



September 18-19, 2021

Pentecost 17



“For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel
And the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He looked
for justice, but behold, bloodshed; For righteousness, but
behold, a cry of distress.” -**Isaiah 5:7** (NASB)

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: See bulletin cover.

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: 236 404 357 788:1 47

Old Testament Reading **Matthew 21:33-43** (NKJV)

³³ “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. ³⁴ Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. ³⁵ And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. ³⁷ Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” ⁴¹ They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

Epistle Reading **Philippians 3:12-21** (ESV)

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the

goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained. ¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Sermon.....Isaiah 5:1-7 (NASB)

¹ Let me sing now for my beloved A song of my beloved about His vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. ² He dug it all around, cleared it of stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it, And also carved out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes, But it produced only worthless ones. ³ "And now, you inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, Judge between Me and My vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? ⁵ So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground. ⁶ I will lay it waste; It will not be pruned nor hoed, But briars and thorns will come up. I will also command the clouds not to rain on it." ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of armies is the house of Israel, And the people of Judah are His delightful plant. So He waited for justice, but behold, there was bloodshed; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

"A FAITH LESSON FROM THE PAST"

Ancient Israel spurned the patient, tender care of the LORD. As a result, God's judgment eventually fell on them heavily. Isaiah urges us to take warning, to see the goodness of the LORD, and produce better fruits.



Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller



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This Week at Messiah

Sunday services are live-streamed/archived at eauclairemessiah.com.
Service times for local care facilities are posted on the online calendar.

Sun, 9/19 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters D)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at church



Tues, 9/21 9:00 am Koffee Klatsch at Perkins
7:30 pm Board of Education

Fri, 9/24 9:45 am Pastors' Study Club

Sat, 9/25 **Fall Mission Festival**
9:00 am Church Workday
6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #1)
7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class

Sun, 9/26 **Fall Mission Festival**
School Choir Sings "Make a Joyful Noise"
9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #2, Counters E)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
11:00 am Special Voters' Meeting
11:30 am Potluck Meal
6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at Church

Upcoming...

- Sept. 28-30, Great Lakes Pastoral Conference (Joint Conference with the South East Pastoral Conference) – Milford, OH
- Sept. 30-Oct 3, ManUp! Retreat – Wyalusing State Park, WI

Announcements

Sunday School and Bible Class Restart: This weekend marks the re-start of Sunday School, Young Adults (high school age), and Bible class following each worship service (beginning at 7:45 pm Saturday and 10:15 am on Sunday). Our adult Bible study will focus on the book of Psalms. Plan to stay following worship for the blessing of sharing God's Word together!

Young Adults Bible Study: The topic for the next several weeks will be "This Changes Everything—Lessons from the Book of James."

Sunday Evening Bible Study continues this Sunday at 6:30 pm. This week we are continuing our study of Matthew's Gospel, around chapter 22. Handouts from

previous lessons are available in the narthex. This Sunday evening class will continue until we are through the end of Matthew.

Messiah Home Bible Studies Fall Relaunch: There are two groups that have set dates and times to meet, and two others that intend to begin before long. You are invited to attend:



- **Wednesday, September 22** at 6:30 pm at the ILC Academic Center Library. "Shadows and Substance," a comprehensive overview of Bible history and teaching, is being presented by its author, retired Pastor John Schierenbeck.
- **Monday, September 27** at 6:30 pm at the home of John and Sandra Fox - 2208 Crescent Ave. Eau Claire. They are taking up a booklet entitled "The 10 Commandments of Bible Interpretation."

We would like to assist new group start-ups! Please contact Pastor Naumann for information on starting a group. See tinyurl.com/mhbs-faq for answers to frequently asked questions.

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. Our Bible class hour will feature a live video interview with Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti of the HCLC in Nepal, who will tell us about the LORD's work in that country. Then (on Sunday), after a brief voters' meeting, we will have a potluck meal - please plan to attend!

A Special Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26, after Bible Class. The agenda will include membership matters and calling a teacher to replace Mrs. Hammett.



Messiah School began on Monday with 134 total students enrolled. We thank God for providing Christian education for our children! Until new rooms are ready, we are making do with use of the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Some photos of our teachers, students and classrooms can be seen at tinyurl.com/mls-sept21.

Received into Membership: Mr. Jack Boyea is the husband of Leanne (née North). He completed a study of God's Word, using Luther's Small Catechism, with Pastor Naumann. He is being received into communicant membership this weekend. Jack has worked in various jobs in the past, and now is a full-time caregiver for Leanne, who struggles with various health issues. We welcome Jack into our fellowship!

