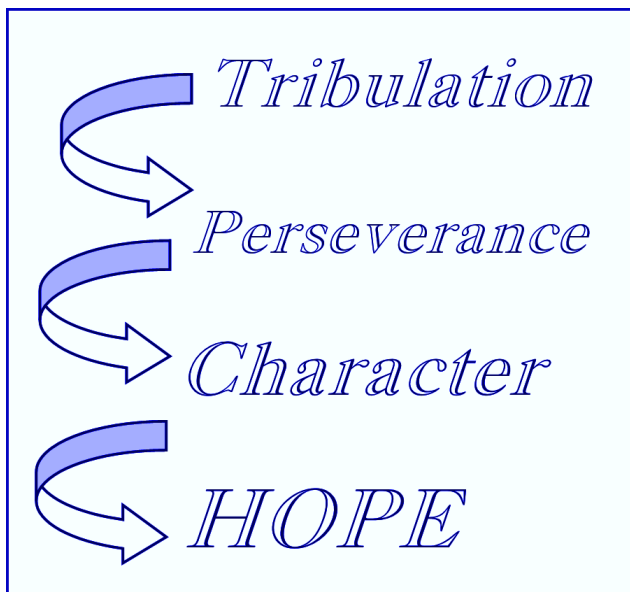




February 27-28, 2021  
The Second  
Weekend in Lent



*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Romans 5:5

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

## Today's Worship

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

**Pre-Service Devotion:** Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD! (**Psalm 27:14**).

**Hymns:**            320            522            523:1-5            138:3,5,6

### **Weekend Scripture Reading Series:**

***The Account of Jesus' Suffering and Death according to Luke***

#### **Part 1..... Luke 22:1-14**

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. <sup>2</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. <sup>3</sup> Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. <sup>4</sup> So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. <sup>5</sup> And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup> So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. <sup>7</sup> Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. <sup>8</sup> And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." <sup>9</sup> So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" <sup>10</sup> And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. <sup>11</sup> "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" <sup>12</sup> "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." <sup>13</sup> So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup> When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

#### **Response of the Congregation, in Song:**

***On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface.  
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my life, my hope's  
Foundation, And my Glory and Salvation.***

#### **Part 2.....Luke 22:15-30**

<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in

remembrance of Me." <sup>20</sup> Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. <sup>21</sup> "But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. <sup>22</sup> "And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" <sup>23</sup> Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing. <sup>24</sup> Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. <sup>25</sup> And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' <sup>26</sup> "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. <sup>27</sup> "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. <sup>28</sup> "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. <sup>29</sup> "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, <sup>30</sup> "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

**Sermon ..... Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. <sup>6</sup> For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**"THE CHRISTIAN TRIUMPHS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE"**

- I. This is learned at the foot of the cross
- II. This is learned in the school of experience

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann

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## *This Week at Messiah*

**Masks required indoors by government mandate.**

**Sunday services live-streamed/archived at [eaulclairemessiah.com](http://eaulclairemessiah.com).**

- Sun, 2/28**     9:00 am   Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters G)  
                  10:15 am   Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults
- Wed, 3/3**     4:30 pm   Afternoon Catechism  
                  6:30 pm   3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Service (Ushers #5)  
                  8:00 pm   Ruth's Retreat
- Sat, 3/6**     6:30 pm   Communion Service (Ushers #7)  
                  7:45 pm   Bible class/Sunday School
- Sun, 3/7**     9:00 am   Communion Service (Ushers #8, Counters H)  
                  10:15 am   Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

## *Announcements*

**Bible Class**, this weekend marks a four-part study of the next portion of Genesis. (The first four part study was in February of 2020.)

Feb. 27-28   Abraham, the Father of Believers

Mar. 6-7     Lessons from Lot about career choices

Mar. 13-14   Lessons from the Patriarchs on selecting a spouse

Mar. 20-21   Lessons from the Patriarchs on parenting

We hope you will be able to join either live or live-streaming.

**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*

**Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek theme, "An Inquest into the Death of Jesus," continues this Wednesday at 6:30 pm (also live streamed). The witness this week will be Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest.

**The victory service** for Ed Trapp (a member of Faith, SW St. Louis) was held here at Messiah on Friday. The service folder, which includes Ed's obituary, is available on our kiosk for those who would like one.

