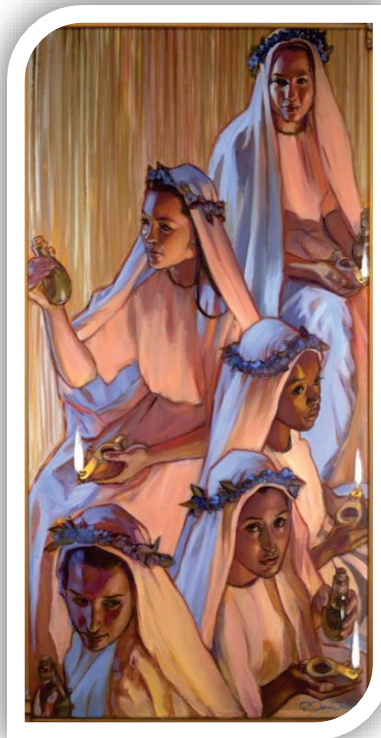




November 14-15, 2020
Saints Triumphant

“...those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.”

-Matthew 25:10
(ESV)



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

*Please take
the bulletin
with you.
Thank you!*

Large-print copies are by the guest book.

Today's Worship

For a printed liturgy, see the green liturgy folder, page 18.

Pre-Service Devotion: See bulletin cover.

Hymns: 336 480 67:1-3 (use tune 473) 67:4-7 (use tune 473)

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 52:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Awake, awake!

Put on your strength, O Zion;

Put on your beautiful garments,

O Jerusalem, the holy city!

For the uncircumcised and the unclean

Shall no longer come to you.

² Shake yourself from the dust, arise;

Sit down, O Jerusalem!

Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck,

O captive daughter of Zion!

³ For thus says the LORD:

“You have sold yourselves for nothing,

And you shall be redeemed without money.”

⁴ For thus says the Lord GOD:

“My people went down at first

Into Egypt to dwell there;

Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

⁵ Now therefore, what have I here,” says the LORD,

“That My people are taken away for nothing?

Those who rule over them

Make them wail,” says the LORD,

“And My name is blasphemed continually every day.

⁶ Therefore My people shall know My name;

Therefore they shall know in that day

That I am He who speaks:

‘Behold, it is I.’ ”

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we

believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Sermon Text Matthew 25:1-13 (ESV)

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

“Ready for the Marriage Feast”

Jesus tells a parable about entrance into heaven. In the parable the guests who still have light are ushered into a wedding feast. It is the Gospel in Word and Sacrament that keeps our faith burning bright, making us fully prepared to enter the presence of Yahweh.



Preaching Today: Pastor Caleb Schaller

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

Masks required indoors as required by government mandate.

Sunday services are live-streamed and archived on eauclairemessiah.com.

Sun, 11/15 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #6, Counters H)
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults
11:15 am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
6:30 pm Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Tue, 11/17 6:00 pm Outreach
6:30 pm Board of Education

Wed, 11/18 10:00 am Pastor's Study Club
4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
6:30 pm Council
8:00 pm Compensation Committee
8:00 pm Ruth's Retreat

Sat, 11/21 10:00 am Christmas Eve Practice (for the 3:30 service)
2:00 pm Christmas Eve Practice (for the 6:30 service)
6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #13)
7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School

Sun, 11/22 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters A)
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

Coming Up: • Nov. 25-26, Thanksgiving Services
• Nov. 28, Youth Group: Church Decorating

Announcements

Weekend Bible Class: We continue studying the “Life of Joseph” with part 2 of 4. Joseph's life was a roller-coaster of events. It seems like he was either riding a high wave or experiencing a deep and dark trough. But continually this man gives God the credit, and waits for the LORD's plan to unfold. Please join us in person or online.

Young Adults Bible Study: Prof Gullerud will continue with discussion of the book *Red Sea Rules: 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times*.

Messiah's next quarterly Voters' Meeting takes place this Sunday, November 15, at 6:30 pm. A packet of information and reports has been placed in voters' church mailboxes, and copies are available on the narthex kiosk. You may also see this packet online at tinyurl.com/vpacket-11-15. If you would like to monitor the Voters' meeting via live video call, please contact Pastor Naumann for a link.

Christmas Eve Service Practice: Our first Christmas Eve Service practices will be held on Saturday, November 21.

- If you signed up for the 3:30 pm service, you will practice at 10:00am.
- If you signed up for the 6:30 pm service, you will practice at 2:00pm.
- If your preferred service was “no preference”, you have been enrolled in the 6:30 pm service, and will practice at 2:00pm.

