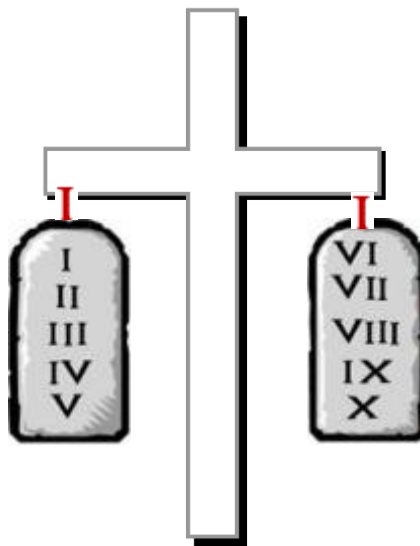




March 6-7, 2021
The Third
Weekend in Lent



¹³ And you... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

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

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 1.

Pre-Service Devotion: For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (**John 1:17**).

Hymns: 166 153 156 307 287:1,11,12

Part 1 (as Introit)

Pastor: The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

Cong: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

P: The Second Commandment

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not use His name to curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie, or deceive; but we should call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

P: The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of it; but we should regard God's Word as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

Part 2 (as Gradual)

Pastor: The Fourth Commandment

You shall honor your father and your mother that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not despise nor anger our parents or superiors; but we should honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.**

P: The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder

What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor's body; but we should help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.**

P: The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we live a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor one another.**

P: The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, nor get them in a dishonest way; but we should help him to improve and protect his property and way of making a living.**

Weekend Scripture Reading Series:

The Account of Jesus' Suffering and Death according to Luke

Part 3 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel22:31-44

³¹ And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." ³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." ³⁵ And He said to them, "When I sent

you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing."³⁶ Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one."³⁷ "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end."³⁸ So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."³⁹ Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him.⁴⁰ When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."⁴¹ And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

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 4 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel22:45-53

⁴⁵ When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"⁴⁹ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.⁵¹ But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs?"⁵³ "When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Part 3 (as Confession of Faith)

Pastor: The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

- C:** **We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or say anything that might ruin his good name and reputation; but we should defend him, speak well of him, and explain all his words and actions in the best possible way.**

P: The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

- C:** **We should fear and love God that we do not sinfully desire to get our neighbor's inheritance or house by a trick or in a way that appears to be right; but we should do everything we can to help him keep what is his.**

P: The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his workers, nor his animals, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

What does this mean?

- C:** **We should fear and love God that we do not sinfully desire to use tricks or force, or do anything that might cause our neighbor to lose his wife, workers, or animals; but we should urge them to stay and do their duty.**

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.



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

Sermon TextExodus 20:1-17

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Sermon Theme: The road to heaven passes Mt. Sinai but ends at Mt. Calvary.

I. In love the LORD God at Sinai reveals the depths of our sin, we are condemned.

II. In love the LORD God at Calvary puts all that sin on Jesus, we are forgiven.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel

This Week at Messiah

Masks required indoors by government mandate.

Sunday services live-streamed/archived at eauclairemessiah.com.

Sun, 3/7 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #8, Counters H)
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

Tue, 3/9 6:30 pm Elders

Wed, 3/10 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
6:30 pm 4th Lenten Service (Ushers #2)

Fri, 3/12 6:30 pm Board of Property

Sat, 3/13 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #3)
7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

Sun, 3/14 **Daylight Savings**
9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #4, Counters A)
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults
11:15 am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

(Note: The CLC Grade School Tournament scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled.)

Coming Up: • Mar 21, Special Voters' Meeting after Bible Class

Announcements

Bible Class, this weekend we continue our study in Genesis. (The first four-part study was in February of 2020.)

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: Join us Sunday morning for our continuing 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 witnesses this week will be Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and King Herod.

Special Voters' Meeting: is being called for March 21st, right after Bible Class to consider some soul care matters and to issue a call for next year's 5-6th teacher.

In the Congregation

We thank the LORD, along with Josh and Heidi Beekman, for His gift to them of Cameron Rae, who was born on February 25. We are even more thankful for God's gift to Cameron of the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism, which was administered by her father on February 28 at their home. We ask for the LORD's continued blessings on Cameron and her family!

*"Gracious Head, Thy member own; Shepherd, take Thy lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Thy throne; Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever From Thy side this branch forever." Amen.*

TLH 300:4

An Additional Thank you goes also to the LORD for blessing Peter and Megan Johnston with the gift of Silas Matthew, born in the early hours of March 5. Plans are being made for a baptism next weekend.