**On Wednesday, February 24** the LORD in His mercy called Bea Gerbitz home to heaven after a long struggle with cancer. Bea was the mother of Messiah member Carrie Reim. A victory service will be held in Hales Corners, at a date and time to be announced. We pray for the God's Gospel promises to comfort all who mourn her passing. *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God."* Heb. 4:9

**We wish God's blessings for the newly married** - Messiah member Katie Lau and Mark Kelsey were married on February 14 at the Lilydale facility in Chippewa Falls. We pray that theirs will be a Christ-centered marriage. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* (Col 3:17)



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



***Bible Readings*** – Luke’s passion history, parts 3-4

Sermon Text – Exodus 20:1-17

***Bible Class*** – Genesis Part 7, “Lessons from Lot about Career Choices”

***CHRISTIANS SERVING US:***

***Wednesday 3/3 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5***

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

***Saturday 3/6 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7***

Tom Joos	Charles Wittorp
Levi Wittorp	Jeremy Gurgel
Gerald Oster	Sam Oster

***Sunday 3/7 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 3/7 – H***  
Jeff Bomber, Randy Wirth, Jason Zimmerman

***Thank you!***

**Church mailboxes** - Many of the church mailboxes have quite a few items in them, including personal correspondence. We plan to have the church doors open (the narthex doors by the Communion kits) from church time on Sundays until 3 pm, if you would like to pick yours up. Contact a pastor if you would like to arrange another time, or have your box delivered.



**In the Hospital:** On February 18, Karen Jacobson underwent knee replacement surgery, and doing well in her recovery at home. **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).

**CLC News:** Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY has put in a request/call for the Seminary graduate. • Ross Kok has returned the call by Faith, Markesan, WI to be their principal and upper grade teacher. • Matthew Kranz, Immanuel, Mankato, MN has been called to be the second full-time teacher at Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL. • Nathan Wales, West Columbia, SC. has been called by Grace, Sleepy Eye MN to serve as their principal and teacher. • Mr. Caleb Noeldner has returned the call by Messiah, Eau Claire, WI to teach in 5th-6th grade. That call has now been extended to Nathan Wales, West Columbia, SC. • June Schmid has accepted the call by Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI to teach full time in the lower grades. • Pastor David Schaller, Redeemer, Sister Lakes (Dowagiac), MI, has accepted the call to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI. • Immanuel, Mankato, MN has called Eric Libby to the Assistant Principal/Counselor position and Kevin Schrader to the High School Math and Science position.

## ***Continuing Under God's Grace***

### **A Reflection on the Past 60 Years**

**Introduction** - In Joshua 4:20-24, we witness how the LORD God who had arranged for the safe passage across the flood waters of the Jordan River gave instructions for the building of the memorial at Gilgal because He wanted the next generation to know what He had done for the past generation and what He would likewise do for future generations.

This sense of history remains important to God and His people today, and for the same reason – that the past generation might recall with thanksgiving God's grace and teach that lesson to following generations.

Last January, Messiah entered its 60<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation. Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 10 years ago, had the theme of *"50 years under God's Grace."* This anniversary year's theme is *"Continuing Under God's Grace."* What has changed in the last ten years for our congregation? A lot – it has been an event-filled decade.

From 2010-2020, we added 516 new members. That means over half of our present membership was not here at our last anniversary. In the last ten years there have been 165 baptisms, confirmation of 163 souls, 64 marriages, and 57 victory services. Our teaching staff has seen turnover and has 5 new servants; the office staff for church and school has changed, and the number of pastors has gone from 2 to 3. All this change and growth underscores the need to review what God has done at Messiah. This is the benefit of observing our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We "continue under God's grace" because God has brought us through every challenge. And that is our confidence as we face the challenges of today...we shall continue under God's grace; so He has promised and so He will do!

Last year, the Stewardship Committee (Chairman Dennis Oster, Prof. Pete Reim, Prof. Dan Schierenbeck, and Pastor Tiefel) was asked to focus its monthly inserts on anniversary thoughts. We published inserts until in-person worship was shut down in March. We are now continuing our series but are including our earlier inserts as well.

