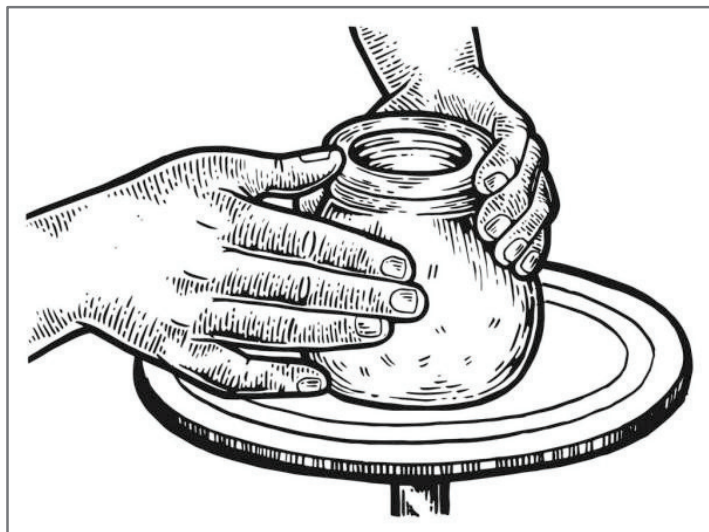




October 30-31, 2021

Pentecost 23 Reformation



*But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay,
and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.
Isaiah 64:8*

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: ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25).

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: 262 605 398 789:1,5 261

Messiah Children singing Sunday morning only: “Fight the Good Fight”

Epistle Reading Revelation 14:6-7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— ⁷ saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Gospel Reading Mark 13:5-11

⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows. ⁹ “But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. ¹¹ But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Sermon.....Jeremiah 18:1-11

¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: ² “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” ³ Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ⁶ “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! ⁷ The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, ⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. ⁹ And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, ¹⁰ if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it. ¹¹ “Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.” ’ ’ ”

Sermon Theme:

A Reformation in the nation or church begins with you, now!

1. YOU: each of us, with a turn from evil to Jesus
2. NOW: the past, whether good or bad, matters not.

Preaching Today: Pastor Paul Tiefel

Installation of

Mrs. Marcie Schierenbeck

As the 4th grade part-time teacher at Messiah Lutheran School

- The promise of Teacher Schierenbeck to serve the Savior
- The promise of students/parents to work with the servant of the Savior
- The promise of the congregation to support the servant of the Savior
- A prayer asking for the blessing of the LORD



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.

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, 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/Bible Class – with Young Adults
3:00 pm Reformation Service

Mon, 11/1

New School wing open for use

Tues, 11/2

- 6:30 pm Elders

Wed, 11/3

- 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
8:00 pm Ruth’s Retreat

Sat, 11/6

- 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #5)
7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class

Sun, 11/7

Daylight Savings (gain one hour)

- 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters C)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
6:30 pm Quarterly Voters’ Meeting

Upcoming...

- November 13, Fall Mission Webinar at 3:00 pm
- November 15, Ladies’ Meeting

Announcements

Bible Class this Weekend will start a two-part study of the Psalms of Ascent (120-134). These fifteen psalms have a beautiful chiastic structure, a type of crisscross. So 120 goes with 133, 121 with 132, 122 with 131, and so on. Please join us, either live on Saturday evening / Sunday morning or via live stream. Young Adults will not be meeting this Sunday, so plan on joining Bible Class.

We Will Celebrate Reformation Day with a special service this 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!



Our Sunday Evening Bible Class series has concluded and not be meeting Sunday evenings at church for the time being. We are considering options for a future series of some kind. Our members are encouraged to visit one of the “Messiah Home Bible Studies” that are now being held.

Next Sunday evening, Nov. 7, our voters have their quarterly meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. A packet of information, including the agenda and various reports, is available on our narthex kiosk – please help yourself. You may also access this online at tinyurl.com/vpacket-11-07. Voters, please do your best to be present for this work we do together for the LORD.

In Case You Missed It:

- Web Design Help needed for God's Kids Bible Camp
(Contact Anne Vaver at 715-456-3418)
 - 2 Directors for God's Kids Bible Camp
(Contact Anne Vaver or Pastor Schaller)
 - Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day November 12th
 - Help moving pews in Melrose (Contact Pastor Seybt at 307-214-7033)
- For more details on any of these, see last week's bulletin.

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, November 1** 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, November 3** 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 begin on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 6:30. On-site childcare is available.

