



September 11-12, 2021

Pentecost 16

"Ephphatha!"



*"Everyone who has heard and learned from
the Father comes to me." John 6:45*

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 25.

Pre-Service Devotion: "Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." (Matthew 13:16-17)

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: 360 512 Bulletin Hymn (tune of TLH 371) 441:1-2 45

Old Testament ReadingIsaiah 35:4-7a

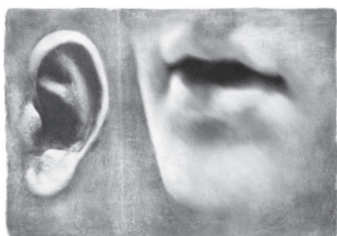
⁴ Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. ⁷ The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water.

Epistle Reading James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. ¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Sermon..... Mark 7:31-37

Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



The Password is "EPHPHATHA"

- I. When it's given by Jesus,
the deaf hear clearly.
- II. When it's given by Jesus,
the mute speak plainly.

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann

Hymn: "A Wretched man, Both Mute and Deaf"

Author Unknown – Tune of TLH 371 ("Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness")

1. A wretched man, both mute and deaf, Was brought to Jesus for relief;
He came to know the Savior's pow'r, When he received a wondrous cure.
2. The Savior used but simple means, Such as the haughty world disdains;
When He first took him from the throng, To make him hear and loose his tongue.
3. His "Ephphatha," His sigh and look, Through all the pow'rs of darkness broke;
He loosed the devil's dreadful chain; The man could hear and speak again!
4. Are we not also deaf and mute, And wretched creatures from our youth?
We cannot speak the Savior's praise, Until we hear His Word of grace:
5. The chain of sin our Savior broke, Our guilt upon Himself He took;
He died that we might now be free, And with Him live eternally.
6. When we are taken from the crowd, And with this light and grace endow'd;
Then by His Word we come to know, Our Savior's wondrous healing, too.
7. Now of His wonders we can tell, And testify that all is well;
Then grace on other hearts will break – The deaf will hear, the mute will speak!



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

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

Sun, 9/12 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters C)

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	

6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at church

Mon, 9/13 8:30 am Opening Day – Messiah School

Tues, 9/14 9:00 am Koffee Klatsch at Perkins

Wed, 9/15 1:45 pm Lake Hallie 2:30 pm Our House

5:30 pm Council

6:30 pm "Home" Bible Study at the ILC Academic Center

7:00 pm Outreach

8:00 pm Ruth's Retreat



Sat, 9/18 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #7)

Sun, 9/19 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters D)

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

10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class

6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at church

Upcoming Dates at Messiah:

- 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, ManUp! Retreat
- Oct. 17 – New building dedication, as part of Sunday service

Messiah's Fall Mission Festival will be held on September 25-26. Our guest speaker for the services will be Pastor Em. Vance Fossum of West Columbia, SC. We will have a potluck meal after the Sunday service on the south lawn – Please plan to attend.

Announcements

Sunday Evening Bible Study continues this Sunday at 6:30 pm. This week we are studying chapter 21 of Matthew's Gospel. Handouts from previous lessons are available in the narthex. It was announced that this week was the last class in this series. But after hearing from those attending the class, we intend to continue this Sunday evening class until the conclusion of our study of Matthew.

Restart of Sunday School and weekend Bible class – On the weekend of September 18-19 we will once again have Sunday School and Bible class following each worship service (beginning at 7:45 pm Saturday and 10:15 am on Sunday). Bible Class will be a series on the book of Psalms. Plan to stay following worship for the blessing of sharing God's Word together!

Letter to the Congregation from teacher Valerie Hammett:

Dear Members of Messiah, After much prayer, I have come to the realization that I need to resign my teaching call due to health reasons. This is one of the hardest things I have had to do and I realize what a horrible situation I have put the school and congregation in. I am deeply sorry for this and I am extremely sorry to all those students, teachers, and parents who have been negatively impacted by my decision. I humbly ask for your understanding and forgiveness.

