



December 4-5, 2021
Second Sunday
in Advent



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 8.

Pre-Service Devotion: For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)

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: 61 63 65 442:2 307&305 309

Epistle Reading **Philippians 4:4-7**

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading **Luke 3:1-6**

¹ Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

SermonMalachi 3:1-4

³“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts. ²“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. ⁴“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.



LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM

- I. Our Guest is arriving!
- II. Our Guest is exacting!
- III. Our Guest is forgiving!

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann



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.



Communion Announcement: Since the Lord's Supper implies a unity of faith and confession, we ask that those who have not previously participated with us in the Lord's Supper meet first with the pastor to discuss our Scriptural doctrine before partaking of the Lord's Supper in our services. In this practice of closed communion, we seek to follow and obey the Word of God.

Communion Kits are still available for home or pew use. Those using kits will partake as the “first table” (from home or from their pew). Then the pastor will invite the rest to come forward to celebrate the Lord’s Supper at the direction of the ushers. This arrangement is so the first table can hear the pastor speaking.

Gluten Free and non-alcoholic wine are available at the stands as you approach the communion rail.

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, 12/5** 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #4, Counters G)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
3:45 pm Virtual Christmas Caroling until 5:45pm
[The Christmas Music Festival has been **Cancelled**]
- Mon, 12/6** 6:15 pm Deacons
- Tues, 12/7** 9:00 am Men’s Koffee Klatsch at Perkins
- Wed, 12/8** 1:00 pm Advent Service
4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism
6:30 pm Advent Service (Ushers #1)
7:30 pm Council
- Sat, 12/11** 9:00 am Christmas Eve practice #3
9:00 am Ladies of Messiah Cookie Exchange and Tie Dye
1:00 pm Christmas VBS, 1-4 pm
6:30 pm Communion Service (Ushers #3)
7:45 pm Sunday School/Bible Class
- Sun, 12/12** 9:00 am Communion Service (Ushers #6, Counters H)
10:15 am Sunday School/Young Adults/Bible Class
11:15 am Sunday School Teachers’ Meeting
3:00 pm ILC Piano and Organ Recital at the Fieldhouse
6:30 pm Special Voters’ Meeting

Upcoming...

- December 17, Immanuel Christmas Concert at Messiah 7:30 pm
- December 19, Youth Group Christmas Party 6:30 pm
- December 24, 6:30 pm Children’s Christmas Eve Service
- December 25, 9:00 am Christmas Day Service

Announcements

Weekend Bible Class will be studying Psalm 51, known as a "penitential" Psalm. This is very timely for the Advent season, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival by facing first our dire need for a Savior. Join us, in preparation for Christmas!

Annual Christmas Music Festival - Unfortunately, it appears to be a busy time of year, and due to a lack of participating musicians our **Annual Christmas Music Festival is cancelled** for this Sunday, Dec. 5. We hope to bring the music festival back next year!



Our Midweek Advent services continue this Wednesday, December 8, 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?

Please 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.

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.

We are creating a "Virtual Christmas Caroling" video DVD to be used at area nursing homes and other outreach activities. We will be recording familiar Christmas carols like the ones we have used when physically caroling in the past. All who are interested in singing are invited to participate, along with musicians. There is still an opportunity to participate this Sunday, Dec. 5, beginning at 3:45-5:45 pm. Contact for questions: Lynn Hammond: 715-781-9470, or Lawrence Bade: lbsbade@gmail.com or 612-963-5374.



Recital at ILC – The college and high school students of ILC cordially invite you to their Annual Christmas Recital on Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 pm in the ILC Fieldhouse. Christmas carols and favorites of the season can be heard, with a number of Messiah members performing this year. Come and enjoy the Christmas Spirit with us!

The ILC Christmas Concert will be held here at Messiah on Friday evening, Dec. 17, at 7:30 pm. Arrangements are being made to also live-stream the event at www.eauclairemessiah.com (via the "Live Stream" button).