We are making plans for our Children's Christmas Eve service, and would like to know for certain which children will be participating this year. The practices will be on Saturdays, Nov. 20, and Dec. 4 & 11, from 9 am to 11:30 am. The final practice will be Wednesday, Dec. 22, from 3:30 to 5 pm. We would really appreciate a response from all parents for planning purposes. An easy way to reply is to use the form here: tinyurl.com/chr-eve-21, or reply to our church office at 715-834-2865 or church.office@ecmessiah.org. We are looking forward to helping our kids to share the Good News of our newborn Savior this Christmas!

Last weekend we experienced problems with the over-the-ear mic used by the pastor. We apologize for the annoyance. The problem was tracked down and fixed. Our thanks to those who solved the problem and reminder to all of us that these are a number of such people working behind the scenes.

Welcome: Marcie Schierenbeck taught at Messiah many years ago and has filled in as a sub. We are thankful that the LORD has led her to accept our call. Marcie attended Immanuel College and holds a Bachelor's Degree from Mankato State and a Master Degree in Elementary Education from Winona State University. May the LORD bless her work in our midst.



Communion next weekend: During next week's services, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. You may register for the sacrament on the sheets provided on the table in the narthex or fellowship hall or by speaking to one of the pastors. As an aid to self-examination we offer this:

Communion days are the great festive days of the Christian Church. Communion itself is the Holy of Holies, the very climax of the Christian life. There the most intimate union between the Savior and the believer takes place.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was instituted and ordained by Christ just before His sufferings and death. It is His last Will and Testament or Bequest, given to His disciples, His Church. "Do this," He said, "take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you...Drink all of you from it, this cup is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many, for the remission of sins: this do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." Such was Christ's command. The apostles understood; the Apostolic Church understood; and thus, from the very beginning of the Church, the "Breaking of Bread," i.e., the celebration of Holy Communion, has been the holiest and most sacred rite of the Church. Read what the book of Acts says: (Ch. 2: 42; 20:7); what Paul says (I Cor. 10:15, 16; 11:26-29); what John says: (I John 5:8).

Holy Communion still is the Holy of Holies in the Lutheran Church. Would to God that all might realize this, and faithfully and frequently enter into this sanctuary to enjoy the privilege of communing at the Lord's Table, commemorating His death, and receiving from Him that holy "meat and drink," His own Body and Blood, the food of eternal life!

(taken from the Preface to the 1st Edition of Holy Communion, by J. Becker, Wartburg Press, 1956.)

Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

Sermon Text – John 5:19-24
Bible Class – Psalms of Ascent Part 2

Christians Serving Us:

Saturday 11/06 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5 Mike Markus Mark Franson Jim Sydow Ben Thurow Jim Lau Andy Buck Mark Kranz	Sunday 11/07 9:00 am: Usher Team 6 Darin Oster Ben Oster Tim Oster Jeremy Plath Isaiah Plath Gabe Plath Andrew Plath
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Counters for the week following 11/6– C
Tom Joos, Mike Markus, Barry Schlegelmilch

Communion Setup: Jennifer Schaller

Thank you!

News From Around the CLC

Outreach Seminar: This is normally the time of year that the Outreach Committee sponsors a seminar. Typically there are two types of seminars, one where we reach out to community on a timely topic and the other where we have a workday for the training of our own members. For different reasons, there is no seminar this year. Next fall, look for a seminar on “Mental Health” as an outreach tool. This year, our synod’s Committee on Domestic Fields is sponsoring a training seminar entitled: “Mission Myths.” It will be a webinar with 5 different speakers from sister congregations. You are encouraged to participate. View from home by emailing marktiefel@hotmail.com or join us at church (with a soup supper) on **Saturday November 13, from 3-5 pm**. Here is an outline of the presentation:

Lesson 1: Mission Myths about the Gospel

1. “The Good News is just old news”
2. “Just living the Gospel is a good enough witness”

Lesson 2: Mission Myths about Me

1. “I can’t do mission work”
2. “I need to know every answer”

Lesson 3: Mission Myths about Them

1. “People just aren’t looking for a church home anymore”
2. “Everyone has heard about Jesus already”

Lesson 4: Mission Myths about My Church

1. “It doesn’t matter what we try, nothing works”
2. “We must change or it won’t work”

Lesson 5: Mission Myths about the Culture

1. “Truth doesn’t matter to evangelism or faith”
2. “To tolerate is to love”

Two Invitations: <> **Faith Lutheran Church in New Ulm** will celebrate its 60th+ anniversary on Sunday, November 7. A special service will be held at 11:00am with a fellowship meal to follow. Please RSVP by Sunday, October 31st at <https://forms.gle/eY1rBX7ZxutyUQW57>. <> **Grace Ev. Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye** will celebrate its 62nd anniversary on Sunday, November 14th at 3:00pm. The worship service will be followed by a presentation and fellowship meal. Please RSVP by Nov 7 at: <https://forms.gle/GDtXkryii4CrTm7e8>. For either service you may contact Pastor Mayhew at nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com or (404-729-4602).

