

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

THE MISSAL

OCTOBER 2009



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

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Decatur, Georgia 30030

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WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAYS MORNINGS

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH

AND ADULTS

9:45 a.m.

September - May

UPCOMING

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 3

Blessing of the Animals
and All Creation

October 4

Worldwide Communion Sunday

October 18

Holy Communion at 10 am
Loyalty Sunday Luncheon

October 25

REFORMATION SUNDAY



Serving Christ since 1932

On Giving

Last year the *Christian Century* reported in its October 7th issue:

- At least 1 out of 5 American Christians gives nothing to church or non-religious charities.
- Non-Christian religious believers give a mean average of 3.3% of their income.
- American Christians give a mean average of 2.9% of their income.
- Higher income earning American Christians give less money as a percentage of household income in comparison with lower income earning American Christians.

These statistics on giving in general and our own giving patterns as congregations in this synod caused me to wonder about our foundational beliefs.

What do you believe about money in general?

Here are some old proverbs. Check the ones with which you agree.

- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- A penny saved is a penny earned.
- If you look after the pennies, the dollars will look after themselves.
- Don't be penny wise and pound foolish
- The more you get, the more you want.
- The worth of a thing is what it will bring.

What do you believe about giving?

Here are some quotations. Check the ones with which you agree

- "The greatest poverty is the inability to give."
- "No one has ever become poor by giving." (Anne Frank)
- "It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it." (Albert Einstein)
- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." (Winston Churchill)
- "Misers are no fun to live with but they make great ancestors."

What do you believe about making a financial commitment to our congregation?

Check the ones with which you agree.

- We are stewards of God's resources.
- Stewards have a shared responsibility beyond themselves.
- Stewards make a plan.
- Stewards make a commitment.

On Sunday October 11th, your congregational council members will be making a commitment by turning in a pledge card. On Sunday October 18th you will have the same opportunity to be intentional about your financial commitment at our Loyalty Lunch. This year's theme is *Make It Simple* and I encourage you to *simply pledge* what you can. Perhaps your situation has changed dramatically, perhaps you are facing a job loss, or have unexpected medical bills. Perhaps your financial situation has improved. God knows your situation. The point of pledging is the intentional commitment rather than the amount. Please plan and please commit.

In His Service, Pastor Mary

BECAUSE WE HAVE DAUGHTERS®

SATURDAY ~ OCTOBER 31, 2009
11am - 2:30pm in FELLOWSHIP HALL

Calling all dads! Get in Spook-tacular spirit and spend Halloween afternoon bonding with your daughter(s)! Experience a unique opportunity to:

- Share fun and educational activities with your daughter
- Enjoy games, art projects, skits
- Discuss what it's like to be a father with other dads
- Gain unique insight into the world through your daughter's eyes

Lunch and snacks will be provided. And dads, you are encouraged to invite other dads who also have daughters.

We look forward to you participating in this new, exciting ministry that will deepen father-daughter relationships and create a fuller understanding about the very special father-daughter bond. It's sure to be a REAL TREAT! Best of all, it's completely FREE!

To RSVP, or for more information, feel free to send an email to Judi Huck at: judi@menstoppingviolence.org. Men Stopping Violence is a social change organization dedicated to ending male violence against women. Since our founding in 1982, we have developed many programs, trainings, and educational opportunities that help men to make changes in their lives and in their world.

**Blessing of the Animals
and All Creation**

Saturday, October 3 at 4 pm

Join us for this special service in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi who cherished all of God's creatures as our Brothers and sisters in Christ.

Bring your pet companions for a unique blessing and treat as we celebrate the gift of God' creation.

Word In Season

Quarterly devotional books, are now available on the Welcome Credenza in Fellowship Hall.

These devotionals will be free for our guests, but members of Messiah might make a dollar donation to offset the cost.

Loyalty Sunday Luncheon
October 18th

Our Annual Loyalty Sunday Luncheon will follow a single service of Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Please make plans to attend and bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

We will discuss our current financial status as well as begin to establish our 2010 budget. Your input is needed.

I'll look forward to seeing you there,

Keith Barton
Stewardship Committee Chairman



Light the Advent Wreath

This year, the Worship Committee is inviting families or individuals to sign up to light the Advent Wreath each Sunday during Advent. One person, one family or group can do the honors at each Sunday service during the Advent season. (Guests are welcome!)

At the designated time in our worship service, the special candle-lighter(s) will come to the front of the church, and stand next to the Advent wreath. Following the Advent prayer for that day, they will then light the candle(s), and the congregation will sing "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah." The candle-lighting gives us the opportunity to reflect on this special time of year, and the hope that Advent brings.

