



July 17-18, 2021

Pentecost 8



## 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 25.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

At this time, offering plates are not passed during the service. The plates are located on a stand at each church entrance. You may also give electronically – see the “eGive” button at [eauclairemessiah.com](http://eauclairemessiah.com)

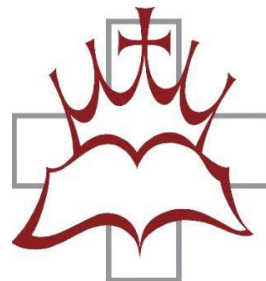
*“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7)*



**Hymns:** 8 243 237 239 789:1&5 244:2-4

## God the Father ..... Ephesians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> **Blessed** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us with every spiritual **blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the **praise of the glory of His grace**, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.



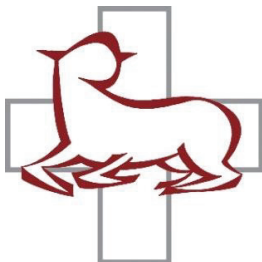
**God the Father provides very many  
and very great blessings to us**

**Hymns:** 243:2 237:2 239:1

**Sunday morning - VBS Singing “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

## God the Son .....Ephesians 1:7-12

<sup>7</sup> **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him**. <sup>11</sup> **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted **in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory.



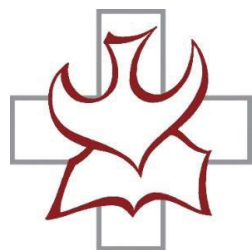
*God the Son purchased with His blood the great gift of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.*

**Hymns:** 243:3 237:3 239:2

### Prayers to the Father in the name of Jesus

#### Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

## God the Holy Spirit.....Ephesians 1:13-14



<sup>13</sup> In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

*God the Holy Spirit seals the deal*

**Hymns:** 243:4 237:4 239:3

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel

**Offering of thankful hearts blessed by the Triune God**

## Confession of Faith

(Excerpts from Martin Luther’s Large Catechism, Article III, The Apostolic Creed)

Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel. The work of redemption is done and accomplished. Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, and resurrection. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would be useless and lost. So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed. In the Word He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own.

I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, even Christ. This group is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, one mind, and understanding, with many different gifts, yet agreeing in love, without sects or schisms. I am also a part and member of this same group, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses. I am brought to it and incorporated into it by the Holy Spirit through having heard and continuing to hear God’s Word. In the past, before we had attained to this, we were altogether of the devil, knowing nothing about God and about Christ. So, until the Last Day, the Holy Spirit abides with the holy congregation or Christendom. Through this congregation He brings us to Christ and He teaches and preaches to us the Word. By the Word He works and promotes sanctification, causing this congregation daily to grow and to become strong in the faith and its fruit, which He produces.

Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is

1 Corinthians 12:3  
Galatians 4:6  
John 19:30

Colossians 2:3

Ephesians 1:22

Ephesians 4:5-8,11

Romans 8:17

Galatians 3:1-2

Romans 3:10-12

John 14:17

John 14:26

Galatians 5

ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the grace of the Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but continuous, uninterrupted forgiveness of sin. This is because God forgives us and because we forgive, bear with, and help one another.

Galatians 6:1-2

Now this is the article of the Apostolic Creed that must always be and remain in use. For we have already received Creation. Redemption, too, is finished. But the Holy Spirit carries on His work without ceasing to the Last Day. For that purpose He has appointed a congregation upon earth by which He speaks and does everything.

From this you see that the Apostolic Creed is a doctrine quite different from the Ten Commandments. For the Ten Commandments teach what we ought to do. But the Apostolic Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us. Furthermore, apart from this, the Ten Commandments are written in all people's hearts. However, no human wisdom can understand the Apostolic Creed. It must be taught by the Holy Spirit alone.

Romans 2:15

1 Corinthians 2:12

Here we see that God gives Himself to us completely. The Father gives all creatures. The Son gives His entire work. And the Holy Spirit bestows all His gifts.

