



December 19-20, 2020  
The Fourth Weekend  
In Advent

For  
Unto  
us a  
CHILD  
is born  
Unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6

**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)

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:** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

At the Sunday Service: Hymn 751

THE BAPTISM OF SKYLAR KRISTYL RAINE SANDHOEFNER

**At both services: Installation of Officers and Board members for 2021**

**Hymns:** 645 73:1-3 offertory 73:5 59:1-2,5-6 625

**Epistle Reading ..... Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began <sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— <sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

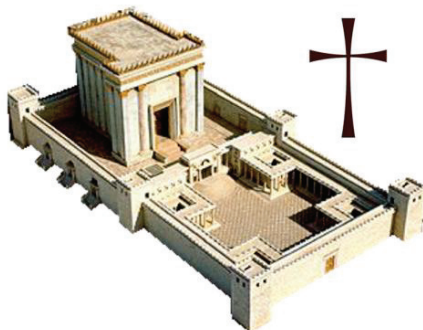
**Gospel Reading..... Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

## Sermon Text ..... 2 Samuel 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup> Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. <sup>10</sup> Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, <sup>11</sup> since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. <sup>12</sup> "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

<sup>14</sup> I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup> But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.'"



### DAVID'S DYNASTY – FROM DESIGN TO DEDICATION

Preaching Today: Pastor Bruce Naumann



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## ***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, 12/20** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #14, Counters E)  
10:15 am Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults
- Wed, 12/23** 10:00 am Christmas Eve Practice for 3:30 pm Service  
2:00 pm Christmas Eve Practice for 6:30 pm Service  
No Afternoon Catechism
- Thur, 12/24** 3:30 pm Christmas Eve Service (Ushers #16) (live-streamed)  
6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service (Ushers #18) (live-streamed)
- Fri, 12/25** 9:00 am Christmas Day Service (Ushers #20) (live-streamed)
- Sat, 12/26** 6:30 pm Worship Service (Ushers #11)  
No Bible class/Sunday School
- Sun, 12/27** 9:00 am Worship Service (Ushers #2, Counters F)  
No Bible class/Sunday School/Young Adults

- Coming Up:**
- New Years Eve service, 6:30 pm
  - New Years Day service, 9 am
  - Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Youth Group, Church Undecorating

## ***Announcements***

**Limited Christmas Eve Seating:** Seating is being arranged for the immediate family of those participating in the Christmas Eve services. The congregation is invited to reserve from the remaining seats on a first-come, first-served basis. You may call Jennifer Schaller at 715-832-0316 beginning Monday, December 21st at 9:00 am to request a seat at either service. (E-mail will not be accepted.) We appreciate your understanding that not many seats will be available due to the reduced seating capacity we are currently implementing. **These services will be live-streamed** and archived on our YouTube channel, "Messiah, Eau Claire Livestream Services."

**Washing of Rebirth:** Skylar Kristyl Raine was born to Ned and Chara (Meyer) Sandhoefner on November 30 at Marshfield Hospital. Skylar will be baptized by Pastor Caleb during this Sunday's service. Caleb Meyer and Jessie Nelson are sponsors. The Sandhoefner family resides in Chippewa Falls. Jesus called them to Him and said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* -Luke 18:16 (NKJV)

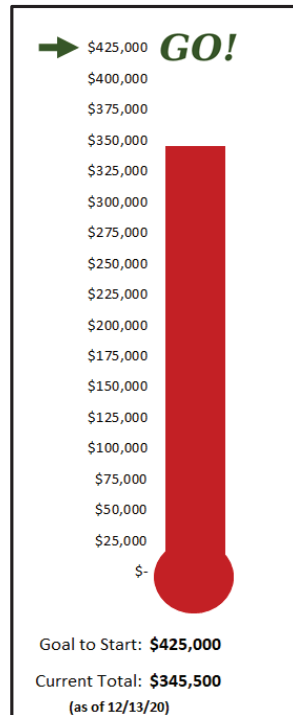
## Be a "Messiah School Builder"!