Please consider participating in this special part of our Advent worship services. A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the church hallway!



IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Those Who Rejoice! Those who mourn.
Those Serving In the Armed Forces.

MEMBERS

THE ATTAWAYS

LOU COLVALT

KATHERINE COPENHAVER

SUE GREGG

TOMMY LANE

FRIENDS

Gary Atkins - brother of David Atkins
Kelly Bannevans - friend of Yvette Barton
Howard Barton - father of Keith Barton
Russell Frankofsky - friend of Sallie Schlosstein
David Gresh - brother of Ruth Gresh
Dawn Haddon - cousin of Eileen Smith
Chris Jarrett - cousin of Diane deWitt
Billie Johnson - mother-in-law of Kelly Johnson
Anne & Jerry Kivett - friends of Anne & Pete Burr
Mark Lund - cousin of Beth Melendez
Jane Marshall - sister of Anne Chapman
Ronnie Mayfield - brother of Jenny Watson
Jeff Patterson - friend of Alfred DuPree
Marcia Richt - friend of the congregation
Adam Rydell - friend of Messiah
Rosie Servin - friend of Sallie Schlosstein
Karen Trent - daughter of John & Barbara Trent
Linda Tuminella - daughter of Juanita Mitchell
Doris Whitener - friend of Lalus Summers

CLAMS

(Concerned Lutherans at Messiah)

The Concerned Lutherans At Messiah (CLAMS) met on September 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. There were 18 attending our covered dish luncheon. In memory of those who died in the 9/11 attacks, we began the meeting with a litany followed with prayer by Pastor Mary. All came in their patriotic blues, reds and whites. We all shared our memories of that tragic day telling where we were and what thoughts and fears we had at the time. After lunch we discussed our upcoming meeting on October 9th. It was decided that we would dress a little different, maybe even funny to celebrate Halloween. We will have a furnished Bar-B-Q lunch. We also decided that we would bring our favorite holiday dish to share for our Thanksgiving meeting on November 13th. The turkey will be furnished. All are welcome to come share with us good food and fellowship.

(Don't forget to bring deodorant to the Oct 9th mtg)

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

The October 2nd Open Board Meeting of Church Women United will be held at Dunwoody United Methodist Church located at 1548 Mt. Vernon Rd. There will be a salad lunch provided by the Board members. Kim Frndak of Women's Resource Center will be our keynote speaker. We will also have some visitors who will talk about the work of Church World Services. This promises to be a very informative meeting. Hope to see you there.

Synod Update . . .

Many are aware that recent days brought some major flooding to Atlanta and its outlying areas. We have checked in with the congregations located in the most heavily hit places and learned the following:

Good Shepherd, Douglasville and Nativity, Austell have no physical damage; Holy Cross, Hiram has water in their basement and Grace, Carrollton has some water in its sanctuary. The people of Grace are understandably upset about the tragic death of a 2-yr-old in their community who was swept away, but no other fatalities or serious injuries directly affected members. One family spent the night at Nativity but otherwise all members of these congregations are safe, only suffering water damage in their homes.

Thank you for your prayers.

The Call Committee of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah

The Congregation council will be forming our "call committee" in the next few months. The Congregation council is now seeking nominations from which call committee members will be selected. Six members will be selected with one member being from the congregation council and one from the transition team. The other currently serving council members and transition team members are not eligible to serve. Nomination forms will be available in the office. You may nominate yourself.

What is required of a call committee member? Although it is an honor to be chosen to serve, membership requires time, work and prayer. Below are some desired characteristics:

1. WORSHIP PARTICIPATION:

Familiarity with the worship life of the congregation is critical for a call committee member. The member should know how the congregation worships and what its expectations are relating to worship. More importantly, regular participation in worship speaks of a commitment to honor God, hear God's word, and receive God's gifts of mercy and grace.

2. A PERSON OF PRAYER:

The call committee will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer as it goes about its work. The committee will invite and lead the congregation in praying that God's will be accomplished in the call process. A person who prays will be able to entertain new thoughts and directions as the Spirit leads.

3. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION:

The call committee should consist of persons who know the needs of the whole congregation and have knowledge of particular areas of ministry. Young and old, long time members and newer members also make a balanced committee.

4. ABLE TO SPEAK OUT:

People on the call committee need to be able to express their thoughts and feelings. They should not be domineering or authoritative persons. Rather, they should be people who have confidence in their thoughts and reflections, and be able to give them voice at the appropriate times.

5. ABLE TO LISTEN:

While they need the confidence to speak, they will also need the skill of being a good listener. They will need to listen to one another, and they will need to listen deeply and thoughtfully to a candidate being interviewed.

