



December 5-6, 2020
The Second Weekend
In Advent



*"May the Lord make
you increase and
abound in love to one
another and to all,
just as we do to you,
so that He may
establish your hearts
blameless in holiness
before our God and
Father at the coming
of our Lord Jesus
Christ with all
His saints."*

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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.

Today's Worship

For a printed liturgy, see the green liturgy folder, page 8.

Pre-Service Devotion: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Hymns: 68 56:1-3 56:4-5 305:1-3 95

Old Testament ReadingIsaiah 40:1-11

¹ "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. ² "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." ⁹ O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. ¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Gospel Reading..... Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." ³ "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' " ⁴ John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. ⁵ Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. ⁸ I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon Text1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

JESUS IS COMING!

- I. In righteousness
- II. In Grace

Preaching Today: Guest Speaker Pastor Luke Willitz



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We welcome Luke Willitz, and thank him for sharing God's Word with us this weekend. He has successfully begun his colloquy into the ministry of the CLC, and is looking forward to the next phase of the colloquy in the spring (a "colloquy" is the process where our CLC Board of Doctrine interviews applicants who have left other church bodies, and wish to serve in the CLC pastoral ministry). Rev. Willitz served as pastor of an ELS congregation in Sebring, FL for 5 years and a WELS congregation in Mosinee, WI for 2 ½ years. In January 2020, Luke and his wife Kim and their five children left their WELS congregation and joined Grace Lutheran Church of Sleepy Eye, MN. Luke is a proud Wisconsin native, but he and the family now live in the country outside Fairfax, MN. He has been conducting services regularly at our sister congregation in Eden Prairie, MN, which does not yet have a regular, full-time pastor.



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.

This Week at Messiah

Masks required indoors as required by the public health department.
Sunday services are live-streamed and archived on eauclairemessiah.com.

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| 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 |
| Tue, 12/8 | 6:00 pm Outreach |
| Wed, 12/9 | 4:30 pm Afternoon Catechism |
| | 5:15 pm Stewardship |
| | 6:30 pm Advent Service (Ushers #20) |
| | 7:30 pm Elders |
| Thur, 12/10 | 6:30 pm Deacons |
| Fri, 12/11 | 6:00 pm Youth Group: Christmas Party |
| Sat, 12/12 | 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 Worship Service (Ushers #7) |
| | 7:45 pm Bible class/Sunday School |
| Sun, 12/13 | 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #10, Counters D) |
| | 10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults |
| | 11:15 am Sunday School Teachers' Meeting |
| | 3:00 pm Piano and organ recital at ILC |

Coming Up: • Dec. 24, 3:30 & 6:30 Christmas Eve Services

Announcements

Weekend Bible Class: Pastor Naumann will present the next installment on Outreach from the CLC "Committee on Domestic Fields." Please join us in person or online. **Next weekend** Pastor Naumann will begin a Bible class series on a book entitled "Rainbow Savior." 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. Please join us, in person or via live stream, in order to be better prepared to reach precious souls with God's saving Word!

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 Incarnation of Jesus.*" The service will be live-streamed. Join us in preparation to celebrate the Savior's birth! This Advent season there is no 1:00 pm service since the school is using the Sanctuary as a classroom because of COVID restrictions.

This 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.

Call received: "Dear Members of Messiah, On Sunday, November 29, I received the call to serve as principal and teacher at Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI. I have appreciated your prayers and comments in the past and humbly request them again as I consider the work before me. Yours in Christ, Paul Tiefel III – (715) 869-3733, paul.tiefel@ecmessiah.org."

We give thanks to the LORD along with Messiah members Ned and Chara Sandhoefner, whom He blessed with the gift of a newborn daughter on Nov. 30. Skylar Kristyl Raine Sandhoefner will receive the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism here at Messiah on Dec. 13.

