



June 19-20, 2021

Pentecost 4



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 18.

Pre-Service Devotion: Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! (1 John 3:1)

At this time, offering plates are not passed during the service. The plates are located on a stand at each church entrance. *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)*



Hymns: 239 384 785 788:1 Bulletin: *"Behold What Wondrous Grace"*

Old Testament Reading.....Proverbs 2:1-13

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ²So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. ⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; ⁸He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. ⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. ¹⁰When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, ¹¹Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, ¹²To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, ¹³From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness.

Gospel Reading.....Luke 15:11-24

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹²"And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴"But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵"Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶"And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸"I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against

heaven and before you,¹⁹"and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. ²³'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Sermon TextExodus 20:5-6

I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

"THE MODEL FATHER"

- I. He is "jealous"
- II. He is just
- III. He is merciful

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann

"Behold What Wondrous Grace"

(Text and Tune in the Public Domain)

1. Behold what wondrous grace, The Father has bestowed
On sinners of our mortal race, To call us sons of God!
2. It does not yet appear, How great we shall be made;
But since we know our Savior here, We shall be like our Head.
3. Now in our Father's love, We share a family part,
For through His Spirit, like a dove, Grace rests upon each heart.
4. For Christian fathers, Lord, We lift our hearts in praise.
Through them may Your name be adored, Unto the end of days!

Tune of TLH 302 - "The Savior Kindly Calls" - Adapted from a hymn by Isaac Watts



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This Week at Messiah

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

Sun, 6/20

Father's Day

9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters G)
10:15 am Special Voters' Meeting

9:40 am Dove West	11:15 am Heritage Court
10:15 am Heritage Assisted Living	1:00 pm Dove South

Tues, 6/22

9:00 am Koffee Klatsch

Wed, 6/23

1:45 pm Lake Hallie	2:30 pm Our House
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Thur, 6/24 – Sun, 6/27 34th CLC Convention at ILC

Sat, 6/26

9:00 am Church Work day
7:00 pm Convention Worship Service (Ushers #7)
(Note time change to 7 pm – see below)

Sun, 6/27

9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters H)	
10:00 am Dove West	1:00 pm Dove South
10:15 am Heritage Assisted Living	2:00 pm Veterans
11:15 am Heritage Court	

Upcoming Dates at Messiah:

- July 7-10, Membership Directory Photo Shoot at Messiah
- July 12-16, VBS Session 1 at ILC
- August 2-6, VBS Session 2 at ILC
- August 14, VBS in the Park (Riverview)
- August 11-15, Youth Group: Porkies Camp-Out

Announcements

Voters' Meeting this Sunday, June 20: Voters please be present to consider the Messiah Student Grant Fund budget for this coming school year. We will also be voting to fill a vacancy on the Board of Property (Nominees: Paul Heinze, Jesse Ude), and on the Board of Elders (Nominees: Charles Wittorp, John Fox). We will also be voting to replace the Chairman of the Elders (possible nominees: Brett Bailey, Andy Buck, Steve Mielke, Ross Roehl, and Scott Wuerch). Current Chairman K. Hulke is moving to MN.

PLEASE NOTE that the June 26 Saturday evening worship service will be the CLC Convention service, and **will begin at 7:00 pm**, rather than our usual 6:30 pm start time. Communion will be served, and the congregation is invited to attend (although please be advised that it may be crowded).

Call received: *"To the members at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, I have received a call to serve as principal and teacher at Valley Bible Academy in Clarkston, WA. Please pray that the Lord's will be done, and that he would provide the workers needed for His kingdom work. I would welcome and appreciate any thoughts you would share with me. Your brother in Christ, Andrew Roehl."* We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Mr. Roehl in considering this call, as well as the one he now serves here at Messiah in our 3-4th grade classroom.

Last Sunday afternoon a service was held for the installation of Pastor Chad Seybt at St. Paul's Lutheran in Melrose, WI. St. Paul's will be received as a member congregation of the CLC later this month. Pastor Seybt also serves our sister churches in Fairchild, Millston, and Onalaska. He reports: *"The people at Melrose were very much encouraged by all the attendees (their openness to conversing with them, their willingness to help out, etc.). They are all very happy not only with having a new pastor, but also with having a new fellowship of like-minded believers who support one another! There were 12 members from St. Paul's in attendance and 61 visitors for a total of 73 in attendance on Sunday, with 63 staying for the lunch afterwards. Here are a few comments from various Melrose members regarding the installation service:*

'It was nice to have the church full...The singing was amazing...There wasn't a visitor there that didn't drive a long way to get there. That's amazing!...The support from the visiting pastors was encouraging to see and hear...Can you believe the support we've gotten already?...We were overwhelmed with the gratitude for the meal! Lots of comments from the guests. God has truly blessed us!'"

