



November 28-29, 2020  
The First Weekend  
In Advent



*"We have this treasure in jars of clay,  
to show that the surpassing power  
belongs to God and not to us."*

2 Corinthians 4:7

### 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)

*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 28.

**Pre-Service Devotion:** "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." (Ephesians 3:16-17, NIV)

**Hymns:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (pg. 4) 58:1-5 93 378

### Old Testament Reading .....Isaiah 63:16b,17;64:1-8

<sup>16b</sup> You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.  
<sup>17</sup> O LORD, why have You made us stray from Your ways, And hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, The tribes of Your inheritance. ... <sup>64:1</sup> Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—<sup>2</sup>As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil—To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! <sup>3</sup>When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence. <sup>4</sup>For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned— In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved. <sup>6</sup>But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. <sup>7</sup>And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>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.

### Gospel Reading.....Mark 13:32-37

<sup>32</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. <sup>35</sup>Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup>I tell you, coming suddenly, he will find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

## Sermon Text .....1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, <sup>7</sup> so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### WHAT WILL GOD FIND WHEN HE OPENS **YOU** AT JESUS' SECOND COMING?

- I. An exquisitely-wrapped clod of dirt?
- II. Or a jewel from a brown paper bag?

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann



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### Next weekend's worship services will include the Lord's Supper.

Those who may be worshiping at home via the live stream are invited to pick up Communion kits from our narthex vestibule. Please note that the narthex vestibule is open for communion kit pick-up from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on weekdays, and all day on weekends. If you can't make it to church during these times, simply call one of the pastors to arrange another time. The kits are also available in the Academic Center at ILC (ring the door nearest the office between 8 am and 5 pm, Mon-Fri). For details and instructions on home Communion, see [www.tinyurl.com/comm-kits](http://www.tinyurl.com/comm-kits). Please register for the Lord's Supper using the slips in the narthex vestibule (by the Communion kits), or on the sheets in the narthex.



The word "communion" itself means sharing. There are several kinds of sharing going on when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Holy Spirit, through this means of grace, is sharing the good news of the forgiveness of our sins with us. Christ's real body and blood are shared in the bread and the wine, with the Word of God. Also, we share blessed fellowship with each other when we receive the sacrament. To gain the best benefit from this blessed sharing, bear in mind your own great need of forgiveness, Christ's complete payment for all sins on the cross, and the gift of His true body and blood, given and shed for you.

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

- 1) "Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,  
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

*[Refrain]:* Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,

"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

- 2) Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *[Refrain]*

- 3) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]*

## This Week at Messiah

Masks required indoors as required by the public health department.  
Sunday services are live-streamed and archived on [eauclairemessiah.com](http://eauclairemessiah.com).

- Sun, 11/29** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #14, Counters B)  
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults
- Wed, 12/2** 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism  
6:30 pm Advent Service (Ushers #16)
- Sat, 12/5** 10:00 am Christmas Eve Practice for 3:30 pm Service  
2:00 pm Christmas Eve Practice for 6:30 pm Service  
6:30 pm Communion Service (Ushers #5)  
7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School
- Sun, 12/6** 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #18, Counters C)  
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults  
6:30 pm Special Voters' Meeting

**Coming Up:** • Dec. 11, Youth Group: Church Party  
• Dec. 24, 3:30 & 6:30 Christmas Eve Services

## Announcements

**Weekend Bible Class:** We will conclude our study of the Life of Joseph. 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.

**Advent Wednesdays:** This year we will have a single midweek Advent service each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Our theme is *"The Holy Spirit works sight unseen to make Christmas possible."* This Wednesday we consider the *"Verbal Inspiration of the Bible."* The service will be live-streamed. Join us in preparation to celebrate the Savior's birth!

**Next weekend** Pastor Naumann will present the next installment on Outreach from the CLC "Committee on Domestic Fields." On the weekend of Dec. 12-13, he will begin a Bible class series on a book entitled "Rainbow Savior," by a WELS pastor named William Monday. The subject is about how to give a Scriptural and balanced response to those who are struggling with same-sex attraction. Our aim in such a discussion should be to seek and to save on the Savior's behalf, rather than just to condemn. The book can be found by searching "Rainbow Savior" on Amazon.com, and an introductory video by the author can be seen on YouTube at [tinyurl.com/rs-intro-20](https://tinyurl.com/rs-intro-20). Please join us, in person or via live stream, in order to be better prepared to reach precious souls with God's saving Word!

