



October 2-3, 2021

Pentecost 19



Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!  
Be all Thy graces now out-poured  
On each believer's mind and heart;  
TLH 224:1a

### 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 8.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. (Psalm 51:11b-13)

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:** 740 296 485:1-5 442:2 304,305 46:1,3

### Epistle Reading ..... James 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. <sup>11</sup> Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. <sup>12</sup> There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

### Gospel Reading ..... Mark 9:38-50

<sup>38</sup> Now John answered Him, saying, “Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.” <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. <sup>40</sup> For he who is not against us is on our side. <sup>41</sup> For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. <sup>42</sup> “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather

than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—<sup>44</sup> where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’<sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—<sup>46</sup> where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’<sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—<sup>48</sup> where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’<sup>49</sup> “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt.<sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

### Sermon..... Numbers 11:16, 24-29

<sup>16</sup> So the LORD said to Moses: “Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ... <sup>24</sup> So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. <sup>25</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. <sup>26</sup> But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup> So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Moses my lord, forbid them!” <sup>29</sup> Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!”

**Sermon Theme:** The focus in the Kingdom of God is on:

1. The preaching of Jesus not the preacher of Jesus
2. The Holy Spirit’s work on the heart of the preacher and the hearer.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel



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**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 are live-streamed/archived at [eauclairemessiah.com](http://eauclairemessiah.com).  
Service times for local care facilities are posted on the online calendar.

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sun, 10/3</b>  | 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #4, Counters F) |
|                   | 10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class   |
|                   | 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at Church             |
| <b>Tues, 10/5</b> | 9:00 am Koffee Klatsch at Perkins                 |
| <b>Wed, 10/6</b>  | 8:00 pm Ruth’s Retreat                            |
| <b>Fri, 10/8</b>  | 4:00 pm Board of Property                         |
| <b>Sat, 10/9</b>  | 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #5)               |
|                   | 7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class                 |
| <b>Sun, 10/10</b> | 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters G)   |
|                   | 10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class   |
|                   | 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at Church             |

#### Upcoming...

- October 17, School Dedication Service
- October 23, Youth Group Fall Event – Colors!
- October 31, Reformation Service at 3:00 pm

The flowers on the altar area are from the Victory Service for Mae Noeldner held this past week. We thank the family for their thoughtful gift.

## Announcements

**Sunday School and Bible class:** The usual schedule resumes this weekend after the special session for last week's Mission Festival. Young Adults will meet with the adult Bible Class since Prof. Joel Gullerud is at the Man-Up seminar. Bible Class will take up the second portion of our study of Psalms with a look at the structure of the book itself and Psalm 72 in particular.

**Sunday Evening Bible Study** continues this Sunday at 6:30 pm. This week we are continuing our study of Matthew's Gospel, around chapter 24. Handouts from previous lessons are available in the narthex. This Sunday evening class will continue until we are through the end of Matthew.

**Marcie Schierenbeck's call:** *Dear Members of Messiah, Last Sunday, I received the call to be the part-time fourth-grade teacher at Messiah Lutheran School. I welcome your prayers and comments as I seek the Lord's will regarding this call.*  
*In Christ, Marcie Schierenbeck*

**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: \* **On Monday, October 4** at 6:30 pm at the home of John and Sandra Fox - 2208 Crescent Ave. Eau Claire. They are discussing a booklet entitled "The 10 Commandments of Bible Interpretation." \* **On Wednesday, October 6** 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.

**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. *Daily Rest* can be ordered through the CLC Book House website or by calling (715) 836-6623. The cost is \$18/yr.



**Youth Group Fall Event - Colors!** This is the theme of our next youth group event! Come join us as we tie dye a t-shirt with colors chosen by you and take a hike in some fall colors chosen by God! We will meet at church at 1pm on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have devotion and tie dye our shirts. Then we will head to Hoffman Hills around 2 pm for a fall hike (weather permitting). Families are invited to hike with us. We will plan to be at Hoffman Hills around 2:30 and we will return to church at 5:30 pm. Please contact Amanda Roth 715-577-0190 to RSVP to this event or with any questions. Please respond with your shirt size and if you need transportation to or from Hoffman Hills. The cost to tie dye will be \$5 a t shirt. If you are able to help provide transportation please let Amanda know.