**II. Separation and Establishment** - When Gideon and his army were encamped against the Midianites, the LORD made a decision that would be judged ludicrous by human standards. Right before the battle, He drastically reduced the numbers of Gideon's army. Immediately, 22,000 men went home, leaving only 10,000. But He went even further, eventually reducing Gideon's troops to 300 men. And it was these 300 men who were up against the vast armies of the Midianites and Amalekites, which was "as numerous as locusts" (Judges 7:14). The LORD here defies human logic but makes clear His divine purpose. He wanted



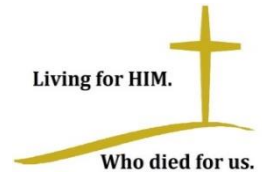
to make sure that Israel would not think they had saved themselves but instead would know without question that God delivered them. It is easy to imagine what our feelings might be if we were in Gideon's position, seeing wave after wave of men being sent home. It would be easy to despair, realizing that the odds for success were becomingly increasingly dire. Similarly, as we think back to the beginnings of Messiah congregation, we can recognize how easy it might have been for those founding members and pastors to fall into doubt and despair as they saw their numbers greatly reduced. But we can also see how Messiah's origins were like Gideon's army, small and humble but blessed with faithfulness to the Lord and dependent on His power.

Messiah Lutheran Church began in response to the promotion of false doctrine in two different Eau Claire churches from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). The pastors of these two congregations, Keith Olmanson and Arvid Gullerud, had carefully instructed their congregations regarding the ELS's continued joint work with the Missouri Synod, which had become guilty of promoting false teaching. Based on the teachings of Scripture, including the need to apply the "avoid" of Romans 16:17-18, members were led by the Holy Spirit to leave those congregations.

In overcoming their initial and perhaps greatest challenge, the members of what would become Messiah were guided, like Gideon, not by worldly concerns or logic. If so, they would have never made the painful and difficult decision to leave their church families, giving up all the comfort, friendship, and fellowship they had enjoyed throughout the years, not to mention the stability of synodical support or even the benefit of a church building. The founding members and pastors also resisted the idea of just giving up out of frustration. They did not, like the 22,000 of Gideon's army, give up the fight because they were "fearful and afraid." On the contrary, through the work of the Holy Spirit, they were humbled not by their challenging circumstances but by the Lord's powerful Word: **"These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word" (Isaiah 66:2b).**

The beginnings of Messiah Lutheran Church were quite humble. They worshipped in the basement of the Erle and Eleanor Boldon home for the first time on December 11, 1960, with 71 people in attendance. The size of this initial group, especially in comparison to our congregation's size now, is a good reminder for us. It is not the size of our congregation that should be our focus, but the blessing of gathering together with fellow Christians with the same beliefs and being promised Christ's presence: **"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20).** This small group, meeting in a basement, could not have predicted the ways in which the Lord would bless the preaching of his Word. Instead, they depended on His promise: **"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).**

We should recognize that, just like Gideon's victory over the Midianites, the history of our congregation is not a celebration of the work of our own hands but a testament to the LORD's power and His miraculous preservation of our faith in His continuing grace.



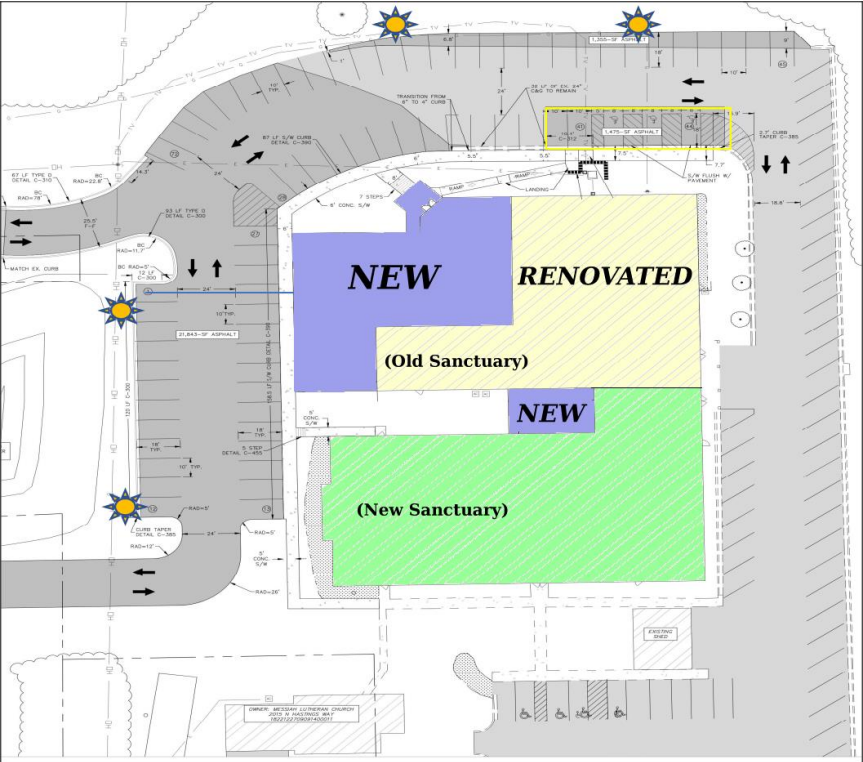
*Messiah Stewardship Committee - February 2021*

