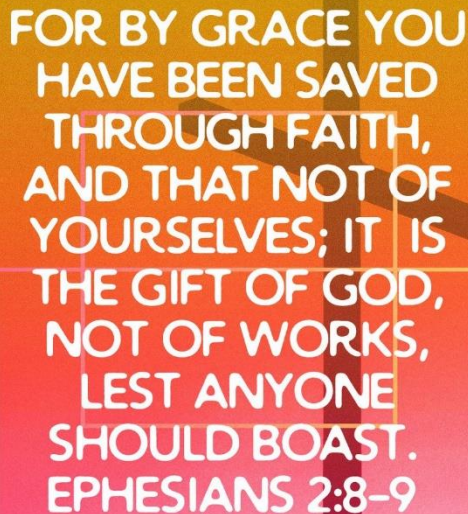




March 13-14, 2021  
The Fourth  
Weekend in Lent



FOR BY GRACE YOU  
HAVE BEEN SAVED  
THROUGH FAITH,  
AND THAT NOT OF  
YOURSELVES; IT IS  
THE GIFT OF GOD,  
NOT OF WORKS,  
LEST ANYONE  
SHOULD BOAST.  
EPHESIANS 2:8-9

## 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 14.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8 ESV)

**Hymns:**            358            778            779            367

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

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

#### **Part 5 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel .....22:54-62**

<sup>54</sup> Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup> And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." <sup>57</sup> But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." <sup>58</sup> And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" <sup>59</sup> Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." <sup>62</sup> So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

#### **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 6 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel .....22:63-23:7**

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. <sup>64</sup> And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" <sup>65</sup> And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him. <sup>66</sup> As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, <sup>67</sup> "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell

you, you will by no means believe.<sup>68</sup> "And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go."<sup>69</sup> "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."<sup>70</sup> Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."<sup>71</sup> And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."<sup>23:1</sup> Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate.<sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."<sup>3</sup> Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say."<sup>4</sup> So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."<sup>5</sup> But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean.<sup>7</sup> And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

**Sermon Text ..... Ephesians 2:4-10 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**“Understanding the Gift of Salvation”**

- 1. From hopeless to heaven, because of his love.
- 2. He saved us, to love us more in heaven.
- 3. We’ve contributed nothing to our salvation.
- 4. The Christian is God’s creative work.



Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller



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.



**Communion Announcement:** Since the Lord's Supper implies a unity of faith and confession, we ask that those who have not previously participated with us in the Lord's Supper meet first with the pastor to discuss our Scriptural doctrine before partaking of the Lord's Supper in our services. In this practice of closed communion, we seek to follow and obey the Word of God.

## *This Week at Messiah*

**Masks required indoors by government mandate.**

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

**Sun, 3/14**

**Daylight Savings** (turn clocks forward the night before)

9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #4, Counters A)

10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School

No Young Adults

11:15 am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

**Mon, 3/15**

**Spring Break Week – No School (Messiah/ILC)**

**Tues 3/16**

6:30 pm Messiah Mutual Support Group (see below)

**Wed, 3/17**

4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism

6:30 pm 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service (Ushers #5)

7:30 pm Deacons

**Sat, 3/13**

6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #7)

7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

**Sun, 3/21**

9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters B)

10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School

**No Young Adults**

11:15 am **Special Voters' Meeting**

**Coming Up:**

- Mar 28, Palm Sunday
- Apr 1, Maundy Thursday
- Apr 2, Good Friday
- Apr 4, Easter Sunday



## *Announcements*

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

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** will not take place on 3/14 or 3/21. We will resume after that.

**Messiah’s voters** will meet on Sunday, March 21, immediately after Bible class, to call for a 5-6 grade teacher. Membership matters will also be addressed. Please pray for the LORD to provide us with the teacher of His choice.

**Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek theme, “An Inquest into the Death of Jesus,” continues this Wednesday at 6:30 pm (also live streamed). This week we will be recalling Roman Governor Pontius Pilate for more questioning.

