

—The Bread of Life—

Daily Bible readings for home devotions Throughout 2008

Dear reader: This program of Bible readings is built on the framework of the Scripture pericope used at Messiah of Eau Claire during 2003, plus two Old Testament selections to make six readings per week; the underlined date marks the close of each week. — May our Lord bless you and yours with His Word!

☺ January ☺

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>A thought from the reading</u>	<u>Hymn</u>
1	Zechariah 2:10-13	I am coming and will dwell among you	120
2	John 1:15-18	Law-living is superseded by God's grace	117
3	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song budded and blossomed	132
4	Luke 2:22-32	Presented to the Lord and redeemed	137
<u>5</u>	1 Peter 2:1-10	The foundation, plumb and OK'd	370
7	Psalms 121	So where do you look for help?	369
8	Lamentations 3:22-32	The Lord is big enough and good enough	374
9	Luke 13:1-9	At any moment comes the judgment!	590
10	Matthew 9:9-13	Avoiding the Cure is a fatal mistake	346
11	Romans 3:21-26	Christian, back to the basics!	389
<u>12</u>	Colossians 2:6-15	Out of the cemetery to a new life	190
14	Isaiah 60:1-11	Did you note law and gospel in v.10?	383
15	Luke 4:16-21	"Today I am here to rescue you!"	74
16	John 6:28-40	Are you hungry and thirsty for God?	277
17	Psalms 78:1-7	What's the right religion for children?	629
18	Acts 8:26-39	Not the standard tourist attraction	529
<u>19</u>	Romans 10:8-18	Here am I; send me! Send me!	507
21	Psalms 104:24-35	Our Creator supports His universe	17
22	Genesis 21:22-34	The child of God settles disputes	453
23	Genesis 22:1-14	In some ways Isaac is a type of Jesus	409
24	Matthew 12:46-50	Jesus says we are His closest relatives	400
25	John 1:35-42	Our Brother knows us by name	270
<u>26</u>	Ephesians 5:22-33	Love has always been the cure-all	351
28	Romans 8:24-30	Thank God, we know our status with Him!	529
29	Genesis 22:15-24	God worked it all out, didn't He?	428
30	Genesis 23:1-20	No haggling over a cemetery plot	601
31	Daniel 6:10-23	Resist the Devil, the real danger!	427

☺ February ☺

1	Luke 4:38-44	Unbelievers are not God's witnesses	482
<u>2</u>	John 4:1-14	Who thirsts for the Water of Life?	281
4	Matthew 14:22-33	Without Jesus life is a rough trip	233
5	John 4:15-26	Jesus was surely getting personal!	276

6	Ash Wed. Genesis 24:1-28	Use your head as well as your heart	55
7	Genesis 24:29-60	God works through dedicated Christians	60
8	1 Kings 19:9-18	God steps forward from the background	237
9	1 Corinthians 3:1-11	We try to avoid childish bad manners!	449
11	Genesis 28:10-21	God comes through when we need Him	395
12	Mark 9:2-13	Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains. . .	158
13	John 4:27-42	Jesus was the One chosen for the job	502
14	Genesis 24:61-67	This whole story is so reassuring!	40
15	Genesis 25:1-18	From Abraham to Isaac (not to Ishmael)	275
16	2 Peter 3:14-18	We have God's handwritten word on it	290
18	Jeremiah 31:31-34	To know God is the core of true religion	25
19	Genesis 25:19-34	Jacob was an opportunist rogue	415
20	Genesis 26:1-16	and Isaac was a scoundrel in Philistia	586
21	Matthew 5:17-30	It's not eye or hand that makes us sinners	322
22	Luke 10:38-42	A hostess' job vs. a special privilege	366
23	Ephesians 1:3-14	God intends to be taken advantage of	356
25	1 Samuel 17:42-51	Jesus is our Champion against the bully	341
26	Genesis 26:17-35	Bargaining with heathen is bad tactics	263
27	Genesis 27:1-29	God outsmarted a dysfunctional family	250
28	John 8:25-36	Obstacles of human ignorance/weakness	261
29	Matthew 16:13-20	A moment of truth for Simon Peter	658