### Benediction

### Closing Hymn



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## This Week at Messiah

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

<b>Sun, 7/18</b>	9:00 am	Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters C)
	10:00 am	Dove West
	10:15 am	Heritage Assisted Living
	11:15 am	Heritage Court
	1:00 pm	Dove South
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Bible Class</b>
<b>Tues, 7/20</b>	9:00 am	Koffee Klatsch
<b>Wed, 7/21</b>	1:45 pm	Lake Hallie
	6:30 pm	Council
<b>Thu, 7/22</b>	6:00 pm	Deacons
<b>Sat, 7/24</b>	10:00 am	Flyer Distribution @ ILC
	10:00 am	Moving @ Messiah
	6:30 pm	Worship Service (Ushers #7)
<b>Sun, 7/25</b>	9:00 am	Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters D)
	10:00 am	Dove West
	10:15 am	Heritage Assisted Living
	11:15 am	Heritage Court
	1:00 pm	Dove South
	2:00 pm	Veterans
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Evening Bible Class</b>
	6:30 pm	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

### Upcoming Dates at Messiah:

- August 2-6, VBS Session 2 at ILC
- August 8, Church Picnic
- August 11-15, Youth Group: Porkies Camp-Out
- August 14, VBS in the Park (Riverview)

## Announcements

**Sunday Evening Bible Class** started up last week with 24 in attendance. We are doing a 10 part series on the Gospel of Matthew. Lesson One covered chapters 1-4. The worksheet is on the table in the narthex. Lesson 2, this Sunday evening at 6:30 pm, will cover chapters 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. We hope you will be able to join us – and bring a friend.

**Messiah's next quarterly voters' meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 25 at 6:30 pm. Voters, please do your best to be present for our work together for the LORD. A packet previewing the meeting is available in the narthex.

**CLC News:** Pastor Mark Tiefel, Redemption, Lynwood, WA has received the call to Eden Prairie, MN.

**Our new Photo Directory** – Thanks to those who organized and participated in the photo portraits at Messiah during this past week. Those who did not get a professional portrait taken are asked to submit a photo for the directory. You may email your photo to [church.office@ecmessiah.org](mailto:church.office@ecmessiah.org), drop one off at church, or send it by regular mail. If there is enough interest (20+ families), another photography session will be scheduled for Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2-8pm. Contact the office 715-834-2865 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment.

**Children from God:** On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the LORD God blessed Melissa (nee Schierenbeck) and Zach Mikesell with the special gift of a baby girl, Emery Christine. Her baptism will take place on Sunday morning, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Just a day later on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the LORD God also blessed Rebecca (nee Redlin) and Andrew Friedrichs with the gift of a baby girl, Marissa Leigh. She was baptized by her grandfather, retired Pastor Dale Redlin on Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup>, in Mankato, MN.



*Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:  
Heirs of salvation, Trusting His promise,  
Faithfully now God's praise we sing. Amen*  
WS 752:1

**July Basketball Camp Nights:** The Immanuel Athletic Boosters (IAB) is sponsoring Basketball Camp nights held at the ILC gym. These nights are open to all youth.



**Girls: Mondays, (nothing this week)** next night **July 26<sup>th</sup>** - 6:30-8 pm  
Contact Jim Sydow, [jasydow@yahoo.com](mailto:jasydow@yahoo.com) or 715-723-2459

**Boys: Only Thursday this week,** next night **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

● 5-6:45 pm, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade ● 7-9 pm, High School

Contact John Radichel, [john.radichel@yahoo.com](mailto:john.radichel@yahoo.com) or 715-704-0820

(Please note: No Basketball on Monday July 19<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>)

**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 Darin 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.

## Outreach Days

Two of our major outreach efforts happened last week.

- **The Northern Wisconsin State Fair** was held Wednesday July 7 through Sunday, July 11. The display panels from our booth are displayed in the narthex. We also this year had a looping video about activities at Messiah. There were a variety of pamphlets at our booth for fairgoers to take; and there were 465 Silent Sunday School packets and 110 VBS flyers given out as well. We are thankful for our 20 plus volunteers throughout the days of the fair. We encourage our members to pray for the blessing of the Spirit on the Word that has gone out.
- **July VBS Complete!** Our first session of VBS was held at ILC this past week. Our theme was "Children of the Heavenly Father". This series included five lessons; "Jesus Blesses the Little Children", "Jairus's Daughter Raised From the Dead", "The Slave Girl and Naaman", "The Boy King Josiah", "David and Goliath". Our total enrollment was 80 (53 members and 27 non-members) with an average daily attendance of 77. Thank you to our wonderful staff and Pastor Caleb Schaller. The following volunteers served as teachers, helpers, planners, and coordinators; Jessi Scheberl, Wendy Kelly, Kendra Naumann, Eve Naumann, Riley Naumann, Zack Sippert, Henry Lau, Justin Winters, Kathy Oster, Natalie Gurgel, Sophia Carstensen, Haley Seffens, Kitara Mielke, Nate Buck, Jess Buck, Sam Kelly, Beth Sydow, Andy Plath, George Carstensen, Joey Mielke, Lori Mueller, Valerie Hammett, Elizabeth Plath, Anne Vaver, and many others including the Messiah office staff who made sure we had supplies, and all who donated snacks. We would like to thank Dan Schierenbeck and the ILC staff; Paul Heinze, Brett Lau, Jessica Lau, and Barb Pfeiffer. The VBS children will be singing during the July 18th service.

