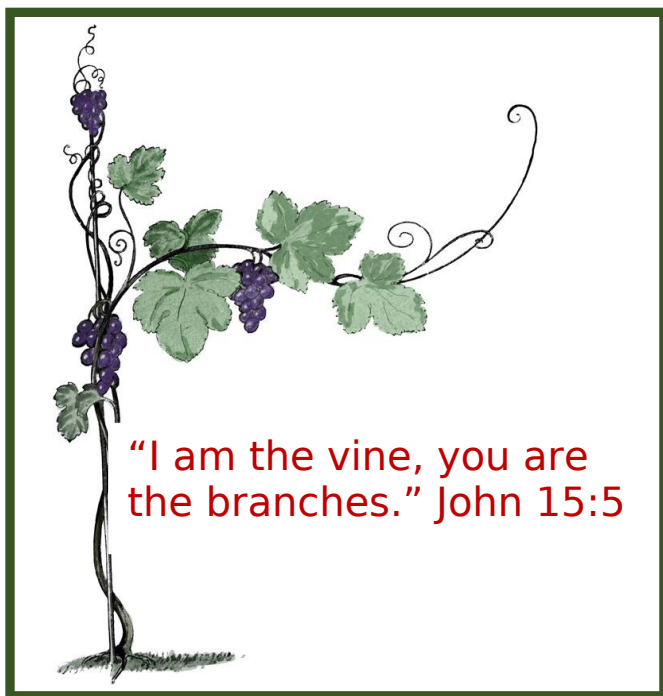




May 8-9, 2021
The Fifth
Weekend after Easter



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 14.

Pre-Service Meditation: In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Hymns: 193 211 342 441:1-2 283

Epistle Reading.....Acts 11:19-26

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. ²⁰ But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. ²² Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Gospel Reading.....John 15:9-17

⁹ "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is

doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷These things I command you, that you love one another.

Sermon Text.....1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. ⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Sermon Theme:

The Bible pumps the fuel (God's love) that powers the engine (love) of the Christian's life

- I. The Bible with its message about Jesus as well as all other necessary teachings is to be defended against all attackers
- II. Its main theme: God's love in Jesus for us which produces our love to God and for one another.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel



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.**

Sun, 5/9

Mother's Day

9:00 am

Worship Service (Ushers #2,
Counters A)
(short preview from our Outreach
Committee)

10:00 am

Dove West

10:15 am

Bible Class/Sunday School/Young
Adults

11:00 am

**Worship Service (Ushers #Extra
group)**
(short preview from our Outreach
Committee)

11:15 am

Heritage Court

1:30 pm

Dove South

2:00 pm

Veterans

Tues, 5/11 9:00 am

Koffee Klatsch

Wed, 5/12 1:45 pm

Lake Hallie - Care Facility Service

6:30 pm

Board of Education

Thur, 5/13 6:30 pm

Ascension Service (Ushers #1)

7:30 pm

Elders

Fri, 5/14 10:00 am

Pastors' Study Club

Sat, 5/15 9:00 am

Ladies' Work Day

9:00 am

Church Work Day

6:30 pm

Worship Service (Ushers #3)

7:45 pm

Bible Class/Sunday School

Sun, 5/16 9:00 am

Worship Service (Ushers #4,
Counters B)

10:00 am

Dove West

10:15 am

Bible Class/Sunday School/Young
Adults

11:15 am

Heritage Court

1:30 pm

Dove South
TBA Building Committee

Upcoming Dates at Messiah:

- May 13th, 6:30 pm Ascension Service
- May 15th/16th, Last Session for Sunday School & Bible Class until Fall
- May 22nd, ILC Graduation
- May 23rd, 11:00 am Service - Messiah 8th Grade Graduation
- May 30th, 10:15 am Groundbreaking Ceremony
- June 6th, 11:00 am 8th Grade Confirmation
- June 7th/8th, Great Lakes Delegate Conference
- June 24th - 27th, CLC Convention at ILC
- July 12th - 16th, 1st VBS Session at ILC
- August 2nd - 6th, 2nd VBS Session at ILC

Announcements

Bible Class: This weekend we will be taking a look at the "Prospectus", which contains reports from the various boards and committees that serve our fellowship, The Church of the Lutheran Confession. This will give us a good idea of the business that will be taken up by this year's Convention, to be held June 24-27 on the campus of Immanuel. It also prepares us for the Great Lakes Delegate Conference to be held June 7-8 in Fond du Lac. Our delegates are Fred Radichel and Jim Sydow, with Joel Carstensen and Steve Lentz as alternates. Messiah is also represented by its three pastors and three male teachers. Next weekend, Pastor Naumann will wrap up this portion of the study of "The State of Christianity in the New Century."