## Update on the Building Project

### The end draws near.

- The parking lot was paved and striped, and looks very nice.
- More work was done on the landscaping and seeding for grass.
- Hand rails were installed on the sidewalk and steps for the main entrance
- Little projects inside were finished up.  
(windows in the secretarial wing, trim, flooring, doors hung in the pastoral wing and more)
- Shelves installed in the school library
- Office equipment and furniture starting to find a home

Yet to be done:

- \* **Retaining wall**
  - Flag pole installed
- \* **Door jambs painted**
- \* **Cabinetry in the new classroom, office area and work rooms**
- \* **More Landscaping with planting of grass seed**
  - Some cement work
- \* **Move of the church bell**  
( \* to be done by volunteers from Messiah)

### Urgent Call for Help!

There are some 20 doors that need the jambs painted. Each one takes some time, so several volunteers are needed to make the task manageable and to get it done. For this and other volunteer projects, please contact  
**Tom Beekman at (715) 491-2025**

**Coming up:** School Dedication October 17<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the morning worship service.

**Use of the new classrooms:** Many are asking how soon can the move be made from temporary classrooms for grades 5-8 to the new and beautiful and large classrooms. While most of the work is done in this wing, it takes some time to coordinate moving items in and giving teachers time to set up, especially difficult as teachers are still teaching during the week. We ask for patience while a plan is being developed. Look for volunteer help here, too, when the time comes.

**A gentle reminder** that offerings to the building project that are given now help to reduce our overall indebtedness and lower the amount to be paid in interest for 30 years.

## *In the Congregation*

**Highlights from the Sept. 27, 2021 Special Voters' Meeting:** <> **Membership:** Nathan Buck, Noah Buck, and Jonah Mueller applied for voting membership. The memberships of DeAndre and Elyse Harvey, and their children Trenton, Trevionte and Aniyah was terminated according to Bylaw 2.08a (2.03 for the children), because they now profess the Muslim faith. The membership of David Weiss, a member who lives in Germany, was terminated according to Bylaw 2.08a since he has joined the Roman Catholic Church. The membership Aric Reim was terminated according to Bylaw 2.08a at his request; he has cited doctrinal differences with the CLC. The membership of Renae Markus was terminated according to Bylaw 2.08c, at her request. <> **Teacher call:** The voters accepted the resignation of Valerie Hammett from her half-time teaching position, due to health concerns. After an initial slate of candidates was approved, the voters called Mrs. Marcie Schierenbeck for this position, and the vote was made unanimous. <> **The next voters' meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, November 7, at 6:30 pm. <> **The meeting was adjourned** with prayer for the souls in our care, for those who have left us, and for the Holy Spirit to guide Mrs. Schierenbeck as she considers our call.

**Address Change:** Pastor and Eileen Tiefel – 2014 Fear St., Eau Claire, WI 54701

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

**Joined Together by God:** Caleb Oster and Cassandra (Cassie) Pearson will be getting married next Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The young couple will be living at 1823 Emery Street in Eau Claire. May Jesus bless their wedding day and through His Word every day of their married life with His great gift of grace.



**A New Start-up** for the Ladies of Messiah is coming. Over the years, this group has been a vital part of our church. Come and join us for a Bible Study and learn the different ways the work of the Kingdom is supported by our group. More information will be coming soon!

**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](http://tinyurl.com/m-bible-d). It is also a featured link on Messiah's website, at [www.eauclairemessiah.com](http://www.eauclairemessiah.com). Share the Word!

## *News From Around the CLC*

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Our Savior's, Jamestown, ND** - All are welcome to help Our Savior's give glory to God for 90 years of gospel preaching and teaching in Jamestown this October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Anniversary Service begins at 10 am, with a meal and program to follow.

**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](mailto:newyorker13@hotmail.com) with any questions.

**Fall Mission Webinar:** The Committee of Domestic Fields (CDF), a subcommittee of the CLC Mission Board, is hosting a fall mission webinar on Saturday, November 13 at 3 pm Central Time. The webinar will stream live on Zoom and include speakers from five different CLC congregations. We invite both individuals and congregational groups to join, please register by emailing Pastor Mark Tiefel – [marktiefel@hotmail.com](mailto:marktiefel@hotmail.com). The webinar theme is "Mission Myths" and covers 10 topics across a variety of different evangelism scenarios. Find more details on the CDF website - <https://us.lutheranmissions.org/cdf/>

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**Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend**

**God's Word Serving Us:**

*Sermon Text* – Mark 10:2-16

*Bible Class* – Psalm 45

**Christians Serving Us:**

<i>Saturday 10/9 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5</i>		<i>Sunday 10/10 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 10/10– G**

Mike Buck, Darin Oster, Jamie Quam

**Communion Setup 10/9** – Amanda Roth

*Thank you!*

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## **The Obituary of Mabel Joyce Noeldner**

**Psalm 103:1-2 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:**

The LORD is to be blessed by us for His gift of Mabel Joyce (“Mae”) born on May 1, 1933 to Chester Lohr Sr. and his wife, Thelma nee Dahl. Mae was born in Goodwin, South Dakota. She was third in a family of 6 girls and 3 boys.