Please arrive early for your practice. Enter by the sanctuary doors only. Children will be routed to their practice rooms from there. Please wear masks and observe social distancing. During this first practice we will work on songs and group parts.

- There will be no practice the Saturday after Thanksgiving (No practice Nov. 28).
- Our second practice will be held Saturday, December 5.

Christmas Eve Helpers Wanted: Eighty total participants were signed up for our two Christmas Eve services this year. We need help working with students during the Christmas Eve practices, and with sanitizing before, between, and after. If you are willing and able to serve in any of this way sign up at tinyurl.com/XmasEveHelper call or text Pastor Caleb at 715-577-6199 or email pastor.schaller@ecmessiah.org.



ILC College Visitors' Day: Sadly, COVID constraints are affecting our annual College Visitors' Day on Friday, November 20. Due to restrictions Immanuel is unable to issue an open invitation to off-campus visitors, as we normally do. However, if you are a young person or parent who wants to find out more about Immanuel Lutheran College, you may view the Visitors' Day presentations streamed live starting at 10:30 a.m., link available on the home page at ILC.edu. If you still wish to attend in person on Nov. 20, or would like an individualized tour of campus at another time, please contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann to discuss possible arrangements (715-836-6636, or paul.naumann@ilc.edu).



Youth Group Church Decorating - Saturday, November 28th - Please join us as we begin to prepare our church for the Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity to be of service to Messiah. We will meet at 10 am and begin with a devotion. We will decorate and have pizza and soda for lunch. Parents please pick up your kids by 1 pm at Messiah. Anyone in the congregation is welcome to come help decorate as well! Please contact Amanda Roth with any questions at (715)-577-0190.

Other Upcoming Youth Group Events: Youth Group is usually for grades 7-12, but some events are open for the whole family. Watch for details. Here's what we have on the docket for the next few months.

- December 11. Christmas Party.
- January 3. Church un-decorating.
- January 15-16. A snow event of some kind on, going to the Silvermine Ski-Jump Competition or snow-tubing at Christie Mountain or elsewhere.
- Watch the bulletin for details!

-Youth Group Comm. (Anne Vaver, Kari Behlmer, Amanda & Chad Roth, Pastor C.)

Attention all current and potential ushers - We are looking to reduce the number of usher teams, and staffing them with members who can be available on a more consistent basis. **Please note that you will not automatically be put on a team;** we need to hear from those who can serve consistently. If you are willing, please be sure to contact Tom Joos at 715-529-3432 or via email at tjoos@charter.net.

Pastor Chad Seybt will be installed as pastor of Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI at the 9:30 am service on Saturday, December 5. He will be installed as pastor of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI at the 8:30 am service on Sunday, December 6. He will be installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI at the 11:00 am service on December 6. Due to social distancing requirements, visitors are asked, if possible, to attend the Millston service. Thanks, *John Schierenbeck, Vacancy Pastor*

CLC News: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew, Grace, Sleepy Eye & Faith, New Ulm, MN has returned the call extended to him by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN.

Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend
GOD'S WORD SERVING US:

Scripture Readings – Eze 34:11-16,23,24; 1 Cor 15:20-28; Matt 27:27-31
Bible Class – Life of Joseph part 3

CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

<p>Saturday 11/21 6:30 pm: Usher Team 13</p> <p>Mike Markus Mark Kranz Tom Elbert Paul Heinze Joshua Heinze Caleb Heinze Adam Lillo Shane Behnke</p>	<p>Sunday 11/22 9:00 am: Usher Team 8</p> <p>Scott Wuerch Vic Wente Brett Lau Paul Tiefel III Jason Zimmerman Randy Wirth John Berman Jeff Schierenbeck</p>
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Counters for the week following 11/22 – A
Jim Lau, Gary Meyer, Dan Kelly

Thank you!

Can you help with video services for seniors? Messiah regularly records and distributes service DVDs for area nursing homes. We could use several volunteers to help with distribution of DVDs, which need to be dropped off at 6 locations. We can also use volunteers to sing during the recording of the services. If you can help please contact Lawrence Bade at or 715-514-1897 or lmsbade@gmail.com.

Messiah has held an annual Christmas music festival for a number of years. If you have an interest in sharing your musical gifts for this event, please contact Lynette Roehl at 715-831-8306 or lynette.roehl@ilc.edu.