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



Bible Readings – Luke's passion history, parts 5-6

Sermon Text – Ephesians 2:4-10

Bible Class – Genesis Part 7, "Lessons from the Patriarchs on selecting a spouse"

CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

Wednesday 3/10 6:30 pm: Usher Team 2

Dan Sydow	Bryce Sydow
Ethan Sydow	Noah Sydow
Adam Schmid	Jerry LeDuc
Steve Mielke	

Saturday 3/13 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3

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

Sunday 3/14 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 3/14 – A

Jim Lau, Gary Meyer, Dan Kelly

Thank you!

Our call returned: *"Dear Members at Messiah Eau Claire, At this time, the Lord has led me to return your call to teach grades 5-6. I am confident He will continue to bless your school and to fulfill your needs as He sees fit. "Be still and know that I am God." - A promise like this makes any uncertain time or decision so much easier to work through. Don't you agree? Your brother in Christ, Nathan Wales."*

Messiah's voters will meet on March 21st to call for this position. Please pray for the LORD to provide us with the teacher of His choice.

In the Hospital: MJ Stewart underwent knee replacement surgery on March 3, and will remain hospitalized for several days. We pray for her relief from pain and for her progress in recovery. **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).

*We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross;
The sinners' Hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.*

*Inscribed upon that cross we see
In shining letters "God is Love."
He bears our sins upon the tree,
He brings us mercy from above. Amen.*

TLH 178:1&2

New enrollment code for Shopwithscrip.com - If you intend to help support our school expansion project through our Scrip program, please note that the enrollment code that you use to set up an account has changed. The new enrollment code is now 23BLC4CB66374. Sorry for any confusion. The second page of our "Messiah School Builders Newsletter" has been updated, and provides details on how to get started. You may see the the newsletter at tinyurl.com/mbuilders-02-21.

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ February 27 & 28, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 98 - Sun. 102) 200

Bible Class: (Sat. 25 - Sun. 29) 54 Sunday School: (Sat. 3 - Sun. na) na

Online: (Worship: 252, ILC Streaming: 9, Bible Class: 69)

Young Adults: 21 Ruth's Retreat: 14

Lent Service 3/3 6:30 pm: 105, Online: 69, ILC Streaming: 33

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$134,654.00	\$34,615.00
YTD Offerings	\$104,625.94	\$30,250.75
Weekly Need	\$15,660.00	\$3,948.00
Last Week (2/28)	\$14,250.50	\$4,542.00
Amount Still Needed	\$673,374.06	\$169,749.25

Building Fund	
\$450,000.00	Goal
\$427,861.94	Received to Date
\$22,138.06	Still Needed
\$4,060.00	Last Week (2/28)

Given in memory of...

Erle & Eleanor Boldon

Bea Gerbitz

Ed Trapp

250.00 Messiah Building Fund

25.00 ILC Student Aid

25.00 Messiah Building Fund



Request for Personal Loans for the Building Fund To All Members of Messiah Lutheran

[Note that this same paper form can be found in each member's church mailbox]

As plans are finalized for the new building project, we are at the stage where we need to identify personal loans available from individual families within the congregation. The Voters gave direction for construction to begin later this spring.

As noted previously, our goal for contributions to the Building Fund is \$450,000. The remainder of the costs will be borrowed from the CLC Church Extension Fund (CEF), as well as through personal loans. While we know the majority of the funds will come with the CEF loan, there will be a significant interest savings, as well as a reduction in our annual budget, by means of personal loans from the congregation. The first bills will come due with the start of construction, so the goal is to have all of our funding sources aligned prior to that.

Time is of the essence, so if you are able to provide an unsecured loan to Messiah to help pay for the building project, please complete the loan offer below by April 15th and return it to the church mailbox of Steve Lentz, or mail to:

Messiah Lutheran Church, Attn. Steve Lentz
2015 N Hastings Way
Eau Claire, WI 54703

[you may also contact Steve Lentz via email at slentz1952@gmail.com]

NAME _____

	Loan Amount	Interest Rate
5-Year Term at an annual rate of up to 1.5%	\$ _____	% _____
10-Year Term at an annual rate of up to 2%	\$ _____	% _____

Please do not send a check at this time. Date Funds Available: _____

Interest payments will be paid annually on the anniversary date of the loan. Notes may be repaid or renewed at end of term, and are also repayable on demand (within 30 days). You will be contacted at a later date to complete this lending process. Thank you!

