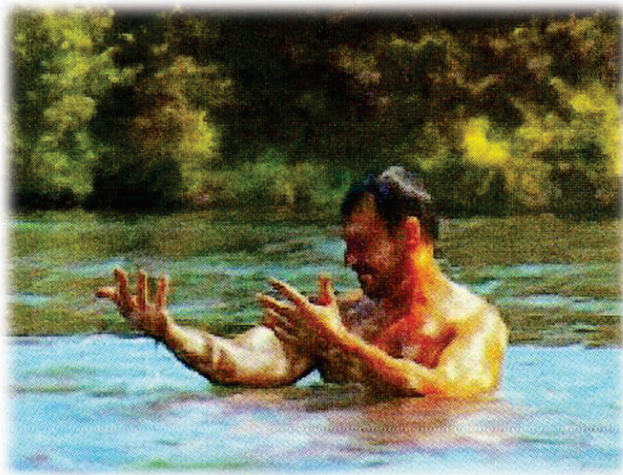




October 23-24, 2021

Pentecost 22

## *The Lie of Self-Sufficiency*



"So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

-2 Kings 5:14 (NKJV)

## 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 21.

**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](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:** 30:1-4 279 149 438:4-5 324:1-4

## **Gospel Reading.....Mark 10:35-45 (CSB)**

<sup>35</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you.”

<sup>36</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked them.

<sup>37</sup> They answered him, “Allow us to sit at your right and at your left in your glory.”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus said to them, “You don’t know what you’re asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”

<sup>39</sup> “We are able,” they told him.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with. <sup>40</sup> But to sit at my right or left is not mine to give; instead, it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

<sup>41</sup> When the ten disciples heard this, they began to be indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup> But it is not so among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave to all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

## **Letter Reading ..... Hebrews 4:9-16 (CSB)**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God’s people. <sup>10</sup> For the person who has entered his rest has rested from his own works, just as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup> Let us, then, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

**Sermon ..... 2 Kings 5:1-15 (NKJV)**

**5** Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, *but* a leper. <sup>2</sup> And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master *were* with the prophet who *is* in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup> And *Naaman* went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who *is* from the land of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand *shekels* of gold, and ten changes of clothing. <sup>6</sup> Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said,

Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

<sup>7</sup> And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "*Am* I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

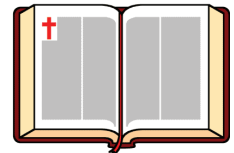
<sup>9</sup> Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and *you shall* be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out *to me*, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' <sup>12</sup> Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, *if* the prophet had told you *to do* something great, would you not have done *it*? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

<sup>15</sup> And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

Sermon Theme:

## "The Lie of Self-Sufficiency"

*Naaman found God when he discovered that self-sufficiency is a lie. God is the source of all good things—especially the cleansing which sinners need most desperately.*



Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller



This sermon was outlined by Michael Gurath, pastor of our sister church in Phoenix, AZ. • Unless otherwise indicated, Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version® of the Holy Bible, ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Messiah Home Bible Studies:** 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 25** 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 27** 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. Coming soon - The Bible study at the home of Jon and Sam Kelly will start again in the near future; watch for details.

## *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.

- Sun, 10/24** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #2, Counters A)  
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class  
6:30 pm Evening Bible Class at Church (last session)
- Mon, 10/25** 6:30 pm Ladies of Messiah
- Tues, 10/26** 9:00 am Koffee Klatsch at Perkins
- Wed, 10/27** 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism  
5:30 pm Council
- Sat, 10/30** 9:00 am Church Workday  
6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #3)  
7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class
- Sun, 10/31** **Reformation Day**  
9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #4, Counters B)  
**Messiah Children Singing "Fight the Good Fight"**  
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class  
3:00 pm Reformation Service

### Upcoming...

- November 7, Quarterly Voters' Meeting at 6:30 pm
- November 13, Fall Mission Webinar at 3:00 pm

## *Announcements*

**Weekend Bible class** will continue studying in the Psalms with a look at Psalm 11 and 12. These are a matched set that speak of a Father and his child. Join us in God's Word!