### Our Initial Goal is in Sight!

We encourage everyone to consider the Messiah Building fund as you plan your contributions at the close of this year, and into 2021. Praise the LORD for having come so close to our goal of \$425,000 in such a short time! Yet we still need almost \$80,000 in additional contributions to meet this initial goal, which is 25% of the overall cost of the project. We ask the LORD to fulfill this amount also. The Building Committee intends to present a completed building plan to the voters in late January, followed by a February meeting to vote on whether to proceed with the project. It is urgent to make a decision in February due to material costs rising and the need for a May start time. If the amount needed is quickly met, the decision to proceed will be simplified. The building project is school-related. We are running short of physical space to teach our Savior's lambs. The new building project should meet our school's needs for many years. Please prayerfully consider how you can help in bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of our LORD.

*Messiah Building Finance and Publicity Committee*



**Weekend Bible Class:** Pastor Naumann continues the 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. Messiah's young adults group will meet with this Bible class during this 4-part series. **Please note** that Sunday school and Bible class will not meet on the weekend after Christmas, December 26-27.

**It is the time of the year** that our members use the mailboxes at church to connect with one another. To make this as easy as possible, the Deacons approved the plan that the doors to the narthex will stay open until 1:00 pm on Sundays through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will offer members who choose not to attend the worship services the opportunity to come and go at less busy times. You can also contact one of the pastors to set up a different time, or to arrange for a delivery to your home.



**Outreach Idea** – The Outreach Committee has prepared a sample letter which members may copy or edit for their personal use. The letter is intended to be sent by our members to a non-member (relative, co-worker, fellow student, neighbor, friend). The letter mentions an "enclosed pamphlet." There are a variety of pamphlets for members to share to enclose, as they think best. The sample letter and pamphlets are available for review and pick-up on the Communion Registration table in the narthex. You can also download the text and customize the letter for your own use, at [tinyurl.com/2020-sampleletter](http://tinyurl.com/2020-sampleletter). The "God So Loved" outreach pamphlet can be downloaded and printed at [tinyurl.com/john3-16-pamphlet](http://tinyurl.com/john3-16-pamphlet). May the Lord bless our efforts, as He did the shepherds, as we seek to make widely known the saying which God has told us about the Baby Jesus.

**CLC News:** Pastor David Ude, Living Hope, Appleton, WI has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY.



**Nominations for ILC Professor:** The following nominations have been received to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year: Pastors Paul Krause, Neal Radichel, Rob Sauers, and David Schaller. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight December 29, 2020 to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: [jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:jeb6217@yahoo.com).



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

*Sermon – Colossians 3:12-17*  
**NO Bible Class**

**CHRISTIANS SERVING US:**

<b>Thursday 12/24 3:30 pm: Usher Team 16</b>		<b>Thursday 12/24 6:30 pm: Usher Team 18</b>	
Darin Oster	Ben Oster	Charles Wittorp	Levi Wittorp
Tom Beekman	Josh Beekman	Brent Rutz	Britten Rutz
Tim Raith	Tom Williams	Jeff Rutz	Jordan Rutz
Adam Schmid	Tim Oster	Barry Schlegelmilch	Brian Schlegelmilch

**Friday 12/25 6:30 pm: Usher Team 20**

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

<b>Saturday 12/26 6:30 pm: Usher Team 11</b>		<b>Sunday 12/27 9:00 am: Usher Team 2</b>	
Joel Carstensen	Dean Carstensen	Dan Sydow	Noah Sydow
George Carstensen	Dennis Oster	Ross Roehl	Jeremy Plath
Mike Fleischer	Steve Sydow	Gabe Plath	Peter Reim
Randy Hulke	Jack Mielke	Steve Mielke	Zach Wry
Zach Mikesell			

**Counters for the week following 12/27 – F**  
 Andy Buck, Mark Franson, Josh Gurgel

*Thank you!*

**2021 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal** - With an application deadline quickly approaching and still so much uncertainty concerning international travel, vaccination requirements and availability, and government restrictions on gatherings in Nepal due to the pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel the 2021 trip that was tentatively scheduled for July with the prayer that things will be back to normal enough by this time next year to make plans for 2022.

**On the Rise!** As endeavors to spread the Gospel overseas continue to increase, so do our opportunities to support these endeavors. Of the current overseas seminary students, there are currently five students that do not have stateside sponsors. Please consider becoming a sponsor through the CLC KINSHIP program. The cost for this particular sponsorship is \$35/month (\$420/year). There will also be sponsorship opportunities for the overseas orphan population in the near future, and KINSHIP would welcome folks who are willing to be put on the "wait list" for those sponsorships. These sponsorships require a similar financial commitment. Contact is Dan Roehl ([danroehl@hotmail.com](mailto:danroehl@hotmail.com) or 507-381-2042).

