



March 27-28, 2021  
Palm Sunday



**Ride on, ride on, in majesty! The angel armies of the  
sky,  
Look down with sad and wondering eyes, To see the  
approaching Sacrifice.**

**TLH 162:6**

## **Messiah Lutheran Church & School**

2015 N Hastings Way  
Eau Claire, WI 54703 ~ 715-834-2865  
Affiliated with the *Church of the Lutheran  
Confession* ~ CLC

**Large-print copies are by the guest  
book.**

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

## Today's Worship

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

**Pre-Service Devotion:** [Jesus said] "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." (Matthew 20:18-19)

<b>Hymns:</b>	725	162	367	438:4-5
		161		

**Weekend Scripture Reading Series:**  
***The Account of Jesus' Suffering and Death according to Luke***

### **Part 9 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel** .....**23:32-43**

<sup>32</sup> There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. <sup>33</sup> And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." <sup>38</sup> And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." <sup>40</sup> But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? <sup>41</sup> "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has

done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

**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 10 of the Savior's Passion from Luke's Gospel**  
.....**23:44-56**

<sup>44</sup> Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. <sup>45</sup> Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. <sup>47</sup> So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" <sup>48</sup> And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. <sup>49</sup> But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. <sup>50</sup> Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. <sup>51</sup> He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before. <sup>54</sup> That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near. <sup>55</sup> And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. <sup>56</sup> Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

## Sermon Text.....Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Sermon Theme:** The unseen facts behind the death of Jesus

1. Good News: No one can go (nor needs to) as low as Jesus went
2. Bad News: No one can go as high as Jesus has gone.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel

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## ***This Week at Messiah***

**Masks required indoors by government mandate.  
Sunday services live-streamed/archived at  
[eauclairemessiah.com](http://eauclairemessiah.com).**

**Sun, 3/28** 9:00 am      Worship Service (Ushers #2,  
Counters C)

10:15 am

Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

2:00 pm

## Youth Group: Assembling Easter Booklets

**Thur, 4/1** 6:30 pm      Maundy Thursday Communion  
Service (Ushers #3)

**Fri, 4/2** 6:30 pm

## Good Friday Service (Ushers #4)

**Sat, 4/3** 6:30 pm

Easter Service (Ushers #5)  
No Bible Class/Sunday School/Young Adults

**Sun, 4/4** 9:00 am

## Easter Service (Ushers #6)

11:00 am

Easter Service (Ushers #8,  
Counters D)  
No Bible Class/Sunday School/Young Adults

*(Private Communion available after each Easter service.)*

**Coming Up:** • Apr 9, ILC Tour Choir Concert 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm



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



**Sermon Text** – Mark 16:1-8, **Bible Class** – No Bible Class

## CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

**Thursday 4/1 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3**

**Friday 4/2 6:30 pm: Usher Team 4**

Gary Meyer	Blane Knutson	Dave Johannes	Joel Gullerud
Luke Knutson	Tom Beekman	Kevin Hulke	Jeff Rutz
Jon Oster	Jack Mielke	Brent Rutz	Britten Rutz
		Carter Rutz	

***Saturday 4/3 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5***

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

***Sunday 4/4 9:00 am: Usher Team 6***

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

***Sunday 4/4 11:00 am: Usher Team 8***

Paul Heinze	Seth Schaller
Christian Schaller	Tim Schaller
Jim Sandeen	Peter Reim
Dave Cavanaugh	

**Counters for the week following 4/4 – D**

Joel Carstensen, Dave Johannes, Matt Kelly

*Thank you!*

## ***Announcements***

**Bible Class this weekend:** Pastor Tiefel will conclude his current portion of the book of Genesis, with “Lessons from the Patriarchs on Parenting.” Adult Bible class, as well as Sunday School, will be on break for Easter weekend.

