



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

THE MISSAL

DECEMBER 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

465 Clairemont Avenue at Erie
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

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

December 6

Holy Communion - 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting Part I -

11:15 a.m.

December 13

Annual Christmas Party - 6 pm

December 27

Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas



Serving Christ since 1932

Celebrate with us

Advent at Messiah

Sunday Mornings ~ 8:30 & 11 o'clock Holy Communion

NOTE: 12/6 & 12/27 at 10 o'clock

Wednesday Evenings ~ 7 pm Advent Vespers

*The Chancel Choir will lead Sunday 11 o'clock
& Mid-week services of worship.*

Wednesday Evenings:

Dialogue with Pastor Mary

2nd - Watching

9th - Changing

16th - Fulfilling

Sunday - December 13 at 6 pm

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share.

A special musical offering and
a sing-a-long of Favorite Carols for everyone.

Christmas Eve

3 o'clock - A Quiet Holy Communion

7 and 11 PM

Festival Eucharist and Candlelighting

Sunday - December 27th

One Worship Service at 10 am

ANNUAL MEETING - PART I

SUNDAY MORNING AT 11:15 AM

DECEMBER 6, 2009

(SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3)

Happy Holidays to All!

TIS THE SEASON . . .

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING ~ Please join us on **Friday, December 11th** at 10a.m. to decorate the church, to do some polishing, and to adorn the Chrismon tree with our traditional handmade ornaments. We'd appreciate your help — even if you can only stay a little while! We look forward to seeing you! ~ *The Messiah Tree-Trimmers*

MESSIAH'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - Let's celebrate! Join us in Fellowship Hall for the Annual Messiah Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 13th** at 6p.m. Please dress in festive attire, and bring your favorite dish (hors d'oeuvres, desserts, etc.) to share! We'll eat, we'll enjoy special music & games, and we'll take family pictures in order to update our member bulletin board. All are welcome!



POINSETTIAS for CHRISTMAS

You 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 **\$8** per plant.

A memorial or honorarium slip will be available at the church.



A Tip on Wellness

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

"Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife." Proverbs 17:1

For many, the Christmas season can be a stress-filled period. The current financial environment has many asking, "How can we make it this year." Remember, Christ came into the world that we might have life more abundantly. This year reduce expectations for yourself, and your children, and focus on the reason for the season.

Holiday To Do List

- Listen to your heart.
- Worship God.
- Exercise.
- Pray.
- Rest.
- Give thanks.
- Love one another.
- Be gentle with yourself!

Angel Tree 2009

Lutheran Services of Georgia is in dire need of \$10 gas cards for the parents of their Foster Children. Therefore, the Service Committee has designated the giving from Angel Tree this year to go to that purpose. You don't need to buy gas cards, but you do need to write check! Please make that check out to "Messiah" for "Angel Tree" and we will get the gas cards to LSG. Thank you for your generosity.



MEMBERS

BETTY BELVILLE LOU COLVALT
 KATHERINE COPENHAVER CAROLINE GAMMELL
 SUE GREGG TOMMY
 LANE
 BETH MELENDEZ IONE MUR-
 PHY

FRIENDS

Gary Atkins - brother of David Atkins
 Doris Atchison
 Kelly Bannevans - friend of Yvette & Keith Barton
 Howard Barton - father of Keith Barton
 Al Buchler - father of Mike Theiss
 Glad Comey - friend of Tom Carpenter
 Papa Doug Conley
 Judy Conn - friend of Diane deWitt
 Arthur Coutour - uncle of Candice Scott
 Cowan Family - friends of Karen McIntyre
 Russell Frankofsky - friend of Sallie Schlosstein

Alex Hanson
 Billie Johnson - mother-in-law of Kelly Johnson
 Anna Kelly - dear friend of Karen McIntyre
 Anne & Jerry Kivett - friends of Anne & Pete Burr
 Richard Lastinger
 Kevin and Lucille Lewis
 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
 Sherri Smith - friend of David Atkins

ANNUAL MEETING 2010 – PART 1 –

Per the current Bylaws of the Congregation "The annual congregational meeting is to be convened each December for the purpose of

- (1) electing council members and
- (2) adoption of a budget for the following year,
- (3) election of the congregational representative to the nominating committee, and
- (4) such other items as noted in the call for the meeting, then recessed until January of the following year."

