



November 27-28, 2021

First Sunday in Advent



"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will fulfill the promise I made..."

Jeremiah 33:14 (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

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
“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: 705 60 704 438:4-5 70

Gospel Reading Luke 21:25-36 (CSB)

²⁵ “Then there will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and there will be anguish on the earth among nations bewildered by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and expectation of the things that are coming on the world, because the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they put out leaves you can see for yourselves and recognize that summer is already near. ³¹ In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But be alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (CSB)

⁹ How can we thank God for you in return for all the joy we experience before our God because of you, ¹⁰ as we pray very earnestly night and day to see you face to face and to complete what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you. ¹³ May he make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

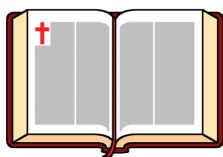
Sermon Jeremiah 33:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Sermon Theme:

"The Darkness of the Night Cannot Stop the Coming Dawn"

Jeremiah lived in a dark age. The Savior still came. We live in a dark age. The Savior reigns now, and will come again.



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Announcements

Weekend Bible Class will be studying Psalm 18, where King David praises the LORD for delivering him from staggering opposition. This is the second of two studies on this Psalm because of its length (50 verses).



Youth Group Church Decorating - Sunday, November 28th at 1 pm. Join us for Christmas music and snacks while we decorate. Parents can pick up their kids at 3 pm. Contact Amanda Roth at 715-577-0190 with any questions.

Messiah Home Bible Studies: Sun, November 28, 6:30 pm, Jon and Sam Kelly, On-site childcare is available; Mon, November 29, 6:30 pm John and Sandra Fox - 2208 Crescent Ave. Eau Claire; The "Shadows and Substance" study at the ILC Academic Center is on break until Jan. 5.

One-Day Christmas VBS - Saturday, December 11, from 1-4 pm. Register at tinyurl.com/21-chrvbs or with the paper form on our narthex kiosk.

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, 11/28 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #8, Counters F)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
1:00 pm Youth Group Church Decorating

Tues, 11/30 9:00 am Men's Koffee Klatsch at Perkins

Wed, 12/1 1:00 pm Advent Service
4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
5:00 pm Stewardship
6:30 pm Advent Service (Ushers #2)
8:00 pm Ruth's Retreat

Thur, 12/2 6:30 pm Elders

Sat, 12/4 9:00 am Christmas Eve practice #2
6:30 pm Communion Service (Ushers #7)
7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class

Sun, 12/5 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #4, Counters G)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
6:30 pm Christmas Music Festival

Upcoming...

- December 11, Ladies of Messiah Cookie Exchange and Tie Dye
- December 11, Christmas VBS, 1-4 pm

Annual Christmas Music Festival - Adults and high school students, we're planning another Christmas Music Festival December 5 at 6:30 in the Messiah sanctuary. If you wish to perform a Christmas musical vocal song or instrument number, contact Lynette.roehl@ilc.edu. We have been blessed with great musicians at Messiah and enjoy hearing you perform your God-given talents.

A Virtual Christmas Caroling DVD is in the works for area nursing homes that do not allow caroling in person this year. We will be recording familiar Christmas carols like the ones we have used when physically caroling at these facilities in the past. Just like caroling in person, all who are interested in singing are invited to participate. If you have an interest in accompanying any of the hymns with an instrument, that may be able to be arranged as well. Time and date for recording is still to be determined. Please contact Lynn Hammond at 715-781-9470 or lynnhammond911@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

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.

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Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

Sermon Text – Malachi 3:1-7b
Bible Class – Next in Psalm Series

Christians Serving Us:

Wednesday 12/1 1:00 pm: Usher Team		Wednesday 12/1 9:00 am: Usher Team 2	
Tom Joos	Jon Oster	Dan Sydow	Bryce Sydow
		Ethan Sydow	Noah Sydow
		Adam Schmid	Jerry LeDuc
		Steve Mielke	

Saturday 12/4 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7		Sunday 12/5 9:00 am: Usher Team 4	
Tom Joos	Charles Wittorp	Dave Johannes	Joel Gullerud
Levi Wittorp	Jeremy Gurgel	Jeff Rutz	Brent Rutz
Gerald Oster	Sam Oster	Britten Rutz	Carter Rutz

Counters for the week following 12/5 – G
Mike Buck, Darin Oster, Jamie Quam

Communion Setup 12/4 – Rebekah Carstensen

Thank you!

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CLC News: Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, **is still considering** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN + Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI, **has returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

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).

Go tell it on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ is born! This weekend is the first in Advent, the season which helps us prepare for and focus on the first Christmas and the birth of Jesus, who is the Savior of the world. It may happen that we who

are so familiar with the story forget that most people do not know the full story of the One born to die for sinners. The Outreach Committee has prepared a number of items for our members to use with their family, friends, and co-workers.

1. A personal letter that is ready to send or can be adapted.
2. An invitation to the Christmas Eve Service
3. A poster to hand out or pin up announcing the one-day VBS and the ILC Christmas Concert.

Time is of the essence:

VBS - December 11, from 1-4 pm

ILC Christmas Concert - December 17, at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24 at 6:30 pm

Pick up any of the items in whatever amount you can use. See the special display in the narthex.



Midweek Advent Series: As an aid to our worship of the Savior's birth at Christmas, we will be having extra midweek services on December 1, 8 and 15 at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. The theme for this year is:

He is Coming! What Have We Done with His Word?

1. What have we done with His Word in our hearts?
2. What have we done with His Word in our congregation?
3. What have we done with His Word in our world?

We hope you will plan to join us for this additional hour of Bible study and worship.

Note for those attending the 1:00 pm service:

Messiah School will be in session and the church will need to be accessed from the doors to the narthex, kitchen, and fellowship hall. This last one is in the new door from the east parking lot and is the easiest to use for handicap access and/or poor weather.