I have loved teaching here at Messiah these past couple of years and am grateful for the opportunity you gave to me. It has been a joy and privilege working with your children and working with the teachers at Messiah in the Lord's work. Thank you to everyone who has already helped out in this situation and have given me grace, forgiveness, and comfort. It is truly a blessing being in the midst of Christian sisters and brothers and I am humbled by it.

I pray that the Lord will fill this position quickly with the right individual. Once again, I am deeply sorry for the position I have put you in.

Your sister in Christ, Valerie Hammett

For the start of this school year, Mrs. Marcie Schierenbeck will serve as our substitute morning teacher for grade 4. Our Board of Education is working on a call list of candidates to fill this position, which will be presented at the next voter's meeting. We offer our prayers to the LORD for Valerie's health, and for the well-being of the Hammett family.

Pastor Schaller's Call: *Dear Messiah Congregation, After prayerful consideration, I am returning the call to Faith Lutheran. I believe that the Lord would have me continue to serve as an under-shepherd here at Messiah Lutheran for the time being. My heart goes out to all of those in the St. Louis area. Please join me in praying that the Lord in his wisdom and mercy will send them a shepherd soon.*

Much love in Christ, -Pastor Caleb Schaller

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 15, 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.

Sunday School Staff Needed: SS Superintendent Blane Knutson is still looking for teachers for 3-4th grade and 7-8th grade. 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.

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.



Rescheduled Motorcycle ride - Our group ride will now take place on Saturday, September 18, at 1:00 pm. We'll meet in the church parking lot around 12:45. Feel free to invite a friend. If you know anyone in nearby congregations that might be interested please invite them. The more fellowship, the better! If you need more info contact Matt Kelly at 715-497-4222.

Address Changes: Thomas Albrecht
13055 43rd Ave,
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
(608) 286-0541

Erin Franson
121 W. MacArthur Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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

Sermon Text – To be decided
Bible Class – Part 1 of a series on the Psalms

Christians Serving Us:

Saturday 9/18 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7

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

Sunday 9/19 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 9/19 – D
Joel Carstensen, Dave Johannes, Matt Kelly

Thank you!

Thanks to those who helped to organize our enjoyable church picnic last Sunday at Mt. Simon park. As previously announced, we thought one of the participants tested positive for Covid, but it turned out the test was negative.

CLC Call News: Becky McKenney *has returned* the call to Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. + Seminary graduate Nick Naumann *is still considering* the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. + Pastor Caleb Schaller, Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, *has returned* the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. + Michael Sprengeler *is still considering* the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, as well as to Zion Lutheran Church, Ipswich, SD. + Pastor Ben Libby of Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, *is still considering* the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY.

In the Hospital: • Good news! Lila Schaller is coming home this weekend from her stay in the hospital since birth. Extra prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord.

• Leanne Boyea is in the hospital.

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).

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ September 4-5, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 115 – Sun. 187) 302 Online: 166 (current views)

Communion: (Sat. 105 – Sun. 150) 255

Sunday Evening Bible Class: 17

Dove West: 11 Heritage Court: 17 Dove South: 8

Heritage Assisted: 5 Lake Hallie: 18 Our House: 8

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$538,615.00	\$138,462.00
YTD Offerings	\$523,071.08	\$158,720.61
Weekly Need	\$15,933.00	\$2,580.00
Last Week (9/5)	\$17,776.00	\$4,573.50
Amount Still Needed	\$254,928.92	\$41,279.39

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$639,415.72	Received to Date
\$2,505.00	Last Week (9/5)



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Continuing Under God's Grace A Reflection on the Past 60 Years VIII. Offsite Preaching Posts

For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death (Psalm 48:14).