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

Ascension: 40 days after His triumphant resurrection and mighty victory over death, our Lord Jesus ascended into heaven. This was an important event with great significance for us. We have a Savior who controls all things on earth. He continues to bless our lives as He does the work of our great High Priest, Prophet and King. How comforting such truths are in the troubled world in which we live. His ascension is a mighty display of what is ahead for us. It was also a glorious homecoming for a victorious Savior. And there is more. To commemorate the Ascension of Jesus, we will be having a special worship service this Thursday, May 13, at 6:30 pm.

*Hail the day that sees Him / There the glorious triumph
To His throne above the sky waits:
Christ, the Lamb for sinners / Lift your heads, eternal
Reascends His native heav'n gates.*

TLH 215:1&2

Ladies Work Day: Saturday, May 15 from 9-11am. Items that need work are: hymnal cleaning, kitchen cleaning including filling the new cupboards and cleaning the refrigerator. There will be a list posted on the kitchen door for those who may not be able to make that Saturday, but would want to help.

Congregational Work Day: Also on Saturday May 15 9-11 a.m. The Board of Property has moved its end of the month workday to the 15th. Extra help is appreciated to cover a list of projects. Please join us if you can.



Pictorial Directory: As part of our 60th Anniversary Commemoration, we are planning a new Pictorial Directory. Pictures will be taken July 7th-10th at our church. More information to come.

In Our Congregation

Nathan Buck Call Accepted: *Dear Members of Messiah Lutheran Church,*

I have been led to accept the call to serve as your 5th-6th grade teacher at Messiah Lutheran School. Thank you for your prayers and considerations these last few weeks. I know that God will bless me and our school as we endeavor to serve Him, and I ask your prayers for our congregation and school out in Clarkston, WA as well. I am excited to begin, and thankful.

In Christ, Nathan Buck

Pastor Schaller Call Returned: *Dear Messiah Congregation,*

After praying for the Lord's will to be done, I believe that God would have me remain serving at Messiah Church at the present time. Please pray that the Lord will supply our brothers and sisters of Redeemer Congregation with a new shepherd quickly. The righteousness, peace, and joy that come from our risen Savior be with you all.

- Pastor Caleb Schaller

These two letters mean that our classrooms are now all filled for next year and our pastoral staff remains at full manpower. This is a very great blessing and should cause us to thank the Lord Jesus for filling all of our needs. Yet, we can not help but think of a new vacancy in one of our schools and an on-going vacancy in one of our pulpits because we are full. And there are several other classrooms and pulpits still vacant around the fellowship which should prompt us to pray to the Lord of the Church for our fellow Christians. "Jesus, please send more laborers!"

In Case You Missed It:


- Messiah School year is ending a week early, May 21 in place of the 28th to accommodate our early start to the building project
- Sunday School and Bible Class will break for the summer building project. May 15-16th is the last session until sometime in September, yet to be determined.
- Extra worship services have been added at 11:00 am for these Sundays:
 - May 9th (Banquet weekend)
 - May 23rd (Messiah School 8th Grade Graduation)
 - June 6th (Confirmation)

The After Banquet Committee is inviting the members of Messiah to experience seven "escape rooms" they created for the Immanuel After Banquet Event. If you would like to try to escape from some cleverly designed rooms full of puzzles and locks and more, feel free to stop by the Immanuel gym on Sunday, May 9, from 12:00-3:00 and give it a try. This would be a nice family outing for kids 3rd-4th grade and up. If you are around at 3:00, the committee would appreciate help taking down the rooms. Thanks and maybe we'll see you Sunday.

Mother's Day: If the world can take a moment to acknowledge the important role that women have as mothers, how much more should the Christian be ready to give thanks for this gift from God?