☽ March ☽

1	John 11:46-57	Caiaphas' brainstorm stands true	352
3	John 17:1-16	"I have finished the work!"	493
4	Revelation 5:8-14	We join the hearty worship of our King	344
5	Genesis 27:30-46	"Bless me also, O my Father!"	127
6	Genesis 28:1-22	Jacob was yearning for more Promise	533
7	Genesis 14:8-20	The child of God befriends those in need	464
8	John 12:27-36	Jesus became the embodiment of sin	390
10	Matthew 23:29-39	Woe to murderers of the Word!	452
11	Ephesians 2:1-10	From death to life – for you and me	388
12	Genesis 29	God allowed Leah to mother some children	434
13	Genesis 30	Israel had fleshly alliances with more women	625
14	Romans 3:19-31	God's standard is higher than ours	319
15	Philippians 2:5-11	This is worth memorizing!	222
16	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-9 "Lord, are there few saved?"	58
17	Isaiah 50:4-9	"And I know that I will not be ashamed"	153
18	Psalms 118:19-29	Jesus leaves footprints to guide us	9
19	John 3:22-36	John's star faded under full Daylight	328
20	John 12:1-19	What a gift of love saved for Jesus!	159
21	Good Friday	John 19:17-30 Blood, sweat, tears, and love!	150
22	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Jesus lay cold and dead in the tomb	371
23	Easter Sunday	Luke 24:13-35 and 1 Corinthians 15:35-58	206
24	Psalms 25	God solves our underlying problem: guilt	532
25	John 2:13-25	Sabotage to the mood of worship	403
26	Mark 10:35-45	Become servants rather than bosses	404

27	Galatians 2:17-21	Godly morality supersedes law-abiding	387
28	Genesis 31	God intervened for Jacob's future	643
<u>29</u>	Genesis 32	God gave Jacob assurance of His support	365
31	Deuteronomy 7:6-11	Fairness takes second place to love	412

☽ April ☽

1	Acts 16:24-35	A snoozer rescued from sleep/death!	331
2	1 John 5:4-12	God's Word is stronger than man's	355
3	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Jonah needed God's hands-on work	530
4	Genesis 33	God can change hearts!	425
<u>5</u>	Genesis 34	Too little concern for souls is tragic	286
7	Matthew 16:21-23	Satan wanted Jesus to walk away	518
8	1 Peter 2:21-25	"For you were like sheep going astray"	144
9	John 10:7-16	Choose between Shepherd and rustler?	631
10	Genesis 3:1-15	Should God step back from His children?	369
11	Genesis 35	The foundation stone for his life	434
<u>12</u>	Genesis 37:1-11	The saga of a son favored by his father	24
14	Genesis 22:1-9	Abraham learned much by sad experience	20
15	John 12:20-26	What draws us to see Jesus?	53
16	John 15: 18-25	Let's not skip over the little word <i>if</i>	37
17	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	God is smart enough to outwit Satan	297
18	Genesis 37:12-36	The defense of their heartland was lost	335
<u>19</u>	Genesis 38	Where is our refuge as sinful humans?	266
21	Job 19:23-27	Job had not given up on His Redeemer	206
22	Luke 24:1-12	Angels shed some light on dark hearts	203
23	Matthew 28:1-10	Time to bring God's Gift to others	508
24	Acts 13:26-39	Jesus is God's answer to Satan/sin/death	363
25	Genesis 39 and 40	Through Joseph God brought blessings	468
<u>26</u>	Genesis 41	God uses us as channels for blessing others	506
28	2 Samuel 12:1-15	Pastor Nathan was David's best friend	326
29	Matthew 12:38-41	What lesson lies in these conversions?	224
30	John 21:1-14	Jesus is alive and interacting with us	428