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

- **Maundy Thursday:** 6:30 pm. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
- **Good Friday:** 6:30 pm.
- **Saturday, April 3:** Easter worship at 6:30 pm.
- **Easter Sunday:** 9 am and 11 am worship (all three services identical, and private Communion will be available following each service)

**Note** that our regular Communion worship service will be celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd weekends in April. **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!

**The Messiah Youth Group** is going to assemble Easter booklets for nursing home residents this **Sunday, March 28th**,

**from 2pm - 3:30pm.** Any questions you may contact Kari Behlmer and the Messiah Youth Group Committee at 715-797-2570.

**The Night in which He was betrayed:** These words are familiar to any communicant. They set the context for the first Lord's Supper – and every celebration since. The Lord's Supper is a powerful reminder that the body of Jesus is really present with the bread and the blood of Jesus is really present with the wine and are given by the Savior to assure the communicant of the forgiveness of all sins. It is also an opportunity for the communicant to “proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.” In reality, the communicant is preaching a sermon about the birth, life, death, Resurrection and impending return of Jesus.

These are some of the truths which form part of the self-examination of which the Spirit speaks. (1 Corinthians 11) Once a year we have the opportunity to receive Sacrament on the very day of its institution – this week at the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm.

**ILC Tour Choir reservations** - The choir will present two concerts at Messiah on Friday, April 9, at 5 pm and 7:30 pm. We have limited seating due to social distancing requirements. Requests will be honored on a first-come first-serve basis, with preference given to immediate family members of the choir. We will begin taking reservations at 7 pm this Monday, March 29. There are two ways to RSVP. The preferred method is by an online form at [tinyurl.com/tc-rsvp-4-9](https://tinyurl.com/tc-rsvp-4-9). The alternate method is to call the church office phone at 715-834-2865. We will advise you if space has run out, or if seating at an alternate time is available.

## ***In the Congregation***

**The Greatest Vaccine Ever!** A brochure describing the vaccine for COVID claimed that one benefit was that it was “93% effective at preventing hospitalization and 100% effective at preventing death.” “100% effective at preventing death”? That is an interesting phrase. Obviously the context indicates that it is talking about 100% effective at preventing death from COVID, still quite a claim. But what if there was a vaccine that actually could prevent death from anything and everything? That would be the greatest discovery in the history of the world.

And yet that is exactly what is happening this week in history. On Palm Sunday Jesus starts the final path to the cross on Good



Friday where He will by His death destroy the power of death that the devil held over us (Heb. 2:14-15). He will taste death for every sinner (Heb. 2:9). He will abolish death and bring life and immortality to light through the Gospel (2 Tim. 1:10). No amount of human effort could accomplish what Jesus will get done on Good Friday. That is the gift of love that God has given to the world.

*He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord; He opened Death's prison,*

*the Incarnate Word. Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song,*

*And, earth, sea, and mountain, the paeon prolong.*

*Oh, where is thy sting, Death? We fear thee no more; Christ rose, and now open*

*is fair Eden's door. For all our transgressions His blood does atone;*

*Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own. Amen.*

TLH 198:1&4

**Did you know?** - The weekend church bulletin is usually available online on the Friday evening prior to the services. At that time you can use this link to get a preview of the coming weekend's service and announcements:

[tinyurl.com/bulletin-preview](http://tinyurl.com/bulletin-preview)

**Report from the special voters' meeting on March 21** - The meeting began at 11:15 am with an opening prayer. <> Membership: Rob Foeckler was received as a voting member. Paul Naumann, Ben Oster, and Levi Wittorp applied for voting membership. Abigail Nauman was transferred to Berea of Inver Grove Heights, MN. Jason Ciokiewicz was received as a communicant member by affirmation of faith. The memberships of David, Becky, Tristan, and Jaden Czysz were terminated, at their request. <> Teacher call: A starting slate of candidates for our 5-6th grade teaching vacancy was approved, and several names were nominated from the floor. The voters resolved to extend the call to Mr. Matthew Kranz, who is currently teaching grades 5-6 at Immanuel, Mankato. <> The meeting was adjourned with a prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide our candidate in his call deliberations according to God's will.