In Our Prayers: Karen Jacobson is recovering slowly from COVID at home, and is still very weak. Ted Thurow is also still struggling with COVID in Osseo; at the same time he is trying to gain strength following his open-heart surgery, which took place on September 3. **Messiah Shut-ins:** Ida Drews (2455 Sawgrass Place #213, Altoona), Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave.), Shirley Johnson (2512 New Pine Dr. Altoona), Mae Noeldner (3706 Damon St. #17), 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), Paul Tiefel, Sr. (2455 Sawgrass Rd #419, Altoona), Mavis Thelen (418 N. Barstow), Johanna Williams (2118 Augusta St.) and Shelly Williamson (Bellevue, IA).

Fruits of Faith Last Week – Nov. 7 & 8, 2020

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 57 - Sun. 86) 143

Communion: 25

Bible Class: (Sat. 23 - Sun. 24) 47 Sunday School: (Sat. 8 - Sun. na) na

Online: (Worship: 247, ILC: 27, Bible Class: 78)

Young Adults: met with Bible Class

Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)	Building Fund	
2020 Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00	\$425,000.00	Goal
YTD Budget	\$636,923.00	\$160,096.00	\$326,653.60	Offerings-to-date
YTD Offerings	\$594,041.49	\$161,063.61	\$98,346.40	Still Needed
Weekly Need	\$20,280.00	\$3,419.00		
Last Weekend (11/8)	\$16,287.56	\$3,465.33	\$15,185.00	Last Week (11/8)
Amount Still Needed	\$141,958.51	\$23,936.39		

Given in memory of...

Joe Eder

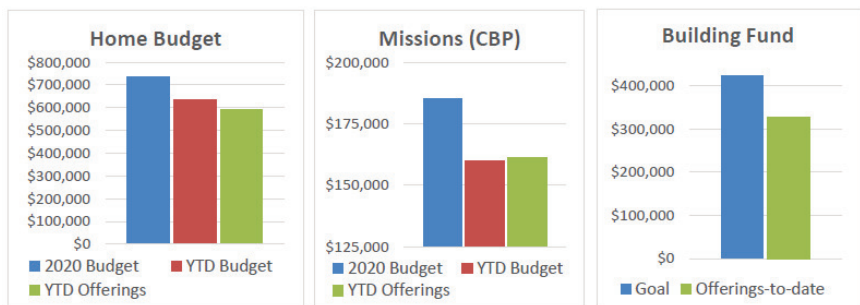
John Lau

Tammy Sieg

50.00 Project Kinship

200.00 Messiah Home Budget

25.00 ILC Student Aid



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 16-21, '20.

Mon Isaiah 52:1-6 The midnight hour is approaching us, too, when Jesus takes us home with Him, so *wake up, captives* of planet Earth! Since we have *sold ourselves cheaply*, Jesus sold Himself to compensate (3). When it seems we are as bad off with our pandemic as Jews were with their exile, remember that God and is on top of our predicaments. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, before Your saints lose their/our grip on Your grace and mercy! Amen.

Tues Matthew 25:1-13 It was a bride's waiting game (When would her man arrive and take her to his home?), so her friends stayed up all night to keep her company. The point Jesus is making: be prepared to burn midnight oil if you want to share in the festivities (10). The girls who had a second, reserve jar of oil were the smart ones (4). Now, what does the oil represent? Probably saving faith that equips God's saints for the long haul.

Wed 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Interested in how Judgment Day plays out? First, Jesus descends from heaven; then He awakens the dead from their sleep; then the newly awakened/resurrected persons join up with the saints still alive, and the entire crowd levitates into the sky to meet Jesus and begin heavenly life with Him. That way, no saint comes in second-best (13-15).

Thurs Psalm 84 Everybody values home, for home is where the heart is. We are at home with God everywhere we worship Him (1-4); all else are just stop-overs (5-7). O Lord, please work things out so that we may assemble again and join in corporate worship! Better yet, abide with us all the days of our pilgrimage and hasten Your return to all waiting saints. Thank You.

Fri Luke 20:27-40 Marriage is good for humanity because the next generation starts with babies born to husband and wife (27-34). Now then, since nobody in heaven gets old and nobody dies, there's no need for procreation via marriage (34-36). Back at square one: heaven is not a graveyard, but the home of saints alive and functional (37-38). Case closed.

Sat Acts 18:24-28 Apollos (now among the saints in heaven) was not only well educated and *eloquent* (Alexandria in Egypt was his home town, a city renowned for its library and universities), he was also *educated and eloquent* with God's Word (24-25). Nonetheless, the most learned person can learn from others (26) so that the Holy Spirit can use His saints to prove *from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth is the Chosen One* (27-28). Bottom line: God interacts with mortals via His Word, both Old and New Testaments, and we are His spokespersons. He who has ears, let him hear what Jesus has done to sin and hell—to redeem sinners and take His saints home to heaven. Amen!