**Easter Worship Schedule** - This year there will be three identical Easter worship services: Saturday, April 3 at 6:30 pm; Sunday, April 4 at 9:00 am; and **Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 am**. Please note that there will be no separate sunrise service this year. ALSO - since we usually have a large attendance on Easter Sunday, and we may have trouble seating everyone due to social distancing limitations, we are **asking our members to consider attending the 11 am service**, so that the 9 am service will not be overcrowded. Thank you!



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



***Bible Readings*** – Luke’s passion history, parts 7-8  
Sermon Text – John 12:20-33

***Bible Class*** – Genesis Part 8, “Lessons from the Patriarchs on parenting”

**CHRISTIANS SERVING US:**

***Wednesday 3/17 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5***

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

***Saturday 3/20 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7***

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

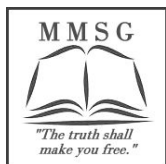
***Sunday 3/21 9:00 am: Usher Team 6***

Darin Oster	Ben Oster
Tim Oster	Jeremy Plath
Isaiah Plath	Gabe Plath
Andrew Plath	

**Counters for the week following 3/21 – B**  
Jeremy Gurgel, Paul Heinze, Nathan Quade

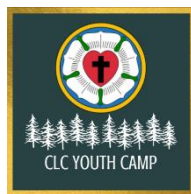
***Thank you!***

**CLC News:** Jessica Krueger has accepted the call by Faith, Markesan, WI to be upper grade teacher. Jessica is a member of Faith who is presently teaching in the public school.



**The Messiah Mutual Support Group** is made up of Messiah members who have been in successful recovery from substance or behavioral addictions, as well as those who are now struggling. We will next meet on Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 pm. With the powerful Word of God and the support of fellow Christians, the Lord has given great hope and progress to many through this group since it first began to meet about eight years ago. Those who come can be assured of proper confidentiality. If you or someone you know may benefit from this program, please contact Pastor Bruce Naumann, by phone or text (715) 864-3465, or by email at [brucenaumann@gmail.com](mailto:brucenaumann@gmail.com), for more information. For a more detailed online description of what this group is about, see [www.tinyurl.com/mmsg-intro](http://www.tinyurl.com/mmsg-intro).

**Youth Camp at Camp Jim in Pillager, MN** is currently a “go” for June 13-19, 2021. Because of spacing restrictions in Minnesota, attendance at this point is limited to those entering 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall of 2021. Should restrictions be lifted, the camp directors will be ready to open registration to those entering 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade as well. Initial registration date for Grades 9-12 will be on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 3:00 p.m. Central. Because of COVID uncertainties, no registration fee will be due at that time. Cost to be paid at a later date will be \$180 per camper. Watch for a registration reminder and web address in the coming weeks.



**Trip to Israel** - A group trip to Israel, which had been planned for January 2021, has been postponed to January 2022. The dates are now set for January 11-20, 2022 with a possible three day extension to Jordan for those who are interested. Brochures with trip details are available upon request. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Nathanael Mayhew (404-729-4602 or [nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com](mailto:nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com)). FYI, the tentative plan is to organize group trips to Greece which would follow in the steps of the Apostle Paul and the journeys recorded in Acts (2023), and a trip to Germany to visit historic Reformation sites and history (2025).

### **Address/Phone Updates:**

Emily Johannes  
700 Gibson Dr #1223  
Roseville, CA 95678

David and Jennifer Brown Family  
708 N 6th St  
Cameron, WI 54822

Zach Franson 715-544-8787

**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 newsletter at [tinyurl.com/mbuilders-02-21](http://tinyurl.com/mbuilders-02-21).