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward. (Ps. 127:3)*

Youth Group Christmas Party Friday, December 11th, 6 pm: The evening, for our youth 7th-12th 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 – Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11

Bible Class – Rainbow Savior

CHRISTIANS SERVING US:

Wednesday 12/9 6:30 pm: Usher Team 20

Aaron Thompson	Steve Naumann
Christopher Stratton	Andy Buck
Sam Buck	Noah Buck
Jim Sydow	Dave Cavanaugh

Saturday 12/12 6:30 pm: Usher Team 7

Mark Franson	Geoff Schreiber
Jeremy Gurgel	Matthew Joers
Walt Schreiber	Jim Lau
Tim Noeldner	


Sunday 12/13 9:00 am: Usher Team 10

Gerald Oster	Leonard Barthels
Stacy Behlmer	Harley Fuerstenau
Dan Roehl	Jonah Mueller
Sam Oster	Adam Barthels
Ian Behlmer	

Counters for the week following 12/13 – D

Joel Carstensen, Dave Johannes, Matt Kelly

Thank you!



Death is Swallowed Up in Victory

John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

Last Tuesday December 1st, Jan Rothbauer received the end of her faith in Jesus, the crown of eternal life. Jan was a long-time member of Messiah, but spent most of her years with us as a member at a distance in Cadott or as a shut-in living in Altoona with her sister Maxine. Jan was born January 18, 1942, a gift to Albert and Dorothy Zank, both members of Messiah, now sainted. Jan was one of four daughters (Maxine, Nancy, Rhonda) and had a brother Darwin.

Hebrews 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Jan married Ron Rothbauer and was blessed with two daughters, Joanne and Tammy, and one granddaughter, Candace.

Jan was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, brothers-in-law Wayne Culver and Dan Greene, Sr. Because of COVID restrictions and Jan's very small circle of friends and family, a short victory service was held at Prairie View Cemetery in Lake Hallie. Her earthly pilgrimage was 78 years, 10 months and 13 days. Mourners were comforted with the hope that is found in Jesus, the mighty Victor over death and the grave (1 Corinthians 15:50-57) and the One who came at Christmas to go to death on Good Friday and then emptied the tomb on Easter morning. *Because He lives, all who believe in Him live also* (John 14:19).

Hebrews 2:14-15 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*



Please pray for God's comfort to our fellow members who are grieving the loss of a loved one: † **Doris Hallauer** went home to be with the LORD on Nov. 29. She was the wife of retired pastor Elton Hallauer and the mother of Messiah members Sandy Hulke and Karen Johannes. Her victory service and committal were held on Dec. 4 in Minnesota and South Dakota respectively.

Christmas at Immanuel Lutheran College:

- Piano and Organ Recital Sunday December 13th 3:00 pm in the Gym at ILC
- ILC Annual Christmas party, Thursday December 17th 7:30 pm. **If you can donate any treats** for the students, please leave them in church kitchen or the office at ILC, marked "ILC Christmas Party." Thank you!

In the hospital: Gordy Stratton underwent shoulder surgery on Friday. **Update on our members affected by COVID:** Please continue to ask for God's care and healing for Messiah members who are struggling with illness: <> Nancy Greene (sister to Maxine Culver) has now been discharged from the hospital and is recovering at Maxine's, though she is still very weak. <> Beau Dittner, the young son of Bethany and grandson of Karen Jacobsen, is also recovering from his viral condition at home. <> Ted Thurow was moved pm Friday to a temporary care facility in Altoona.

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 (Altoona), Paul Tiefel, Sr. (2455 Sawgrass Rd #419, Altoona), Johanna Williams (2118 Augusta St.) and Shelly Williamson (Bellevue, IA).