### Coming Up Activities

- VBS session two: August 2-6
- VBS in the Park: August 14

Help is needed in getting the word out. In the past our grade school youth (7-8, often 5-6) have distributed flyers, anywhere from 2500 to 4500. They could not do that this year. An attempt to distribute on July 1<sup>st</sup> came up with only 2 volunteers and no flyers distributed. Can you help?

Take some for your neighborhood. Put some here and there. Leave a stack at a daycare.

Also, we are trying to organize a group effort for Saturday July 24 at 10:00 am (yes, same time as strong backs are needed to move items at church). We will need people for flyer distribution at Immanuel at 10:00 am. Send strong members in your family to Messiah for help moving and young legs in your family to ILC for help in flyers.

## Building Project Update

The reroof over the east wing classrooms has been completed. Outside walls for the new classrooms wing are up and trusses are scheduled to go up next week. Rough in for plumbing has been completed along with some interior walls.

The following announcement was from Tom Beekman

**Building Committee Report:** The Messiah Building Project has progressed to the point where we can begin reassembling certain classrooms in the existing facility, re-install a significant number of lockers, and perform some owner-installed items in portions of the project still under construction. This effort will require shifting a large amount of boxes and furniture currently stored in the Fellowship Hall and Classroom #6 to another location within the facility. We had hoped not to have to shift these stored items until they could be put directly into their future classroom space, however, the unforeseen delays in receiving final building permits has required alterations to those plans. The schedule for volunteer efforts is as follows:

**Saturday, July 24** will be a Moving Day. Most of the items stored in the Fellowship Hall and Room #6 will be moved to a different singular location within the facility. There are many boxes, teacher desks, and other furniture items that will need to be moved. If we had a dozen volunteers, it could probably be done within an hour. The efforts will start at 10 am on the 24th and hopefully conclude by noon.

**Saturday, July 24** will also be Cleaning Day for the three classrooms now available for use. The ceiling tile removal, insulation removal, and new construction installations have left quite a bit of dust and debris within the rooms. Volunteers are needed for vacuuming and complete wipe down of walls, furniture, and anything else in those rooms. Church vacuums and cleaning supplies will be provided.

**Saturday, July 31** is tentatively scheduled for Install Locker Day. Almost all of the school lockers are stored outside by the storage garage. They will need to be unwrapped and brought into their intended reinstallation location. This is a job that will require strong arms and backs to lift lockers onto the carts, roll them into the school, and then lifted off the carts. It would be desirable to have 6-10 strong individuals for this effort.

Please check your schedules and see if you can help with these efforts. In addition, some specialized owner-installed activities will need to occur over the next several weeks. Our committee will be reaching out to individuals to help with those tasks which include adding or reinstalling insulation in other portions of the project, painting, and other minor carpentry work.

Thank you! **Messiah Building Committee**

**Youth Group River Float:** Friday, July 9th turned out to be a picture-perfect day to float down the Chippewa River. In all, 14 floaters attended with two chaperones. We got off to an interesting start after one tube deflated pretty quickly into the trip, so Pastor Schaller paddled back to our starting point to swap tubes. Youth enjoyed their lazy drift to our first stop, the rope swing. Several took part in swinging on the rope to plunge in the water. We stopped next at a small waterfall where all the kids climbed a large rock while Pastor once again jumped into action paddling after a run-away life jacket. Our devotion centered around James 1:17-21; God's constant blessings from above, much like a river that endlessly flows.