## **June Groundbreaking for School Expansion Project**

At the February 21 Voters' Meeting, the voters resolved to move ahead with our school expansion project, which will begin immediately after this school year ends. Some details:

- Our Building Committee reported on the final needs and plans for the project. These slides can be seen at [tinyurl.com/feb-21-MBC](https://tinyurl.com/feb-21-MBC). Increased costs were cited due to higher prices for building materials, as well as recent leaks in the old sanctuary roof, which needs extensive repair. The voters were advised of the need to increase the budget to \$1.8M to accomplish the project as presented.
- The voters were advised to make a decision now in order to lock in the submitted bids; a delay would likely mean that the project would have to be postponed for an entire year.
- There was appropriate and sober reflection on the great responsibility we are taking on together. So far this year our General Fund contributions are seriously behind our needs, and next year's budget will likely need another 7% increase to handle our monthly debt service to the CLC Church Extension Fund.
- Still, we were encouraged by God's grace and His consistent track record of providing for our needs through the willing support of our members. The resolution to go ahead with the expansion project this spring, with a budget of 1.8M, passed without a dissenting vote. With this budget, our initial goal to receive 25% in offerings has increased to \$450,000.
- If the project can begin on June 1, it is hoped that a substantial portion of our school will be available for use in late August or early September, with a probable project completion in November.
- June 1 is the proposed start date. We expect to have the portion in the **blue** box (first graphic on the next page) ready for use in late August or early September. Overall completion of the project is expected in November.

We pray for our LORD to bless these efforts by moving our hearts to support Christian education among us!



