



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

THE MISSAL

NOVEMBER 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

465 Clairemont Avenue at Erie
Decatur, Georgia 30030

REV. MARY C. PETERS
TRANSITION PASTOR

Office: 404.373.1682

Fax: 404.373.1683

E-mail: Lmessiah@bellsouth.net

Web-site: Lmessiah.org

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

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

November 1

The Feast of All Saints

November 22

Christ the King Sunday

November 29

First Sunday of Advent



Serving Christ since 1932

On Gratitude

I have a little prayer book titled "A Grateful Heart" and in the introduction the editor tells the story of a couple of days before she was to write the introduction to the book. This editor was cooking dinner when the water main broke and water was cut off for several hours. In her frustration she came to realize that for the previous six months she had been reading "every known book" on giving thanks and yet in her own life she took most things for granted. Not once had she ever given thanks for something like water from the tap. Developing an attitude of gratitude needs to be intentionally practiced by looking for the daily, abundant blessings that are ours.

As Christians we have a unique, distinctive, holy basis for our gratitude: the love and mercy that we are given in Jesus. Our gratitude is not then by our own efforts to be better people, but comes as part of our relationship with Christ. Because God has first loved us, because God has come to us, because Christ has died for us, we are set into a relationship of trust and gratitude.

This Christian perspective on gratitude means that sometimes we must be grateful even when we do not know how things may work out; we are grateful even when we cannot see the end of the story. Christian gratitude is grounded in the certainty of the steadfastness of God's love in all situations. We are abundantly blessed.

Keep an attitude of gratitude. Remember, all other human efforts to infuse life with meaning and purpose start from the perspective of *getting something we don't already have*, whereas Christianity starts with the understanding that we have already received all there is to have. Our response then is live with grateful and generous hearts.

† Pastor Mary

A GOOD STEWARD MAKES A PLAN

Have you returned your financial pledge card?

Your planning and commitment enable our congregation to likewise plan wisely.

Additional pledge cards may be found on the hallway table.



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 sanctuary, 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 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!



Remember to set your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR** on Saturday night **October 31st**



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.

A Tip on Wellness

INFLUENZA: SEASONAL, H1N1

Influenza, or flu, is a serious and contagious disease which contributes to approximately 36,000 death annually. It is generally an infection of the nose, throat and lungs, and is spread by the coughing and sneezing of infected individuals. An individual may be able to infect another person from one day before symptoms appears and to seven days after becoming ill. The Center for Disease Control describes three basic approaches to preventing the spread of flu. These precautions are appropriate for both seasonal and the H1N1 strain.

1. Get a seasonal flu vaccination. Vaccinations for seasonal flu are currently available. The serum for H1N1 will be available at a later time.
2. Take everyday hygienic precautions, such as frequent hand washing, covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and avoiding close contact with sick people.
3. Take flu and antiviral drugs as recommended by your doctor.

For additional information go to www.cdc.gov



POINSETTIAS for CHRISTMAS

Beginning on November 29th, you will have the opportunity to reserve a beautiful Poinsettia plant to adorn the sanctuary for the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Worship.

Cost will be **\$9** per plant.

A memorial or honorarium slip will be available.



IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Those Who Rejoice!

Those who mourn.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces.

MEMBERS

BETTY BELVILLE

LOU COLVALT

KATHERINE COPENHAVER CAROLINE GAMMELL

SUE GREGG

GAIL GUZMAN

TOMMY LANE

BETH MELENDEZ

IONE MURPHY

MARY ROOF

FRIENDS

Gary Atkins - brother of David Atkins

Kelly Bannevans - friend of Yvette & Keith Barton

Howard Barton - father of Keith Barton

Linda Lane Bowen - sister of Tommy Lane

Al Buchler - father of Mike Theiss

Glad Comey - friend of Tom Carpenter

Judy Conn - friend of Diane deWitt

Arthur Coutour - uncle of Candice Scott

Cowan Family - friends of Karen McIntyre

Russell Frankofsky - friend of Sallie Schlosstein

David Gresh - brother of Ruth Gresh

Marian Griffin - friend of Lalus Summers

Dawn Haddon - cousin of Eileen Smith

Billie Johnson - mother-in-law of Kelly Johnson

Anna Kelly - dear friend of Karen McIntyre

Anne & Jerry Kivett - friends of Anne & Pete Burr

Tom Livengood - friend of Jim & Pam Thomas

Mark Lund - cousin of Beth Melendez

Jane Marshall - sister of Anne Chapman

Ronnie Mayfield - brother of Jenny Watson

Billie McChee - mother of Pastor Mary Peters

Alma Montgomery - friend of Jenny Watson

Jeff Paterson - friend of Alfred DuPree

Amanda Phillips - niece of Gail Guzman

Marcia Richt - friend of the congregation

Adam Rydell - friend of Messiah

Rosie Servin - friend of Sallie Schlosstein

Herb van Sickle - grandfather of Steven Scott

Sherri Smith - friend of David Atkins

Linda Tuminella - daughter of Juanita Mitchell

Eileen Ward - great grandmother of Jacy Brown

Doris Whitener - friend of Lalus Summers

Unceasing Prayer

There is no Christian who does not have time to pray without ceasing. But I mean the spiritual praying, that is; no one is so heavily burdened with his labor, but that if he will he can, while working, speak with God in his heart, lay before Him his need and that of other men, ask for help, make petition, and in all this exercise and strengthen his faith.

