

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

THE MISSAL

JANUARY 2010

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

January 6
The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 10
The Baptism of Our Lord
Council Callanwolde Retreat

January 17
Installation of 2010 Council

January 31
Annual Meeting - Part II



Serving Christ since 1932

"If you don't have a dream, how are you going to make a dream come true?"

Oscar Hammerstein
(1895-1960)

The new year usually brings commitment to new actions and that will be true in the life of our congregation. This year of 2010 will be busy with new commitments and activities for the calling of the next pastor. However, before we commit to action we will first begin with dreaming. On Sunday, January 10, 2010 your congregation council will be going on a local retreat in order to have time to dream and plan, worship and study. Dreaming, planning, worshiping and studying set the foundation of shared discernment. The call committee will join the council later in the afternoon to receive information from the bishop's office.

Our Bible study for the retreat will be on the book of Ephesians which will guide our conversations as we consider "Are We Building in Love?", "Are We Building Without Walls?", "Are We Building As One?". This same three to four session Bible study can be offered to others next month. Remember everyone is part of faith sharing and discernment.

Congregation Council and Call Committee will be installed during worship on January 17th. Please pray daily for your congregation, your council members and call committee members. Be in conversation with one another about your hopes for the ministry here.

Congregation Council 2010

President: Keith Barton
Vice President: Gary Brinker
Secretary: Beth Melendez
Financial Secretary: Tim Tallent
David Atkins
Karen McIntyre
Alex Roetger
Mark Schuette
Delaney McIntyre - Youth Representative

Call Committee

Yvette Barton
Grace Crary - transition team representative
Diane DeWitt - alternate
Ben Gray
Karen McIntyre - council representative
Pr. Jake Young
Will Schuette - youth representative

Transition Team

Pete Burr
Grace Crary
Tommy Lane
Sue Manget
Beth Melendez

Other Faithful Spirit Listeners

Everyone at Lutheran Church of the Messiah!

Thrivent Matching Funds

For many years, our congregation has received matching funds from Thrivent to supplement I Care appeals and other benevolent giving. Last year, Thrivent reduced the funds amount Messiah was eligible to receive by several hundred dollars, and we have just been informed there will be no money allotted for next year. The program that allowed this in the past, called Care in Congregations has been discontinued.

A new program, called Thrivent Choice, will replace it, but not until the Summer of 2010. Very few details are currently available, but we do know that some additional funds potentially could be received by our congregation, but only if requested by Thrivent members within the Congregation, and only as a percentage match of what your pledged giving is.

As details are released, we will keep you updated, but you can do your own research on their web site at: www.thrivent.com.

The Service Committee

ANNUAL MEETING 2010 – PART II

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

- (1) Accept Annual Reports of Ministries
- (2) Update on Transition and Call Teams
- (3) Future Ministry Updates

Your congregation council has scheduled that meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 31st** following each service of worship in Fellowship Hall.

It is very important that every voting member of the congregation be in attendance because your vote matters!



A Tip on Wellness

SHINGLES

What is it? Who is at risk?

Shingles occurs when the virus that causes chickenpox once again becomes active. It can affect someone without warning, Symptoms such as itching, tingling or burning are often felt before they are seen. Blisters will develop within a few days. Shingles can be very painful, and may take up to four weeks to heal. Long term effects may include infection, muscle weakness and scarring and decrease in vision or hearing. As one ages, the risk increases. There is now a vaccine available for those at risk. Talk with your doctor about whether the shingles vaccine is appropriate for you. For additional information, go to cdc.gov.



In my note to you for December, I began with "It is hard to believe that it is already Advent, the favorite season for many Lutherans." Well, that season has long been gone - along with Christmas and a whirlwind trip to Berlin. Now it's hard to believe it's 2010 already! I hope you were able to take the time during that holy season to notice its beauty - and that you were stirred up by the presence of God among us. My travel to Berlin, Germany with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus was stirred up by a quick train trip to Leipzig. No pun intended, but that entire city was "decked out for Christmas!" The Christmas markets were aglow with thousands of handmade wonders. The churches were adorned by crèches and candlelight. The streets were filled with music and little ones with that expectant gleam in their eyes. At the St. Thomaskirche where J.S. Bach worked and is buried, a rare privilege for me to play the new "Bach" organ was offered. What a thrill just to be in that space and with such an instrument at my fingertips - and to stand at his tomb with a heart full of appreciation. A mile high experience to say the least. Our three concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic were exceptional and were received over-the-top by our discerning audiences and reviews. The blending of our two unique cultures is proof that God's people can co-exist! The cold temperatures (around 15f) and snow made it a truly Christmas wonderland. It's good to be home and among you again.

May a wealth of blessings be yours in the new year as we serve our new born King of Kings.

Charles Redmon

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.