A mother plays a major role in the raising of a child, and even more so when this mother is a Christian. The souls of little ones are very precious to the Savior, for He died on the cross for them as well. And while it is important for a mother to care for the bodily needs of a child, it is significantly more important to care for the spiritual needs. What a privilege to teach a child of God how to pray or how to sing the very first words of praise. To read Bible stories, to talk of Jesus, to bring the soul to Baptism, to place the small life into the hands of the powerful Savior. To offer godly advice as the child grows up and ponders plans for education, a job or career, and perhaps marriage. Truly God uses such a Christian woman to shape the life of yet another Christian.

LORD, teach us to appreciate motherhood, to be thankful for our mothers, to encourage young mothers, and to value Your plan for the family unit.



Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend
God’s Word Serving Us:

Bible Readings - Guest Preaching: Drew Naumann
Bible Class - “The State of Christianity in the New Century”

Christians Serving Us:

Thursday 5/13 6:30 pm: Usher Team 1


Joel Carstensen	George Carstensen
Dennis Oster	Jason Zimmerman
Ryan Zimmerman	Rich McGeorge

Saturday 5/15 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3

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

Sunday 5/16 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 5/16 - B

Jeremy Gurgel, Paul Heinze, Nathan Quade

Thank you!



The Branches magazine is a publication designed and published by women of the CLC. It's time to renew, subscribe for the first time, or purchase gift subscriptions for others in your life who may benefit.

Mother's Day, confirmations, and graduations are upon us! A subscription makes a great, year-long gift. \$15 for 4, 24 page issues each year. Make checks payable to "The Branches" - Laura Wales, 8727 Forestview Lane North, Maple Grove, MN 55369. Or, pay by PayPal at lewales@gmail.com.

Continuing Under God's Grace

A Reflection on the Past 60 Years

IV. Manifestation of His Grace

From the very beginning of Messiah congregation there was always a desire to establish a Christian Day School. Even before Messiah existed, discussions to establish a school had begun within the two ELS congregations from which our founding members left. In fact, our current property, purchased by those founding members, had been considered as a possible site for a school. But how could this small group even think about establishing a school?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

In December 1960 our founding members began meeting in the basement of the Boldon home, moved to a rented facility in January 1961, purchased our current property in April, and a year later on Easter Sunday in 1962 held the first worship service in a newly constructed church on this property. Truly the LORD was directing the paths and blessing this small group of Christians. Yet, all along God was planning even greater blessings for Messiah.

In July 1962 Messiah applied for membership in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). This recently formed synod was made up of other orthodox Lutheran congregations throughout the country who had left their former church bodies in adherence to God's Word, as had Messiah. In 1959, one of those congregations - Immanuel in Mankato, MN, - having recognized the need for Christian higher education and especially for beginning to train pastors and teachers, established Immanuel Lutheran College & Seminary. In 1961, Immanuel congregation transferred control of the school to the church body (CLC) as a whole. The school's enrollment had grown from 37 to 84 students and there was an urgent need for additional space to accommodate the growing number of students from around the country that expressed a desire to attend.

In November 1962 the LORD began to unveil His plan for Immanuel. A caretaker of the Ingram Estate in Eau Claire contacted Messiah's pastor, Arvid Gullerud, regarding the impending sale of the property on the south side of Eau Claire. Late that month, the chairman of the CLC's Policy

Committee visited the property and immediately directed the synod to seriously consider purchasing it. A special convention of the CLC was held in early January 1963, and the decision was made to purchase the property.

The amazing details of this gracious gift of God to His church can be found in *Out of Necessity-A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*, by David Lau, *Throughout All Generations*, by Eunice Roehl, and *The Erskine B. Ingram Estate 1920-1963: God's Gift to Immanuel Lutheran College*, by Lynette Roehl.

The gift of Immanuel High School, College & Seminary (ILC) is a wonderful example of how our LORD at times clearly demonstrates His love and care for us "in the moment," yet His grace through the years helps us understand that His blessings are much more abundant than we can ever imagine.

In June 1963, Messiah Lutheran School was established, and when the first classes were held in September 1963 the LORD had not only provided Messiah with a Christian grade school for our youth, but also a Christian high school, college, and seminary here in town. Messiah congregation has truly been blessed by the presence of ILC here in Eau Claire.