**Next month--Porkies Camp 2021.**

### Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

#### God's Word Serving Us:

*Sermon Text – Ephesians 2:13-22*  
*Sunday Evening Bible Class – Gospel of Matthew, Lesson 3*

#### Christians Serving Us:

**Saturday 7/24 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7**

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

**Sunday 7/25 9:00 am: Usher Team 8**

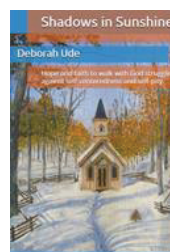
Paul Heinze Seth Schaller  
Christian Schaller Tim Schaller  
Jim Sandeen Peter Reim  
Dave Cavanaugh

#### Counters for the week following 7/25 – D

Joel Carstensen, Dave Johannes, Matt Kelly

*Thank you!*

**Pacific NW Family/Youth Camp** will be held at Alta Lake State Park in Washington State on August 1-5, 2021. Campers can register either as individual youth (grade 6 thru college) or families. Food and campground costs are included in the registration fee (\$100 for individuals, \$175 for families). Find more details and the online registration at: [redemptionclc.com/pac-nw-camp/](http://redemptionclc.com/pac-nw-camp/).



**Deborah Ude's "Shadows in Sunshine,"** now available, is Volume 4 in the "Steeple in the Distance" series. All four of Debi's books are available in printed form directly from John Ude, [john.ude@ilc.edu](mailto:john.ude@ilc.edu), at the CLC Bookstore, or on Amazon. Amazon's Deborah K. Ude author page can be viewed at: [tinyurl.com/DeborahUde](http://tinyurl.com/DeborahUde). Debi actually wrote six books before joining Jesus and all the saints. These are not being published to make money, but to honor Jesus' gift in Debi.



**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).



### Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ July 17-18, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 84 – Sun. 215) 299

Communion (Sat. 22 – Sun. 64) 86

Weekend Online: 128

Sunday Evening Bible Class: 24

Dove West: 11    Heritage Court: 19    Dove South: 7    Veterans: 5

Heritage Assisted: 9    Lake Hallie: 15    Our House: 10

### Weekly Offering Information

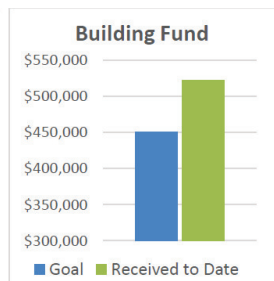
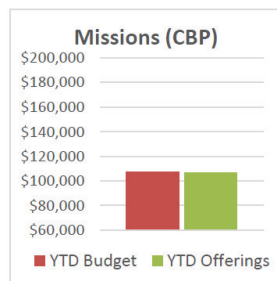
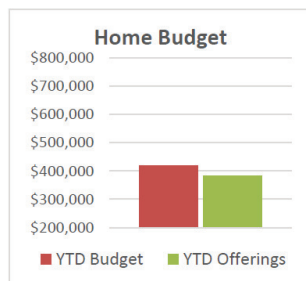
Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$418,923.00	\$107,692.00
YTD Offerings	\$381,573.77	\$106,610.00
Weekly Need	\$16,518.00	\$3,891.00
Last Week (7/11)	\$12,937.50	\$3,387.75
Amount Still Needed	\$396,426.23	\$93,390.00

Building Fund	
\$450,000.00	Goal
\$522,014.01	Received to Date
\$2,020.65	Last Week (7/11)

Given in memory of...

Wayne Culver

200.00 Messiah Building Fund



## 2021 Convention Summary

The 34th Convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession was held at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI on June 24-27, 2021. The theme of the Convention was "Still Our Great Commission: 'Make Disciples of All the Nations.'" A full report from the Convention will be published later this summer in the *Proceedings*.

### Doctrine

#### Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship

RESOLVED that we decline to adopt the *Joint Statement* as a settlement of the doctrinal difference between the CLC and the WELS and ELS concerning the termination of fellowship, and prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance in His Word for a different approach.

RESOLVED that we continue to use the doctrinal principles of the *Joint Statement* as a basis for discussion with WELS and ELS on the doctrine of termination of fellowship.

RESOLVED that the four-man CLC committee, in conjunction with the Board of Doctrine, clearly define what is necessary for a settlement of the doctrinal difference between the CLC and the WELS and ELS concerning the termination of fellowship.

RESOLVED that the four-man CLC committee work with the Board of Doctrine to address additional questions in our midst (e.g., role of admonition, pre-requisites for settlement, practice of the fellowship principle, the dangers expressed by Romans 16:18).

RESOLVED that these findings be brought before the 2022 Convention.

RESOLVED that the four-man CLC committee, in conjunction with the CLC Board of Doctrine, continues to work with the WELS and ELS to settle these doctrinal differences on the basis of Scripture.