**Sunday Evening Bible Study** will take place this Sunday at 6:30 pm. This week we will conclude the series on the Gospel of Matthew.

**A New Start-up for the Ladies of Messiah** is coming this Monday **October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. 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.



**Snack Request for a Fall Party for ILC students on October 29th:**  
If you are able to provide snacks they can be dropped off at the office in the Academic Center the week of October 25th (office hours are 7:00 - 4:00). Thank you!

**We Will Celebrate Reformation Day** with a special service on Sunday, October 31, at 3:00 pm. Join us (in person or online) to remember God's grace in leading His people back to the Bible's teaching of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, according to Scripture alone!



**The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life:** The LORD blessed Justin McGoldrick and his wife Alyssa nee Green with the gift of a baby boy. Theodore Rae McCormick McGoldrick was born at the Marshfield Hospital in Rice Lake on Wednesday October 13. He was reborn of water and the Spirit through Baptism in a family service held at the McGoldrick home in Dallas, WI. (316 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N.). The baptism was done on October 17 by Pastor Tiefel and witnessed by both sets of grandparents, Tyler Green, and others via phone video. May the Spirit preserve Theodore in the Christian faith until he receives the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

**Fuerstenau Thank-You:** To all who helped unload the cargo trailer used to move the household of Pastor Emeritus Dave Fuerstenau and his wife Roxy. They appreciated the help and the warm welcoming they have received. Their contact information: 1917 E. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715)-491-0959

**CLC Southeastern Women's Retreat** will take place in Myrtle Beach, SC, on November 5-7. There are details on the kiosk in the narthex.

**The Messiah STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) club** is meeting in person on Fridays at 6:00 pm. The club meets to let students explore STEAM activities they find interesting. If you need to attend virtually, let us know and we will work to make it happen. Contact: [lmsbade@gmail.com](mailto:lmsbade@gmail.com)

**A Fall Mission Webinar** will be hosted by the CLC Committee of Domestic Fields (CDF) on Saturday, November 13 at 3pm. It will include speakers different CLC congregations. A group will gather at Messiah to participate. View from home by emailing [marktiefel@hotmail.com](mailto:marktiefel@hotmail.com). The webinar theme is "Mission Myths." Find more details on the CDF website at [us.lutheranmissions.org/cdf](http://us.lutheranmissions.org/cdf).

**Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day** is coming up on Friday, November 12th on the ILC campus in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college, and consider continuing your education in a solidly Christian setting! Visitors will be our guests for lunch and supper in the cafeteria, and in the evening are invited to join us for ILC's fall theatrical production, *The Music Man*. Speak with your pastor if you're interested in attending. For questions,



contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: 715-836-6636, cell: 253-228-8736,  
e-mail: [paul.naumann@ilc.edu](mailto:paul.naumann@ilc.edu)



## Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend



*Christians Serving Us:*

<p><b>Saturday 10/30 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3</b></p> <p>Gary Meyer      Blane Knutson          Luke Knutson   Tom Beekman          Jon Oster       Jack Mielke</p>		<p><b>Sunday 10/31 9:00 am: Usher Team 4</b></p> <p>Dave Johannes   Joel Gullerud          Kevin Hulke      Jeff Rutz          Brent Rutz        Britten Rutz          Carter Rutz</p>	
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<p><b>Thursday 10/31 3:00 pm: Usher Team 6</b></p> <p>Darin Oster      Ben Oster          Tim Oster        Jeremy Plath          Isaiah Plath     Gabe Plath          Andrew Plath</p>	
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**Counters for the week following 10/31– B**  
 Jeremy Gurgel, Paul Heinze, Nathan Quade

*Thank you!*

**God's Kids Bible Camp:** Messiah sponsors a free camp for local children ages 7-11 who have little opportunity to learn about God's word and may struggle to afford a summer camp experience. The Gospel of Christ brings meaning and power to God's Kids Bible Camp, while organizationally, a pair of Director's recruit counselors and manage day-to-day activities at camp. We are currently in search of one male and one female Director. If you are interested or know someone between the ages of 17-early 20's, please contact Pastor Schaller (715-577-6199) or Anne Vaver (715-456-3418). Our immediate need is to fill these two roles so planning may begin for camp in 2022.

