



September 4-5, 2021

Pentecost 15



"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

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 1.

Pre-Service Devotion: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10)

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
“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: 2 451 768 442:2 755,315 309

Old Testament ReadingDeuteronomy 4:1, 2, 6-8

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. ...

⁶Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

⁷“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? ⁸And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?





Gospel Reading Mark 7:1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

¹Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ²Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. ³For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

⁵Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

⁶He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

‘This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.
⁷And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”



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Sermon..... Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Sermon Theme: Jesus has left behind the **weapons** for our warfare

1. The **weapons** are specifically designed to fight successfully the powerful (spiritual) enemy after us.
2. The **weapons** need to be picked up by each Christian (and the enemy has no way to use them)
3. The **weapons** are to be used by us for our welfare and to help others.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel



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.

Communion Kits are still available for home or pew use. Those using kits will partake as the “first table” (from home or from their pew). Then the pastor will invite the rest to come forward to celebrate the Lord's Supper at the direction of the ushers. This arrangement is so the first table can hear the pastor speaking.

Gluten Free and non-alcoholic wine are available at the stands as you approach the communion rail.

This Week at Messiah

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

Sun, 9/5	9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #4, Counters B)						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>10:00 am Dove West</td><td>11:15 am Heritage Court</td></tr> <tr> <td>10:15 am Heritage Assisted Living</td><td>1:00 pm Dove South</td></tr> </table>	10:00 am Dove West	11:15 am Heritage Court	10:15 am Heritage Assisted Living	1:00 pm Dove South		
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	12:00 pm Rescheduled Church Picnic at Mount Simon						
	6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at church						
Mon, 9/6	Labor Day						
Tues, 9/7	9:00 am Koffee Klatsch at Perkins						
	6:00 pm Hymnal Committee						
	7:00 pm Deacons						
Wed, 9/8	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1:45 pm Lake Hallie</td><td>2:30 pm Our House</td></tr> </table>	1:45 pm Lake Hallie	2:30 pm Our House				
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	4:30 pm Building Committee						
	6:30 pm "Home" Bible Study at the ILC Academic Center						
Thurs, 9/9	6:30 pm Elders						
	7:00 pm Messiah School Orientation - Tentative						
Fri, 9/10	10:00 am Pastors' Study Club						
	4:00 pm Board of Property						
Sat, 9/11	6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #5)						
Sun, 9/12	9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters C)						
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	6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at church						

Upcoming Dates at Messiah:

- Sept. 13, Rescheduled Opening Day for Messiah School (see related article)
- Sept. 18-19, Restart of weekend Sunday School and Bible Class
- Sept. 20-22, Boards of CLC and Coordinating Council
- Sept. 25-26, Fall Mission Festival
- Sept. 28-30, Great Lakes Pastoral Conference
- Sept. 30-Oct 3, Man Up Retreat

Announcements

Church Picnic: Plan to come **this Sunday, September 5** to Mount Simon Park, beginning at noon. You may bring a main dish [or meat to grill] along with a side dish or dessert to pass and your own plates and utensils. Volunteers will grill any meat you bring. Beverages are provided. Games and fellowship time will follow.

Sunday Evening Bible Study continues this Sunday at 6:30 pm. This week we are studying chapter 20 of Matthew's Gospel. Handouts from previous lessons are available in the narthex. Next week our Sunday Evening Bible Class will wrap up with a study of Mathew 21-28. The following week weekend (Sept 18-19) Bible Class (Saturday evening and Sunday morning) will resume and Sunday evening will stop for the time being.

This fall, we will have a re-launch of our Messiah Home Bible Studies program in various neighborhoods of the greater Eau Claire area. There are currently three groups that have plans to begin soon, including a study at the **ILC Library this Wednesday, September 8, beginning at 6:30 pm**. We would like to assist new group start-ups - contact Pastor Naumann for information on starting a group. You may see some answers to frequently asked questions at tinyurl.com/mhbs-faq.