Fasting for the Lord's Supper? We'll be celebrating the Lord's Supper next weekend. Some Christians have found fasting before the Lord's Supper to be a helpful exercise. Here's one way it might work. ● Don't eat for a couple meals before the Lord's Supper. **In place of eating, sit down to meditate and pray over ONE of the following readings concerning...** Distrusting God (Prov. 3:5-7), Being fake (James 1:22), Lust



(Matthew 5:28), Pride (James 4:6), Disrespecting God (Exodus 20:7), Disrespecting authorities (Ephesians 6:1-3), Bad parenting (Ephesians 6:4), Empty worship (Ecclesiastes 5:1), Gossip (Proverbs 17:9), Laziness (Colossians 3:22), Disordered priorities (Matthew 22:37-39), Hatred (1 John 3:15), Indifference (1 John 3:17-18), Lies and discord (Proverbs 6:16-19). ● **Follow that with meditating on ONE of the following Gospel sections...** Sin cancelled (Colossians 2:13-15), Set free (Romans 8:1-2), Blood redemption (Ephesians 1:7), the Great exchange (2 Corinthians 5:21), A gift from God (Romans 6:23), Reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19), Made alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:3-5), Sins made white (Isaiah 1:18), Sins cast in the depths (Micah 7:18-19), East from the west (Psalm 103:10-12), Behind his back (Isaiah 38:17), Sins forgotten by God (Hebrews 10:17). ● **Finally, read again what Jesus says about the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:26-30.** The value of any such practice is to ensure that we approach the Lord's Table in genuine repentance. In the Bible complete repentance includes not only sorrow over our sins, but also faith that in Christ my sins are no more—they are forgiven. As with all other blessings, our sinner's heart can begin to forget how precious the blessing of God's grace in the Lord's Supper truly is. Instead, may God prepare our hearts to receive Christ's body and blood with joy, to the strengthening of our faith in him. If fasting isn't for you, simply try the same meditation pattern at the two meals preceding the Lord's Supper. —Pastor Caleb

Fruits of Faith Last Week ~ November 20-21, 2021

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 95 – Sun. 292) 387 Service online: 190 (current views)

Thanksgiving: (Wed. 147 - Thur. 95) 242 Service online: 86 (current views)

Bible Class: (Sat. 16 - Sun. 57) 73 Bible Class online: 48 (current views)

Sunday School: (Sat. 0 - Sun. 58) 58 Young Adults: 32

Dove West:9 Heritage Court: 17 Dove South: 5

Care Partners – Altoona: 0 Veterans: 9

Heritage Assisted: 7 Lake Hallie: cancelled Our House: cancelled

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$703,192.00	\$180,769.00
YTD Offerings	\$674,246.66	\$197,398.11
Weekly Need	\$20,751.00	\$520.00
Last Week (11/21)	\$17,260.36	\$3,168.25
Amount Still Needed	\$103,753.34	\$2,601.89

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$676,983.59	Received to Date
\$2,355.00	Last Week (11/21)

Given in memory of...

Mabel Noeldner	60.00 Messiah Building Fund
Mabel Noeldner	40.00 Project Kinship
Norman Oster	50.00 ILC Student Aid

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 29-Dec. 4, '21

Mon Jeremiah 29:1-23 lays out a readable survey of some history. Because the Jewish nation had not heeded God (15-19), He put them (20-23) into detention for 70 years (!) in a foreign land where He expected them to settle in (4-7) but not be taken-in by crazy talk (8-9). Let them rather keep faith that God would manage to get them back to Palestine (10-11), and they could start in again where they had left off (12-14).

Lesson: God has ways and means to humble a nation that disses Him.

Tues Luke 19:28-40 It was not a grand entry and would have escaped notice except for two loud announcements. First, the miracle which befitted Jesus' lowly service on our behalf (28-35), and then the disciples' broadcast of Him as *the LORD, their Righteousness* (38)—per Ps. 118:26 (37-38). Those who did not see Jesus that way (39-40) still live among us today. Lord, have mercy!

Wed 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Fast-forward to a missionary's gush of praise for God's work in a foreign land (9-10), followed by his prayer for God to make these converts *increase and abound in love to one another* (and to everyone else, too), so that God would *establish* (fortify and solidify) them to hold their ground in God-pleasing conduct—as they looked ahead to the *coming* [Advent] of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. Amen!

Thurs Jeremiah 33:14-16 After God downloaded the bad news that He was about to punish Judah (the South) for the evils they had done to Him, God gave Jeremiah (and all repentant sinners) a bright light at the end of the tunnel. It's Jesus, of course. We knew it all the time because God has told us so more than once; it's the truth which the Apostle Paul was getting across to his countrymen in Rom. 1:17 and 10:4, in 1 Corinthians 1:30; the truth which other apostles emphasized, as in Jeremiah 23:5-6 and 2 Peter 1:1.

Fri Luke 21:25-36 "It's darkest just before dawn" has some truth to it—for that's the scenario prior to Jesus' second coming/advent (25-28). *Look up* (not downcast) and *lift up your heads* (to receive a blessing) *because your redemption is drawing near*. How about an illustration (29-30)? People get drunk and carouse in futile efforts to escape their anxieties, and absorption in life's problems is a distraction from God's perfect escape plan (27-28).

Sat 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 There's a lot of misinformation about Jesus' return; here's the straight of it: Jesus will *descend from heaven with much shouting, the voice of an archangel, and trumpet fanfare* loud enough to wake the dead; God's people will arise from their graves to join up with the rest of us, and in grand assembly *we will meet Jesus* and float up to heaven.

Heaven is my home. Heaven is my home. Heaven is my home.