Martin Luther

Autumn, this year's last, loveliest smile!

*"To everything there is a season,
and time to every purpose
under the heaven . . ."*

Ecclesiastes 3:18



As we approach the national holiday of Thanksgiving, I want to express my own sincere words of THANKS to you for the many blessings bestowed upon me as your musician during this year. Most notably the opportunity for me to attend the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) in Milwaukee this past summer. Like many of my colleagues who are members of that organization, I am still basking in the glow of a wonderful Conference which was filled with refreshing blessings of renewed friendships and the demonstrated deep commitment to excellence - providing thought provoking and life/vocation-changing encouragement for the important ministry we engage in every day. I'm thrilled to report that ALCM is alive with a very high energy level following this national conference that was outstanding in every aspect. I am deeply grateful for the wisdom shared by the plenary and workshop presenters. Their grace filled inspiration is the nurture we crave as we move forward on our personal and professional journey. The occasion for being together in Milwaukee provided the face-to-face opportunity to discuss and appreciate the value of ALCM - and of the work we do in our own congregations. We continue to shape that which captivates our thoughts and strengthens us for serving. Thank you so much for this continuing education opportunity - and may a wealth of blessings be yours at this season of Thanksgiving.

Charles Redmon

The Feast of All Saints

Sunday, November 1st

Join us for this special service in commemoration of All Saints of all time. We remember their lives as we sing the words of William How set to the music of R. Vaughan Williams:

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ELW #422

(See more on page 5)

Another View on Stewardship . . .

Worship and Music Ministry. Is that a category you typically overlook when you consider each year how to share your time and talent at Messiah? Perhaps you think, "I'm not really a musician. I certainly don't sing or play an instrument." Or, "I don't read very well in public." But don't dismiss that worship and music ministry category quite so quickly. The fact of the matter is: *Every great music program is supported by a host of people who are faithfully involved in ways other than being performers.*

If you love music and want to see it flourish in the life of the church, I can guarantee there is a place for you to share your gifts — whether once a year or on a regular basis. For example, you might serve as an usher or greeter at our regular Sunday services of worship or other special events - welcoming visitors and members with a friendly smile thanking them being here and inviting them to come back; you might cook food or provide snacks for coffee hour or other fellowship gatherings.

Here are some other ways you can share your time and talent pertaining to the Worship and Music Ministry at Messiah:

ALTAR FLOWERS

We want to thank everyone who has signed up to provide altar flowers. There are a few open dates remaining for 2009 if anyone still would like to dedicate or honor a loved one. (Please, as a gentle reminder, please remember to turn in your payment with a separate check noted "altar flowers.") The cost is still only \$50.00. If you would like to share a weekly arrangement with another member, please let us know.

COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP

Please sign up to host a weekly coffee hour following worship. We have several open spots from now until the end of the year. If your special day is on the designated "pot luck" Sunday, we can change it if necessary! It's always fun to celebrate special events with your church family! As a congregation we have so much to share ~ what better time to do so than at coffee hour fellowship!

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help with the Altar Guild responsibilities but don't know how and want to learn, then contact Karen McIntyre immediately! We will go through all the steps, from altar linens and beeswax to Paraments and pew ropes!

***SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS -
COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING.***

WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

With world hunger on the rise,
Lutherans set to respond, hunger leader says.

by Melissa Ramirez Cooper, ELCA News Service

According to a June report of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), hunger is increasing. World hunger is predicted to reach "a historic high" in 2009 with more than 1.02 billion people experiencing hunger every day. That's 100 million people more than 2008. The FAO attributes the increase in hunger to soaring food prices and the global economic downturn.



"Thirty-five years ago the world faced a similar challenge, rising food prices and decreased income in poorer nations. In response, Lutherans chose to birth an appeal for world

hunger," said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) [World Hunger Appeal](#). "Over that time the percent of the world's population at risk by lack of food has been cut in half, and the number of people with adequate access to food has nearly doubled. That is the good news," he said. "The FAO's analysis is that there is enough food in production to feed the world's population. That too is good news. The challenge is that the economic crisis and the high price of food have, as the FAO said, proved to be a devastating combination for the world's most vulnerable populations."

Rift said the FAO report is a call to action for those who care for people living in poverty. Lutherans "are well positioned to respond to the call," he said. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is aimed at relief and support for development that creates sustainable solutions to ending hunger. "Seed banks, [water projects](#), [livestock sharing](#), small loans and market assistance are hallmarks of our work," Rift said. He suggested that congregations continue to respond by adding some activity this year to examine the current state of the world's food needs and to benefit ELCA World Hunger. "I believe this is a matter of faithfulness. The church needs to be present in bringing daily bread to the world, and the world needs the church to be present in its time of food crisis," he said.