6. A PERSON OF CONVICTION WITH THE ABILITY TO REACH CONSENSUS:

The most effective members will be those who have clear convictions and are able to express them, while listening to the thoughts and convictions of other members. They will need to be people who are capable of working together towards consensus, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work through them.

7. AVAILABLE:

During that time, there will be regular meetings early in the process and more frequent meetings during the interview time. Call committee members will need to be able to adjust their schedules so that they can attend ALL committee meetings, especially during the interviewing time. Only members present during the interview of all the candidates being considered should participate in the decision-making discussion.

8. FEMALE, MALE, YOUTH REPRESENTATION:

The committee should include a balance of men and women and have a youth member (15-25 years of age). A youth member should be chosen because they have the above listed abilities and characteristics.

9. ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY:

To protect the ministries of candidates in the present positions, NO NAMES OF CANDIDATES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED OUTSIDE THE SELECTION COMMITTEE UNTIL THE TIME OF RECOMMENDING A CANDIDATE TO THE CONGREGATION.

Your task now is to pray and submit your nomination in writing. The congregation council will appoint six members to the committee at their December meeting.

All About the Call - Issue 2

What do we mean by “calling” a pastor? What’s the difference between calling and hiring?

Help Wanted: In search of a highly energetic, jack-of-all-trades, able to direct and coordinate activities to meet the religious needs of our congregation. Duties include (but certainly not limited to): planning, directing or coordinating church programs designed to promote religious education among church membership; counseling individuals regarding interpersonal, health, financial, and religious problems; collaborating with other ministry members to establish goals and objectives; training and supervising religious staff, and finally, walk on water when time permits. When necessary, exercise direct line communication with the divine one and must look good in Black and White (and Purple, Gold, Blue, Green and Red).

A person meeting the above mentioned qualifications might be a great hire somewhere, but certainly not for the position as Pastor in our church. Not to make light of the subject, but there is a distinct difference between hiring someone and calling a person to be pastor. The idea of calling pastors is rooted in the Scriptures. The author of Ephesians writes: “*The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ*” (4:11-13).

It’s true that ministry is the responsibility of every Christian, but the New Testament recognizes that God has called some to the office of pastor. The pastor’s ministry is to equip, strengthen and encourage the rest of the church for its ministry in the world. The pastoral office is a gift that Christ has given to the church. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the local church calls its pastor. The distinction between calling a pastor and hiring one is an important one!

The idea of a call is grounded in the biblical understanding of divine call. The pastoral ministry is more than a profession; it is a call of God. The idea of calling rather than simply hiring a pastor also lifts up the role of prayer and the leadership of God through the Holy Spirit in the process of selecting a new minister. It is not just reading a résumé and interviewing a potential candidate that is important. There is a waiting upon the Holy Spirit through prayer for direction that is significant. Once a church calls a pastor and the pastor accepts that call, a covenant relationship is established between the pastor and the congregation. It is a relationship in which there are mutual tasks and obligations.

The Call Process provides step-by-step guidance on how the call committee interviews candidates, tries to discern God’s will, and makes suggestions to the council, which ultimately makes a recommendation to the entire congregation. The process is one that strives for integrity with our gathered people of God as we seek a pastor. The call process is how our committees and members discern God’s will. Our work and prayer will help us reflect and answer the question, “Do we believe that God is moving us to call this person to speak for Christ in our congregation and community?”

Written by a happy, “retired” call committee member from another congregation.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION PROFILE

A vital time for planning is when a congregation prepares to call a new pastor. It would seem like a commonsense thing to do, for in the absence of a comprehensive plan for ministry, how can a call committee recommend with confidence and integrity a candidate for the congregation to call? Pastors are not merely chaplains to individual members; they are the primary interpreters of the congregation's vision and mission. Perhaps this is why congregations often conclude they must wait until the new pastor is on board before they plan. But in the absence of a congregational vision, what is the basis of selecting a new pastor? Congregations may poll the membership for its views on the qualities and strengths needed in the next pastor, but the outcome is predictable. Congregations want effective preaching and teaching, sensitive pastoral care, attention to children and youth, and a supportive influence in the congregation's organizational life. But based on the congregation's vision for the future and the ministries that are planned, what more specifically are the qualities and strengths needed? If a call committee implicitly assumes a vision for the congregation that has to broad support within the group and selects the pastor accordingly, the seeds of trouble have been sown. It's important for the congregation to have its vision and mission clarified in advance of a call.