**Next Sunday evening, December 6, Messiah's voters** will meet at 6:30 pm to act on membership matters, as well as to finalize a budget for 2021. Voters, please be present. If you are unable to attend, contact Pastor Naumann for a video link.


**We pray for the LORD's comfort** to comfort our fellow church members in their time of grief: † **George Tiefel**, the brother of Paul Tiefel Sr., passed away on Nov. 17 near Ann Arbor, MI. George was the elder Paul Tiefel's last remaining sibling. Paul Sr. is a resident of the "The Classic" at Hillcrest Greens in Altoona. Pastor Tiefel was able to represent his family at the visitation on Nov. 20. † **David Elbert**, the father of Messiah member Tom Elbert, passed away on Wednesday morning, Nov. 25. David was a confessing Christian man. We ask our LORD to give David's family the confidence of His precious promises of resurrection and eternal life in Christ.

**Christmas Eve Practice:** Our second practice will be held Saturday, December 5. The 3:30 pm service group practices at 10:00 am. The 6:30 pm service group practices at 2:00 pm. **Christmas Eve Helpers Wanted:** If you are willing and able to serve in any of this contact Pastor Caleb at 715-577-6199 or email [pastor.schaller@ecmessiah.org](mailto:pastor.schaller@ecmessiah.org).

**Pastor Chad Seybt will be installed** on Saturday, December 5 and on Sunday December 6. Please see the bulletin from November 15<sup>th</sup> with more details.

**CLC News:** Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor Del Maas, Gift of God, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul, Ponsford, MN has been called by Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD.

**Youth Group Christmas Party Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm:** The evening, for our youth 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, will include an opening devotion, food, a white elephant gift exchange, cookie decorating, and your choice at one of two stations (to take home) - make a gnome, or a nativity. Please bring \$5 to help cover the costs of the evening, as well as your wrapped white elephant gift. Parents, please pick up your kids at 9pm from Messiah. Contact person: Kari Behlmer (715-797-2570).



### Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

#### GOD'S WORD SERVING US:

*Sermon – 1 Thes. 3:9-13 – Guest Speaker Pastor Luke Willitz*  
*Bible Class – Committee on Domestic Fields Part 3*

#### CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

**Wednesday 12/2 6:30 pm: Usher Team 16**

Darin Oster	Ben Oster
Tom Beekman	Josh Beekman
Tim Raith	Tom Williams
Adam Schmid	Tim Oster

**Saturday 12/5 6:30 pm: Usher Team 5**

Gary Meyer	Tom Joos
Luke Knutson	Ryan Hammett
Blane Knutson	Jon Oster
Gordon Stratton	Grant Naumann

**Sunday 12/6 9:00 am: Usher Team 18**

Charles Wittorp	Levi Wittorp
Brent Rutz	Britten Rutz
Jeff Rutz	Jordan Rutz
Barry Schlegelmilch	Brian Schlegelmilch

**Counters for the week following 12/6 – C**  
 Mike Markus, Tom Joos, Barry Schlegelmilch

*Thank you!*

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (Detroit, MI)** is organizing a virtual Christmas Eve "mini program" open to any CLC children who wish to participate. The program will consist of a children's reading of Luke 2 and singing of "Away in a Manger" plus a short Christmas message from our Pastor. To participate all you need to do is submit a video clip of your child(ren) saying their "part" in the program before December 3. We will edit together all of the submitted clips into one short video (<10 minutes long). We will share the video with you by Christmas Eve for you to enjoy and share with your friends and family. The program is open to any child who is a member at one of our sister congregations in the Church of the Lutheran Confession. For more information and to sign up to participate, please fill out this simple registration and consent form: <https://bit.ly/3m2XSGz>

**Messiah's annual Music Festival** has been cancelled for this year. We look forward to having it again next December.

**Our thanks** to those, including Messiah's Youth Group, who helped to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season!