Fruits of Faith Last Week – Nov. 28 & 29, 2020

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 36 - Sun. 126) 162
 Bible Class: (Sat. 12 - Sun. 32) 44 Sunday School: (Sat. 0 - Sun. 34) 34
 Online: (Worship: 317, Bible Class: 83)
 Young Adults: 13 Ruth's Retreat: 7
 Advent Dec. 2 (In-person: 88, ILC Streaming: na, Online: 158)

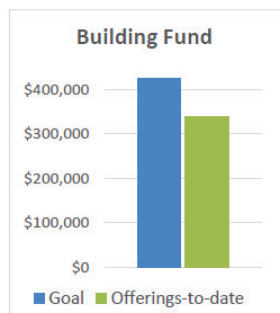
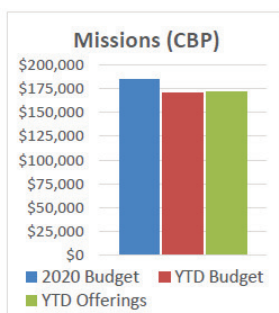
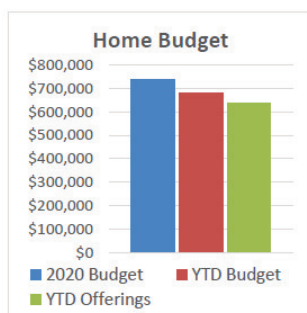
Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2020 Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00
YTD Budget	\$679,385.00	\$170,769.00
YTD Offerings	\$636,379.67	\$171,891.59
Weekly Need	\$24,905.00	\$3,277.00
Last Weekend (11/29)	\$16,268.07	\$3,514.33
Amount Still Needed	\$99,620.33	\$13,108.41

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$338,402.60	Offerings-to-date
\$86,597.40	Still Needed
\$4,434.00	Last Week (11/29)

Given in memory of...
 Gerhardt Mueller
 Virginia Tiefel

20.00 Messiah Building Fund
 34.00 Messiah Building Fund



Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 7-12, '20

Mon Isaiah 40:1-11 As we access the Gospel according to Isaiah (and since our hearts are still sinful hearts), we appreciate God telling us that He has developed a double-strength serum to overcome Earth's sin pandemic (1-2). Don't let anything stand in your way to get an immunity shot (3-5), for your life is on the line (6-8). Listen up to these good tidings, the good news (9) that the LORD God is welcoming you into His protective care (10-11).

Tues Mark 1:1-8 dials Isaiah's picture into sharper focus—that the voice crying in the wilderness is John's, and that *preparing the roadway* means repenting, confessing our sins, and receiving God's forgiveness (1-5). God had given John the awesome assignment of putting Jesus center-stage and in the limelight (7-8) while John opted to fade into the background (6-7).

Wed 2 Peter 3:8-14 Jesus arrived, did His job, and returned home. Now, why is He taking so long to ring down the curtain on planet Earth? He's holding back until He salvages every soul that can be salvaged (9). Meanwhile, we try to stay on top of things (11), looking forward and being diligent in every-which way to stay close to Jesus in our hearts and lives (14). Is it becoming burdensome for us to avoid hot-spots in our sin-diseased society?

Thurs Psalm 85 We are living in a parallel universe, parallel to olden times when God rescued His ancient people from Philistines, Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, etc., but not from the Romans. Today our adversaries are more subtle but fully as dangerous, so God has taken care of our BIG adversary (2-3), and we depend on Him to revive us as we maneuver through life—day by day (4-7), holding tight to Jesus' *righteousness and peace* (10-13).

Fri Luke 3:15-18 Religious people tried to figure out if John might be the Chosen One (15), so John clarified (16) that he was but a lowly servant of the One who would baptize/ cleanse them with the Holy Spirit and bring them to Harvest (16-17). Those rural folks got the picture—and would shrink from the horrible fire which awaits those whose religion is unpalatable to God (18).

Sat Acts 19:11-20 We already knew that miracles are unusual, but these were so exceptional (11-12) that when some magicians/quacks tried to horn in on God's territory (13-14), God let a demon from hell set them straight (15-16). All of which boomeranged on Satan (17-18), for our fellow Christians came to realize that publications (or internet websites) which promote black magic, sorcery, or superstition are Satan's tools to captivate naïve persons. So by burning the books, our fellow Christians sent them back to hell where they belonged (19-20). In contrast, God has given us the Holy Bible, which leads souls from hell to heaven. We thank You, dear Lord Jesus!