**In the News:** The guidelines for social distancing in grades K-12 just went from 6' to 3'. Does this change apply also to churches and seating in the sanctuary?

The Deacons checked on this and found out that it does not apply to churches.

Members should be aware that the Deacons are continually monitoring the regulations from the state and local government and distinguishing between what is recommended and what is required by those placed by God in authority over us.

Where we can change, we do so. (Tour Choir Concert is on; recording attendees is off.)

Where we cannot change, we obey – and keep looking for the day when we can change (for example, offering a mask-free service).

May God supply our church leaders with wisdom, our members with patience, and all of us with an extra measure of love and hope for these unusual days.

### **Did you Notice the Changes?**

- No more contact tracing
- Bringing the offering to the front of church with offering hymn
- Communion will be held on the second/third weekend in April
- Two Tour Choir Concerts, Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 and 7:30 pm
- Ground Breaking on Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> after the church service
- Only one service on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

**Dear Ushers -** there have been a few revisions and corrections made to Messiah's usher schedule for the balance of 2021. Please see the revised schedule which was emailed to you. You may also see it at [tinyurl.com/usher-march21](http://tinyurl.com/usher-march21).

**We offer our prayers to the LORD** for those who mourn the loss of Herb Aichele, a founding member of Morning Star, Fairchild, and father and grandfather to a number of our members. Herb went home to heaven on March 18, and his victory service was held in Fairchild on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Correspondence may be addressed to Sandra Fox 2208 Crescent Avenue, or [sandrafox64@gmail.com](mailto:sandrafox64@gmail.com). *'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'* "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

**Blessing Bags for those in need:** There are Blessing Bags available in the Narthex for families to take home and keep in their car to give out to the homeless or others they see in need. The intent is that when you see someone asking for money you

can give them these bags with food, water and most importantly the Gospel as an alternative to cash. While we are building up our supply please limit to three bags per family at a time.

## ***Building Project***

**Building Project:** Since the voters decided to go ahead with expansion project, things are beginning to take off.

May 30<sup>th</sup> Ground breaking Service

June 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Construction on site

(They will have days of preliminary staging beforehand.)

Members of Messiah will be needed to prep for Royal. The more we can do, the more we can save. Tom Beekman is leading this aspect of the project. Watch for his announcements.

- Heavy duty schedule for much of this. May 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>  
(To accommodate this timeframe, the Board of Education has moved up the last day of school from May 28 to May 21<sup>st</sup>. This will also give the teachers some time to close down their classrooms.)
- Earlier in May, the Art Room and School library will be closed and packed up.
- The church office and workroom will be moved soon after Easter.

Much planning is happening now, including final decisions with the architect.

Exciting times.

May the LORD bless these efforts to get more space for the teaching of His lambs.

**Volunteer - Moving Days for Building Project:** The Messiah Building Committee is now initiating the action plans for moving many items within our existing school classrooms and office to temporary storage. Volunteer help will be needed on specific

dates to move boxes, furniture, desks and other items. If you are able and willing to help, please forward your **email** and **phone number** to Tom Beekman who is serving as Project Move and Volunteer Coordinator. As schedule moving event days get closer, Tom will reach out to individuals to assemble a moving day crew. Moving will to a large degree occur within locations on Messiah's



property and can be accomplished in less than an hour with a reasonable crew.

**Tree Removal for Building Project:** Several trees both large and small need to be removed for our Building Project. Volunteer removal of these trees will result in immediate savings to the project budget. Volunteers can take any wood from the trees they remove. Trees can be removed immediately with a desired deadline date no later than May 20, 2021. Contact Tom Beekman.



Tom's contact info: [thomasbeekman1961@gmail.com](mailto:thomasbeekman1961@gmail.com) / cell phone 715-491-2025.