The full text of the resolutions including the supporting statements will be published in the *Proceedings*.

It was resolved to create and maintain an official "CLC Statements and Publications Registry." The Board of Doctrine will be responsible for the maintenance and administration of this registry.



It was resolved that the General Pastoral Conference study the *Theses and Antitheses on the Role of Admonition in the Termination of Fellowship with Church Bodies* and bring a recommendation as to the adoption of this statement as an official doctrinal statement of the CLC to the 2024 Convention.

The Standing Constitution Committee was directed to answer the question, "Does the CLC Constitution require the president to request the Board of Doctrine to represent the church body in doctrinal discussion with other church groups, or is this action at the president's discretion?" and report to the 2022 Convention.

**Missions** – The Board of Missions and other CLC entities were directed to refer to "Project Kinship" as simply "Kinship" without the word "Project" and without any associated acronym. It was resolved that the Board of Missions encourage domestic subsidized congregations to open Christian Day Schools. It was resolved that the Board of Missions develop and implement a model for a Christian Day School as an outreach tool in domestic subsidized congregations. It was resolved that the Board of Missions and the Board of Education and Publications explore other ways to make use of subsidized Christian Day Schools as mission tools and report their findings to the 2022 Convention.

**Finance** -- The Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget was adopted:

Education and Publications	\$ 018,000
Trustees	\$ 075,000
Missions	\$ 426,430
<u>Regents</u>	<u>\$ 740,000</u>
General Fund Budget	\$ 1,259,430
+ ILC Revenue	\$ 708,120

**Total FY22 Spending Plan      \$1,967,550**

The Church Extension Fund (CEF) Policy was approved as presented and edited by the floor committee. The committee's policy added two points to what the Trustees presented in the *Prospectus*. The full policy will be printed in the *Proceedings*. The proposed increases in retirement contributions and compensation were approved. It was resolved that the president form a Compensation Committee to provide a Target Base salary recommendation for called workers and report its findings to the 2022 Convention. Convention concurred with the Trustees' recommendation of establishing a General Fund Endowment.

**Committee of Partners in the Public Ministry (CPPM):** It was resolved that the Candidate for the Reverend Ministry (CRM) requirements remain as they are for those who wish to serve in the full-time pastoral ministry in the CLC. The Board of Regents and seminary faculty were encouraged to promote the revised Limited Pastoral Ministry program. The convention established the position of "Recruiter for the Public Ministry."

**ILC Planning Committee (ILC-PC)** — \$20,000 was allocated from the ILC Building Fund to the ILC-PC to complete the fieldhouse renovation plan, and it was resolved that the ILC-PC present its plan for the gymnasium and chapel/theater, arts/musical arts facility to the 2022 Convention.

**Proposal to Eliminate Publicizing the Nomination Slate when Calling a Professor** — It was resolved that the publication of qualified nominees be retained to allow for comments from the body of the CLC. It was recommended that the Board of Regents include a preamble to the announcement of the nomination list, expressing the list should only be considered in respect for the divinity of the call and differences in God-given gifts, not in any kind of competition between individuals. It should be further understood that the nominated individuals have not sought this nomination and may never receive the call.

**CLC Constitution** – Bylaw 3B, #3 was removed from the Constitution as proposed by the Standing Constitution Committee.

**Conference Visitors** -- The Convention ratified the Conference Visitors as elected by their respective conferences: **Great Lakes:** Pastor Andrew Schaller; **Minnesota:** Pastor James Albrecht; **Pacific Coast:** Pastor David Naumann; **West Central:** Pastor Michael Roehl; **South Eastern:** Pastor Matthew Hanel.

**Membership:** Teachers, Nathan Buck and Benjamin Hansen; Pastors Cory Drehle, Drew Naumann, Samuel Naumann, Johnathan Schnose; and Professor Daniel Schierenbeck were accepted as voting members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. *Our Shepherd* Lutheran Church (Conroe, TX) and *St. Paul's* Lutheran Church (Melrose, WI) were ratified into congregational membership of the CLC. The declaration of fellowship with Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission was ratified. The dissolution of four congregations was acknowledged with regret: *Bethel* Lutheran



Church (Humble, TX), *Living Word* Lutheran Church (Blue Springs, MO), *Mount Olive* Lutheran Church (Detroit Lakes, MN), and *Rock of Ages* Lutheran Church (Jenison, MI).