Our "New Member Photo Board" in the narthex is being updated - take a look! You may also see a gallery of our new members at tinyurl.com/m-newmem.

CLC Call News: Pastor Ben Libby of Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, *has accepted* the call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY. • Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hedra, SD, *has received* the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. • Seminary graduate Nick Naumann *is still considering* the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN.

CLC President Michael Eichstadt sent out a document with the title "Post-Convention Interim Report." It gives a brief update on upcoming further action regarding the CLC's decision not to adopt the "Joint Statement" with the WELS and ELS, which took place at our recent CLC Convention. Copies are available on our narthex kiosk, or you may see the document at tinyurl.com/interim-21.

Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

God's Word Serving Us:

Sermon Text – Mission Festival

Bible Class – Live Video Interview with Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti
Of the HCLC in Nepal

Christians Serving Us:

<i>Saturday 9/25 6:30 pm: Usher Team 1</i>		<i>Sunday 9/26 9:00 am: Usher Team 2</i>	
Joel Carstensen	George Carstensen	Dan Sydow	Bryce Sydow
Dennis Oster	Jason Zimmerman	Ethan Sydow	Noah Sydow
Ryan Zimmerman	Rich McGeorge	Adam Schmid	Jerry LeDuc
		Steve Mielke	

Counters for the week following 9/26 – E

Mark Hammond, Caleb Oster, Jon Oster

Thank you!

Daily Rest Devotionals Available: In the narthex you'll find a supply of *Daily Rest* devotion booklets. Please take a complimentary copy for your own personal use or to share with someone else. If desired, an order for *Daily Rest* can be placed through the CLC Book House website or by calling (715) 836-6623. Cost for a one-year subscription is \$18.00

Address Being Sought: If you have Trysten Hallahan's current address, please forward that to the church office at office.church@ecmessiah.org.

Outreach Tool: A long-running booklet that we have used for outreach purposes is entitled "Bible-Centered Devotions for Those Who Want to Know More About God and Life with God," by Prof. Paul Koch. This is very helpful for personal witnessing, and is now available online, at tinyurl.com/m-bible-d. It is also a featured link on Messiah's website, at www.eaudairemessiah.com. Share the Word!

CLC Southeastern Women's Retreat: A women's retreat is planned in Myrtle Beach, SC, from November 5-7. The theme is "Walking with Jesus." The registration fee is \$40, plus the cost of transportation and hotel. Details on hotel reservations and presentations can be found on the kiosk in the narthex. Contact Amy Osborne: 651-329-3662 or newyorker13@hotmail.com with any questions.

Building Project Update

The Messiah Building Project is rapidly coming to a conclusion. By the time you read this in the bulletin, the interior work should be 99% complete and all portions of the project ready for occupancy. Flooring by the contractor and volunteer labor should be completed by this weekend. That leaves interior furnishings such as cabinetry, white boards, projectors, desks, and similar items for completion in the new addition for this coming week. Once that is completed, the rooms are ready for everyday use.

Flooring was completed in the pastoral offices and meeting this past week and the rooms are now being furnished and occupied by the pastors. Jambs, door install, and door trim in this area will be completed this coming week.

On the exterior, the roofing contractor is still waiting on material for re-roofing the old sanctuary that will allow final tie-in of the new addition roofing with the old buildings. Other roofing items that have been on backorder arrived this week and will allow final trim to be installed on many portions of the new roof.

Retaining wall block for an extensive array of retaining wall work is on site. This is an owner install item and volunteers are hoping to start that work this week as well. The first level of blacktop has been placed on the parking lot with the final level being planned within the next week or two.

If you are interested in knowing whether any volunteer services are needed, please contact Tom Beekman at 715 491 2025.

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.