Church/school janitor position: Anyone who would like to apply for this 20-30 hrs/week position may contact Property Chairman Jerry LeDuc at jerleduc@charter.net or 715-379-5020.

Change of Address for Mae Noeldner:

Mailing: Mae Noeldner
4626 Talmadge Rd.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Visiting: Heritage Court
3515 E. Hamilton Ave. #26
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Messiah member contact information needed - Messiah's pastors have been trying to get in touch with Renae Markus, without success. If you have contact information for Renae, please forward it to one of the pastors. Thank you.

Pastor Schaller's Call: Pastor Schaller has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. As he considers where the Lord of the Church would have him serve, he welcomes the advice and prayers of Messiah's members.

News about Messiah School

School opening delayed until Monday, September 13 - Messiah's Board of Education has decided to delay the start of the school year for 6 days (the 13th rather than the 7th). We are sorry for scheduling problems that this may cause to school families, but it is necessary mainly because 1) Our building expansion project, through no fault of Royal Construction, is somewhat behind schedule in certain areas; and 2) The time frame is too short for our teachers to properly prepare their classrooms as soon as the 7th. During this very unusual year for school opening we would like our students and staff to get off to a good start, and the added days of preparation will help to accomplish that.

It was very encouraging to see so many people turn out on Sunday for "moving in and other projects" day - thank you! We also thank you for your understanding, continuing help, and prayers for the LORD to bless our upcoming school year!

- Messiah's Board of Education

School Preparations Volunteer List - As we near the beginning of Messiah School on September 13, it would be very helpful to know when people are available to help with projects as they come up. Projects will include installing cabinets, installing whiteboards, cleaning lockers & desks, moving various items, etc. We prefer responses via the online support form at tinyurl.com/school-prep-vol. If you would like to help but prefer not to use the form, you may contact Principal Schaller at seth.schaller@ecmessiah.org or (715) 577-6276 - Thank you!

Around the CLC

Man Up! Retreat - The 2021 ManUp! Men's Retreat is on for this fall will be held September 30 - October 3, 2021, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. You can register here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. Sign up today!

The 2021 CLC Convention Proceedings are now available. A number of copies have been printed and are available in our narthex. There is also a sign-up sheet if more copies are needed. You may also read the *Proceedings* online, using this link: tinyurl.com/2021-clc-proc.

CLC Call News: Seminary graduate Nick Naumann *has received* the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. • Louise Mayhew *has accepted* the call to Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE.

In the Congregation

Received into membership last week: Brandon Hemmingson is the husband of Messiah member Tara (née Hetke). Their daughter Addison is enrolled at Messiah School. Brandon works in light industry, and the family lives on Eau Claire's west side. Brandon recently completed an instruction course in Bible teaching, and was received into communicant membership at last Sunday's service, August 29. We welcome him to our fellowship!

Pictorial Directory: We were unable to get enough members signed up for the makeup day. Opportunities to take a picture at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Altoona on September 14-15. If this doesn't work – please send a picture to church.office@ecmessiah.org.

United in Christ: On Saturday, August 28, Nicole LeDoux and Jason Ciokiewicz (pronounced "Si-KO-vitch") were married here at Messiah, with Pastor Naumann officiating. We wish them God's richest blessings in their married life together in Christ. *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope,"* Jeremiah 29:11. **Those who attended the service** should be aware that, following the wedding, Nikki developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. Thankfully, her symptoms are mild so far. She has approved this message, and has been notifying wedding guests so that they can take appropriate precautions.



Sunday School Staff Needed: SS Superintendent Blane Knutson is still looking for teachers for 3-4th grade and 7-8th grade. The younger grades do typical Bible stories from the Old and New Testament. The 7-8th grade takes more of a teacher led topical approach. Lesson materials are provided. Please consider if you might serve the youth of our congregation in this way and contact Blane if interested at BlaneK3691@gmail.com or 715-581-4724.

Sunday School Will Restart on the weekend of September 18-19. (7:45 pm on Saturday, and 10:15 pm on Sunday). Yay!!