☽ May ☽

1	Ephesians 2:11-18	Separate from God – or in His pocket?	373
2	Genesis 42	A morality play in Jacob's family	528
<u>3</u>	Genesis 43	A program for renovating his brothers	526
5	Psalms 23	God knows us better than we know ourselves	431
6	John 10:1-10	The voice of sham shepherds sounds fake	410
7	John 10:11-21	Jesus has superior qualifications	447
8	Ascension	John 17:11-26 "But now I come to Thee"	145
9	Genesis 44	Judah had some of Messiah's qualities	118
<u>10</u>	Genesis 45	Loving generosity brought them to relax	570
12	Psalms 100	Your mirror knows who you are	44
13	Mark 2:18-22	Jesus is not a patch-up job on Judaism	370
14	John 11:1-16	After a short vacation, back to work	409
15	1 John 2:3-11	God's Word, our Articles of Incorporation	294

16	Hebrews 13:12-21	Outside the camp lies the town dump	150
17	Genesis 46	God gave Jacob an encouraging word	481
18	Pentecost		
19	Jeremiah 15:5-21	Ezekiel 36:22-28 "I will put My Spirit in you"	235
20	John 5:19-29	That's the story of...the glory of His love	234
21	John 11:17-27	Jesus is not a semi-deity, but totally God	596
22	Ephesians 2:19-22	Four days is too long and too short	196
23	Luke 4:1-15	Christian hearts become His home/temple	467
<u>24</u>	John 15:9-17	Jesus must remain self-sacrificing . . .	360
26	Genesis 18:16-33	because of His holy rescue mission.	358
27	1 John 3:19-24	Abraham's prayer made an impression	626
28	Luke 18:1-8	Let not your heart be directed away	655
29	John 11:28-45	If even a hard-hearted judge responds. . .	457
30	John 17:17-26	Hearts need revival to come forth	278
<u>31</u>	Matthew 20:17-28	God's overriding desire is for our salvation	279
		Details of His awful assignment	158

☽ June ☽

2	Isaiah 55	God has put Himself at our disposal	4
3	John 8:12-20	Sinful pride is a hard master	277
4	Luke 11:5-13	If humans are helpful, God is more	548
5	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	The present is but prologue	413
6	Genesis 49	Judah's special place in the Savior-plans	66
7	Genesis 50	Fences need mending between siblings	465
9	Ezekiel 36:22-28	God will receive honor without our help	59
10	John 6:53-71	The Christian diet is Jesus, Jesus, Jesus	348
11	John 14:15-21	Get your daily Rx prescriptions from God	349
12	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	The human experience is God-ignorant	609
13	Exodus 1	The Egyptian experience was distasteful	289
<u>14</u>	Exodus 2	Not abandonment when in God's hands	430
16	Exodus 6:22-27	God had some good feelings to share	246
17	Matthew 3:13-17	Triune blessing on the entire enterprise	238
18	Matthew 28:16-20	Baptize into Trinity sponsorship	301
19	1 Peter 1:1-9	Climate and geography of the Kingdom	352
20	Exodus 3	God had to shove Moses off his feet	40
<u>21</u>	Exodus 4	God got Moses convinced, finally	509
23	Proverbs 11:23-31	It happens like this in real life today	414
24	Matthew 19:16-26	With all his virtues, his heart was wrong	2
25	John 15:1-8	Pruning is good, though it hurts	342
26	Romans 8:1-11	A different life from the inside-out	236
27	Exodus 5:1-6:13	Pharaoh had to learn the hard way	269
<u>28</u>	Exodus 6:7-13	. . . the penalties of disobeying God	26
30	Judges 2:1-12	Satan erects a chapel next-door to ours	460

☽ July ☽

1	Matthew 11:16-24	Playing games with Satan is fool's fun	22
2	John 8:1-11	Jesus can read repentance in the heart	420
3	Hebrews 13:1-9	Each admonition applies to ourselves	120