Messiah's voters will meet on Sunday, December 12 at 6:30 pm. Agenda items will include: * Membership items; * Budget and Compensation; * Our goals for CLC contributions in 2022 (CBP); * Building Project and related topics; * Current Project Fund proposals; * Modifications to spending limits for Boards and Church Council; * The 2022 Service Schedule. – Voters, please do your best to be present for this work we do together for the LORD.

CLC Book House Hours: The CLC Book House is open daily from 7:00 am until 4:00. If you are interested in doing some Christmas shopping, the Book House will have extended hours on Monday, Dec 6, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There are Christmas items, devotion books, Bibles, and gift items available.



Service Preview for the Upcoming Weekend

Sermon Text – Luke 3:7-18

Bible Class – Psalm 24



Christians Serving Us:

Wednesday 12/8 1:00 pm: Usher Team

Tom Joos

Jon Oster

Wednesday 12/8 9:00 am: Usher Team 1

Joel Carstensen

George Carstensen

Dennis Oster

Jason Zimmerman

Ryan Zimmerman

Rich McGeorge

Saturday 12/11 6:30 pm: Usher Team 3

Gary Meyer

Blane Knutson

Luke Knutson

Tom Beekman

Jon Oster

Jack Mielke

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

Darin Oster

Ben Oster

Tim Oster

Jeremy Plath

Isaiah Plath

Gabe Plath

Andrew Plath

Counters for the week following 12/12 – H

Jeff Bomber, James Harper, Randy Wirth

Communion Setup 12/11 – Steve & Sue Lentz

Thank you!

Current CLC Africa Mission Trips: Pastor John Hein and Missionary Todd Ohlmann have both been visiting CLC mission fields in Africa. Pastor Hein, who serves as our part-time visiting missionary to Liberia, recently returned from a 2 1/2 week visit to Liberia. You can watch Pastor Hein's Bible Class presentation about the visit to Liberia at: <https://clcgracelutheranchurch.org/20211128bc>. Missionary Ohlmann has been in Tanzania for about a month. He will return home on December 10th. You can read on his blog at: <http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com/> about the Tanzania visitation.



2022 CLC Mission Helper Trip – Missionary Ohlmann is currently in Tanzania. He reports that there are many new opportunities to do child evangelism, especially among the Maasai tribes. The leaders of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are eager and excited to host volunteers again in 2022. The deadline for applications for the 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa this summer is January 10th. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa

Tim Raith 2115 Declaration Dr. Eau Claire, WI 54703	Stacey Noeldner 515 Forest St. Eau Claire, WI 54703	Trysten Hallahan 2095 County Hwy 00 Lake Hallie, 54729 715-714-7887
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Youth group Christmas party! Mark your calendar. Sunday, December 19th at 6:30. More details to come.



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.

Christmas Eve - December 24 at 6:30 pm

- 7 -



Now that we have our committee heads set, we need many people to fill these committees. Here is a short description of what each committee will do along with contact information if you would like to join a committee. If you would like to float between committees that would be great as well.

Secretary - Attend our quarterly meetings, take notes, write up a short summary for the bulletin. Amanda Hestekin 715-271-3064

CLC World Missions Prayer List – November 2021



**Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord
may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you...
2 Thessalonians 3:1**



Myanmar – Life continues to be difficult for our brothers and sisters in Myanmar as the military junta continues to rule with severe brutality, especially in [Chin State](#) where the CLC-Myanmar is located. Just recently we were informed by Pastor K. of the CLC-Myanmar that soldiers came to his home and demanded money. When he refused to give them any, they ransacked his home and found all the money that had been sent by CLC Kinship to help care for orphaned children in their care. More than \$6,000 was taken. Pastor K. also reported that a Baptist pastor of a large congregation in the same area was arrested and later released after they took more than \$19,000 from his congregation. There is concern that they will come again to demand more money from Pastor K. assuming that he is receiving financial support from the U.S. It has been reported that the [military is using torture](#) to get to those who are planning and leading the resistance. **Pray** for justice and peace for all the people of Myanmar. **Pray** especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ that the Lord will grant them strength and courage and boldness during these difficult times. **Ask** our loving Lord to protect Pastor K., his family, and the children he and his wife care for from further violence and suffering.