CLC News: Pastor David Ude *has returned* the call to Tacoma, WA • Pastor Rob Sauers *has received* the call to Manchester, MO • Pastor James Albrecht *has received* the calls to Bowdle and to Ipswich, SD.

Pastor Dave Naumann will be married to Christy Mattson on Sunday October 31st at 6pm Central time. The ceremony will be at Trinity Lutheran of Spokane WA and will be live-streamed on the church’s YouTube page. Please keep them in your prayers for God’s blessings on their married life.



Highlights from the October 27th 2021 Church Council Meeting

<> **The meeting began** at 5:38 pm with a devotion based on Luke 13:22-24. There were 9 members present, including church officers, board chairmen, and pastors.

<> **Elders:** Membership matters: Motion passed to accept the membership of Dave & Roxy Fuerstenau from Holy Truth, Ketchikan, AK. Motion passed to recommend to voters the termination of Trudy Herdrich according to bylaw 2.08a, at her request.

Baptisms: Marissa Leigh Friedrichs on July 13 by L. Dale Redlin, Emery Christine Mikesell on July 18 by Pastor Tiefel, & Imogen Kendall Rose Friedrichs on October 1 by Pastor Tiefel. Victory Service: Mabel Noeldner on Sept 28 at Messiah by Pastor Tiefel. The Pastors have prepared a document regarding the role of women in the church as it pertains to Messiah. Pastor Naumann shared it with the Council; the Elders will discuss at their next meeting.

<> **Deacons:** All appointees have agreed to continue serving through 2021. Security team – Final day of training will be this Saturday. 15 members and 2 teachers are participating. Tech Committee – wiring for new construction is complete, audio issues have been resolved. Installed new HD camera for streaming services.

<> **Pastors:** Pastors still meet weekly. Pastor Tiefel will be taking midweek Advent services, while Pastors Naumann and Schaller cover weekends. They and the Elders are following up on contact with inactive members. Pastor Naumann, Teacher Roehl and Samantha Kelly are organizing the Christmas Eve service this year. The weekend Bible class series is on the Psalms; we will be reevaluating Sunday Evening Bible class for 2022. They are working with Deacons on service schedule for next year.

<> **Outreach** is preparing for Christmas VBS (Dec 12th). We are looking at arranging for a new billboard this fall, and are promoting the Missions Webinar on Nov. 13th. Ideas are being considered for next year’s activities.

<> **Property:** The most recent church work day was Sept 25, turnout was small. We re-lined part of parking lot and repaired some electrical issues. In-Progress: Repair kitchen fridge, get permanent “no parking” signs on Harrison St, relocate garbage and dumpster to Harrison St to improve snow removal, convert 3 non-working lights to LED on east side of school, cut and install corner supports for church secretary’s desk. Create more structured BOP role guidance. Pending items: various fixes and upgrades at the Schaller parsonage and teacherage. Check and seal leak in narthex roof in corner on north side. Create BOP “routine maintenance” document. Clean carpets in church. Wasps in Fellowship Hall & kitchen areas. Address north school flood lights shining into neighbor’s house/yard. Future projects: (would require additional funding): (a) Replace 5 east side school windows. We have several quotes. Motion tabled to go with Asher window and installation (we need voter approval for this amount). Other quotes will be considered. (b) Replace electrical panel at the teacherage, ~\$2,500. A motion passed to spend up to \$3,000 from the Property Improvement Fund for this.