The Congregational Mission Profile serves several purposes - it helps assess congregational needs and summarizes goals in ministry. The Profile is also used by the Bishop and staff to best match available candidates with our unique situation. The Call Committee is encouraged to obtain information and input from a broad spectrum of the parish membership. In addition, neighboring congregations may be helpful. Your conference dean may be able to facilitate a process whereby you can invite others to share with the committee how they view the ministry and leadership needs of our parish. Once the Profile has been prepared by the Call Committee, it should be reviewed with the Congregation Council to ensure that the ministry goals are in concert with those determined by the parish. Candidates also will receive a copy of the profile (plus other community information which may be supplied by the call committee) so they may answer and ask questions intelligently during the interview. The Assistant to the Bishop will review the profile with you.

WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

Your gift to ELCA World Hunger Appeal - hunger at home helps neighbors close to home who struggle with hunger and poverty. These gifts help fund innovative and faithful relief, development, and organizing efforts such as: Food for Seniors (Houston, Texas) delivers groceries each month to low-income seniors aged 60 and over. In addition to supplying nutritious food, Food for Seniors provides nutritional and supportive services to improve overall health of at-risk seniors.



Youth Empowerment Program (Columbus, Ohio) works throughout the state of Ohio to empower disadvantaged youth to create social justice in the world. Youth in the program work together to advocate for change in issues surrounding hunger, poverty, and homelessness in America.

FISH (Great Falls, Mont.) provides support for local families dealing with emergency situations. In addition to providing three meals a day,

FISH supplies families in crisis with groceries and toiletries they need to get back on their feet.

Your gifts can be placed in the "Little Red Wagon" on the last Sunday of each month or in the offering plate at any time.



May we have . . .

. . . your e-mail address? Even if you know we have your e-mail, please add it to your signature on the Friendship Pads passed during worship on Sunday mornings. This address would be the one you would be willing to have the office use to send out information.

Thank you for your help.





LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

The candle that burns continuously in the sanctuary (hanging above the entrance to the altar area) is known by several names, i.e., sanctuary candle, eternal candle, presence lamp, etc. It is an always burning symbol that reminds us of the constant presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

The sanctuary candle for the month of October is given by Erin and Phillip Bubb and dedicated to Erin's Grandma & Grandpa Christianson in honor of what would have been their 63rd wedding anniversary.

DECATUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

UTILITY BILLS PAID = 82

(GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER)

RENT = 7 PEOPLE

MEDICATIONS = 1 PERSON

TOTAL FAMILIES FED = 368

TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED = 694

DEAM IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE SERVING - ESPECIALLY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER FOR HOLIDAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

| ATTENDANCE COMPARISON | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Average attendance for September 2008: 95 | | | | | | |
| Average attendance for September 2009: 79 | | | | | | |
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 |
| | Sat. | Sat. | 8:30 | 8:30 | 11:00 | 11:00 |
| 1st week | 11 | n/a | 31 | 19 | 71 | 64 |
| 2nd week | 14 | n/a | 22 | n/a | 82 | 68 |
| 3rd week | 10 | n/a | 24 | 18 | 63 | 63 |
| 4th week | 10 | n/a | 11 | 15 | 76 | 68 |
| 5th week | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Pledged Year to Date: | \$ 97,829.16 |
| Pledges received YTD: | \$ 102,678.48 |
| Total needed per month: | \$ 11,126.08 |
| Total received this month: | \$ 11,549.91 |
| Total needed YTD: | \$ 108,479.28 |
| Total received YTD: | \$ 110,527.18 |

Lay not up for yourselves treasures of earth...

Matthew 6:19-20

... where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal; For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ABOVE & BEYOND

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Flowers | \$50.00 |
| Rent | \$50.00 |
| Presence Lamp | \$12.00 |
| Botanicals | \$65.00 |
| I Care Appeal | \$260.00 |
| DEAM | \$25.00 |
| Presents for His Presence | \$50.00 |
| World Hunger/Little Red Wagon | \$109.00 |

GIFTS OF NON-BUDGETED ITEMS \$621.00



**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH**
465 Clairmont Avenue
Decatur, Georgia 30030

ATTN: POSTMASTER — TIME DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

**Word & Sacrament
Sunday Mornings at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Come Celebrate with Us!**



A DAILY PRAYER FOR OCTOBER



*Let us always pray for one another.
Let us pray for ourselves.
Let us pray for those on our prayer list.
Let us pray for the gift of the Resurrection.
Let us pray for the world, its leaders, the hope for peace.
Let us pray for Messiah to seek his guidance
as we walk the path of Living the Great Commission.*

We will seek refuge in the shadow of your wings, O God,
until the storms pass.

Sustain us by your grace.

Send your faithfulness and steadfast love today,
that we might praise you with
glad and thankful hearts in all kinds of weather.

Amen.