India – Extremely [heavy rains](#) have caused extensive flooding throughout many of the regions of southern India in places where the BELC is working. Leaders of the BELC have reported that around 400 BELC pastors, their families, and those they serve have been affected. The CLC Board of Missions recently sent disaster aid to provide some minimal assistance to those who are suffering. **Ask the Lord** to provide all that is needed for our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have so little to begin with, to recover from the floods. **Pray for the Holy Spirit** to strengthen the faith of those affected that they may shine forth with the light of Christ to those suffering around them that are trapped in the darkness of unbelief.

Bangladesh – Pastor M. recently had his home broken into on a Sunday morning while he was conducting a worship service. His laptop and all of his money were stolen. He is fairly convinced that he was targeted because he is a Christian pastor. **Pray that the Lord** would bring justice to this situation and that Pastor M.'s property will be returned. Pastor M. also asks that we continue to pray for himself

and several individuals who have recently converted to Christianity from Hinduism. These individuals have been physically assaulted, persecuted, and falsely accused of crimes. One man (an evangelist/elder) and his wife were assaulted. The evangelist/elder was hospitalized with a fractured skull and brain damage and continues to suffer. **Ask the Lord** to protect and defend His new disciple and to give him the necessary strength and courage to persevere under persecution.

Nepal – Pastor Raju recently injured his neck. He underwent an MRI to determine the extent of the injury. Thankfully, it was determined that surgery was not required. A neck brace and physical therapy over the past three weeks have shown positive results. He received word this week that he should be able to begin traveling again soon. **Thank the Lord** for providing good medical care for Raju and that He has blessed him with quick healing. The building project has been delayed due to Hindu festivals and Raju's injury. **Pray** that construction will be able to get back on track so that seminary classes can begin in February.

Liberia – Pastor John Hein recently returned home from a visit to Liberia where he and Pastor Joseph along with others of the CLC-Liberia spent time traveling to different areas of rural Liberia to conduct Bible seminars for several groups of pastors and leaders who are interested in learning more from the CLC and becoming better equipped to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word. **Thank the Lord** for safe and uneventful travels for Pastor Hein to and from Liberia and while he was in-country. **Ask the Lord** to bless the Word that was taught and preached in the seminars that it will accomplish that for which He sent it as He has promised.

Tanzania – Missionary Ohlmann will be returning home on December 9th from a one-month visit with the CLC-TZ. While he was there, he had the opportunity to preach for the graduation of five students from the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Arusha. He was also able to travel extensively through the districts of the TZ-CLC to conduct pastoral training seminars and visit new preaching stations. The seminary faculty is currently interviewing a new cohort of students to begin classes in late January. **Ask for the Lord's continued blessings** as they begin their new calling from the Lord in the Gospel ministry. **Pray** that the Lord will provide faithful men for the school year.

2022 Mission Helper Trip – The CLC Mission Helper Trip that was canceled in 2020 and 2021 is tentatively scheduled for East Africa in July of 2022. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in East Africa are eager for the Mission Helper Teams to come again to assist them in the work of proclaiming God's saving word. **Pray** that our Savior will clear any obstacles that may stand in the way of this trip.

In the Hospital – Shirley Johnson was hospitalized at Mayo, Eau Claire after suffering a broken hip.