The typical Christian goes through two critical ages – very young and very old. Beginning with birth, a soul needs special care to be brought to Jesus. Parents, sponsors, Christians in the family and the whole congregation take great care to lay a solid foundation, built on Jesus and His work as Redeemer. We have covered earlier in our series the time and effort Messiah has invested in Christian education with our programs of Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Christian Day School, and other aids for use at home. (See Part IV)

All of this is in accord with God's will: **Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).** But the other critical age for a Christian is old age. The preacher gives this advice: **Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).**

The verses that follow describe the physical and mental breakdown that usually comes with old age. And often those years can have periods of loneliness as spouse, siblings and friends leave earth for heaven.

But just as Jesus singles out babies and young children as being especially important to Him (Matthew 18), so He has given special promises for the elderly. **"Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you (Isaiah 46:3-4).** So, the ministry to the old and dying merits special attention and the Spirit of God has, over the years, blessed the efforts of Messiah to serve in this capacity.

Back in the late 1960's, weekly Sunday services were started at the County Home (now called Dove West), on Truax Avenue. Most of the preaching was done by professors and seminary students from Immanuel Lutheran College.

Although the name has changed and the old building has been replaced and then later remodeled, the message over the years has remained unchanged: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever is the one Savior of all

sinners. He has conquered death and freely gives eternal life to all who believe in Him.

When Dove West expanded and opened Dove South on Hwy 93, the management asked us to conduct weekly services there as well. A member of the staff told another care facility about our services, and we began to receive more requests. Sometimes members would be at a place, and we would go to serve. Other times members would ask where we were conducting services and then try to move there.

All this activity led the Elders/Deacons to form a sub-committee to evaluate the requests. Criteria were set up – Would we be serving any of our members? Does the facility have other churches coming in or would we be filling a gap? Do we have enough volunteers to go? Presently we are serving these places:

Lake Hallie Memory Care, Chippewa Falls, Wednesday 1:45
Our House Memory Care, Eau Claire, Wednesday 2:30
Dove Healthcare West, Eau Claire, Sunday 10:00
Heritage Assisted Living, Eau Claire, Sunday 10:15
Heritage Court, Eau Claire, Sunday 11:15
Dove Healthcare South, Eau Claire, Sunday 1:00 pm
WI Veterans Home, Chippewa Falls, Sunday 2:00 pm

We have said “no” to some places because they were already being served by other groups. But all this activity has meant that we needed more preachers beyond ILC and its seminary students. Over 10 years ago Messiah began training laymen to preach and members to play hymns. Sermons can be provided. It has also helped that a member has coordinated the volunteers for preaching and playing music.

Today we have developed a list of preachers that includes retired pastors and professors in the area and a dozen laymen, in addition to active professors and seminary students. This group is assisted by a dozen musicians. Lawrence Bade is the coordinator. We need more volunteers so that the strain of preaching does not fall on a few and so that we can accept more inquiries. Ask Lawrence or one of the pastors how you can help in sharing the message about Jesus.

We are not in the business of numbers and visible results; instead, we are content to be able to scatter the Seed of God’s Word. It is nonetheless remarkable to see what God is doing through this special ministry.

On a weekend, the total attendance at all the care facilities can number around 150; this is more than most of our CLC churches average. Attendance

was drastically affected by COVID. In fact, we had to stop going and could only offer a DVD service. But things are opening up again.

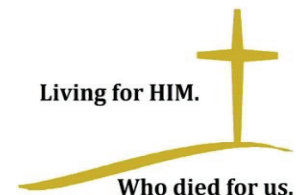
Over the years several individuals took classes, became members, and received a Christian funeral from Messiah. Family members of residents have been reached by our services. Residents who recovered enough to go home took with them appreciation for the Gospel – that **our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (II Timothy 1:10).**

Certainly, that is a blessed truth that cheers the heart of every candidate for death, no matter their age. But think how precious it is to have that message when you are lonely, ailing, and facing death any moment!