Your donations to the World Hunger Appeal can be placed in the offering plate at any time, or you may put your donation in the "Little Red Wagon" on the last Sunday of each month.

THE FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS occurs just as the landscape in the northern hemisphere heralds the dying of plants and the quiet of winter rest. In like manner, the readings and liturgy of this day call us to rejoice in all the saints: those who have died and now rest in Christ, those who live now, and those yet to come.

As the church year draws to a close, we hear warning about the end of time, stories of crisis and judgment, and parables of loss and death. The Christian community speaks honestly about human frailty and mortality.

At the same time we confess our faith in the risen Lord, in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. While both life and death may bring us fear and uncertainty, the liturgy calls us to hear the Lord's promises that he is with us in life and in death. Christ has claimed us in baptism and nourishes us in the communion of his body and blood. He leads us to the new Jerusalem. There we shall join all the saints in praise of God, who has turned our graves into the doorway to eternal life.

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On Sunday, November 1st many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. We hope that you will be with us in worship as we celebrate our own beloved ones.

Our liturgy abounds with references to the saints and to our continual relationship with them. Sunday and the week following invite people to reflect on others - living and dead - who have moved and supported others by their lives of faith.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS and LETTERS

Dear Friends, Greetings!

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your recent \$200 donation to Samaritan House of Atlanta. Since 1986, Samaritan House has helped more than 11,000 homeless men and women throughout metropolitan Atlanta gain permanent, full-time employment and stabilize their lives. Contributions from caring congregations like you enable Samaritan House to continue to help thousands of homeless men and women regain self-sufficiency each year through the provision of case management, employment services and hot noonday meals in unique environments that foster dignity, accountability and respect. We are grateful for your gift.

Yours in Service,
Dana Johnson,
Interim Executive Director

Dear Lutheran Church of the Messiah:

Thank you for your recent donation of \$700. This gracious and thoughtful act of kindness means a great deal to the many individuals and families that benefit from the work of Decatur Cooperative Ministry. DCM will use your donation to offer shelter, transitional housing, food and emergency financial assistance so that hundreds of families can weather their time of crisis and get back on their feet. I want to express my sincere gratitude for your generosity. Thank you so much for giving to DCM.

Warmest regards,
Beth Vann, Executive Director

Dear People of Messiah:

On behalf of the students served by Lutheran Campus Ministry @ Georgia Tech, I want to thank you for your generous support of our ministry. We provide students with weekly home-cooked meals and worship as well as regular social outings. This "home away from home" is made possible through the generosity of Lutherans like you, who recognize the importance of nurturing the spiritual growth of young adults.

Blessings,
Pr. Deb Halter

CLAMS

(Concerned Lutherans at Messiah)

Nineteen guests enjoyed our catered luncheon on Friday, October 9th. The menu of barbequed ribs, potato salad, cole slaw, rolls and dessert was a followed by several games of BINGO. We continue to collect deodorant for DEAM and school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. We will meet again on Friday, November 13th at 11:00 a.m. for a festive Thanksgiving luncheon. Turkey will be provided and all guests are asked to bring their favorite Thanksgiving side dish.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

World Community Day will be celebrated at Clairmont Presbyterian Church located at 1994 Clairmont Road. Registration is at 9:45 a.m. and the service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Ten Thousand Villages will have items there for sale. These items were made in third world countries as a means of support. We look forward to the continued theme "Making A World Fit For All God's Children" as we celebrate World Community Day

A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . .

. . . to Ryan Smith as he leaves the position of congregation council president. We give thanks to God for Ryan's leadership. His dedication and hard work have been a blessing to our congregation.

**Please NOTE:
Our e-mail address is
Lmessiah@bellsouth.net**



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 November is given by Mickey Raese and in honor of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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.

At MESSIAH . . .

*Our mission is to worship God
through Jesus Christ,
his Living Word,
learn about,
each and share the gift
of forgiveness with others
through love, and
glorify God while attending
to the needs
of the community.*

*"The heart of a giver
makes the gift dear and precious."
Martin Luther*

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON						
Average attendance for October 2008: 91						
Average attendance for October 2009: 78						
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Sat.	Sat.	8:30	8:30	11:00	11:00
1st week	14	n/a	24	17	78	67
2nd week	22	n/a	16	16	72	63
3rd week	9	n/a	14	18	51	65
4th week	8	n/a	19	11	91	53

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Pledged Year to Date:	\$ 107,862.92
Pledges received YTD:	\$ 114,156.08
Total needed per month:	\$ 11,126.08
Total received this month:	\$ 11,981.00
Total needed YTD:	\$ 119,605.36
Total received YTD:	\$ 122,171.18

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ABOVE & BEYOND

Flowers	\$150.00
Rent	\$151.00
Presence Lamp	\$20.00
Botanicals	\$0.00
I Care Appeal	\$150.00
DEAM	\$0.00
Presents for His Presence	\$50.00
World Hunger/Little Red Wagon	\$254.00

GIFTS OF NON-BUDGETED ITEMS \$775.00

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 NOVEMBER



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.

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven,
and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your open hand,
may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor;
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.