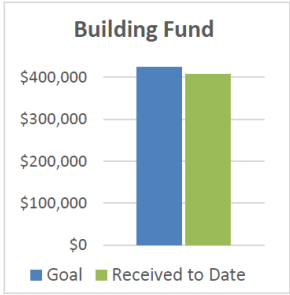
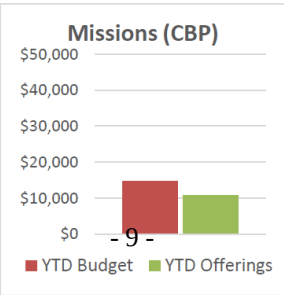
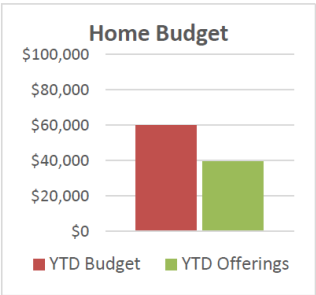
Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ January 23 & 24, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 79 - Sun. 93) 182
Bible Class: (Sat. 24 - Sun. 34) 58 Sunday School: (Sat. 5 - Sun. na) na
Online: (Worship: 262, ILC Streaming: 12, Bible Class: 69)
Young Adults: 10

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$190,000.00
YTD Budget	\$59,846.00	\$14,615.00
YTD Offerings	\$39,605.07	\$10,830.00
Weekly Need	\$15,383.00	\$3,733.00
Last Weekend (1/24)	\$8,570.76	\$3,007.50
Amount Still Needed	\$738,394.93	\$179,170.00

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$406,552.14	Received to Date
\$18,447.86	Still Needed
\$1,955.00	Last Week (1/24)



A Preview of our Upcoming Yearbook: 2020 President's Annual Report

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"
(Psalm 27:1)*

Our congregational plans for 2020 were not realized. By March we were faced with situations and circumstances we never envisioned at the beginning of the year. Fear became a common factor as we were confronted with a viral pandemic and civil unrest; resulting in concerns about our health and safety. A memorial to our 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, identifies freedom from fear as one of the four freedoms in America. This appears to not be the case.

However, at Messiah we preach and teach that the only true freedom from fear comes through faith in Jesus Christ. We are told, *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine."* (Isaiah 43:1b) Yes, the LORD is our salvation, thus whom/what shall we fear? This is faith over fear; sinners saved.

This year the Messiah church council and boards were confronted with circumstances that the congregation had never before experienced. We were given governmental directives and guidelines that were frequently revised. This necessitated having weekly meetings and making decisions about how we could continue to conduct our worship services. The boards had to make timely decisions, which under normal situations would be made by the voters in accordance with the constitution bylaws. Initially, there was even concern in interpreting various rulings as to whether religious worship services were specified as an essential service. We thank our GOD that we have been able to provide the saving gospel message through a variety of mediums throughout 2020. By June we were able to transition to in-person worship services in addition to the services via the Internet. The passage *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'"* (Psalm 122:1) has taken on in-depth appreciation and significance this year.

The church council has begun an analysis of the various congregational committees including responsibilities, membership, term limits, etc. An initial look has indicated that there is a need for over 200 volunteers to serve as coordinators/leaders and committee members. This number does not include the Messiah school volunteers. Thus, there are many ways and a wide variety of opportunities to serve the LORD within our congregation. Don't wait to be asked, seek out areas where you may serve. The prophet

Isaiah in answer to the question of LORD *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"* did not answer, "Send them!", but rather said, *"Here am I. Send me!"* (Isaiah 6:8)

We highlight the following as examples of the types of actions that the various boards and committees had to deal with this year:

- Elders – Implemented revised methods for personal member contact
- Deacons – Provided modified methods for delivering worship services and developed seating plans for in-person sanctuary worship.
- Education – Reconfigured classrooms and staffing to accommodate social distancing and implemented virtual learning options.
- Property – Daily cleaning and sanitizing of furniture and facility
- Technology – Provided infrastructure for delivering virtual worship services and Bible classes
- Outreach – Curtailed most of the planned activities
- Stewardship – Increased use of automated contributions capability
- Ushering – Revised duties within the guidelines, including taking attendance for contact tracing

In addition, the pastors needed to flexibly adapt to the changes in worship service, Bible class schedules and methods of delivery, and restrictions for contacting shut-ins, hospital patients, and other members. The principal needed to plan for delivering educational services within different scenarios. The school technology coordinator needed to implement capabilities for virtual learning.