St. Paul's is located at 105 N Washington St. in Melrose. Their regular service schedule is Sundays at 1:30 pm. You are more than welcome to visit the services and help encourage these folks who are new to our fellowship. For photos of the installation service, visit tinyurl.com/melrose-clc.

Next Thursday through Sunday, June 24-27, the CLC will meet in Convention at the fieldhouse on the campus of ILC. Please pray for the LORD to guide our plans, discussions, and resolutions for our work together in the area of missions, Christian education at all levels, and stewardship of God's blessings. The tentative schedule begins on page 6 of the Convention Prospectus, which you can find at tinyurl.com/clcprosp-21. The Convention will be live streamed; while it is in session you can watch it by going to YouTube and searching for "ilcvideos."

Every last Saturday of the month is work/maintenance/cleanup day at Messiah. Please help if you can next Saturday, June 26, beginning at 9 am. For projects you may be able to do on your own schedule, please contact Jerry LeDuc at 715-379-5020, or jerleduc@charter.net.

An open meeting concerning the 2015 "Joint Statement" was held on Sunday, June 13, in the Messiah Sanctuary. This document is an attempt to settle the differences between the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod/Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the CLC concerning church fellowship and the separation principle. There were about 55 in attendance at the open meeting. The handout that was distributed for background information can be found at tinyurl.com/open2015JS. - Pastor Caleb



On Sunday, July 4, there will be a time after the morning worship service for refreshments and fellowship. Weather permitting, this will take place on the north lawn, outside the glass church doors (otherwise in the narthex). Please plan to stay after church to enjoy some coffee, juice and goodies, and to get caught up on how your fellow members are doing! We will also plan for this event on the first Sunday in August and September.

CLC News: <> Pastor Mark Tiefel, Redemption, Lynwood, WA has returned the call by Redeemer, Sister Lakes, MI. That call has now been extended to Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld, Faith, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Tom Naumann, Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI has returned the call by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Paul and Courtney Agenten, members at Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Red Wing, MN, have accepted the roles of boys' and girls' dormitory supervisors at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI.

Registration for VBS is open! Sessions are on the campus of ILC, July 12-16 and August 2-6, 9 am-12 pm for Pre-K through 8th grade. To register, click on the banner at www.eaudairemessiah.com. There are also paper forms in our narthex. VBS Yard Signs are now available in the narthex. The first session is fully staffed and we have snacks covered, thank you! We need to staff the second session, August 2-6. Please contact Amanda Roth at 715-577-0190 if you can help.

The CLC Women's Retreat West will be held September 17-19, 2021 at Chadron State Park in Nebraska. Please join us! The Retreat Program theme is "EXALT CHRIST," John 3:30. The brochure can also be downloaded from the CLC Ladies page on Facebook. Registration is on a table in the Narthex; the deadline is Aug. 10. Mail to: Candy Ohlmann, 822 West 3rd Street, Valentine, NE 69201. You may email WomensRetreatWest@gmail.com with any questions.

The annual Grade School Volleyball Camp will be held July 18-21 at ILC. It is for girls entering grades 4-8. The deadline for registration is July 1. For more information and to register online, visit tinyurl.com/ilc-vballcamp.



Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

God's Word Serving Us:

Sermon Text – Psalm 3
Bible Class – Recessed until the fall

Christians Serving Us:

Saturday 6/26 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7

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

Sunday 6/27 9:00 am: Usher Team 8

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

Counters for the week following 6/27 – H
 Jeff Bomber, Randy Wirth, Jason Zimmerman

Thank you!

Messiah will be producing a member photo directory in 2021 (see the flier in your church mailbox). On-site photos will be taken on July 7-10 here at church; you may sign up on the weekends at our narthex table, or contact our office for an appointment. Online scheduling is open now at www.ucdir.com

- Click on "Photography Appointment Scheduling" (on the right column)
- The Church Code is **wi120** - the password is **photos**
- Slots are available Wed-Fri, July 7-9, 2 to 8:30 pm
- Slots are available Sat, July 10, 10:30 am to 5 pm

If you can't be present for portraits, we would very much appreciate it if individuals and families would send us a suitable photo for the directory. You may send it by regular mail, or email your photo to: church.office@ecmessiah.org

In the hospital: ● Baby Lila Schaller (Tim and Laura) is growing and making progress at Mayo, Rochester MN, following a very premature birth. ● Beth Fleischer remains hospitalized at the Sacred heart with COVID-19. ● On June 14, Adelaide Hope Naumann was born to Rachel and Pastor Joe Naumann of Mankato, at 23 weeks and 3 days of pregnancy. She was baptized soon after her birth by her father, and is doing well, though in a fragile state.