What a special ministry God has given and grown at Messiah. We have Christian education for all, especially the young and especially the old. May God’s Spirit continue to prosper both ages through the teaching of the Gospel. **“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:55-57).**



Messiah Stewardship Committee
September 2021



Building Project Update

Done this week:

- Doors stained and hung
- Cabinetry in some classrooms installed
- Ceiling tile put in
- IT work done (and lots of it)
- Grading for the parking lot and driveway
- Windows and doors trimmed out
- Plumbing fixture set
- Painting
- Cleaning

To do still:

- Epoxy hallway and remaining classrooms
- Pave the parking lot and driveway
- **Retaining wall** ✱
- **Landscape** ✱
- Finish exterior
- **Put in carpet tile and ceramic tile** ✱
- **Install remaining cabinetry** ✱
- **Move remaining items in storage** ✱

✱ Projects to be done by volunteers from Messiah. Contact Tom Beekman at 715-491-2025 to offer help. Doing these projects ourselves, will help to keep us within the budget estimated by the voters.

THANK YOU to everyone who has offered their services so far.

Royal Construction reports that their work will be finished within 2-3 weeks.

School will open this week with a mix of some new and some old arrangements, but we should be able soon to use the whole facility. What a blessing that will be!

Dedication is set for **Sunday October 17th**.

We are once again receiving offers for personal loans for our building project. 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. And a reminder that offerings received now will reduce the amount we need to borrow and thus save us 30 years of interest. Thank you.

Updated building project photos can be seen at tinyurl.com/m-build-pics.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 13-18, '21

Mon Isaiah 35:1-7a is part of a larger unit; we already know other chapters of His-story. Idolaters are in for punishment (ch. 34), while God's people receive chastening to strengthen them (1-4) for their earthly pilgrimage.

God promised to invigorate ancient Israel for a new life (5-6) in a regenerated country (7)—which sounds much like a preview of heaven.

Tues Mark 7:31-37 In due time, Isaiah's prophecy came to pass, for God sent His Son down to our planet—providing visual and audible proof that God had not forsaken humanity (31-35); supreme proof would come from His empty tomb on Easter morning. *He has done all things well* reads like an epitaph on a headstone, and Jesus deserved that honor more than anyone else.

Wed James 1:17-27 From the view at the top, we are *a kind of first fruits of His creatures*—which is a picturesque way of saying that God claims us first and foremost. On the receiving end, we are given thought and speech—to speak up as God's defense witnesses. No sense getting angry about it (19-20) or using gutter language on the witness stand (21)—and our actions speak louder than our words (22-23). In sum, let's keep an eye on our own failings (23-24) while we get busy with things God has given us to do (25-27).

Thurs Psalm 146 We don't have to be Jewish to join the psalmist in praising God, for as long as we have lungs and voices, we will add our praise to God (2), for our time of grace is NOW, not later (3-4). We have good reason to praise Father, Creator of heaven and Earth, CEO over planet Earth, and the Healer of souls festering with sin (8-9). Forever more (10).

Fri Mark 8:11-21 is not a discourse about home-baked bread, but a warning against home-baked false doctrine (11-15). The disciples were slow to catch the drift (16), so Jesus spelled it out (17-20)—that He was more interested in the sourdough of false doctrine than in Taystee bread, and so are we. God's bread suits our taste, and we pray that we shall never tire of dining on it, snacking on it, and serving it wherever we can—both to ourselves and to others at our table. God's Word is heavenly manna.

Sat James 1:25 What is meant with the *perfect law of liberty*, anyway? Well, since Christ has freed us from Satan's domination (and God's condemnation), we are free as birds to serve whomever we wish. We are free to serve God and the impulses of His Holy Spirit. That's not only swell, it's perfect! Being at liberty to choose whom to serve — is a wonderful way to live.

May God bless and keep us, smile upon us, and give us peace of conscience while we serve Him as best we can, come what may! Amen, Lord Jesus!