**Web Design Help Needed:** Messiah's GKBC Committee is seeking someone with web design experience to revamp our web page. If you have experience and time to help with this important part of outreach, please contact Anne Vaver (715-456-3418).

**Call News:** Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, *has returned* the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. • Pastor David Ude of Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI, *is still considering* the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA.

**Help Needed at St. Paul's Lutheran in Melrose:** Able bodied volunteers are needed to assist in moving church pews 3 times over a period in November for church repairs. Interested in helping out the elderly members of this congregation? Contact Pastor Chad Seybt at 307-214-7033.



## How is My Mission Offering Used?

We are privileged to share in the work of God's Kingdom with our sister congregations in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

Offerings that are designated for "Missions" are contributions to the *General Fund* of the CLC. These offerings support our mission of sharing the Gospel through Christian Education at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College and Seminary (Regents); supporting mission congregations and outreach in North America, Asia, and Africa; supporting Christian Education and Publishing (Education and Publications); and funding the business expenses of our church body (Trustees).

Offerings to the CLC General Fund are budgeted for the various ministries that we have undertaken as a church body. The budgeted total revenue for this fiscal year (July 1, 2021 — June 30, 2022) is \$1,259, 430.

## Your Mission Dollar



**Board of Regents** — The CLC subsidizes the Christian education at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary (ILC) in Eau Claire. In this fiscal year, the total ILC operating budget is \$1,448,120. The synodical subsidy is 51% of the operating budget. The balance of the operating expenses are funded via student revenue. [www.ilc.edu](http://www.ilc.edu)

**Board of Missions** — Funding for domestic missions—currently five mission congregations, and foreign missions—aid to various sister church bodies in foreign fields, two full time missionaries, and additional part-time missionaries. [www.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.lutheranmissions.org)

**Board of Education and Publications** — Funding for various publishing projects, the CLC website, and providing resources and encouragement in Christian education. The Board of Education and Publications oversees the synod's periodical magazines and the CLC Book House.

**Board of Trustees** — Funding to administer the financial affairs of the church body and the "Old Retirement Plan" of the CLC.

**Additional Funds** have been created to support various efforts in the CLC as offerings allow. None of your Mission offerings go to these funds, however, an offering can be designated for these funds at any time.

**Mission Development Fund (MDF)** — This fund finances various extra-budgetary projects and aid efforts. Examples of MDF projects: Bibles for missions, translations, exploratory mission work, rice aid in India, bicycles, motorcycles, disaster relief.

**Kinship** supports orphans in India, Nigeria, East Africa, Nepal as well as seminary students and pastors' widows. Kinship also provides aid after natural disasters and for other humanitarian needs among our foreign missions.

**Student Aid Fund (SAF)** — This fund supports the grants, loans, and work-study offered to students at ILC in an effort to make the Christian education at ILC as affordable as possible.

**ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)** — These funds are used for larger maintenance and capital improvement projects on the ILC campus and its buildings.

**Church Extension Fund (CEF)** — These resources are loaned to congregations at low mortgage rates for building projects. Mortgage payments replenish the fund.