Highlights from the September 15th, 2021 Church Council Meeting

The meeting began at 5:40 pm with a devotion based on 1 Kings 20:7ff. There were 10 members present, including church officers, board chairmen, and pastors. <> **Elders:** Post-COVID fellowship encouragement program is continuing. Membership matters: Motions passed to accept the membership of Ben, Robin, Charlotte, and Violet Carstensen from Peace Thru Christ, Middleton WI (pending letter), and to transfer Tara Gerbitz to Messiah Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI at her request. Motions passed to recommend to voters the termination of David Weiss according to Bylaw 2.08a (he is a resident of Germany, and has joined the Roman Catholic Church); Aric Reim at his request and according to Bylaw 2.08a (expressed disagreement with our teachings); Renae Markus at her request and according to Bylaw 2.08c (inactivity and requested termination). A motion passed to accept by affirmation the membership of Jack Boyea (husband of Leanne née North). Nicole LeDoux and Jason Ciokiewicz were married on August 28, 2021 at Messiah by Pastor Naumann. <> **Deacons:** There are no changes to services for COVID safety measures. Regular after-service Bible class is scheduled to start this weekend (Sept 18-19). Security team – dates for training have been set for Oct 9, 23, & 30 (three 8-hour days). Money for this (\$4K) will come from the Deacons budget. The Hymnal Committee is meeting again on 18th; they are working through reviews. Tech Committee – wiring has been finished in all currently-occupied classrooms. Hoping to complete the administration area and all new construction this weekend. The new phone system is up and running. Pictorial Directory – we are on track for December publication. <> **Pastors:** We are back on regular school schedule with youth confirmation & Bible study classes. Mission festival is coming up with Pastor Em. Vance Fossum speaking. We will also have several speakers from our foreign mission fields, via live-stream, for Bible Class. The pastors are moving into new office space; and have received some used office furnishings which were donated by members. Ruth's Retreat has started up again. A combined Great Lakes and Southeast CLC pastoral conference in Milford, OH, and will get to tour Creation Museum / Ark Encounter. Pastor Schaller will also deliver a paper to the MN conference. <> **Outreach:** "Here We Grow Again" starts this week; we provided "Silent Sunday School" packets. We are promoting our new building dedication on October 17th, and offering tours of the school. No fall seminar; we are looking at early in 2022 with Christian Education as a theme. Christmas VBS scheduled for Dec 12th. <> **Property:** We had a good turnout at the last church workdays on Aug 27-30. A lot of maintenance and building project work got done as well as getting ready for school. We had a water pipe separate during pressure testing on 9/10, requiring major clean-up. Pew fabric was repaired yesterday. Ongoing work includes church kitchen fridge repair and

replacing bulbs in the church. We have 2 applicants for the new janitor position. We received quotes to replace 5 windows in east classrooms (\$9K - \$12.5K). Pending: attic venting and carpets at Schaller parsonage, electrical panel at teacherage, gutter and fascia at two houses, narthex roof, parking lot lines, relocation of the dumpster, "no parking" signs on Harrison St entrance, and church carpet cleaning. <> **Board of Education and Principal:** Start of school was delayed one week due to construction. We will start Sunday School next weekend (Sept 18-19). We have all coaches and athletic schedules completed. Valerie Hammett had to resign for health reasons; Marcie Schierenbeck has been filling in until a regular call is accepted. We have had increased technology spending due to new and renovated classrooms. <> **Treasurer:** A motion passed to approve the current list of bills for payment as presented. General fund receipts through August are \$505K, which includes a special gift of \$30, up \$39K over last year. Disbursements are up \$50K over last year. CLC General Fund got special gift of \$20K. Received \$50K to debt retirement, and a \$10K personal loan was paid off. The Building Fund received special gift of \$50K. There were also special donations of \$15K to Messiah's ILHS Student Aid Fund, \$10K to Property Improvement, \$15K to MSF, and \$10K to Gifts & Memorials. We have many reasons for thanksgiving to God for His many blessings! <> **Miscellaneous:** • Building project – we are working on move-in dates for the rest of the new building. • Treasurer position: Our treasurer reported that we need someone with bookkeeping experience (or a CPA) in the position of treasurer; this will be discussed at the next meeting. • A Retreat is being planned for members of various boards to discuss long-range plans for the work at Messiah. • Current Projects List: Our policy is that items on this list should be special enhancements for our congregation which cost more than \$10K. Current proposal: New hymnals, additional storage/new garage, playground equipment, and stained glass windows. • A motion passed to authorize the Tech Committee to spend up to \$2K on new video cameras for sanctuary and fellowship hall from Undesignated Gifts & Memorials. <> **The next Council meetings** is scheduled for Oct 27. <> **The next Voters' meetings** will be on Sept 26th (special call meeting) and Nov 7th (quarterly meeting with elections). <> **The meeting adjourned** at 8:05 pm with prayer, the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

A Messiah member needs to employ helpers for home health care. Shifts may include 4:30-7 pm, 8:30 pm-9:00 am (overnight), and 8:00 am to noon. Duties include personal care and light housework. There is an option for receiving on-site housing as part of the compensation, and hours can be somewhat flexible to accommodate the schedules of the helpers. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Pastor Bruce Naumann at 715-864-3465 or brucenaumann@gmail.com, and he will put you in contact with the member.

In the Hospital: Leanne Boyea home from hospital, and Marge Eckel is also now at home, following her physical rehab from a fall.