The Building Committee continued to work on the development of a plan to expand the school facility as well as to provide an office suite for the pastors. The Finance/Publicity Committee publicized the school building project and status with respect to the initial fund-raising target amount of \$425,000.

The voters resolved to retroactively approve the actions of the Board of Deacons and Education that were made because of time constraints. The voters authorized the establishment of the Security Committee to address worship service security.

We are thankful to our LORD that with considerably less in-person attendance at worship services the members of Messiah increased their financial contributions for both congregational purposes and the CLC General Fund. The Treasurer's annual financial report provides the detail information. We were able to maintain a positive

balance in the congregation's operational fund through the combination of increased contributions and actual expenditures being less than budgeted for 2020. This year we were able to implement the third year of the called workers compensation plan (base salary and experience increments). In addition, the voters decided not to participate in the government Payroll Protection Program (PPP).

This report concludes my six years of service as Messiah's President. 2020 was like no other year. It is recognized that my professional administrative background may not be best suited for congregational leadership. However, it is my hope that my leadership during this tenure has been beneficial to the spiritual growth and service of Messiah members. May our LORD, Jesus Christ, continue to bless our faith-driven efforts, without fear, to share His message of sinners saved.

Dr. James A. Sydow, President

Why Build?

On February 21st, the Voters will decide whether we should proceed with the proposed building project. This is the first of four inserts to explain how this building project will meet the needs of our growing school and church. A project of this size (\$1.7 million) will need the support of the whole congregation.

Part I: Additional Classrooms

Messiah School has been blessed with steady growth for a number of years. When our enrollment exceeds 150 students, as it has several times in recent years, we have significant overcrowding in some of the classrooms. We are also short rooms for teachers to use. Messiah's Board of Education has had some discussions about capping enrollment. That grim prospect might mean turning children away from our Christ-based education, a painful option in our work of teaching the lambs of Christ. How long could we do that?

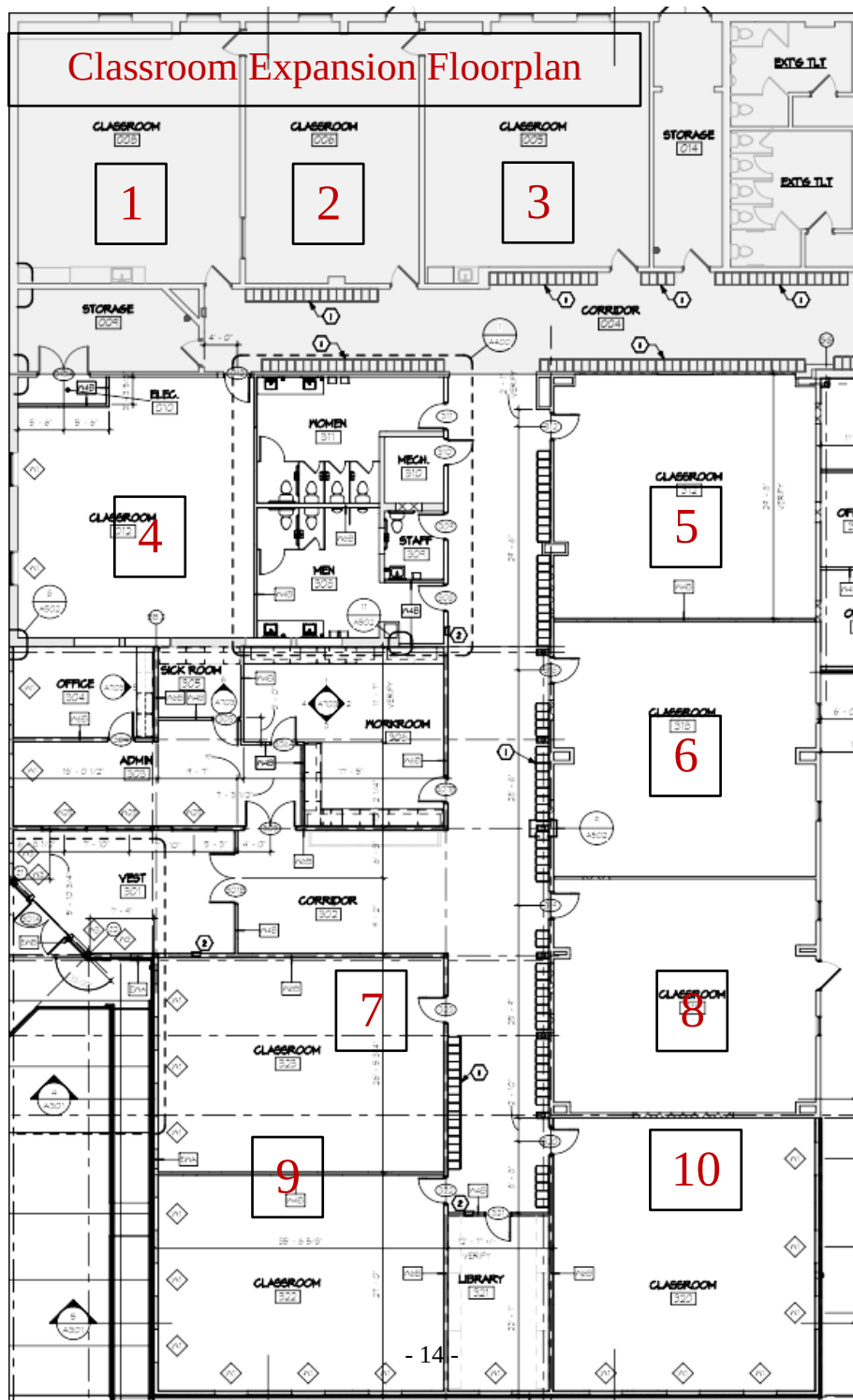
A Planning Committee was formed and the idea to build began to take shape. Early on it was decided to plan for the future and get out ahead of our needs. It was determined we could fit 25 students per grade level in a certain size classroom. Our present building has only 3 classrooms of this size, whereas our program of pre-K to 8th grade would require 10 such classrooms.