**Messiah ILHS Student Grant Fund:** Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go, And even when he is old he will not depart from it."* The members of Messiah recognize the importance of Christian education for the youth of our congregation, and the blessing of having Immanuel Lutheran High School (ILHS) available to aid in that education for our children. For this reason, Messiah has established the ILHS Student Grant Fund for those families that need financial assistance for their children to take advantage of the Christian education available through ILHS. If you intend to apply for financial aid from the Messiah ILHS Student Grant Fund, an application **MUST** be submitted to the ILHS Student Grant Fund Committee by May 1. You may contact Pastor Tiefel or David Johannes (715-379-9987 or [Bitbybitcomputer@gmail.com](mailto:Bitbybitcomputer@gmail.com)) for more information. We are currently supporting 9 students this year. Contributions for this current year are holding steady. Any contributions above what we need this year will be applied to next year's grant recipients. Please keep this fund in your prayers.

### **The Porkies Youth Camp-Out:**

- August 11-15, 2021
- For Grades 8-12
- Camp fee \$85 (from EC) or \$95 (from MN). Lodging and meals are included in this fee.



We'll camp at the Union Bay group campsite on Lake Superior. Activities will include devotions, group discussions, hiking, swimming, beach time, lots of different games, and many other activities. It's okay if you haven't camped before, we'll help you learn! We have a limit of 48 campers. Registration deadline is Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Transportation will be provided from Eau Claire, WI. Once registration has closed, we'll send packing lists and forms to be completed by a parent or guardian. Check out the **Porcupine Mountains Camp-Out** Facebook page to see pictures of previous outings. You'll find a registration link on the Facebook page, or you can scan this code. **Questions? Contact Adam Schmid:** (608) 386-3714 [aschmidy2003@gmail.com](mailto:aschmidy2003@gmail.com)



## CLC Financial Report - February

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2020	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 8 Months	Balance 2/28/2021
<b>General Fund</b>	0	653,738	691,011	731,600	-37,273
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	948,810	851,668	918,760	97,142
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	201,448	17,371	124,243		94,576
ILC Building Projects (AC/Dorm)	14,542	2,089,388	1,069,423		1,034,507
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	84,054	164,227	120,844		127,437
Kinship	86,093	132,141	80,116		138,118
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,914,371	1,838,601	427,809		3,325,163
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	84,280	89,854	88,607		85,527
Reserve Fund	294,092	27,721	0		321,813
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,678,880</b>	<b>\$4,359,303</b>	<b>\$1,911,042</b>		<b>\$5,127,141</b>

**General Fund** – February offerings of \$65,295 vs disbursements of \$75,327, resulted in a net shortfall for the month of \$10,031, and increased the General Fund deficit to -\$37,273. Offerings to date are falling short of our CBP estimated revenue needs by \$77,862, but General Fund disbursements are \$40,589 less than estimated expenses, partly due to our boards' efforts to hold down expenses. We share the confidence of David: *"I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."* (Ps 37:25) The Lord always provides for His people!

**ILC Operations** – February revenue of \$112,933 (incl \$49,500 subsidy) vs disbursements of \$111,105; 8 months through the fiscal year, disbursements are \$67,000 below YTD estimated needs.

**ILC Building Projects** – February offerings of \$435 vs disbursements of \$567 for the Building Planning Committee expenses. Earnings (dividends/interest) for 8 months are \$52,548. The Committee is preparing a recommendation for the June 24 CLC Convention for a new gym and repurposing ILC's 50-year-old gym for ILC/CLC gatherings: Musicals, Graduation, Conventions, etc.

**CEF** – February revenue of \$24,331 (congregation monthly loan payments) vs disbursements of \$251,500 (\$96,850 for 5 individual CEF Notes paid off, \$21,900 semi-annual Note interest paid, and \$132,750 for Grace, Sleepy Eye CEF loan to purchase a teacherage. Two other congregations plan to submit loan applications soon. The Trustees 20-year mortgage (\$131,300) on the Claymore Lane professorage was paid off in February.

**MDF** – February offerings of \$18,399 vs disbursements of \$11,622, which includes the 9th \$10,000 construction grant (of 12 planned) for the Nepal Bible Institute classroom building and quarters.

**SAF** – Feb receipts of \$9,771 vs disbursements of \$8,933 for student loans & grants. The SAF Endowment Account earnings (Div & Int) for 8 mo YTD are \$27,045 on an endowment portfolio of \$1,438,942.