Your congregation council has scheduled that meeting to be held on **Sunday, December 6th at 11:15 a.m.** It is very important that every voting member of the congregation be in attendance because your vote matters! **Holy Communion will be at 10 a.m. on this date.**



It is hard to believe that it is already Advent, the favorite season for many Lutherans. I have often wondered about the strong appeal of the season. Is it the music, the anticipation or the excitement that the joy of Christmas is not far off? More important is that we take time to notice this beautiful season and not let it pass by us like some other denominations do. In our Sunday liturgies you will notice that we speak, pray or sing the *STIR UP YOUR POWER AM COME* theme which weaves its way throughout the season. My hope as this month speeds by and we prepare for Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus, that we all will be stirred up by the presence of God among us. Take time to make good use of the Advent season. We're all so very busy but I am hopeful that we can set aside some quiet time for some thoughtful contemplations for the season. Even as I travel to Berlin, Germany with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus the week of December 14th, my anticipation of quiet meditation may become a reality within the walls of those hallowed old church buildings ~ I remain hopeful. We will perform three concerts of the Johannes Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Berlin Philharmonic in the midst of Advent ~ a fitting remembrance. Your prayers for safe travel would be deeply appreciated.

My very best wishes to each of you and to your household for the blessings of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Charles Redmon



Name Tag Sunday!

In order to allow our congregation to grow closer and make our visitors feel more comfortable we're making the first Sunday of the month "Name Tag Sunday." Please join us in wearing your name tags Sunday, December 6th as we start the new month.

In case you haven't seen them, the nametags are permanently displayed in the side hallway leading to the sanctuary. Greeters will be there to help you locate and attached your tag. Following the service, please return your tag to the basket provided under the magnetic board.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Melendez at melendbm@bellsouth.net.

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.

"It is pleasing to God
whenever you rejoice or laugh
from the bottom of your heart." -
Martin Luther

Fa, la, la, la, la . . .

WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

In the Sichuan Province of China sits the village of Tubida. Through ELCA companion relationships, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are supporting Luzhou Church and its comprehensive sustainable development ministries in the community.

Your gifts brought a well to the Tubida community — a well that now provides safe drinking water to people who once walked long distances and spent countless hours hauling water. The well tube goes down 60 feet where water is pumped up with a 300-watt pump and piped into nearby homes. There is plenty of water for the local rice fields.



Your gifts paved a road into this community, which was previously cut off from nearby areas relative to economic opportunity. This road allows local residents to ship out their crop of lychees (fruit) and rice. Not far from Tubida, the local government built a conference center. The new road gives access to the center. This arrangement helps bring more income into the village.

ELCA Global Mission personnel worked with Chinese church bodies in the Sichuan province to develop a four-year recovery plan after the May 2008 earthquake. Initial disaster response efforts focused on helping people with disabilities and orphaned children access shelter, health care, and relief supplies. Ongoing support from [ELCA Global Mission](#) will help Chinese churches rebuild and respond to increased interest in worship services.

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.



Why Lutheran Campus Ministry?

The college years are notorious for pushing God to the back burner. Below are some ways you can help students Keep the Faith.

Tuesday meal. Our students gather every Tuesday for a meal together. Do you like to cook? Use your kitchen or ours. Don't want to cook? Students always love pizza! If you don't want to cook or bring pizza, just send a check and Pastor Deb will do it!

Kookies and K cupcakes. Yes, these kids are in college and all grown up (or trying to be), but they're still away from home and often depend upon yucky vending machine snacks. They much prefer cookies, bars, cakes, crumbles, or anything else *you* like to make!

Transport for special activities. We're always in need of help getting students to activities. This is an easy way to volunteer that takes little time but is deeply valued.

Camping Equipment. Nothing relieves study stress like camping in the woods and taking in plenty of clean, fresh air while singing corny campfire songs. Especially welcome are sleeping bags, blankets, sheets, pillows, tents and other camping gear. Used items are just fine!