## CLC Financial Report - September

CLC Financial Report Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2021	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 3 Month	Balance 9/30/2021
<b>General Fund</b>	0	249,964	320,130	315,000	- 70,166
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	452,785	368,556	361,800	84,229
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	124,590	37,468	16,754		145,304
ILC Building Projects	1,096,716	-3,318	9,862		1,083,536
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	132,313	23,700	26,875		129,138
Kinship	182,119	44,154	47,292		178,981
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	3,527,885	79,205	552,169		3,054,921
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	133,585	19,735	28,226		125,094
CLC Reserve Fund	300,222	-58	0		300,164
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,497,430</b>	<b>\$200,886</b>	<b>\$681,178</b>		<b>\$5,017,138</b>

**General Fund – September** offerings were \$100,472 (Ave needs \$105,000) **VS** disbursements of \$117,716, a negative monthly cash flow of -\$17,244. YTD offerings are \$65,000 short of budget needs, while YTD disbursements are \$5,000 over budgeted expenses, resulting in the General Fund deficit of -\$70,000 after the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of our fiscal year. The General Fund provides \$1,260,000 of subsidy for the operation of our Boards of Missions, Regents, Trustees, and Education & Publication and needs the regular support of all our members.

**ILC Operations – September** revenue was \$142,668 (incl \$61,667 subsidy) **VS** disbursements of \$120,777, resulting in a positive YTD balance of \$84,000. As previously noted, the Regents -\$60,000 deficit for July recovered quickly in August from student revenue when school resumed. Student revenue comes in steadily as most parents make regular monthly payments on their student accounts. Some pay for the whole semester in the first month. There are 120 enrolled in the 3 depts.

**ILC Building Projects – September** revenue: \$895 in offerings **VS** \$9,862 in disbursements for design fees and related expenses from the 2021 CLC Convention's \$20,000 allocation for the ILC Planning Committee to study and present a cost estimate to the 2022 Convention for the proposed new gymnasium and repurposing the existing fieldhouse. September earnings (Dividends/Interest) were \$3,925, while changes in principal (capital) value were negative \$22,301 due to market conditions. Fluctuations are expected in our portfolio value each month and the net gain or loss YTD is reported in the chart above for this fund (& IIF, CEF, & SAF). Realized dividends & interest earnings for the Bldg Fund for the 3 months of this fiscal year are \$11,953.

**CEF – September** revenue: \$29,388 loan repayments, \$50 offerings **VS** disbursements: \$437,844 (\$425,000 Cong loan construction draw #2; \$8,823 Note interest paid; \$4,021 admin expenses).

**MDF – September** revenue: \$10,713 in offerings **VS** disbursements of \$11,725, including \$2,500 Africa/Asia outreach; \$6,000 church building aid, \$1,200 cycles, & \$1,125 admin expenses.

**SAF – September** receipts: \$3,820 (SAF loan repayments & gifts) **VS** 19,536 disbursed (\$7,809 student grants, loans, & scholarships; \$920 admin expenses).

**Kinship – September** offerings: \$8,384 offerings & sponsors **VS** disbursed: \$22,937 (\$13,832 orphanages, \$8,850 Seminary student sponsorships).

James E. Sandeen, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees



**In the Hospital:** Kathy Schaller was taken to the Sacred Heart hospital this week for observation due to increasing weakness. Linda Larson remains hospitalized at Sacred Heart. John Radichel remains hospitalized in Bloomer. Both are improving.

**Messiah Shut-ins:** Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave), Tom Heian (Rutledge Home, Chippewa Falls) 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).

### Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ October 16-17, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 121 – Sun. 231) 352 Service Online: 195 (current views)

Bible Class: (Sat. 24 - Sun. 61) 85 Sunday School: (Sat. 4 - Sun. na) na

Bible Class Online: 55 (current views)

Young Adults: 20 Sunday Evening Bible Class: 13 Ruth's Retreat: 10

Dove West: 12 Heritage Court: 15 Dove South: 7

Heritage Assisted: 8 Lake Hallie: cancelled Our House: cancelled

### Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$628,385.00	\$161,538.00
YTD Offerings	\$600,083.09	\$179,970.36
Weekly Need	\$17,792.00	\$2,003.00
Last Week (10/17)	\$14,480.25	\$5,072.25
Amount Still Needed	\$177,916.91	\$20,029.64

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$660,954.99	Received to Date
\$1,530.00	Last Week (10/17)

Given in memory of...