**ILC PMPG** – Public Ministry Prep Grants: YTD receipts of \$38,836 vs a grant of \$32,400 to 9 teacher & 6 pastor students this school year, preparing to be CLC teachers & pastors. The PMP Endowment investments of \$1.7 million has provided earnings of \$33,244 to the PMPG for FY21 year to date.

**Kinship** – Congregation offerings of \$22,353 vs disbursements of \$599 (Admin, Students, Widows).

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

**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 ~ March 6 & 7, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 92 - Sun. 143) 235

Communion: (Sat. 72 - Sun. 121) 193

Bible Class: (Sat. 20 - Sun. 32) 52      Sunday School: (Sat. na - Sun. na) na

Online: (Worship: 229, ILC Streaming: 13, Bible Class: 65)

Young Adults: 24

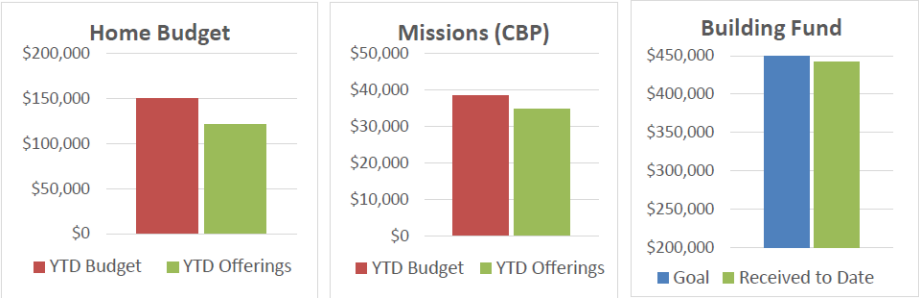
Lent Service 3/10 6:30 pm: 123, Online: 151, ILC Streaming: 32

## Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)	Building Fund	
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$450,000.00	Goal
YTD Budget	\$149,615.00	\$38,462.00	\$441,864.19	Received to Date
YTD Offerings	\$121,609.44	\$34,789.50	\$8,135.81	Still Needed
Weekly Need	\$15,628.00	\$3,934.00		
Last Week (3/7)	\$16,982.50	\$4,538.75		
Amount Still Needed	\$656,390.56	\$165,210.50	\$5,890.00	Last Week (3/7)

Given in memory of...

Bea Gerbitz	50.00 Messiah Building Fund
Bea Gerbitz	25.00 Mission Development Fund
Bea Gerbitz	50.00 ILC Student Aid
Ron & Eunice Roehl	25.00 Messiah Building Fund
Ed Trapp	25.00 Messiah Building Fund
Ed Trapp	50.00 Mission Development Fund



## **What's Good about the Public Ministry?**

Number Six • June 2020

# **It Serves the On-Going Spiritual Needs of the Flock.**

**T**his month we consider the sixth and final reason the public ministry is a good thing. The ministry of Christian pastors and teachers is a good thing because it serves the on-going spiritual needs of the flock. Our text is 1 Corinthians 4:1:

**“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” (ESV)**

The called servant of the Word, Paul says, is “a servant of Christ.” The word for “servant” here in the Greek has a picturesque history behind it. It was used originally of the under-rowers in the ancient ships--those men who would tug on the oars in strict time to the drum beats of the deck master. In a similar way, the called pastor or teacher is serving under his divine Master, Jesus Christ, and is to carry on his work in strict agreement with the Word and will of Jesus Christ.

But it is especially the second phrase of our text which is our concern. The pastor or teacher is also “a steward of the mysteries of God.” The “mysteries of God” are those precious truths of salvation which have been revealed to mankind in Holy Scripture. And what does it mean to be a steward of these Gospel truths? Christ spells this out in more detail when He speaks of such a steward as a servant to whom the master had entrusted his goods and whose responsibility it was to give to the members of the household “food at the proper time” (Matt. 24:45). In a similar way the Christian pastor or teacher has been entrusted by Christ with the Word of God, and it is his responsibility under Christ to give to each member of the flock that nourishment from God’s Word which he needs at any particular time.