4	Exodus 7:14-20	The nation suffered from an evil monarch	472
<u>5</u>	Exodus 10:21-11:10	When will people learn not to <i>diss</i> God?	427
7	2 Chronicles 33:1-16	Religious pluralism joins God with Satan	262
8	Mark 10:13-16	Jesus had no time for picnics	300
9	Luke 15:11-32	God's prodigious love finds lost boys	324
10	1 Timothy 1:8-17	Satan's fraudulent stuff needs exposure	494
11	Exodus 12	This ritual is explained in 1 Cor.5:7-8	334
<u>12</u>	Exodus 13	The firstborn boy was marked to be clergy	630
14	Isaiah 12:1-6	Can you survive without His Day for you?	611
15	Matthew 7:1-6	<i>Hypocrite</i> is an ugly word for an ugly attitude	322
16	Luke 17:1-10	Spiritual offense differs from social affront	396
17	Acts 7:44-8:3	Satan, their puppeteer, jerked them around	259
18	Exodus 14	God can teach a hard lesson to bullies	248
<u>19</u>	Exodus 15	Moses composed an early Christian hymn	204
21	Exodus 3:1-15	A sleepy day in the Outback suddenly changed	122
22	John 1:43-51	A good leader inspires good followers	487
23	John 21:15-19	After breakfast is a good time to start	648
24	Acts 9:1-22	A hit on the head gets our attention	403
25	Exodus 16	God can turn a bad day into a good day	410
<u>26</u>	Exodus 17	The Amalekites would never have a good day	416
28	Genesis 4:1-16	Cain was devoted to self, a beastly master	417
29	Matthew 15:1-9	Fault-finding is another of his game-plans	449
30	Matthew 18:1-14	How bad is the beast of the sinful self?	595
31	Romans 6:12-18	The beast knows he will never get to heaven	334

☞ August ☞

1	Exodus 18	Moses married into a notable family	13
<u>2</u>	Exodus 19	The time for a conscious, deliberate choice	219
4	1 Kings 17:1-16	God makes good on His promises	286
5	Matthew 15:10-20	Cardio-vocal excrement is common	154
6	Matthew 18:15-22	Friends can help to cleanse a real stinker	331
7	Ephesians 4:17-32	Dirty stink versus cleansing renovation	73
8	Exodus 20	Let us use the Law to club the beast down	287
<u>9</u>	Exodus 21	We should love our neighbor as we love self	288
11	Jeremiah 23:25-40	God takes false religion as a personal insult	226
12	John 5:30-38	Discounting Jesus is blindness to facts	221
13	John 7:14-24	Human hearts have been warped by Satan	258
14	1 John 4:1-6	We must always be ready to judge doctrine	100
15	Exodus 22	Some preventive and cleansing measures	76
<u>16</u>	Exodus 23	Jesus has cleansed all dirty stink from us	42
18	Exodus 32	Never underestimate the power behind idolatry	445
19	Mark 12:38-44	100% is larger than any fraction thereof	440
20	John 5:39-47	The Law as a ladder to heaven topples	369
21	1 Timothy 6:6-10	Zero plus zero still equals zero	172
22	Exodus 33	The specifics changed under negotiation	211
<u>23</u>	Exodus 34	The second edition of the Law	284
25	Deuteronomy 4:23-40	No idol can respond to a sinner's needs	291

26	Matthew 21:12-22	From barren to productive faith-living	606
27	Matthew 21:33-46	This parable applies to ourselves today	529
28	Acts 4:8-22	Jesus will always be the answer	348
29	Exodus 35	Whoever is of a willing heart, let him give	441
<u>30</u>	Exodus 36	Willing hands make easy work	536