**Psalm 103:11-12 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

One of the chief benefits from the LORD was His handling of sin for Mae. The Savior’s work on Calvary removed all sin of all the world, as far as the east is from the west. Mae was baptized and all her sin washed away by God’s Spirit on April 12, 1940 at the St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran parsonage in Rauville Township, South Dakota. Mae was confirmed on July 20, 1947 at the same church and was spiritually nourished through her life-long study of God’s Word and use of the Savior’s Supper.

**Psalm 103:4-5 [The LORD] Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

On June 28, 1953, the LORD blessed Mae with a Christian husband, Orville Edwin Noeldner. The couple was married at St. Martin’s Lutheran Church of Watertown, South Dakota. He added the blessing of 1 daughter and 4 sons. The young couple farmed in rural Codington County. In 1975 the family moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin to further the Christian education of their children. Mae held various jobs over the years including work at an optical store, a restaurant, an apple orchard, watching children and cleaning houses. But she focused on her role as a Christian wife and mother and eventually her grand mothering of 25 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She especially enjoyed sewing, and made the best bread, pickles, pies and cookies. The LORD blessed her with a cheerful disposition, a love for people, and the ability to let her light shine, giving witness to her Father in heaven.

**Psalm 103:3 [The LORD] Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,**

The message of forgiveness in Christ Jesus was most precious for Mae and her husband. They both were very active in their local church and larger fellowship in their use and support of the Gospel. In obedience to the Word of God, they left their former church and fellowship when it fell into error and became founding members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown, South Dakota and in the new fellowship, the Church of the Lutheran Confession. Upon moving to Eau Claire, they became active members of Messiah Lutheran Church.

**Psalm 103:15-16a As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone.**

In contrast to the brief, passing existence of human beings, an existence filled with sin and death, God has established through Jesus Christ an eternal Kingdom of forgiveness and life. The LORD granted eternal life to Mae’s beloved husband Orville in March of 2012. In the years since, Mae lived on her own and until recently enjoyed good health. She began to have some health issues and moved in August to Heritage Court where the LORD ended her earthly pilgrimage of 88 years, 4 months, and 23 days on September 24, 2021 by giving her the gift of eternal life. Her body was cremated and the ashes placed earlier today at Lakeview Cemetery in Eau Claire.

**Psalm 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children,**

Mae was preceded in death by

her dear husband of 59 years, Orville

her parents, her sisters Doris Lausen, Donna Borns, Darlene Becker and Charlotte Hansen and her brother Chester Lohr, Jr., her sister-in-law Jane Burt, her brothers-in-law Virgil Borns, Russell Becker Sr., and Marvin Ries

Still in the time of grace are:

Mae’s son Timothy and his wife Lisa of Eau Claire and their five children

her daughter Stephanie and her husband Jeff Altom of Brookfield and their two sons

her son Jonathan and his wife Angie of Eau Claire and their ten children

her son Daniel and his wife Rebecca of Owatonna, MN and his four children

her son David of Fort Collins, CO and his four children

10 great grandchildren

her sister Barbara Ries

her brothers, Leroy and Allen

her sisters-in-law, Joyce Kasuske and Judy (Richard) Kanzenbach

her brothers-in-law, Charles Lausen and Allan Hansen

an extended family of many relatives and a number of friends, especially in her church family at Messiah Lutheran

**Psalm 103:20a,21a,22 Bless the LORD, you His angels ...  
Bless the LORD, all you His hosts ...  
Bless the LORD, all His works,  
In all places of His dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!**



**The Victory Service for Mabel Noeldner was held at Messiah on September 28, 2021**

**Hymns:** 371, 778, 436, 192, and 54. **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:16; Titus 2:3-5; John 10:11-18,27-28, Isaiah 43:1-3a; John 14:1-6,27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

**Sermon Text:** Hebrews 2:14-15

**Sermon Theme:** Death is the Great Weapon

I. Used by the Devil to enslave mankind in fear

II. Used by Jesus to destroy the Devil and free the sinner to live forever

Servants of the Word: Pastor: Paul Tiefel; Organist: Heather Thompson

**In the Hospital:** Adam Barthels was discharge from the hospital early last week and continues to recover.

**Messiah Shut-ins:** Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave), Shirley Johnson (2512 New Pine Dr. Altoona), 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).