<i>Let children hear the mighty deeds</i>	<i>Oh, teach them with all diligence</i>
<i>Which God performed of old,</i>	<i>The truths of God's own Word,</i>
<i>Which in our younger years we saw,</i>	<i>To place in Him their confidence,</i>
<i>And which our fathers told.</i>	<i>To fear and trust their Lord. Amen.</i>

TLH 629:1&4

✝

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

Sermon Text – Mark 7:31-37
Sunday Evening Bible Class – Last class Matthew 21-28

Christians Serving Us:

<i>Saturday 9/11 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5</i>		<i>Sunday 9/12 9:00 am: Usher Team 6</i>	
Mike Markus	Mark Franson	Darin Oster	Ben Oster
Jim Sydow	Ben Thurow	Tim Oster	Jeremy Plath
Jim Lau	Andy Buck	Isaiah Plath	Gabe Plath
Mark Kranz		Andrew Plath	

Counters for the week following 9/12 – C
Tom Joos, Mike Markus, Barry Schlegelmilch

Communion Setup 9/11 – Naomi Radichel & Jen LeDuc

Thank you!

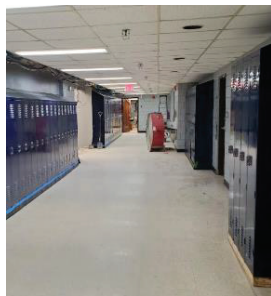
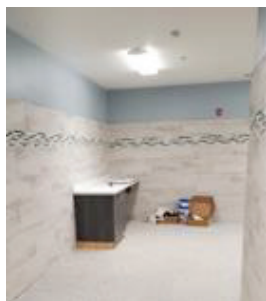
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Building Project Update

The Messiah School building project has seen rapid progress over the past two weeks and the conclusion of several major elements. All of the remodelled classrooms in the existing part of the school are now fully occupied and being readied for school. The new bathrooms that were created within the existing school footprint are also completed and nearly ready for use.

All HVAC is installed and operational with both the existing facility and new addition.

Interior of the new addition areas have progressed to where everything is painted. Ceiling grid and tile are being installed, and final ceiling fixtures for lights and fire suppression will be installed this coming week. That leaves the flooring which will be completed over the next two weeks. The remaining



floor is part ceramic tile and carpet to be installed by volunteer labor from Messiah and epoxy another round of coating to be installed by a contractor.

The exterior of the building is complete except for painting which will be done by a contractor. The roofing is complete except for the re-roof of the old sanctuary where the contractor is still awaiting arrival of necessary material.

Nearly all the sidewalks are in place. All curb and gutter are in place and awaiting the paving of the blacktop of the parking lot which is scheduled to occur the week after Labor Day.

Final landscaping of the enlarged drainage retention basin was completed this past week. Rough grading around the building and sidewalks was completed which now allows us to start construction of a significant number of necessary retaining walls. The retaining walls are part of the owner install obligation to be done with volunteer labor from Messiah.

At this point, it is reasonable to see where the entire interior space of the project will be available for full usage within three weeks or sooner.

If you are interested in helping with any of the remaining volunteer labor effort mentioned in this update, please contact Tom Beekman, Project Coordinator, at 715 491 2025.



We are once again receiving offers for personal loans for our building project. A previous loan was turned into an offering, so we have room for \$50,000 in a new load or loans. These loans help to reduce our indebtedness to the CLC's Church Extension Fund. A lower interest rate on personal loans means significant, long-term savings for the congregation. Please go to tinyurl.com/m-build-loan for more information and a loan offer form. You may also contact Treasurer Steve Lentz at slentz1952@gmail.com or 715-497-8436. Thank you.



Messiah Shut-ins: Marge Eckel (2512 New Pine Dr. Altoona), Shirley Johnson (2512 New Pine Dr. Altoona), Mae Noeldner (Heritage Court), 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).