From the Board of Deacons, on Our Current Worship Policies in View of COVID-19 Restrictions - March 6, 2021

During the summer of 2020, Messiah offered a choice of services, one with a mask requirement and one with masks optional. This changed in August, when the government made masks obligatory. We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to make a mask-optional service available again, both legally and safely.

God's Word teaches that we are ordinarily obligated to obey the laws of our government, whether federal, state, or local (Rom 13:1, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13, etc.). To the best of our knowledge, there is no Bible teaching that would overrule a requirement by the government to wear a cloth face covering during a worship service as a precaution against transmitting a virus. Even under these circumstances we still have the blessed freedom to gather for worship according to God's Word. For that we thank the LORD.

It is sometimes a difficult matter to determine when a Christian can, in good conscience, disobey an order from the government. It is plain that, if the government were to forbid something that God commands or to command something that God forbids, we should obey God instead (*"We must obey God rather than men,"* Acts 5:29.) At other times it may be difficult to determine who the authority actually is, or whether they have such authority at all. As a church, it is not our purpose to make rulings on such matters when it comes to public health regulations; that is something for the courts to decide. Our policy will continue to follow the laws that are in effect by requiring masks at our worship services, and by allowing exceptions for those who have qualifying mask exemptions (See Emergency Order #1, 3.B, at www.evers.wi.gov/Documents/COVID19/Em001-FaceCoverings.pdf).

We recognize that people can have differing opinions about the effectiveness and advisability of mask mandates. In all these things, it is important for us to keep in mind our Lord's direction to *"Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love."* (Ephesians 4:1-2) Our Board of Deacons welcomes all comments, questions, and concerns from our members as we continue to review and update our policy.

*"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love,
in honor giving preference to one another." (Romans 12:10)*

Messiah's Board of Deacons: Jon Sandeen, Chairman - (701) 306-3367

Aaron Durst - (715) 235-0552

Matt Kelly - (715) 497-4222

Steve Naumann - (715) 210-8734

Jim Sandeen - (715) 379-7789

Dan Sullivan - (646) 388-1716

Pastor Naumann (715) 864-3465

Pastor Schaller - (715) 577-6199

Pastor Tiefel - (715) 829-2000

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 8-13, '21.

Mon Exodus 20:1-17 God said it plain and simple: “You should not be doing idolatry, throwing dirt on My good name, disrespecting life, marriage, and your neighbor’s property, dissing his good name or coveting his possessions; also, respect My gifts of Sabbath and your parents.” Because those sinners didn’t recognize how bad they were, God spelled it out. Read it and weep!

Tues John 2:13-22 God wants respect for Himself and His house of worship—but Jesus found repulsive conditions in the Jerusalem Temple. The purpose of the Temple and the function of bloody sacrifices escaped them; they failed to see that the sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God was implied. And Easter was a closed book until God opened it and read it out loud and clear (18-22).

Wed I Corinthians 1:22-25 It’s old-fashion to expect God to prove Himself by doing miracles, and new-fashion to expect God to conduct His business in a rational manner. So God surpasses both expectations: He demoted Himself, putting Himself so low that He endured the worst that humans can do to one another (Christ crucified)--which doesn’t look like a glorious miracle nor a reasonable thing for God to be doing. Praise God for having the last word!

Thurs Psalm 19 God’s Universe has the first word, declaring His existence and power (1-6). If you want to know more about God, pay attention to what He has put into print about Himself (7-10). And don’t ignore your errors, faults, sins, and transgressions (11-13), as you approach the throne of grace asking that your repentance be *acceptable in His sight*. Have mercy on us, O Lord, *our strength and our Redeemer*, for Jesus’ sake! Amen.

Fri Matthew 21:12-13 Evidently the entrepreneurs picked up the pieces and moved right back in—where Jesus found them again three years later. Since Jesus seldom raised His hand against anyone, we deduce that this situation really provoked Him. That’s why we are scrupulously careful to avoid using secular ventures to support our spiritual endeavors. Lord, have mercy!

Sat Acts 22:3-16 Paul justified his conduct in the Temple by a quick review of his devotion to Judaism; he was neither a drop-out from seminary (3) nor a wimp in putting his religion into practice by persecuting Christians (4-5).

Then God stopped him in his tracks.

God knocked him off his high horse, flattened him, blinded him, and forced him to face the ultimate question: “WHY are you persecuting ME? You have made yourself MY enemy, and I want to know why.” Well, since Paul had no defense, he surrendered. From then on, God led him by the hand, bringing him into the Kingdom and into Christian fellowship (10-16).

The world has never been the same; praise the Lord!