**In the hospital:** <> Leanne Boyea was briefly hospitalized on Dec. 16, and has since returned home. <> Karen Jacobsen underwent foot surgery early in the week, and is recovering at home. <> On Monday, December 21, Steve Mielke will undergo hip replacement surgery. <> Carl and Kayla Strike are expecting a daughter. Kayla is scheduled for a C-section on December 23. We ask our Lord to preserve the health of both mother and child.

**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).



**From Messiah's Board of Property** - We are planning to start stripping and waxing the floors in the sanctuary the week after Christmas. We need to move the pews out on the 27th after church. We will be waxing the floors during the evenings of the 28th and 29th. We will then be replacing the pews on the evening of the 29th at 6:30pm. We could use all the help we can get moving the pews before and after waxing, as it is a big job. Many hands make light work. Thank you!





## Fruits of Faith Last Week December 12 & 13, 2020

Weekend Worship: (Sat. 52 - Sun. 136) 188

Communion: (Sat. 9 - Sun. 10) 19

Bible Class: (Sat. 19 - Sun. 61) 80      Sunday School: (Sat. 4 - Sun. 36) 40

Online: (Worship: 244, ILC Streaming: 25, Bible Class: 98)

Young Adults: met with Bible Class

Advent Dec. 16 (In-person: 99, ILC Streaming: 44, Online: 172)

## Weekly Offering Information

Offering Summary	Home Budget	Missions (CBP)
2020 Budget	\$736,000.00	\$185,000.00
YTD Budget	\$707,692.00	\$177,885.00
YTD Offerings	\$667,812.24	\$179,259.75
Weekly Need	\$34,094.00	\$2,870.00
Last Weekend (12/13)	\$12,938.52	\$3,051.83
Amount Still Needed	\$68,187.76	\$5,740.25

Building Fund	
\$425,000.00	Goal
\$345,502.60	Offerings-to-date
\$79,497.40	Still Needed
\$5,060.00	Last Week (12/13)

Given in memory of...

Wayne Culver

Harold Gilbertson

Doris Hallauer

Doris Hallauer

Doris Hallauer

Jan Rothbauer

Alfred & Dorothy Zank

500.00 Messiah Building Fund

20.00 Messiah Building Fund

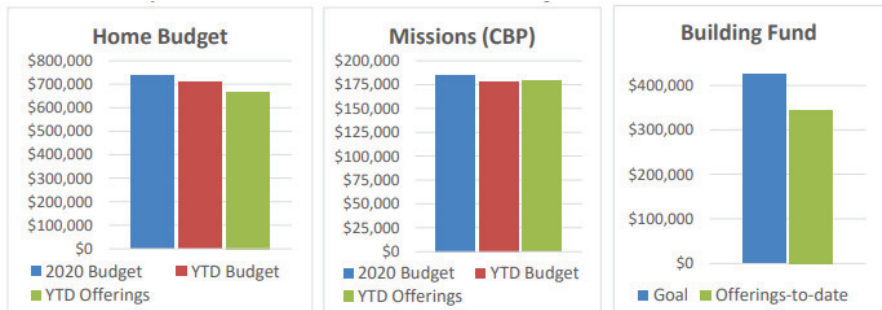
575.00 Mission Development Fund

50.00 ILC Student Aid

25.00 CLC Foundation

10.00 Messiah Building Fund

50.00 Messiah Building Fund



*Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."<sup>31</sup> "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS."<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:30-31,38)*



## PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST WITH HUMBLE SUBMISSION: MARY

Of all those people preparing for the coming of Christ into this world, Mary was the most intimately connected to His coming in the flesh. After all, it would be her flesh that He would take on (except without sin), as she would be His biological mother.

We often hear about what a great blessing this was for Mary -- and it was; in the Bible she herself attests to this. But also what an overwhelming responsibility! After all, Mary was an ordinary, sinful human like the rest of us. As she prepared for the coming of Christ, she not only carried her son, she also carried her own Savior and the Savior of the world.