## NEXT STEPS

### For Supporting Our School Expansion Project

We are thankful to our LORD for the generous support of our members for our building project! As of March 24, our contributions for the Building Fund total \$460,514.19. We have completed our first goal by surpassing 25% of the total project cost of \$1.8 million. The next steps for the support of our project include many opportunities to help:

- **Further direct contributions** to our Building Fund will reduce the amount we need to borrow from the CLC Church Extension Fund. The benefit from this will be a lower debt burden, with a lower monthly impact on our church budget for mortgage repayments.
- **Personal loans** made to the Building Fund will also reduce our indebtedness to the synod. The interest savings will help to reduce the amount of our monthly debt service. To see the loan offer form and more information, see [tinyurl.com/m-loan-req](http://tinyurl.com/m-loan-req), or contact Steve Lentz at 715-497-8436.
- **Participation in the "Messiah Builders" Scrip Program** results in rebates for our Building Fund from local purchases that you make every day. For details, see [www.tinyurl.com/mls-scrip](http://www.tinyurl.com/mls-scrip) or the school office before and after services.
- **There will be many opportunities** for volunteer labor, which will reduce the project cost. Some can begin very soon; while others will start at the end of the school year. These projects include:
  - Moving office and classroom contents
  - Demolition of certain areas
  - Tree removal and other site preparations
  - Floor, drywall, and ceiling work
  - Many other projects which will be organized by our Building Committee
- **As always, your prayers** to the LORD for his blessing and aid in the Christian education of our children are needed and effective!

**Watch for  
announcements  
of what needs  
to be done!**

A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for the project, following our Sunday morning worship service on May 30. *"Let the beauty of the LORD*

*our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.” (Ps. 90:17)*

## ***Around the CLC***

**ILC Dorm Supervisors:** 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](mailto: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](http://ilc.edu) > Forms and Applications > ILC Employment Application. Please apply by April 6.

**The Immanuel Professorage Committee (IPC)** consists of five men who are charged with monitoring the condition of the professorages at Immanuel. Annual inspections are held during which the IPC identifies necessary repairs (plumbing, caulking, painting, trim work, etc.) as well as major projects that need to be completed (reroofing, residing, replacing windows, insulating, kitchen upgrades, flooring, carpeting, furnace replacement, etc.). Obviously a small committee cannot do all the work identified. What we are looking for is a number of individuals with skills in the areas mentioned who are willing to do some of the work. Such a list of volunteers would support the efforts to keep the housing for the professors in good shape. The people signing up would not be obligated to take on a task. It would just be a list of willing folks we could call on for some of the tasks.

**[tinyurl.com/IPC-Signup](http://tinyurl.com/IPC-Signup)** is the link that is intended to collect names of willing volunteers along with skills they are willing to share. Signing on does not obligate you. We would call you about a project and if you have time, you could consider working at it; if not, we would continue calling. The time you spend could be a couple hours, a day, or more. It's completely up to you. Alternately, we could prepare a list of projects that you would be able to look through and determine if you would be able to help with that project. Please consider adding your name to the list to help out the Kingdom work here at Immanuel.

- In His service, The IPC: Pastor Tiefel (715-829-2000), Charles Wittorp (269-930-4232), Jeff Rutz (715-559-6826), Dean Carstensen (715-797-0331), Ross Roehl (715-864-1764)

**CLC News:** Debra Mayhew has accepted the call to serve as K-8 teacher at Grace, Sleepy Eve, MN. • Pastor Dave Naumann, St. John's, Clarkston, WA/Peace, Orofino, ID has been called by Redeemer, Sister Lakes, MI.

**Youth Camping Opportunities** [see the 3/14 bulletin for details]

- **Youth Camp at Camp Jim in Pillager, MN** – June 13-19, 2021, for those entering 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Porkies Youth Camp-Out** – August 11-15, 2021, for Grades 8-12. The Camp fee is \$85. **Contact Adam Schmid:** (608) 386-3714.