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 ~ November 27-28, 2021

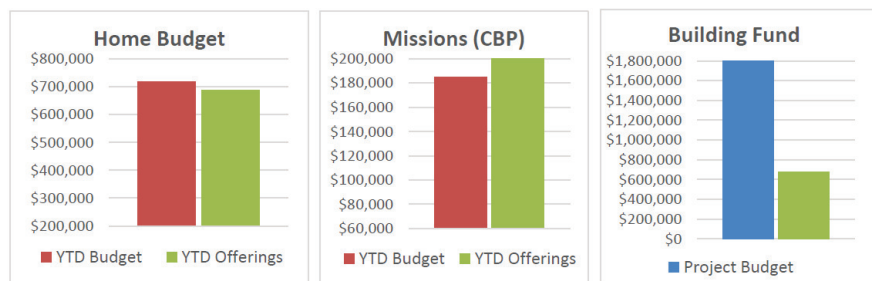
Weekend Worship: (Sat. 106 – Sun. 210) 316 Service online: 179 (current views)
 Bible Class: (Sat. 16 - Sun. 57) 73 Bible Class online: 37 (current views)
 Sunday School: (Sat. 4 - Sun. na) na Young Adults: 15 Ruth's Retreat: 4
 Advent 12/1: (1:00 pm 75 - 6:30 pm 224) 299 Advent online: 74 (current views)
 Dove West: 11 Heritage Court: 15 Dove South: 3
 Care Partners – Altoona: 3
 Heritage Assisted: 8 Lake Hallie: cancelled Our House: 7

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2021 Budget	\$778,000.00	\$200,000.00
YTD Budget	\$718,154.00	\$184,615.00
YTD Offerings	\$687,152.17	\$200,571.11
Weekly Need	\$22,712.00	-\$143.00
Last Week (11/28)	\$12,905.51	\$3,173.00
Amount Still Needed	\$90,847.83	-\$571.11

Building Fund	
\$1,800,000.00	Project Budget
\$678,133.59	Received to Date
\$1,150.00	Last Week (11/28)

Given in memory of...
 Alvin Sieg

65.00 Messiah Building Fund



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 6-11, '21

Mon Malachi 3:1-7b This may not sound like the usual Advent message, but take a few minutes to read the entire book and get captivated by the dialogue between the LORD and Israel. [Just follow the quote marks.] When Jesus arrives (1), He will clean house (2-3) and set things straight (4-5), for He has always been merciful (6). When Israel reneged on its side of the contract, God as much as said: “Well, then, I will cover your lapse all by Myself.” (7)

Tues Luke 3:1-6 God set the stage for Jesus’ birth via His advance agent, John (2). Now, what did God want from Jewry? Repentance! “If you want Me to wash you clean, you must quit plying in the manure pile.” (3) Isaiah pictured repentance as road construction (4-5) through valleys of low-down dirtiness and mountains of lofty self-righteousness--so that God’s gift would travel over all obstacles and arrive at our doorstep to find home in our hearts. Even so come, Lord Jesus!

Wed Philippians 1:3-11 *Until the day of Jesus Christ* (6) = Advent. The Apostle Paul was oriented toward Jesus’ second Advent, as were these Christians, and as we are too, for every day on planet Earth brings us closer to Jesus’ second Advent. Paul’s greetings and confession humble us, for who of us tells others that we *have them in our heart*, that we have such longing for them that even our innards are affected (8) because we have not seen them during this pandemic? Lord Jesus, increase our love for one another!

Thurs Malachi 3:16-4:6 Let’s spend a few more moments with the word of God spoken via Malachi; when *those who revered the LORD spoke to one another* about Jesus, *the LORD listened* and was moved to commemorate them (16-17)--in contrast to the horrible fate reserved for the ungodly (4:1). God wants us to know that our future is loaded with blessings (2). Note: the closing verses of the Old segue into Luke 1:13-17 of the New Testament.

Fri Luke 1:13-17 *Your prayer is heard* for Messiah to arrive, and your family will help *make ready a people prepared* for His arrival. Making people *ready* to receive the Advent blessing means bringing them to repent and *become as little children*—just as *turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the justified* is part-and-parcel of Advent repentance. All of which makes them prepared, ready, and receptive to Jesus’ arrival. God grant it!

Sat Philippians 3:1-11 Paul acknowledges that while others might brag about their Jewishness, he had been brought to realize that being a super Jew (which he certainly was) was total spiritual trash (4-7) – in contrast to the spiritual superiority gifted to him when the Spirit brought him to depend on Christ’s person and accomplishments (8-12). Do we have any better claim on *finally* leaving the cemetery behind us (11)? No, for we lay claim to Jesus.