## Highlights from the Sunday, February 21 Special Voters' Meeting

The meeting began with a devotion and prayer. There were 50 present in person, with 8 joining via online video. <> **Membership:** Jack Mielke was received as a voting member. Rob Foeckler applied for voting membership. Motions carried to terminate the memberships of Chong Vang, Ger Vang, and Mai Ka Vang according to bylaw 2.08c. Each of these has been unresponsive to our attempts to serve him or her, and thus has removed him/herself from our spiritual care. A motion carried to terminate the membership of Sarah Joos at her request. A letter to be sent to Sarah from the congregation regarding her ongoing state of impenitence was read to the voters. The Elders emphasized the point made in our constitution that every member whose membership is terminated has *"...the deep concern of the congregation. Every effort shall be made to contact and meet with the member in order to offer patient, loving admonition as conveyed in Heb. 10:24-25, Col. 3:12-17 and other relevant Scriptures."* <> **Teacher call:** Having received the letter from Caleb Noeldner returning our call, the voters elected to call Nathan Wales, who most recently taught at Holy Trinity in West Columbia, SC, to serve as our 5-6 teacher. The vote was made unanimous. <> **Financial update:** Our Treasurer presented an analysis of contributions during 2020 and the first 7 weeks of 2021. Contributions to our General Fund are significantly short so far this year. He also reported that, beginning in 2022, the increase to our annual budget for mortgage payments on our building project would be between \$50K and \$60K, depending on final costs, volunteer labor, savings on interest from personal loans for the project, and other factors. Report documents can be seen at [tinyurl.com/feb-21-treas](http://tinyurl.com/feb-21-treas). <> **Building Committee:** A report was presented, highlighting final needs and plans for the school expansion project. These slides can be seen at [tinyurl.com/feb-21-MBC](http://tinyurl.com/feb-21-MBC). Increased costs were cited due to higher prices for building materials, as well as recent leaks in the old sanctuary roof, which needs extensive repair. The voters were advised of the need to increase the budget to \$1.8M to accomplish the project as presented. There is also the need to make a decision now in order to lock in the submitted bids; a delay would likely mean that the project would have to be postponed for an entire year. If the project can begin on June 1, it is hoped that a substantial portion of school will be available for use in late August or early September, with a probable project completion in November. There was measured and sober discussion about the heavy responsibility of taking on this project, the need for all our members to support it, and confidence in God's provision to see it through. A motion then carried to proceed with the proposed building project in 2021 with a budget of \$1.8M, with no dissenting votes. <> **Building Finance and Publicity Committee:** After discussing the financial implications of the project, the voters approved three motions: **1)** "That the congregation set as its goal at least 25% of the projected cost of the building project through contributions before groundbreaking." [this goal is now \$450,000] **2)** "That the Building Finance and Publicity Committee be authorized to enter into formal discussions with representatives of the CLC with plans to borrow an additional amount from the CLC Church Extension Fund not to exceed \$1,450,000 at a rate of no more than 3.5% on a 30-year loan." **3)** "That the Building Finance and Publicity Committee be authorized to request personal loans from members at interest rates up to 2%. (Personal loans would reduce the amount needed to borrow from the CLC Church Extension Fund.)" <> **The meeting was adjourned** at 8:37 pm with prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 1-6, 21.

**Mon Genesis 28:10-17** Jacob was hated by his brother and sent packing by his father on a 600 mile trek to distant relatives. He needed reassurance that he was not forsaken by God—despite the mess he had made of his life (10-11). So God came to his rescue (12-15), assuring him he would return home safely; being thus assured, Jacob vowed to dedicate Bethel as a worship center to the LORD God. [Question: In what ways does this fit our own experiences and resemble our own responses to God’s protection?]

**Tues Mark 8:31-38** Since we have made a mess of our lives, we need God’s help, too – and God has helped in the most astonishing way: He sent Jesus away from home to endure public shame and suffer an agonizing death. This goes to prove that God’s ways are higher than ours, and that He has not forsaken us. That’s the bottom line of our Lenten meditations.

**Wed Romans 5:1-11** Faith resembles a power cord *by/via which we have access to God’s grace*; it takes a heavy-duty cable to *glory in tribulations* (1-5), for instance. If we need reassurance that God has not forsaken us, here’s the basic outline of how much God loves us (6-11). In spite of the mess we may have made of our life, God does not hold it against us, but only against Jesus - - and He came through it all . . . successfully . . . for us (10-11).

**Thurs Psalm 73** There’s a story embedded in the shift of pronouns from *me/my/I* in verses 1-3 . . . to *they/them* in verses 4-12. Question: What do I/we possess that makes our life worthwhile (15-17)? Answer: We have God’s protection (25-27), whereas those who have turned their backs on God are headed for the worst future imaginable (27). We know how *good it is to draw near to God, to put our trust in Him* (28). Praise the Lord!

**Fri Peter** was impulsive (Mt. 14:28 and 17:4, John 21:7), presumptuous (Mt. 16:22), cowardly (Mt. 26:69-72), and slow to assimilate deep truths (Mt. 15:15-20), yet he confessed Christ (Mt. 16:16, John 6:68-69), and the Spirit strengthened him to present God’s plan of salvation (Acts 2:14-36) and defend it against attack (Acts 3:12-26, 4:8-12). Which goes to show that God often crafts raw material into something serviceable in His kingdom.

**Sat Acts 21:37-22:2** These verses may be of small doctrinal importance, yet they sparkle with dramatic energy. Note: First Paul asked if he were allowed to speak; he was. Then he clarified that he was not a threat to public safety, but a Roman citizen. Next he requested permission to address the crowd, and that was granted. He raised a hand-cuffed arm to request their attention, and he gained access to their hearts by his diplomatic greeting: “*Men, brethren, and fathers.*” God had well prepared Paul for such occasions.