<> **Board of Education and Principal:** Principal Schaller is nearing the end of his quarantine due to a COVID case in his household. Mrs. Marcie Schierenbeck will be installed this weekend. We have a coordinator for December

VBS. Fall athletics are done, and we have coaches in place for winter sports. One second grade student has left to be homeschooled, and have one new 7th grade student. The students are using the new restrooms this week; we plan to use new classrooms and entrance next week. School office move is TBD. <> **Treasurer:** A motion passed to approve the current list of bills for payment as presented. General Fund receipts and disbursements both about \$558K which included about 380,000 for the building project. We are thankful to have received some large special donations recently. Total contributions are about \$1.1M, compared to \$847K last year. <> **Building project** - classrooms are moving in this week, school office will be later. There are a number of unfinished items: storage shed, signage, entry sign, replacing flooring, replacing cabinetry, lighting on east side of building. There may be some money in the building project to do these things, if the voters decide to do that. President will appoint committees to address these. Seth has a draft plan for interior signing. All boards to get estimates for items that they feel should be included in the building project so they can be considered by the voters at the December meeting, prior to finalizing the CEF loan. • Responsibility for space use and decor. A motion carried to split responsibility among boards: Board of Ed responsible for everything north of double doors except for "blue room." Deacons are responsible for everything south of double doors plus the "blue room." Board of Property is responsible for all maintenance/utility areas. This is with the understanding that the boards cooperate on shared spaces (fellowship hall, cry room, nursery, etc.). <> **2022 Budget:** The Treasurer presented a projected budget at ~5% increase over the current year not counting any changes from the Compensation Committee. A motion carried to increase the Property Improvement Fund transfer from \$3,000 to \$6,000. A motion carried to recommend this preliminary budget to the voters (pending any Compensation Committee action). <> **Treasurer position:** We are considering whether to gradually transfer some duties to a bookkeeper position. Pres. Oster will introduce this concept to the voters. <> **Miscellaneous:** • A motion passed to contribute Stewardship Sunday offering envelope donations to the Property Improvement Fund. • A retreat will be held early next year with Messiah Board members. We will discuss each board's long-range plans and challenges. • Spending limits: Reviewed spending limits for various funds, etc. We will recommend any proposed changes to the voters, perhaps in Dec. • A motion passed to recommend guidelines for the Current Projects Fund to the voters. This fund is intended for (but not limited to) projects that are (1) one-time expenses (not on-going), (2) intended to enhance Messiah's buildings, property, or programs, and (3) are estimated to cost between \$10,000 - \$100,000. The Current Project List will be maintained by the Council and periodically approved by the Voters. Spending from this fund can only be approved by the Voters. • **Altar Committee:** A motion passed that we authorize up to \$300 for altar linens, from the Undesignated Memorials Fund. <> **The next Council meetings** are scheduled for Nov 15th and Dec 8th. <> **The next Voter's meetings** are scheduled for Nov 7th – (quarterly and elections) meeting; Dec 12th – special budget meeting; Jan 23rd, 2022 – annual meeting. Installation of new board members and officers is scheduled for Dec 18-19. <> **The meeting adjourned** at 8:42 PM with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

The Ladies of Messiah met on Monday, October 25 to revisit pre-Covid plans and to discuss the future of the group. It was decided that the positions of the following officers need to be filled as soon as possible: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Amanda Hestekin has volunteered to be considered for the position of President. The group also discussed the roles of several sub-committees, summarized briefly below:



- 1) **Altar Committee:** Currently being served by Paula Naumann, Cindy Schlegelmilch, Emily Schlegelmilch, Eileen Tiefel, and Connie Wittorp. This group is responsible for the altar cloths, candles, floral arrangements, and communion ware.
- 2) **Kitchen:** Leader of this group is Lynette Roehl. The Kitchen Committee is responsible for funeral meals, potlucks, and any other function involving the church kitchen and the serving/cleanup of meals. Each female member – 18 and over is automatically added to one of three Kitchen Groups. Each Kitchen Group has two leaders, in charge of calling on their group members when it is their group's turn to either prepare food, serve, or clean up after a meal or event. There is a need for two new group leaders.
- 3) **Activities:** This is a new committee responsible for the planning and/or facilitating of various events such as craft nights, soup or cookie exchanges, holiday parties, outdoor picnics, activities for singles or young adults, etc. There are many volunteers for this committee, but a committee leader is still needed.
- 4) **Member Monitor Committee:** This is a new committee responsible for tracking various milestones among members (births, graduations, new marriages) and staying in touch with those who may have needs (shut-ins, new moms, widows and widowers, sick or hospitalized persons and their families) and will organize meal trains, visits, and gifts wherever there is need. The Cradle Roll (currently served by Dotty Lillo and Beth Sydow) will become a sub-committee of this group. Amanda Roth has volunteered to be the leader of this committee.
- 5) **Quiet Bag Maintenance:** Hannah Graff has offered to serve as leader for this committee. Other volunteers to help as needed would be welcome.