**News from our Overseas Missionary Peter Evensen:** *I just wanted to let you know that I was diagnosed with malaria (type plasmodium falciparum) today. I went in Tuesday because I've had a cough for several weeks and an irritated throat and mild headaches and possibly mild night sweats along with some other body pains. The doctor put me on some antibiotics and medicine to help me sleep while we did a blood work, including a malaria test. Everything came back fine except I was positive for malaria with 480 p/μL, which the doctor said was a rather high concentration, but he figured it was due to the fact I didn't grow up here and develop a natural tolerance for it. I don't know what level he usually sees, but I almost feel like I should feel sicker than I do, so thanks be to God!*

*I am on a 3-day course of an anti-malarial combination drug and a 3-day course of anti-worm medication (perhaps that also helps with the malaria parasite).*

*A year and a half ago I had some similar symptoms and the doctor thought it might be malaria, which alarmed me then. But having been here as long as I have and talking to more and more natives, they consider malaria to be no worse than the cold or flu, so at this point I'm not really worried. The doctor didn't even schedule me for a follow up test after I finish the course of medication, which did surprise me. That either indicates his strong confidence in the medication or that he doesn't view plasmodium falciparum to be as deadly as Wikipedia. He did say, however, to come back in problems persist.*

*I would appreciate your prayers, however, as I try to rest and recover over the next few days and I will try to keep you informed of major changes.*



**An Invite from a Sister Congregation:** Please join us as our congregation celebrates 125 years of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and 25 years of our Christian Day School. Sunday, July 4, 2021. Church service at 9:30 am. RSVP to [voitfarm@gmail.com](mailto:voitfarm@gmail.com) or 507-822-0921. *See the full invite on the bulletin board.*

## Palm Sunday's STONES

*Some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Luke 19:39-40*



As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, huge crowds chanted praises: *"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"* This was galling to Jesus' enemies, who called upon Him to reject the kind of praise that only belongs to the LORD's Christ.

Instead Jesus accepted their hosannas. He wanted to hear such praise from them, for He truly was the LORD's Christ. Nothing in all creation could take away from that truth; in fact, if the people refused to sing His praises, the stones themselves would be compelled to cry out!

What if it had actually happened? What if the people had fallen silent and the very rocks had begun to chant praises to the Christ? What a miracle that would have been! And yet, it is no less a miracle that the Holy Spirit has overcome our own stony hearts of unbelief, so that we sing the praises of the Lord Jesus, knowing who He really is. This very thing was prophesied in the Old Testament:

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."* Ezekiel 36:26

If it were up to us, we would have been no better than the crowds who only saw in Jesus an earthly political hero. Many of them even called for His crucifixion a few days later. Worse yet, we could very well have been among the jealous scribes and Pharisees who considered Jesus to be a fraud, and a threat to their own agenda. The Bible itself describes our own sinful nature as being dead in trespasses and blind to God's truth. What we have on the inside is, by nature, an unbelieving heart of stone.

But in His mercy God gave His powerful Word, *“like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces”* (Jeremiah 23:29), to demolish our pride. Through His Spirit He leads us to repentance for sin, and to faith in His Son as our Redeemer. In this way He has turned our stony hearts into hearts of flesh that are living because Christ now lives in us.

Can stones really speak? On that first Palm Sunday, if Jesus had willed it, the very stones could have cried out in praise of their Creator and the Redeemer of the world. Today, let us joyfully resolve that we shall not be silent as stones. After all, we have the best reason to sing the praises of the One who rode into Jerusalem to die in our place.