There are many ways in which Christ provides for the on-going spiritual needs of His Christians through these called servants: Through the called servant of the Word, Christ goes out after that

person who has fallen from faith and is walking the broad road that leads to destruction, and brings him back to repentance and faith through the preaching of the Law and Gospel. Through the called servant of the Word, Christ gives comfort to that man or woman or child who is pressed down by troubles of one kind or another. Through the called servant of the Word, Christ raises up that member who is crushed down by his sin, by assuring him that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Rom. 5:20). Through the called servant of the Word, Christ proclaims to all those who are burdened with their sin and its consequences: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28).

What's good, then, about the pastoral or teaching ministry? It's good because through this stewardship of the Word of God it serves the on-going spiritual needs of the flock. What can compare to the blessed satisfaction of comforting a troubled sinner with words like these: "Even as David had forgiveness for his adultery and murder, and Peter had forgiveness for his denial of Christ, so also do you have the forgiveness of all your sins through the blood and righteousness of your Savior"! What can compare to the happy joy there is in the classroom of teaching a little child to sing: "I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am"! What can compare to the high privilege of preparing a fellow saint to meet death with confidence: "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:55, 57)!

Every pastor and Christian teacher will of course live through times of difficulty and discouragement. But when they consider how the Lord through them is serving the ongoing spiritual needs of the flock--those eternal needs that are the most important needs of all--then they will each surely join the Apostle Paul in saying: "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15: 10)--it is by God's undeserved love that I received a call into the public ministry and by that same undeserved love I have continued to serve. How good indeed is the public ministry! Amen.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 15-20, '21.

**Mon Numbers 21:4-9** The good LORD intended to detour His people around Edom and not trample over their cousins (descendants of Esau), but that didn't sit well with people who saw the detour as more tedious miles and further months of bland manna. So they needed and received another dose of God's tough love, bringing them to repent (4-7). Then God provided an anti-venom serum that was free, available, no standing in line or making an appointment for a dose of God's curative: just open your eyes and heart to God's cure for Satan's poison, as per Genesis 3:14-15.

**Tues John 3:14-21** Nicodemus failed to make the connection, so Jesus made it for him (and for us) – that the brass serpent was an image of Jesus Himself, who would be lifted up in the wilderness of sin, who is God's antidote to Satan's poison, who can save souls from perishing in pain, and who is able to bestow eternal life. Let's trust God on this -- Jesus saves!

**Wed Ephesians 2:4-10** Who is responsible for saving lost souls? God. But why does God bother? Because *He is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses*. Really? Yes, God *had compassion* on corpses and resolved to *make us alive together with Jesus and raise us up from the grave together with Jesus and make us sit together with Jesus in heaven*. **Together with Jesus** all the way!!

**Thurs Psalm 38** David lets us eavesdrop on this conversation with the LORD, and what he has to say about himself makes us cringe (1-8). We see that his soul is being tugged first one way—and then the other way (9-14), but we also see that he can't let himself be torn away from the LORD (15-20).

“LORD God, I need Your help! Help me! HELP!”

**Fri John 12:27-36** Jesus lets us eavesdrop on this prayer to His Father, and we hear that He felt depressed in heart and soul. He was pressured to the point of asking: “Is there an easier way out for Me, easier than horrific crucifixion?” But that would sabotage everything – so Jesus let it rest under the umbrella “*Glorify Your name.*” That is, “No matter how unbearable things get for ME, I want Your good name to be honored by what I do.”

I thank You, dear Savior, for bearing the unbearable for me.

**Sat Acts 22:17-21** God had rescued Saul/Paul from his death spiral, but he needed more stabilizing -- so Jesus set him straight about putting his past behind him, avoiding confrontation with hostile Jews in Satan's backyard, but rather pack his duffel bag and go far afield into foreign lands to bring non-Jews into touch with God's redeeming love via Jesus Christ.

Stay tuned for further developments.