**CLC Website Memorial:** We are grateful to those volunteers who have managed and updated our online presence. If there are additional suggestions going forward, the Board of Education and Publications always welcomes input from CLC members. We encourage the Board of Education and Publications to investigate ways that we can expand our online presence and to work toward a common CLC look and feel.

**Elections** — The following were re-elected, **President:** Pastor Michael Eichstadt, **Moderator:** Pastor Paul Nolting, **Secretary:** Pastor Wayne Eichstadt, **Board of Trustees:** Pastor Michael Roehl, Mr. Neal Wietgreffe, **Board of Regents:** Teacher Matthew Thurow, Mr. Steve Ludvigson, **Board of Missions:** Pastor Rob Sauers, **Board of Education and Publications:** Teacher Seth Schaller, Mr. Rick Nelson. **Newly elected:** Pastor Michel Wilke, **Vice President** and Mr. Jeff Radichel, **Board of Missions.** (Since this Convention was the delayed 2020 convention, officers were elected to one-year terms, and board members were elected to three-year terms.) It was resolved that nominations for officers and board members are to be made before convention or through the written nomination at Convention. Nominations from the floor will be allowed if a bio has been provided and willingness to serve has been verified. It was resolved to continue using electronic voting.

**Appointments** for periodical editors were ratified: Professor Paul Naumann (*Lutheran Spokesman*), Pastor Wayne Eichstadt (*Journal of Theology*), Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer (*Ministry by Mail*); Pastor David Pfeiffer (*Daily Rest*); and Pastor Glenn Oster (CLC Webmaster). A full list of appointments will be published in the Convention *Proceedings*.

**Convention** — The Convention Communion Service offering was designated for the CLC General Fund \$3,640.15. Lord-willing, the next convention will be held on the Immanuel Lutheran College Campus, **June 23-26, 2022** (Thursday through Sunday).

**Note:** The CLC Coordinating Council's next meeting is set for September 22, 2021 (9:00 a.m.)—Boards meet September 20-21.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; July 19-24, '21

**Mon Amos 7:10-15** It helps to know that the Hebrews were split North and South, and God sent Amos to denounce both sections for deserting God. That didn't sit well with the archbishop of Bethel (10-11), who forbade Amos use of the royal chapel for his pulpit. "Go home!" (12-13) Amos admitted that he had no skin in the game (14), but since the LORD had signed him up, he had no choice but to obey God's directives (15). What a stout fellow!

**Tues Mark 6:7-13** Miracles are God's power tools; He uses them as needed in the up-building of His Kingdom. People are impressed by miracles; they can carry enough clout to strike Satan out of his stadium (7). Further, God opens hearts and homes for His missionaries (8-10), because most people want to be on God's side, not on Satan's team, a squad of losers (11-13).

**Wed Ephesians 1:3-14** What a great line-up of blessings we have! Even prior to Creation, God chose to adopt us into His family (3-5). Why? Because He is goodhearted and generous (5-6). What else does He accomplish with His love? He transfers to us the value of Jesus' self-sacrifice (7-8)--which is no longer a secret, for He has *made it known* to us that Jesus Christ is the key to God's heart and plans, all the way into His living room (9-14). Praise the Lord!

**Thurs Psalm 78** God's plans were no secret to ancient Israel, where parents schooled their children in God's Word—Reader's Digest version (12-30). We get choked up to hear how the Hebrews bounced back and forth (over the centuries) between rebellion and repenting, and how God forgave their iniquity over and over again (32-66) until He chose David to shepherd His people. Bottom line: God is greater than anyone would ever expect.

**Fri Matthew 15:21-28** Jesus took a detour into Philistia, a non-Jewish land, a leftover of heathen Canaan. For what good reason did He do so? To have mercy on that particular woman burdened by love for her suffering child. When Jesus put her love to the test—and the courage of faith, too—she held fast to both, which Jesus expected and rewarded. She depended on Jesus to help her, despite their ethnic difference. [Note: God is not a racist.]

**Sat Acts 28:25-31** History does repeat itself, doesn't it? In Paul's day, God opened His heart again and again to people He had selected for great blessing—but His love bounced off them like water off a duck's back (26-27). God could have bottled up His love and never let it breathe again, but He chose a different course – to pour out His love onto all humanity (28).

God kept Paul busy *preaching the kingdom of God* to everyone and anyone within earshot. God's love shined into that corner of the world hour after hour, from sunrise to sunset, for two whole years. Amen.