Adapted from the CLC *“Daily Rest”* Devotional

**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).



*"See that you abound  
in this grace also."  
2 Cor. 8:7*

## Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ March 20 & 21, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 52 - Sun. 110) 162

Bible Class: (Sat. 14 - Sun. 52) 66      Sunday School: (Sat. na - Sun. na) na

Online: (Worship: 268, Bible Class: 81)

Lent Service 3/24 6:30 pm: 115, Online: 349, ILC Streaming: 27

## Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$179,538.00	\$46,154.00
YTD Offerings	\$151,293.22	\$42,327.00
Weekly Need	\$15,668.00	\$3,942.00
Last Week (3/21)	\$16,977.75	\$4,006.25
Amount Still Needed	\$626,706.78	\$157,673.00

Building Fund	
\$450,000.00	Goal
\$460,514.19	Received to Date
-\$10,514.19	Still Needed
\$1,745.00	Last Week (3/21)

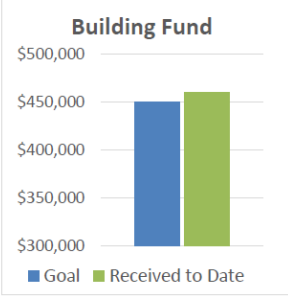
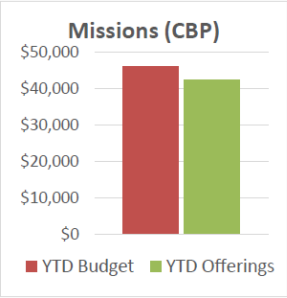
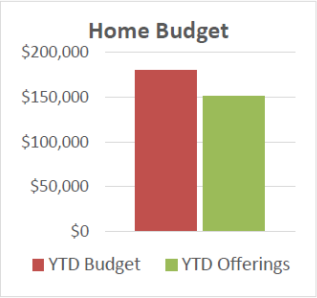
Given in memory of...

Bea Gerbitz

20.00 Messiah Building Fund

Ed Trapp

20.00 Messiah Building Fund



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

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

### **II. A New Place to Worship**

**I Kings 8:54-58: And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying: "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.**

The building of the temple in Solomon's reign was a tremendous undertaking. Indeed, the sheer scale of the task must have been daunting. The project took 30,000 laborers, 150,000 stonemasons and haulers, and 3,300 supervisors seven years to complete. Furthermore, no expense was spared in this endeavor. The temple was built with the most costly and precious materials, including cedar, gold, olive wood, cypress, and bronze. This structure would have been spectacular to behold, and once it was completed Solomon may have been tempted to step back with pride in himself and his people in completing such a momentous building project. However, both in his prayer of dedication and his blessing of the assembly, Solomon rightly views the completion of the temple as a visible reminder of God's greatness and faithfulness. The temple itself, then, was not a symbol of human greatness but of God's unfailing love in keeping His promises.

Messiah's initial building project was on a much humbler scale. The congregation was founded out of concern for faithfulness to God's Word - their greatest challenge - but because they prioritized the spiritual over the earthly, they

were faced with a very practical problem: they had no church building. This “problem,” though, soon proved, like Solomon’s building project, God’s faithfulness, and care. The group continued to worship in the Erle Boldon home until January 1961 when they rented a church on Western Avenue for their worship services. By April of that same year, a fund was established to build a church in Eau Claire, and later that month, the voters resolved to purchase property near the corner of LaSalle St. and N. Hastings Way, the location of the current church and teacherage, for \$3,800. During the fall of 1961, the building committee, under the leadership of Leonard Eckel, was hard at work trying to develop a plan to build a church on the LaSalle Street property. They soon discovered, however, that the cost to build a conventional building sufficient to meet the group’s needs was beyond the means of the congregation. But their prayers were answered when the Lord introduced them to an architect from the Spencer Corporation, who was able to build a church for \$30,000, which fell within the budget of the congregation. Ground was broken on November 5, 1961, and construction began in late February. On Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962, the first worship service was held in the new church, with 94 people in attendance. The church was dedicated on June 17, 1962, with Pastor George Tiefel speaking at the morning service and Pastor George Barthels at the afternoon service. Words taken from the dedication bulletin emphasize where the credit for this building project should go: “The Lord has done great things for us . . . TO HIM ALONE BE GLORY.”