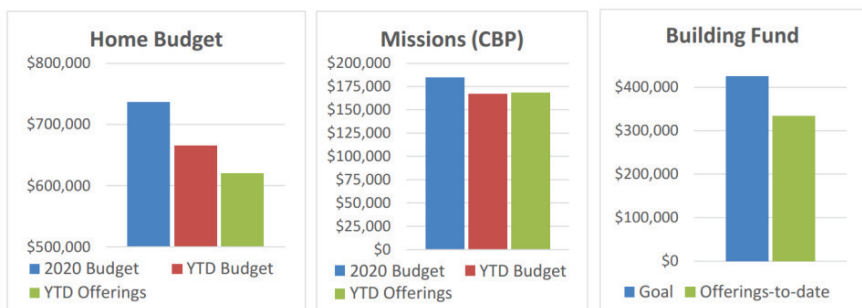
**In the hospital:** Nancy Greene has been hospitalized with COVID-19. Beau Dittner, son of Bethany and Ben, was hospitalized because of a yet-unknown viral condition. **Messiah Shut-ins:** Ida Drews (2455 Sawgrass Place #213, Altoona), Marge Eckel (1431 Peterson Ave.), Shirley Johnson (2512 New Pine 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), Mavis Thelen (418 N. Barstow), Ted Thurow (Osseo), Paul Tiefel, Sr. (2455 Sawgrass Rd #419, Altoona), Johanna Williams (2118 Augusta St.) and Shelly Williamson (Bellevue, IA).

## Fruits of Faith Last Week – Nov. 21 & 22, 2020

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 51 - Sun. 121) 172  
 Bible Class: (Sat. 19 - Sun. 22) 41      Sunday School: (Sat. 3 - Sun. 31) 34  
 Online: (Worship: 264, ILC: 24, Bible Class: 97)  
 Young Adults: 14  
 Thanksgiving Worship (Wed. 94 – Thur. 45) 139, Online: 148

## Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)	Building Fund
2020 Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00	\$425,000.00
YTD Budget	\$665,231.00	\$167,212.00	\$333,968.60
YTD Offerings	\$620,111.60	\$168,377.27	\$91,031.40
Weekly Need	\$23,178.00	\$3,325.00	
Last Weekend (11/22)	\$12,850.81	\$3,065.58	
Amount Still Needed	\$115,888.40	\$16,622.73	\$3,575.00



Given in memory of...

Gerhardt Mueller  
 Norman Oster  
 Norman Oster  
 Dorothy Sibbers  
 Alvin Sieg  
 Tammy Sieg

15.00 Messiah Building Fund  
 50.00 Messiah Building Fund  
 200.00 Mission Development Fund  
 50.00 Messiah Building Fund  
 30.00 Messiah Building Fund  
 50.00 Messiah Building Fund

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 30-Dec. 5, '20

**Mon Isaiah 63:16b-64:1-8** When a sinner strays so far that he dares blame God for his degeneracy, did God stop being God? Indeed, such sinners need help from the only One who controls all forces of nature (64:1-4)--and although God knows how despicable we are (5-6), He still deals with us as our Father, and we are but clay shaped by His hand. From where You abide, O Lord God, come down to where we live, and have mercy on us!

**Tues Mark 13:32-37** The Advent of Jesus has many facets: He arrived long ago in His prophetic Word, later in Bethlehem, then in our hearts, and He will arrive finally . . . at midnight? 4:27 a.m.? 6:06 p.m.? Nobody knows, so let's stay prepared (awake in heart and soul) for our Lord and Master to make His final, once-and-for-all appearance on our troubled planet.

**Wed 1 Corinthians 1:3-9** While we are waiting, we depend on *the grace of God given to us via Jesus Christ* (and received by us in repentant hearts) in order to *enrich us* in every way possible. And we intend to remain dependant on God to not forget us but preserve us for the end of Time's weary course . . and re-enliven us in the *fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord*. Amen!

**Thurs Psalm 24** Our planet belongs to Jesus, who doesn't play games with Earth as His toy but nurtures it as His special project (1-2). Who wants to thank Him (3)? Well, I do, and so do you (4-6). We open all our gateways in private and in public (7) for Jesus, who is ready to come in glory/splendor with the retinue of His holy angels, *strong and mighty*—and all for us! Selah!

**Fri Luke 12:41-48** It seems like a good question, "Does God want everyone to understand Him and His ways?" Yes, He does, and therefore every servant of God is responsible for how he handles God's business. The servant who is abusive, despises others, or is self-serving is headed for disaster (45-46), and likewise for the servant who is negligent (47). Dear readers, let's step up to the privileged responsibilities God has placed on our shoulders (48).

**Sat Acts 19:1-10** Evidently Paul walked around the city on the lookout for fellow disciples. The ones he came across had a lot to learn (1-3), so Paul started at the beginning, taking time and effort to enlighten them about baptism (4-5) to prepare them for some advanced service-gifts from God the Spirit (6-7). Then he helped other Jews absorb God's good news (8-9)--and when Satan's scholars produced a rift in the congregation, Paul conducted Bible Religion classes for Jews and Greeks, including many who came from surrounding counties. Ephesus was never the same again, thanks be to Jesus, His Spirit, and His disciples. Hallelujah and Amen!