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul  
And to the weary, rest. Amen.*

TLH 364:1&2

### Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ September 25-26, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 100 – Sun. 301) 401 Service Online: 206 (current views)

Bible Class: (Sat. 14 - Sun. 105) 119 Sunday School: (Sat. na - Sun. na) na

Bible Class Online: Sat. 61 – Sun. 107 (current views)

Young Adults: met with Bible Class Sunday Evening Bible Class: 13

Dove West: 11 Heritage Court: 17 Dove South: 9

Heritage Assisted: 9 Lake Hallie: 22 Our House: cancelled

### Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$583,500.00	\$150,000.00
YTD Offerings	\$558,159.84	\$168,682.11
Weekly Need	\$16,911.00	\$2,409.00
Last Week (9/26)	\$10,398.06	\$2,997.50
Amount Still Needed	\$219,840.16	\$31,317.89

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$647,265.71	Received to Date
\$1,740.00	Last Week (9/26)

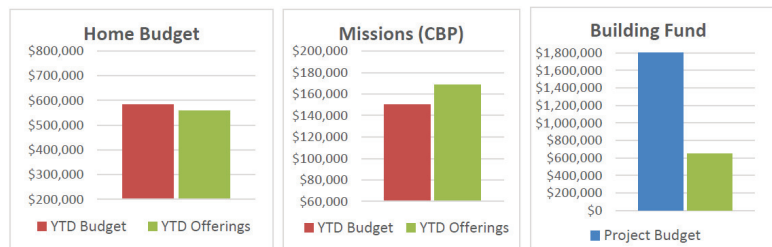
Given in memory of...

Roy Lillo

Mae Noeldner

500.00 Messiah Building Fund

100.00 Messiah Building Fund



### Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Oct. 4-9, '21

**Mon Numbers 11:14-16,24-29** As pastor of the nation, captain of the army, and CEO of the entire expedition, Moses needed help; so God downloaded His Spirit onto seventy assistants and sent them out to the church campus. But wait a minute (!) – only 68 arrived, for two had stayed back and were preaching in their neighborhoods. What looked like a crisis (27-28) was not insubordination but a blessing, so Moses not only defended them, he prayed that God would inspire all His children to do likewise. We say **Amen** to that!

**Tues Mark 9:38-50** What other churches/denominations do as religious work is between them and God, so we neither support nor interfere with them (38-41). Instead, we focus on our own privileged responsibility to the next generation (42) as we cope with our own sinful nature (43-48) and as we help our neighbors (49-50). *Salt is good*, but in olden times it was not refined, and impurities could ruin its effectiveness. Let's not sully our saltiness!

**Wed James 4:7-12** Where or how does a person get started with God? Start with acknowledging His superiority and with knowing one's own inferiority (7-10). When you appreciate being squared with God (via Jesus Christ), then you get squared with your neighbor—especially your Christian siblings (11-12), avoiding slander as well as a judgmental mentality. God is well equipped to do His business with sinners, so we do not undercut Him (11-12).

**Thurs Psalm 51:1-13** Did you sin? Yes. What are you going to do about it? Turn to God, confess specific sins (1-4), admit that you were born that way (5-6) and ask God to wash you clean from that defect, too (7-9). Bottom line: God performs a heart transplant operation on His children (10-11) and His Spirit keeps cleaning them in a rotten world (12-13). God is good at it.

**Fri Mark 9:43-48** presents a scary view of going to hell—and Jesus is pointing out that we should do whatever is necessary to escape hell. Although our limbs may perform sinfully, sinfulness is embedded more deeply than that, for sinfulness seeks a home in our minds/hearts. So, first and foremost, what we need are renewed hearts, which will then activate our hands, feet, and eyes as servants of spiritual righteousness (and civic uprightness, too).

**Sat James 4:11-12** Second thoughts on the judgmental syndrome: A person with an inferiority complex is driven to feel superior to others and thus sits in judgment over others. That's acting like God, who gets it right every time—whereas the sinful judge is working with a defective heart. Luther knew that God and His servant James are directing us to **defend our neighbor, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything** that our neighbor may be saying or doing. God help us!