☾ September ☽

1	Micah 2:7-13	Send the King of kings to fix human sinfulness	361
2	Mark 2:13-17	Jesus took time to explain Himself	217
3	John 9:1-7	In this case, his time in the sun/Son had come	279
4	2 Timothy 4:1-8	Doctrinal ignorance is our mortal enemy	599
5	Leviticus 4	Sins done in ignorance could be compensated	329
<u>6</u>	Leviticus 5	His cure is available even for our ignorance	5
8	Exodus 34:29-35	Moses' face absorbed some of God's glory	27
9	2 Corinthians 3:7-18	How can blindfolded eyes see clearly?	398
10	Matthew 4:27-34	Humans can't help being blind and deaf	506
11	John 9:24-41	Who stayed blind to the glory of Jesus Christ?	295
12	Leviticus 6&7	God wrote the book on how sin can be atoned	233
<u>13</u>	Leviticus 8-10	Clergy mediators needed cleansing too	219
15	Exodus 20:18-24	Our old Adam hates the Law and hates God	327
16	Mark 12:28-37	Ignorance of Christ—not in the Kingdom	278
17	John 7:25-31	Whose affidavit will you accept?	94
18	James 1:2-12	Grant us wisdom to understand Thy workings!	424
19	Leviticus 11-15	How can God abide my imperfections?	428
<u>20</u>	Leviticus 16-17	God wrote the book on atonement via blood	354
22	Numbers 21:4-9	Looking in faith and repentance was crucial	371
23	Matthew 12:9-21	The posture of Jesus was inoffensive	420
24	Luke 7:36-50	Forgiveness motivates loving response	386
25	Romans 7:14-25	A conundrum solved in Jesus as Lord	379
26	Leviticus 18-19	Love the Lord enough to avoid smut	429
<u>27</u>	Leviticus 20-22	God is repetitious because sin is repetitious	540
29	1 Kings 18:21-40	The Lord, He is God; we will follow Him	21
30	Luke 14:12-15	Attach no return address to your charities	509

☾ October ☽

1	John 14:7-14	Yearning to know God is common hunger	349
2	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	We can't out-do God in generous giving	384
3	Numbers 1-2	God's servicemen in the militant Church	452
<u>4</u>	Numbers 3-4	Clergy were not exempt from service	482
6	2 Kings 5:8-19	When God speaks, we do well to heed	296
7	Matthew 22:23-33	Scripture solves a problem of morals	311
8	Luke 20:27-40	Saints of old depended on Moses' word	294
9	1 John 3:1-9	God will validate His spiritual genetics	51
10	Numbers 5-6	Impressive regulations about serving God	50
<u>11</u>	Numbers 7-9	God was in total control of their existence	264
13	1 Samuel 15:13-26	Obedying God first can skip apologies later	418
14	Matthew 12:1-8	We side with Jesus on this, of course	399

15	Luke 13:10-17	God labors 24/7, not 12/6	514
16	Acts 6:1-7	Brotherly love empowered the food sharing	464
17	Numbers 11-12	Some busy helping; others busy criticizing	463
18	Numbers 13-14	Attitude is everything!	535
20	Ezekiel 3:16-24	Ezekiel had a privileged responsibility	485
21	Matthew 5:1-12	Blessedness attends us in all conditions	530
22	Matthew 6:5-15	Jesus calls for an attitude check	412
23	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	God is my Father; I am His child	494
24	Numbers 15	The Lord is concerned about my/your heart	18
25	Numbers 16	Moses rushed to their rescue	362
27	Psalms 37:25-40	God loves me enough to keep me afloat	48
28	Matthew 6:19-23	Preserve my sight amid the darkness!	554
29	Matthew 10:40-42	Do I realize how important Jesus makes me?	373
30	Colossians 3:1-10	Kill off the alien growing in your body	330
31	Reformation: Numbers 17-19 Show & Tell. Support and cleanse us!		262