Herbert & Bonnie Aichele

John Lau

Mabel Noeldner

Mabel Noeldner

Mabel Noeldner

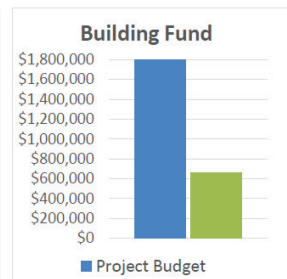
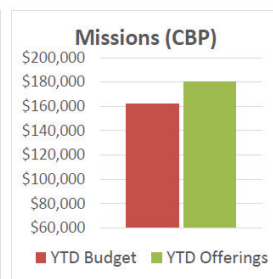
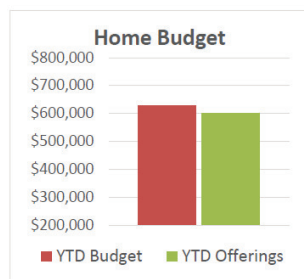
500.00 Messiah Building Fund

500.00 Mission Development Fund

580.00 Messiah Building Fund

390.00 Project Kinship

20.00 ILC Student Aid



### Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Oct. 25-30 , '21

**Mon Isaiah 53:10-12** stops us in our tracks and opens the great mystery of the planning that lay behind Christmas, Calvary, and Easter. The LORD God did not begrudge sending Messiah Jesus down to our planet but was pleased to redeem and reclaim humanity from a fate worse than death. Jesus would *make His soul an offering for sin and would prosper in bearing their/our iniquities, and therefore receive the acclimation He deserved.* Hallelujah!

**Tues Mark 10:35-45** Those adults were acting like children—trying to elbow their way to the head of the line (35-37), failing to realize it would put them on track to Calvary (38-39). Besides, the table seating in heaven had already been set (40). Since the virus of selfishness was spreading (41), Jesus clarified that God values the giving of service rather the receiving of service (45).

**Wed Hebrews 4:11-16** God can read our minds, so He knows what nobody else knows about us; He can read our diaries, tune in on our daydreams, poke around in our garbage (11-13)--and instead of being revolted, God *sympathizes with our weakness* and invites us to *come boldly to the throne of grace, to obtain mercy* (not condemnation) and *find grace* (not grumpiness) *to help* (not hamper) *us in our time of need.* **God is our refuge!**

**Thurs Psalm 22** lets us read Jesus' heart as He claims no favor from God (1-2) while He favored others (3-5) even when He was stepped on (6) and mocked (7-8). *"I have gone from being favored (9-11) to being victimized (12-13), to suffering, (14-15) and to execution (16-18). Nevertheless, I turn to Thee, dear Father, for help (19-21), and I praise Thee (22-26). In mercy reach out to others (27-29) even unto future generations (30-31)."* Amen.

**Fri Mark 11:27-33** Disbelievers have an appetite for trying to discredit our Savior (27-28). In this case, Jesus turned the tables on them with a question they declined to answer—for they would get into trouble either way, whether they approved or disapproved of John the Baptizer. How sad that they slunk away from this blessed opportunity to admit they were fighting a losing battle – and they should simply surrender to Jesus. Lord, have mercy!

**Sat Hebrews 6:1-8** Those who are familiar with basic Christian doctrines (1-2) may wonder and worry about those who have fallen through the cracks. More precisely, when someone turns his back on the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier and is sliding toward hell -- is there no hope for such a soul?

Our Savior's word in Matthew 19:26 supplies the solution: While it is impossible for us to renew them again to repentance, it is not impossible for God. Dear God, grant such a miracle of grace and such a reformation!