After 60 years, we now have 4th generation students in our grade school and 3rd generation students at Immanuel. Former students from Immanuel have recognized the blessings of Christian education that we enjoy and have relocated to Eau Claire to share in those blessings. Messiah's PreK-8th Grade program has also welcomed non-member families to our school for the purpose of assisting parents in teaching their children about their Savior. Many of these families have joined our fellowship and sent their children on to Immanuel.

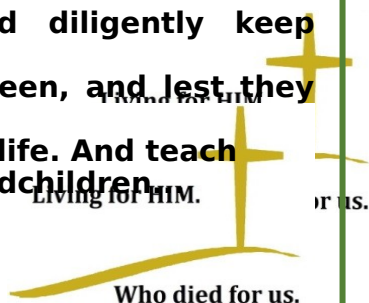
Messiah is happy to provide a church home during the school year for Immanuel students from a distance. Our families have opportunities to meet and establish lasting relationships with these young people who share our Christian faith. Our congregation benefits from graduates that decide to remain in Eau Claire and become involved in our congregational efforts. We are blessed to be able to offer our church sanctuary for Immanuel's choirs to present their Christmas and graduation concerts. We also have opportunities to take in athletic and other extracurricular activities offered at

Immanuel. Our pastors appreciate the opportunity to offer confirmation instruction to non-member students at Immanuel. Our grade school regularly provides an opportunity for student teachers from Immanuel to observe and practice-teach in our classrooms. We also appreciate the fellowship we share with the staff and professors at Immanuel, also members at Messiah.

God's grace for 60 years has resulted in many blessings to Messiah and to our church body. Praise God for the gift of Immanuel - "God with us," a reminder for us and generations to come how He provides for His people.

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.
Deuteronomy 4:9

Messiah Stewardship Committee
May 2021



Update on the Building Project

While there has not been a recent workday with a large crew, a lot has been done here and there over the last two weeks.

- School library boxed and moved
- VBS, SS, and Outreach storage room emptied
- Desks moved out to make room for storage of nearby classroom boxes
- All six trees down and mostly cleared away
- Continual relocation of church and school office items
- The old storage garage stripped and re-shingled

We appreciate all the volunteer labor. Not only does it ready our site for the building contractor to come in and start, it also saves us some money.

Meetings with the architect and contractor are held about every other week as we come down the home stretch of planning.

Note: Since we are ahead of schedule on our end, the date for construction prep has been moved up to May 17th with actual construction to start May 24th, both a week earlier than originally planned.

Our financing is in place, between our funds raised to start the project (just over 25%) and the balance borrowed from the CLC's Church Extension Fund. It is not too late for members to offer a personal loan which allows us to borrow money at a lower rate and stretch our overall dollars. See Steve Lentz for details.

There are a number of areas which the Building Committee has identified as potential "do it ourselves" work. All totaled it represents a savings of about

\$80,000. The list includes such as:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------|
| • Salvage of wood trim | • Cabinetry | things |
| • Painting | • Ceiling Tile | |
| • Ceramic tile and carpet | • Landscaping | |

Tom Beekman is compiling a list of members who have such skill sets. To volunteer please contact him at 715-491-2025 or thomasbeekman1961@gmail.com.

To date, Tom has received very few volunteers. Without an adequate number of workers, we will not

be able to do these projects in a timely fashion and could run the risk of losing potential savings.

Take a walk around and see the “progress”. Ground-breaking ceremony May 30th at 10:15 am. (More details to come.) May the LORD, Who has graciously brought us to this point, supply every needed gift for the creation of a functional workspace to continue the feeding of His lambs and even prepare for more lambs to join us.

In the hospital: <> **Heath Williams** began the week in the hospital, but was able to go home to continue his recovery from a severely injured foot. <> **Maxine Culver** went home from her surgery, but proceeded to have a fall breaking her wrist and hip, necessitating a return trip to the hospital.