Messiah Shut-ins: 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).

Annual Garage Sale - Members of Messiah will be running another private garage sale on August 12-14. Though not advertised as an official event of Messiah, money made this year will be divided between the Messiah Building Fund and the ILC Student Aid Fund, with a portion also going to help Tim and Laura Schaller's family. This is a great opportunity to clean out the house and garage while supporting the work of our Savior. The sale will be held at Darren and Kathy Oster's - 1616 South St. Eau Claire. Drop-off times will be August 10 from 4-8 and August 11 from 8-1. Having all your items priced is a great help! We will be looking for many volunteers to help set up, staff, and take down. Please contact Lori Mueller if you are able to help in any way at 715-563-4526. More details to come as the sale gets closer.

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ June 12-13, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 82 – Sun. 170) 252

Weekend Online: 140

(Senior Care Service Attendance will be reported next week)

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	\$359,077.00	\$92,308.00	\$510,461.16	Received to Date
YTD Offerings	\$329,209.80	\$92,058.75	\$1,525.00	Last Week (6/13)
Weekly Need	\$16,028.00	\$3,855.00		
Last Week (6/13)	\$11,674.00	\$3,505.50		
Amount Still Needed	\$448,790.20	\$107,941.25		

Given in memory of...

Marjorie Bloom

Elton Hallauer

Elton Hallauer

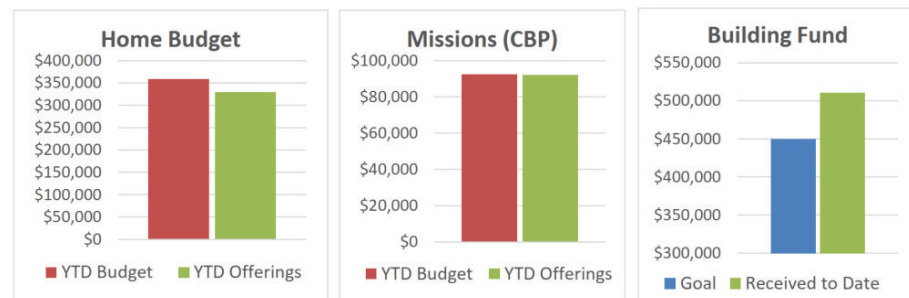
Barbara Buszin Meissner

90.00 Messiah Building Fund

20.00 Messiah Building Fund

100.00 Mission Development Fund

25.00 ILC Student Aid





Highlights from the June 16th 2021 Church Council Meeting

<> **The meeting began** at 7:33 pm with a devotion based on Acts 15. There were 7 members present, including church officers, board chairmen, and pastors. <> **Elders:** They are working the next steps of encouraging members to return to normal worship after COVID.

Chairman Kevin Hulke has resigned due to an upcoming move; his replacement will be elected at the June 20 voters' meeting. A motion passed that we transfer the membership of: Kevin and Sandy Hulke transfer to Grace, Fridley, MN effective August 13; John and Carrie Reim to Messiah, Hales Corners, WI; and Katherine Reim to Messiah, Hales Corners, WI. <> **Deacons:** None of the data systems cabling is included in the bid for the new building, so that will be an added expense. Jon plans on doing the labor himself, at a rough estimate of perhaps \$1,500 for materials. The Church Security Committee has been meeting. The cost for training at CVTC would be around \$4,000. We are planning for refreshments after services on the first Sunday of the month of July, August, and September. Due to the Convention communion service, that Saturday evening service (June 26) will begin at 7:00 pm. <> **Pastors:** They are preparing for the upcoming Convention, and have coordinated vacation time for this summer. Pastor Schaller led a congregational meeting on the "Joint Statement" this last Sunday, with 55 attendees. <> **Outreach:** the large VBS sign is up. Outreach is meeting next week and will decide if they are doing fliers. We are also preparing for the Northern WI State Fair. <> **Property:** Recently addressed: painted the repaired sheetrock in church by the organ; 3 emergency light batteries were replaced (1 by kitchen, 2 in narthex); the riding lawn mower was serviced for the season; the garage is almost done; filled ruts and graded drive leading to upper field. New items to address: Tim Schaller needs to step down from BOP for personal reasons, and Christian Schaller had to stop mowing/cleaning because of injury. Cheryl Meyer agreed to cover church cleaning over the summer but we will still need a 2nd cleaning person by the time school starts again. The board will cover mowing for short term. A pew by organ is broken, and will be repaired by the company since it's under warranty. Attic venting problems at the Schaller teacherage will be fixed. A Motion passed to put permanent "No Parking" signs on one side of the south driveway. Directed Jer LeDuc to communicate with Seth and the neighbors prior to determining which side and where to put them. <> **Board of Education and Principal:** Summer VBS planning is going well. They discussed painting lockers during