The proposed building plan achieves the goal of building for now and the future. It would add 4 new classrooms (5,7,9,10) and enlarge 2 present classrooms (4,6), which would give us ample room to handle 150 students and room to grow to 250. It should be mentioned that this kind of future growth would not only require 10 classrooms, but also additional teachers. Prayers are needed not only for the Lord of the Church to guide us in our building plans, but also to send more laborers into the work of His Kingdom.

Next time: A Re-worked Office Area



Classroom Expansion Floorplan



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Feb. 1-6, '21.

Mon Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Why do we return to the Old Testament every week? Because Jesus inhabits the Old Testament. He is the prime Prophet of God's Word, successor to Moses, and God's last Word on everything (15-18). Warning! This is not a game, so don't play loose with this Prophet, for you will be the loser (19-20). Further, we must close our ears and heart against impostors, who merit God's severe judgment (20). Lord, have mercy!

Tues Mark 1:21-28 Jesus attended church to teach God's Word, and some were impressed by His method and message (21-22). One man in particular needed help [why else was he there?], so Jesus, the Holy One of God, beat the devil on his own turf. Note: The devil may quote the Truth, but only to twist it, and the Holy Spirit doesn't want that kind of help (27-28).

Wed 1 Corinthians 8 Since Satan teaches people to depend on their own intellect (1-3), these new disciples needed much instruction about God vs. Satan (4-6). Further, they needed clarification that it was OK (not second-hand idolatry) to purchase meat left over from idol sacrifices and marketed in butcher shops. Nonetheless, Christians will be circumspect about where they go and what they do—so that their conduct doesn't influence others to copycat—and perhaps sin against their consciences by doing so (9-13).

Thurs Psalm 1 Ungodly people are so full of themselves that they coax godly people to quit being so "narrow-minded," and join them in bad behavior (1) - as though we don't enjoy communing with God anymore (2). God's children endure because they stay rooted where God can water them; they grow sturdy; they produce nutritious fruit; they survive and prosper. All of which stands in contrast to the ungodly (4-5). God help us to persevere (6)!

Fri Mark 1:22 There's more to be said about Mark's comment: *for He taught them **as** one having authority, and not **as** the scribes*. Indeed, Jesus had authorization in triplicate, for He was self-authorized as the Word of God incarnate (John 1:14), authorized by His Father (John 5:27), and also by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). Now, note how the twin phrases counter-balance one another: *AS having*

authority vs. *AS the scribes*. Which means that the scribes were not authorized to speak for God, for they were transcribers, secretaries, technicians, and office drudges—but not His spokesmen.

Sat Acts 20:28-38 God's enemy is the enemy of God's children, and since it's open season on Christians, we defend one another from those who ballyhoo immorality, perversions, liberation theology, etc. (29-30). It's heart-breaking (31). How are we to get through the hard times ahead? By depending on God to hold us tight, while we sacrifice Self in service to others (32-35). Amen!