Anyone who might be willing and able to serve as either an elected officer, sub-committee leader, or a kitchen group leader is asked to please contact Jessi Scheberl either by email (jessica_scheberl@live.com) or by calling/texting 715.379.6716. The group plans to elect officers and sub-committee leaders at the next meeting, which is tentatively planned for **Monday, November 15th** at 6:30 pm.

Excess Church and School Furniture: With the purchase of new cabinetry and other classroom furniture with the new building project, there is excess furniture available to interested members. Items include computer desks, lockers, and old church pews. Items available can be viewed outside along the temporary storage unit and the storage garage. If interested in any item, contact Tom Beekman at thomasbeekamn1961@gmail.com or 715-491-2025.

In the Hospital: Both Kathy Schaller Linda Larson expected to return home late in the week, after being hospitalized at Sacred Heart. John Radichel remains hospitalized in Bloomer, and reports progress in his recovery.

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 23-24, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 76 – Sun. 259) 335 Service Online: 199 (current views)
 Bible Class: (Sat. 12 - Sun. 88) 100 Sunday School: (Sat. 4 - Sun. 37) 41
 Bible Class Online: 53 (current views)
 Young Adults: met with Bible Class Sunday Evening Bible Class: 14
 Dove West: 10 Heritage Court: 19 Dove South: 8 Veterans: 10
 Heritage Assisted: 5 Lake Hallie: 23 Our House: cancelled

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$643,346.00	\$165,385.00
YTD Offerings	\$615,323.80	\$183,444.61
Weekly Need	\$18,075.00	\$1,839.00
Last Week (10/24)	\$15,240.71	\$3,474.25
Amount Still Needed	\$162,676.20	\$16,555.39

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$668,601.14	Received to Date
\$7,646.15	Last Week (10/24)

Given in memory of...
 Mabel Noeldner

25.00 Undesignated

By congregational resolution, the special Reformation envelope has been designated for the Mission Development Fund (MDF).

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 1-6, '21

Mon Jeremiah 18:1-11 Ancient Palestinians suffered much from foreigners, and God was using them to bring Israel to repentance. Israel's problem was common to humans: moral degeneration which begins with individuals (11) and soon infects the entire nation. Unrepented sin brings disastrous consequences; on the other hand, God relents and rebuilds a future for repentant individuals and repentant nations. [It sounds current, doesn't it?]

Tues Mark 13:1-11 Jesus upgraded Jeremiah's warning for the Jews (1-2), which fits our world, too (5-8). *So watch out for yourselves*, Christians, for you will be persecuted and face court trials (9). When that happens to you, God's Holy Spirit will give you the right responses for a testimony to/against them. [Martin Luther was blessed via that experience; praise the Lord!]

Wed Revelation 14:6-7 *Angel* = messenger, and this one was air-borne so he could broadcast his message *to all those who dwell on the Earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, “Revere God and give glory to Him, for your time of grace has evaporated!* Get down on your knees and *worship Him who created a viable Earth* until He finishes it off in flames [2 Peter 3:10]. Martin Luther was God's messenger, and today many others are using the air-waves to broadcast God's Word.

Thurs Psalm 46 Since *God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble*, we can face catastrophes (1-3) from a safe place (4-5). Even if Europe, Asia, Africa, Indonesia, and the Americas go berserk, we will *take refuge in the God of Jacob* (cf. Genesis 28:13-15). When life gets scary, let's remind ourselves that God is still behind the steering wheel (8-9). That knowledge helps us o quit complaining (10). Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

Fri Matthew 24:1-14 We are less interested in the Temple than the disciples were; they were impressed, Jesus was not. We are more interested in the next question: “*What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*” They wanted advance notice on the arrival of Judgment Day. Here are the clues: False saviors will deceive many, wars and natural disasters will multiply; you will be targeted, too. There's only one redeeming factor that will prepare humanity for meeting Jesus (14). God grant it!

Sat 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Let's sit down and count our blessings. We have been given the grace of God via Christ Jesus; we have been enriched in every-which way via Jesus; God has not begrudged us any blessing, and He has pledged to carry us through to the end, so *that we may be blameless in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ*. God is dependable! Count on it (9)! Amen and Amen!