Furthermore, from an outward perspective, there would be those who would not know or believe the miraculous circumstances surrounding Mary's divinely arranged pregnancy. Most likely there would be those who would see Mary and think of her as one who failed to respect the institution of marriage. From an outward perspective, these things that Mary was being asked to do could have seemed quite difficult and inconvenient. However, according to His plan, God would ask Mary to humbly submit to Him and to trust Him as He brought His Christ to the world in this way. And submit she did, saying, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

During this time of year, sometimes preparing for the coming of Christ gets to be "inconvenient" with everything else that is going on. May the Holy Spirit bless us with an attitude like that of Mary. May we humbly submit to God and His Word as we prepare this Advent season for the coming of Christ.



*Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit... 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife. (Matthew 1:19-24)*

### PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST WITH HUMBLE SUBMISSION: JOSEPH

According to God's plan, Mary was to be the mother of the Christ Child, who would be God's own Son. Also, according to God's plan, Joseph was the man chosen to fulfill the role of father as the Boy grew up. God had planned that Joseph would be Jesus' stepfather, so to speak.

From the Scriptures, we don't know much about this man, but from what we do hear about him, I think we begin to see why God was intent upon this man being the earthly father figure in His Son's life. From the Scripture reading above, we see that Joseph was a decent and caring man. Even when it appeared that the woman who was to become his wife had betrayed him, he was ultimately thinking of her well-being. He did not want her to become a public example to be shunned and ridiculed. More importantly, it would seem that God wanted Joseph to be the stepfather of His own Son because Joseph was a man that listened to the things that God told him.

When an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary had not been unfaithful to him, but that she was pregnant as a result of being chosen for the special purpose of being the mother of the Son of God, Joseph humbly laid aside his own reason, logic, and probably even hurt feelings, submitting to God and His Word.

As we prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus, may God grant us humble submission to hear and believe His Word.

*These two selections are reprinted from CLC "e-devotions," 2016*

### Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 21-26, '20.

**Mon 2 Samuel 7:8-16** Via His spokesman Nathan, God vowed to continue His program of blessing David personally (8-9), planting Israel in safe harbor (10-11), and making a house for David via his son Solomon (12-13). Now, since God promised that David's house, kingdom, and throne would be established forever—it sounds like He is predicting Jesus' arrival and successful mission.

**Tues Luke 1:26-38** It was Gabriel's turn to announce that Jesus would arrive in due time via the twin miracles of divine conception and birth from a virgin mother (26-31), thus implementing His divine destiny (32-33). How can all this be possible? Well, God is good at miracles (as Elizabeth was discovering), for *with God nothing can ever be impossible* (37). Case closed (38).

**Wed Romans 16:25-27** How do these miracles impact upon our narrowing circumstances? *God is able to establish* us via His potent method of accessing our human hearts, has set His mind to our salvation and told us about it, (25-26)—thus enlarging our narrow lives. Since *God alone is wise* enough to boomerang Satan via Jesus Christ, *to Him be glory forever more*. Amen!

**Thurs Isaiah 9:2-7 God's Christmas** Light shined into humanity's darkness (2) (a greater miracle than any of Israel's earthly successes 3-5) when God sent Jesus to our planet as its Governor and as loving Magistrate (6) over His people—once and for all (7). Praise the Lord!

**Christmas Day! John 1:1-14** It's no longer top secret that Jesus has always been a member of the Holy Trinity/Godhead (1-2); He functioned as co-Creator of the Universe (3) and He continues to be our power-plant (4-5)—as John the Baptizer has made crystal clear (6-8). Although He doesn't manage to enlighten everyone (9-11), as many as received Him, to them (us!) Jesus has granted the privilege to become children of God (12-13). Christmas is glorious because Jesus is glorious (14)—and we share in His glory.

**Sat Hebrews 1:1-12** The subject is still Jesus, whom some misidentified as an archangel. Just to clarify: Jesus is divine and Co-Creator, but He lowered Himself to *purge our sins* before He returned home (1-3). Secondly, He is superior to angels in every way imaginable (4-7)—especially in authority and privileged responsibilities (8). In addition, the Universe is not meant to last forever but will perish by the direct order of Jesus, its Supervisor (10-11). In contrast, Jesus will continue in good health and strength—for the good reason that He is Creator of the laws of nature and therefore is not subject to (but superior to) the laws of nature. An angelic creature He is not!

Stay tuned for more good news.