Messiah Shut-ins: Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave), 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 11-12, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 137 – Sun. 275) 412 Online: 153 (current views)
 Communion: (Sat. 29 – Sun. 56) 85
 Sunday Evening Bible Class: 19 Ruth's Retreat: 22
 Dove West: 5 Heritage Court: 15 Dove South: cancelled
 Heritage Assisted: na Lake Hallie: 16 Our House: 8 Veterans: cancelled

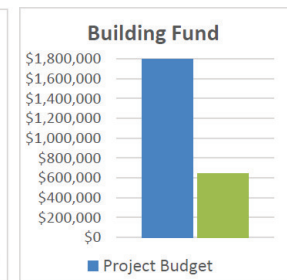
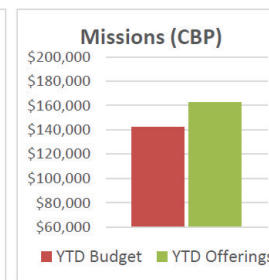
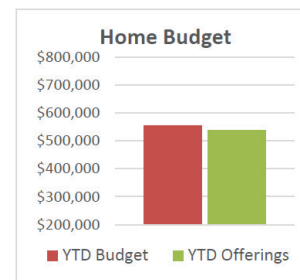
Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$553,577.00	\$142,308.00
YTD Offerings	\$535,439.78	\$162,395.61
Weekly Need	\$16,171.00	\$2,507.00
Last Week (9/12)	\$12,368.70	\$3,675.00
Amount Still Needed	\$242,560.22	\$37,604.39

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$641,725.72	Received to Date
\$2,310.00	Last Week (9/12)

Given in memory of...
 Daniel Gurgel

20.00 Messiah ILHS Student Grants



CLC Financial Report - August

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2021	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 2 Month	Balance 8/31/2021
General Fund	0	149,491	202,413	209,904	- 52,922
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	310,116	247,778	241,352	62,338
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	124,590	38,941	292		163,239
ILC Building Projects	1,096,716	14,164	0		1,110,880
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	132,313	12,987	15,149		130,151
Kinship	182,119	35,769	24,355		193,533
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	3,527,885	89,354	114,325		3,502,914
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	133,585	15,915	20,417		129,083
CLC Reserve Fund	300,222	0	0		300,222
Total	\$5,497,430	\$207,130	\$174,538		\$5,530,022

General Fund – August offerings were \$67,076 (including a special \$20,000 offering) **VS** disbursements of \$88,497, resulting in a negative monthly cash flow of -\$21,420. YTD offerings are \$60,413 short of budget needs, while YTD disbursements are \$7,491 under budget needs, resulting in an YTD negative cash flow of -\$52,922 after the 2nd month of our fiscal year. It bears repeating that the General Fund provides major subsidy for the operation of our Boards of Missions, Trustees, Regents, and Education & Publication. The General Fund budget is \$1,259,430 for the fiscal year, or \$104,952/month. It needs the regular support of all our members. Only the GF has a deficit!!

ILC Operations – August revenue was \$234,031 (incl \$61,667 subsidy) **VS** disbursements of \$110,817, resulting in a positive YTD balance of +\$62,338. As noted last month, the Regents deficit of -\$60,875 recovered due largely to student revenue when school resumed August 23.

ILC Building Projects – August revenue: \$190 in offerings **VS** \$0 disbursements. August earnings (Dividends/Interest) were \$3,380, while unrealized market (capital) gains were \$2,294. The 2021 CLC Convention allocated \$20,000 from this account for the ILC Planning Committee to study and present a cost estimate to the 2022 Convention, not only for building a new gymnasium but also for repurposing the existing fieldhouse into a chapel/theater arts/musical arts facility.

CEF – August revenue: \$41,622 (\$25,983 loan repayments, \$15,600 market (capital) gains, \$40 offerings) **VS** disbursements: \$110,664 (\$100,000 Cong loan installment #1; \$2,396 Note interest paid; \$8,268 admin expenses. Over this month & the next the Trustees will fund congregational CEF construction loans of nearly \$900,000.

MDF – August revenue: \$4,211 in offerings **VS** disbursements of \$9,824, including \$4,850 Africa outreach; \$2,500 church building aid, & \$1,073 admin expenses.

SAF – August receipts: \$10,456 (\$5,673 SAF loan repayments & \$4,783 gifts) **VS** 19,536 disbursed (\$18,615 student grants, loans, & scholarships; \$920 admin expenses).

Kinship – August offerings: \$15,434 (\$12,104 offerings, \$3,330 sponsors) **VS** disbursed: \$8,005 (\$4,100 medical aid; \$3,010 orphanages, \$180 Sem students, \$690 widows).

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (Malachi 3:10)

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

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!