November

1	Numbers 20	It's a blunder to misrepresent God's attitude	524
3	2 Kings 2:6-18	Blessed the student who emulates his teacher	297
4	Matthew 7:24-29	Our life is God's building project	287
5	Luke 6:43-49	What appetites am I feeding?	144
6	1 John 1:5-2:2	Am I on God's Daylight Saving Plan?	545
7	Numbers 21	Some errors can be fixed only the hard way	383
8	Numbers 22-24	A bumpy ride through devious ways	365
10	Daniel 3:16-39	A religious issue arose in politics	285
11	Mark 10:46-52	The Son of David meant a lot to him	374
12	John 1:5-9	Why wait when Jesus can heal us?	101
13	Romans 14:1-14	We have choices in many daily matters	591
14	Numbers 25-27	Those who do not learn from history . . .	36
15	Numbers 28-30	(Read Hebrews 10 for the Light on sacrifices)	156
17	Genesis 50:15-23	Their problem was themselves, not Joseph	21
18	Luke 8:26-39	Do we tell the great things God has done?	31
19	Luke 14:25-35	This is a sour subject for our stomachs	399
20	Romans 4:1-8	Stand with God or tumble into the abyss	326
21	Numbers 31-33	There's a lesson here about sharing His work	17
22	Numbers 34-35	Tying up loose ends; the clergy shared, too	5
24	1 Samuel 20:27-42	An evil mind misinterpreted Christian love	652
25	Matthew 17:24-27	Citizenship in heaven/earthly responsibilities	619
26	John 7:1-13	Jesus' siblings needed a stern rebuke	532
27	Thanksgiving: Genesis 8:15-22 Thanks for these glorious cycles!		574
28	Matthew 25:13-30	We bow before the mysteries of the Kingdom	570
29	Revelation 22:12-21	We await Him with open hearts and arms	1

December

1	Isaiah 61	Back to the future!	23
2	Luke 1:68-79	God's plans and performance are the same	55
3	Revelation 1:4-8	He was and is and shall be the same	68

4	2 Timothy 1:7-14	Salvation arrives from eternity to eternity	66
5	Deuteronomy 6-11	Replay; Fast Forward; Pause; Review.	64
<u>6</u>	Deuteronomy 31-34	Review and Preview for the Second Advent	611
8	Malachi 4:1-6	Blowing away on the winds of worldliness	612
9	Luke 17:20-30	Jesus comes as Savior — or as Judge	610
10	Mark 3:4-13	The light at the end of the tunnel is Jesus	550
11	1 Timothy 6:11-16	Where your heart is, there is your treasure	28
12	Joshua 1-3	History is the record of His training program	586
<u>13</u>	Joshua 4-5	A Wayside Memorial worth revisiting	361
15	Isaiah 40:1-11	The gospel according to Isaiah	257
16	Matthew 3:1-12	John did spade-work in God's garden plot	63
17	Romans 2:1-16	Let us drop the pretense of excuses!	317
18	James 4:6-12	Sinful nature is not a pretty sight	322
19	Joshua 6-8	It's a hard soul that opposes God	60
<u>20</u>	Joshua 9-10	God's boomerang cleared the country	72
22	Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:2-7	God's heart is zealous to reclaim lost souls	76
23	Luke 1:46-55	Mary responds to God's doubled favors	80
24	Luke 2:1-20	The first Christmas greeting: "Glory to God!"	85
25	Christmas! John 1:1-4	A short review with an eternal scope	85
26	Hebrews 1:1-6	The "Platinum Record" was Jesus in person.	364
<u>27</u>	1 John 1:1-4	God's purposes laid out in simple review	341
29	Isaiah 63:7-17	The gospel according to Isaiah (again!)	137
30	Lamentations 3:22-32	God's compassion hurdles all obstacles	546
31	Luke 2:21-32	He made good on every law and Law for us.	111



A captivating life-size depiction on a bulletin board in the kindergarten room at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, Wisconsin last Christmas. Daughter Elizabeth Plath did the artwork for her mother's classroom. Mrs. Eileen Tiefel is teacher.