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 ~ May 1 & 2, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 49 - Sun. 211) 260

Communion: (Sat. 41 - Sun. 154) 195

Bible Class: (Sat. 18 - Sun. 68) 86 Sunday School: (Sat. 2 - Sun. na) na

Young Adults: 22 Ruth's Retreat: 13

Dove West: 6 Heritage Court: 18 Dove South: 6
Lake Hallie: 15

Online: (Worship: 221, ILC Streaming: 24, Bible Class: 46)

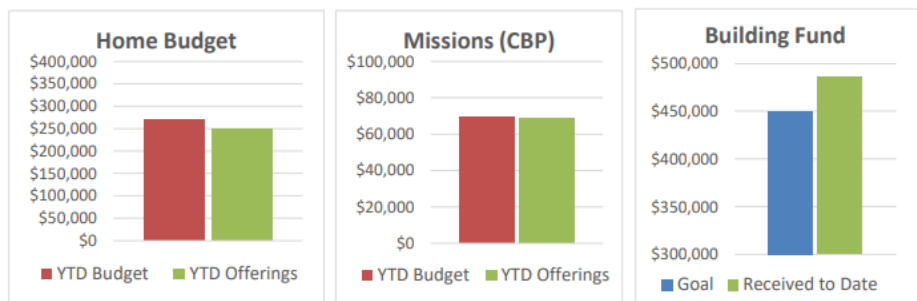
Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$269,308.00	\$69,231.00
YTD Offerings	\$248,420.38	\$68,540.00
Weekly Need	\$15,576.00	\$3,866.00
Last Week (5/2)	\$13,767.80	\$3,865.50
Amount Still Needed	\$529,579.62	\$131,460.00

Building Fund	
\$450,000.00	Goal
\$487,051.16	Received to Date
\$4,030.00	Last Week (5/2)

Given in memory of...

Herb Aichele	20.00 Messiah Building Fund
Patsy Schuck	50.00 Messiah ILHS Student Grants
Don Skinner	500.00 Messiah Building Fund
Don Skinner	200.00 Messiah-Undesignated



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; May 10-15, '21

Mon Acts 11:19-26 This event is important because Jesus was turning the steering wheel one notch into the left lane—contrary to Jewish policy (19). When some Greek Christians reached out to their countrymen, Jesus blessed their work—which alerted the mother congregation. After investigating, they learned that Jesus was behind this turn of events, and that's how His Church became prepped for the services of Saul, God's special spokesman.

Tues John 15:9-17 is loaded with spiritual food; today let's focus on the LOVE which moved Jesus to come down to Earth; it's the oxygen of His life and of ours, too. Loving others more than self means serving others more than self; it's where the rubber hits the road. God's saving love has been encoded by Jesus in our hearts, and we are activated by His password: fGsltwHg*jn3:16.

Wed 1 John 4:1-11 What are the ABC's of Christianity? **A** is for Alpha (Rev. 1:8), our eternal, generative Jesus. **B** is for Beware of anyone and anything that diminishes or detracts from Jesus; our world is full of this garbage. **C** is for Continue in God's love which carries us through adverse conditions and over rough terrain. Since Jesus has paid off humanity's sin-debts, let's continue living in His love – and sharing God's saving love with others.

Thurs Psalm 98 The Old Testament Hymnary has many tunes in the section Songs of Praise, and though #98 is fairly new, it is based on good, old realities—especially God's good qualities and accomplishments (1-3). A praise band is not new (4-6) if it echoes Nature (7-8). We are looking forward to the day when Jesus arrives, and we are ready for His test

question: “What do you think of Me, and what have you done about it?”

Fri John 15:9-17 We already knew that Jesus is not The New Law-Giver, and we understand that *commandment* means directives, so we don’t cringe as He steers us away from bad behavior into behavior which reflects God’s love for sinners, behavior which builds friendships and produces positive results in the hearts and lives of others, behavior which Jesus appreciates and supports (15-16). God is keeping our world in orbit because it still needs His/our love.

Sat Acts 25 reads like an excerpt from a novel. After the stage was set, Paul stated his defense; when Festus proposed a change of venue that would put Paul in danger, Paul out-maneuvered his enemies by invoking his citizenship right to a fair trial in Rome. His case interested Herod Agrippa, the Jewish puppet king, so Festus rehearsed it for him (13-21), hoping that he had all the pertinent facts straight before he sent Paul to Rome. That long trip to Rome would be dangerous, and his court trial full of tension, but Jesus was still behind the steering wheel. Stay tuned for further developments.