construction project. Our new 5-6 grade teacher, Nathan Buck, will be arriving around Convention time. We are in touch with him about his housing needs. We are tentatively planning on starting next school year mask-free. Since we didn't have the Pre-K & kindergarten roundups this year, the school secretary is calling families to get an idea of who will be attending school this fall. <> **Treasurer:** YTD receipts are \$301K, and disbursements are \$312K. There is a balance in the General Fund of \$32,459, down from the balance of \$43,162 on Jan. 1. The non-budgetary fund balance (including Building Fund, Helping Hands, Current Project Fund, etc.) is \$357,999. CLC General Fund contributions total \$83,838, which is 42% of our year-end goal of \$200,000. Building fund contributions continue to come in. <> **Building project:** We are currently waiting for the building permits from the city, which are being delayed, so we are getting behind schedule. The updated project photo album can be viewed at tinyurl.com/m-build-pics. <> **Christmas Eve:** The Council voted to recommend to the voters that we only have one Christmas Eve service this year, rather than a split service. <> **The next Council meeting** is scheduled for July 21 at 6:30 pm. <> **A Special Voter's meeting** is scheduled for June 20 after worship to discuss membership matters, elect a new Elder and a chairman, as well as a new member on the Board of Property. We will also set the Messiah ILHS Student Aid Grant Fund budget, and receive a Building Committee update. <> **The next Quarterly Voter's Meeting** is will be on Sunday, July 25 at 6:30 pm. <> **The meeting adjourned** at 8:59 pm.



Kinship COVID Aid: With the recent surge of COVID infections in Asia, our brothers and sisters in Christ in India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh are suffering as they struggle to stay healthy and provide for daily necessities due to the lockdown measures that are being strictly enforced. Both the CLCI and BELC report deaths of pastors and members. Also, Pastor Jyothi in India was hospitalized and was very near death. He was able to receive care in an ICU bed for a few weeks where he received lifesaving treatments while he was unconscious for several days. We thank our Savior that Jyothi has recently been released from the hospital and is staying with a relative near the hospital. He is currently receiving oxygen and injections to prevent blood clots. With all of this and more, the CLC Board of Missions and the KINSHIP Committee have decided to provide financial help to assist with humanitarian efforts and medical bills. Offerings to the KINSHIP General Fund will help with this effort to help those who are suffering in Asia at this time. Please remember our brethren in your prayers!

CLC Financial Report - May

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2020	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 11 Months	Balance 5/31/2021
General Fund	0	882,795	956,712	1,005,950	- 73,917
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,251,961	1,196,371	1,263,295	55,590
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	201,448	35,634	126,949		110,133
ILC Building Projects	14,542	2,169,861	1,094,046		1,090,357
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	84,054	214,337	185,398		112,993
Kinship	86,093	184,723	119,916		150,900
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	1,914,371	2,068,712	478,177		3,504,906
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	84,280	137,944	109,939		112,285
Reserve Fund	294,092	4,575	0		298,667
Total	\$2,678,880	\$4,815,786	\$2,114,425		\$5,380,241

General Fund – May offerings: \$75,475 vs disbursements: \$93,875, resulted in a net shortfall for the month of \$18,400, increasing the General Fund deficit to -\$73,917. Offerings to date are short of our CBP estimated revenue by \$123,155, but YTD disbursements are \$49,238 less than estimated expenses. The four Boards (Missions, Trustees, Regents, & Ed Pub) appear to be on track to close the fiscal year under budget. And we have been blessed with a Reserve from previous years of the Lord's abundant blessings.