Though Solomon’s temple was far more magnificent than the sanctuary our original members constructed, we can see the LORDS’s hand in both building projects. Once the LORD decreed that Solomon would build the temple, He did not spare any time or expense in completing it. Similarly, though the members of Messiah were not blessed with Solomon’s riches, they likewise dedicated time and money to building a worship site. Like Solomon, they needed to complete what must have seemed like a very daunting project, but with much more limited means. They, too, were rewarded by the LORD’s power in overcoming earthly challenges and His faithfulness in keeping His promises to provide for His children. The result was also similar: a building that is a reminder of God’s faithfulness. As noted in the quote above from the dedication bulletin, the congregation, like Solomon,

recognized the church building not as a testament to their own greatness and ingenuity but as tangible proof of God's glory and what great things He has done for us. During this anniversary year, let us too recognize that any physical blessings we have are proof of God's greatness and His continuing grace.

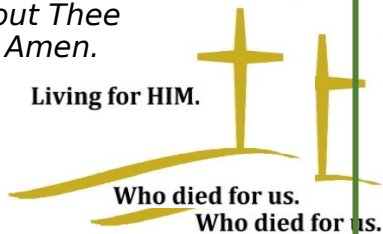
**I Chronicles 29:14: "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own."**

*Grant that we Thy Word may cherish  
And its purity retain.  
Lord, unless Thou art the Builder,  
All our labor is in vain.*

*Keep us from all pride and boasting,  
Vanity and foolish trust,  
Knowing that our work without Thee  
Soon will crumble into dust. Amen.*

*TLH 640:3*

Messiah Stewardship Committee  
March 2021





## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; March 29- April 3, '21.

**Mon Zechariah 9:9-10** A good reason for keeping our minds and hearts open to God's Word in the Old Testament is to discover and digest how God kept His people attuned to the New Testament. This passage proves our point, as do many of the Psalms. **Psalm 72**, for example, lays out Jesus' career—to save for all time, generously, over the entire planet, for all sorts of humans in all their needs, compelling their devotion to Him for all their blessings.

Blessed be the LORD, our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

**Tues Mark 11:1-10** Approaching Jerusalem from the east, they walked uphill in a gentle climb, taking breathers at Bethphage and Bethany. Not to make things easier for Him but to fulfill ancient prophecy, Jesus rode a juvenile donkey into the city, where devout people welcomed His arrival. [We expect to meet them again in heaven.] Less than a week later, others scoffed at Him and rejoiced at His departure on the CROSS. [We don't expect to see them again.]

**Wed Philippians 2:5-11** The mind/attitude of Jesus amazes us—that He gave up so much for us in order to give us much more than we deserve. He left behind His lofty home and demoted Himself as low as anyone can get (7-8). For what purpose? In order to pay off our debt with His own precious blood, laid down on the sacrificial cross of Calvary. [Now change channels] Because Jesus paid the last iota, He earned reinstatement on Easter (9) and thus merits everyone's devout adoration – now and forever (10-11).

**Thurs Exodus 12** The good reason for the Jewish sacred calendar beginning with Passover is that Passover marked the beginning of their new life under God's jurisdiction. Passover means just what it declares: the avenging angel would **pass over** those homes where occupants took God as His word and accommodated themselves to His directions. Read the entire chapter to see that they followed God's directives specifically, devoutly, worshipfully.

**Fri Psalm 22** Jesus cried out, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why **ME**? For what good reason are You turning Your back on ME, Your own beloved Son, when I'm down as low as I can get (6) and mocked as a failure (7-8)? I started out fresh (9-11),*

*but now I'm close to death on this cross (14-18). Nonetheless, I am still relying on You to help Me (19-21), for which I will praise You both at home and abroad, now and forever (22-31)."*

**Sat Hebrews 4:14-16, 15:7-9** Jesus left Earth behind, but that does not mean He has forgotten us. He understands what we are up against, sympathizes with us, loves us, and is still serving our best interests. He invites us to keep connected, *that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us; ♪ Christ, have mercy upon us;
- ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.