*All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken
And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.*

*Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt His wisdom never,--
As God wills, so be it ever,--
I to Him commit my way. Amen.*

TLH 425:1&5

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ August 28-29, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 160 – Sun. 207) 367 Weekend Online: 141

Sunday Evening Bible Class: 18 Ruth's Retreat: 11

Dove West: 9 Heritage Court: 15 Dove South: 7

Heritage Assisted: 10 Lake Hallie: No service Our House: 6 Veterans: cancelled

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$523,654.00	\$134,615.00
YTD Offerings	\$505,295.08	\$154,147.11
Weekly Need	\$16,041.00	\$2,697.00
Last Week (8/29)	\$11,221.85	\$3,745.25
Amount Still Needed	\$272,704.92	\$45,852.89

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$636,910.72	Received to Date
\$6,829.00	Last Week (8/29)

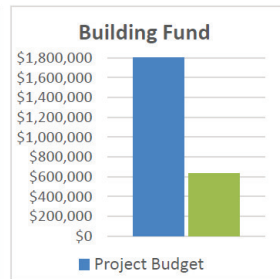
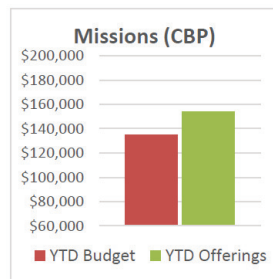
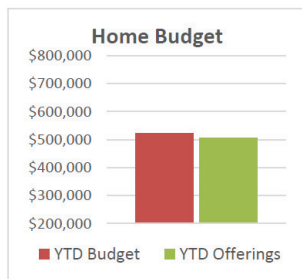
Given in memory of...

Joe Eder

100.00 Messiah Building Fund

Paul & Kathleen Larsen

5,000.00 Messiah Building Fund



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 6-11, '21

Mon Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8 If we are tempted to close our ears when God lays down the law, we should receive a jolt like this one—sharp and pointed. But why would anyone *add* to God's Word? To create loopholes: "Yes, God's Word is final—except in this case" or "God's Word changes according to changing conditions." [We can almost hear echoes of our founding fathers reciting vv. 6-8 to boost their self-assurance and garner international favor.]

Tues Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23 Self-righteous Jews figured that God had short-changed them, so they added the *traditions of the elders* on top of God's Law. Washing hands is fine, but it does not wash away the filth of *evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders*, etc. So God does it His way: He cleans our hearts with repentance and faith in Jesus as our Substitute.

Wed Ephesians 6:10-20 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" is not a cliché but serious business. We strap on the bullet-proof vest Jesus has crafted for us (14), we buckle up our combat boots (15), and with God's Word we deflect Satan's oncoming missiles (16).

Fight the good fight with all thy might; Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right!"

Thurs Psalm 119:C (v.17-24) Is it possible that a Christian loves God's Law? Yes, for the child of God knows that his Father wants to protect him from harm, just as STOP and YIELD protect motorists from collisions. We appreciate *God's Word, commandments, judgments, statutes, and testimonies* because that's how God provides direction down our highway of life, to avoid potholes and steer clear of oncoming traffic. Thank You, Lord God, for Your holy Word!

Fri John 15:9-17 We love Him because He first loved us; we abide in God's love as we are bonded to His Word/precepts, and loving one another reflects Jesus' love—strong enough to sacrifice Himself for us. That's how we face our sinfulness, and that's how we will face God on Judgment Day.

Sat 2 Peter 3:10-13 Will we ever get to the point that we can bypass "And forgive us our trespasses"? No, not in this world; Jesus knew it, and we know it. That's why this world with its sinfulness (and our share in this world) must be burned away—as metal is refined/purified by boiling away the dross (Psalm 119:119, Malachi 3:3). The world we live in is mortal, subject to decay and death, whereas God's new world will be immortal, rising out of the ashes of fire and death. It will be a world where righteousness and holiness are totally at home and will preoccupy us (13). *According to His promise, we look for His new heavens and a new Earth in which righteousness dwells.*