ILC Operations – May revenue: \$91,658 (incl \$49,500 subsidy) vs disbursements: \$116,151, but still maintaining a substantial balance of \$55,590 in this last month of the fiscal year ending June 30. YTD ILC disbursements are \$66,924 less than YTD budgeted expenses.

ILC Building Projects – May offerings: \$1,660 vs disbursements of \$10,847 for the design fees & drawings for the proposed new gym. May earnings (Div/Int) were \$1,463 (YTD \$61,057). The 2021 Convention Prospectus (pp 93-105) contains footprints & renderings of the multi-level facility.

CEF – May revenue: \$21,546 (\$40 offerings, \$21,506 CEF loan payments) vs disbursements: \$15,873 (incl \$12,000 note repayment). The Trustees have funded CEF loans to 2 congregations this fiscal year, totaling \$200,000, and approved CEF building loans for 2 others totaling \$1.58 million.

MDF – May offerings: \$7,540 vs disbursements: \$37,585, which includes \$24,620 for new building construction & church building improvement grants.

SAF – May receipts: \$6,496 (SAF loan payments/gifts) vs disbursed: \$4,659 (May STU loans/grants).

ILC PMPG – Public Ministry Prep Grants: YTD earnings: \$46,483. Grants this school year: \$32,400. (Note: Since unrealized capital gains can fluctuate (+ or -) each month, those portfolio gains & balances will be reported periodically & separately from the realized earnings from dividends & interest reported each month.)

Kinship – Sponsors/Offerings: \$7,540 vs disbursements: \$19,790 (Orphans & Sem students).

Investment Accounts Growth since 7/1/20: ILC Bldg Projects: \$79,459 to \$1,108,717. SAF Endowment (PMP, SAF, Scholarship Fund): \$159,818 to \$3,538,434. Investment Pool (CEF, CLC Foundation, IIF, Reserve Fund): \$1,461,796 to \$3,792,314. Growth of these accounts is mainly from unrealized capital gains, earnings (dividends & interest), & revenue from CEF & SAF loan repayments, less disbursements for new loans from the CEF & SAF, and realized earnings for the purposes of each fund. "Bring ye in all the tithes and offerings... and I shall pour you out a blessing..."

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; June 21-26, '21

Mon Ezekiel 17:22-24 Need help with this parable? Read the rest of the chapter, for the *tender, young twig* appears to be the spiritual side of Israel, where God *exalts what is lowly*, takes what is *dry and makes it flourish* (24). This prediction for Israel melds into a prophecy for others, and fits the case of Christians who are afflicted by Satan, world, and their own sinful nature.

Tues Mark 4:26-34 What force causes the seed to sprout, makes it grow through natural stages, and develop into seed-heads? This is not a lesson in botany, but insight into God's Word producing grand results in His kingdom (26-29). Putting it another way, God takes a small nucleus and makes it grow into a sheltering refuge for travelers on their flight homeward (30-32). We have seen God doing that miracle in our own town and congregation.

Wed 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 Our earthly life is like living in tents and moving from one campground to another because we don't own real estate. Now then, since heaven is our home and God has *prepared us for this very thing*, (8-9), we trust God to honor our reservation when we show up to claim it.

Thurs Psalm 92 honors God for producing us in His workshop, thus making us His workmanship. Tough He's not finished with us, we are winners already (1-5). Note: palm trees are good for producing edibles, and cedars are good for lumber - - so both have their places among God's abundant blessings.

Fri Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 This message from Jesus humbles us, for He is giving us the bad news that Satan can infiltrate the ranks of confessing Christians; such hypocrites may escape detection in our congregations and fellowship for a lifetime - - until Jesus pulls them out and puts them where they belong. [Now, don't skip the closing verse, 43; it's good news.]

Sat Acts 27:39-28:1 Some might say that God was wasting time with those sailors, soldiers, and passengers at the mercy of the storm, but we know better, for they were not at the mercy of the storm but rather at the mercy of God. They had lost the cargo, the ship's running gear, and their personal belongings—so all they had left were their own lives. When the desperate soldiers planned to kill the prisoners, *lest any of them should swim away and escape* with their lives, the Lord made use of their superior officer to be more compassionate (43) and order everyone to abandon ship. So overboard they went, swam as best they could and/or latched onto floating debris, and that's how all *escaped* (Aha!) drowning and set foot on the beach of the island of Malta. ALL this happened exactly as God willed, for He had other plans for Paul, and 275 others had their time of grace extended. Praise the Lord!