Activities support. College students have lots of stress-induced energy to burn. We're always looking for fun, healthy ways to come together and have fun. If you can provide activity events by donating space or passes, please let us know!

Any gift you want to give is welcome! Board games, Wii games, non-perishable foods, freezable foods, charcoal and starter fluid, sodas, gift certificates, and anything else you can think of that college students can eat or use! Heck, we'll even take really good stuff you don't want or need, sell it on eBay, and purchase things we need!

Thanks for your help!

Rev. Deb Halter

Transition Pastor

Lutheran Campus Ministry @ Georgia Tech

185 5th St. NW Atlanta, GA 30313

404.872.6889 404.580.5703

pastordeb@cableone.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS and LETTERS

Dear Friends,

The St. Jude's Ranch for Children will again receive your recycled Christmas Cards!! This is a worthy project and one in which we have participated in for many years here at Messiah. Please hold on to your cards, tear the front covers off and bring them to the church. There will be a basket available in Fellowship Hall for you to leave them in. Let's set a deadline for bring the cards by Sunday, January 17th. We will ship them to the ranch after that deadline. Thank you for participating!

If you would like to view the many activities that they Sponsor, please go to www.stjude's.org

Dear Friends at Messiah:

Thank you for your recent gift of \$50.00. Your generous support of Villa International enables us to continue this unique Christian ministry to our international guests. With your help, Villa International welcomes the stranger, furthers better health throughout the world and brings the world a bit closer through global understanding and friendship evangelism. Many thanks.

Y'all are great ~ thank you!

CLAMS

(Concerned Lutherans at Messiah)

Seventeen guests enjoyed our Thanksgiving luncheon on Friday, November 13th. Turkey, dressing and gravy were provided along with favorite dishes prepared by those who attended. We continue to collect deodorant for DEAM and school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. We will meet again on Friday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. for a potluck lunch and our own Heidi Carpenter will be our guest with puppets in hand. We look forward to a festive Christmas luncheon, and invite anyone to come and enjoy.

**Sign up for Messiah's
Christmas Cookie Swap
Friday, December 18 at 3 pm**

Bring two dozen cookies to share and take home two dozen cookies for your family, gifts for the hairdresser, mailman, caregiver, drive-up tellers, office staff, etc.

Refreshment will be served!

Babysitter will be provided!!

Come and enjoy the fellowship and the goodies of the season.

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**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 December is given to the glory of God by Karen McIntyre on her birthday and in memory of her parents Joseph V. and Betty T. Polak.

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.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

Christina G. Rossetti
(1830-1894)

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Average attendance for November 2008: 107

Average attendance for November 2009: 77

	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Sat.	Sat.	8:30	8:30	11:00	11:00
1st week	6	n/a	19	16	78	68
2nd week	21	n/a	28	14	169	48
3rd week	10	n/a	17	24	68	71
4th week	6	n/a	19	13	62	52
5th week	9	n/a	15	15	60	66

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Pledged Year to Date:	\$ 120,405.12
Pledges received YTD:	\$ 125,024.53
Total needed per month:	\$ 13,907.60
Total received this month:	\$ 10,999.45
Total needed YTD:	\$ 133,512.96
Total received YTD:	\$ 133,170.63

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ABOVE & BEYOND

Flowers	\$150.00
Rent	\$120.00
Presence Lamp	\$10.00
Botanicals	\$136.00
I Care Appeal	\$195.00
DEAM	\$0.00
Presents for His Presence	\$50.00
World Hunger/Little Red Wagon	\$78.00

GIFTS OF NON-BUDGETED ITEMS \$739.00

ATTN: POSTMASTER — TIME DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

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

Sunday - December 6 at 10 a.m.
Christmas Eve at 3, 7 & 11 p.m.
Sunday - December 27 at 10 a.m.



A DAILY PRAYER FOR DECEMBER



*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.*

Father, we ask what Jesus asked:
that you would make us one.
Draw us closer to you in such a way that our unity
becomes a reality because of your presence among us.
Prepare us for the hard work of learning to love each other –
and keep us praying for the unity we seek,
that others may know how good you are and
believe the message of your love for them.
Amen.