**WORLD HUNGER APPEAL
AND LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Lutheran World Relief, an international nonprofit organization, works to end poverty and injustice by empowering some of the world's most impoverished communities to help themselves. With partners in 35 countries, LWR seeks to promote sustainable development with justice and dignity by helping communities bring about change for healthy, safe and secure lives; engage in Fair Trade; promote peace and reconciliation; and respond to emergencies.



Baltimore, December 7, 2009 — The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided Lutheran World Relief with a \$400,000 grant to support ongoing relief work in the Philippines after a

series of devastating typhoons caused flooding, displacement, and massive destruction. "There are still many families who have not yet been reached with aid," says Joanne Fairley, LWR's Regional Director for Asia and the Middle East. "Our goal is to quickly deliver food and other essential items into the hands of the people who need it."

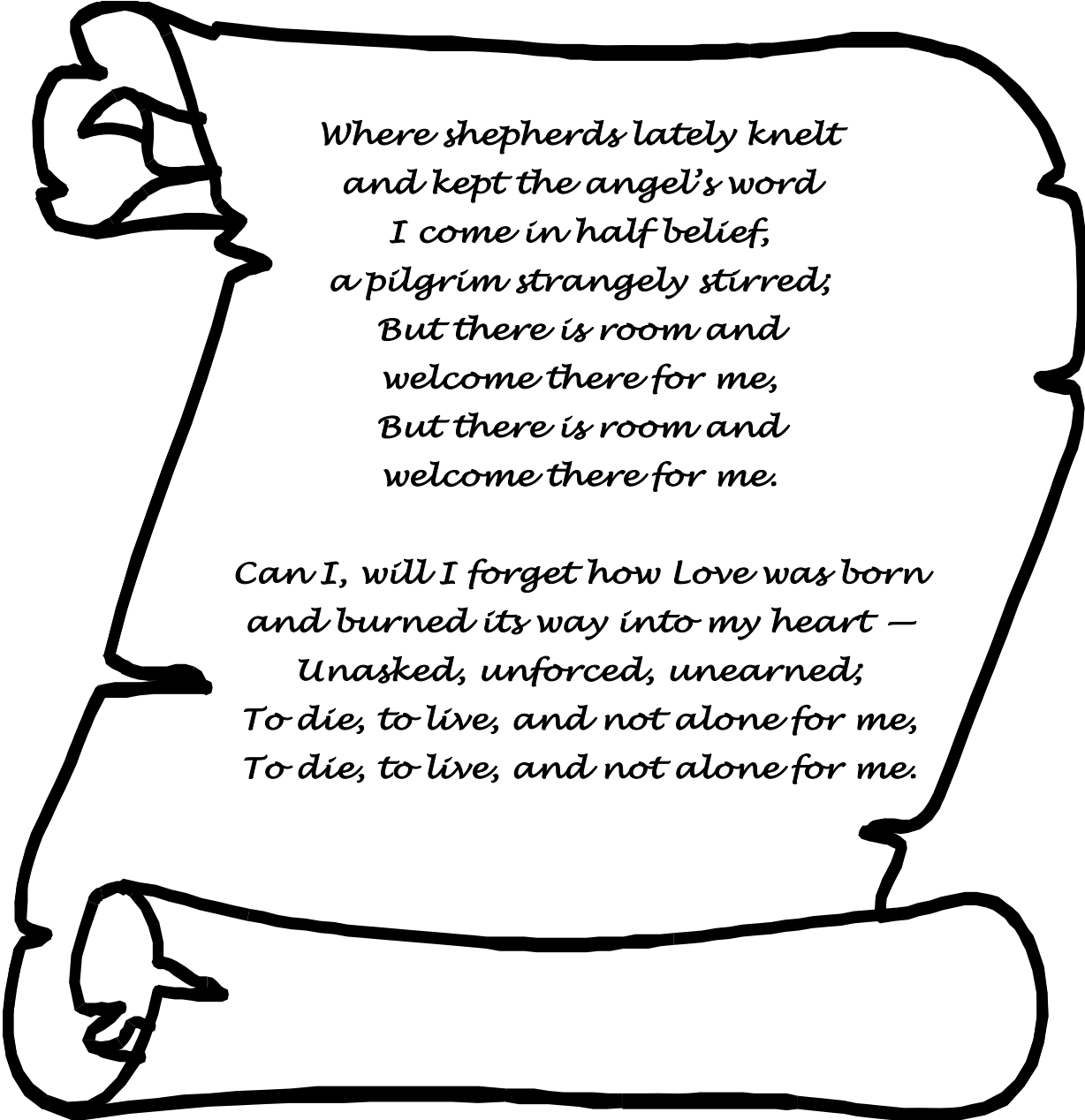
Lutheran World Relief has been working with local partners, including the Lutheran Church of the Philippines, to deliver water, food and other items to families in the wake of the storm. With the Gates grant, LWR will work with local partner, Center for Empowerment in Resource and Development (CERD) to deliver food, drinking water, sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, health kits and shelter items to an additional 17,000 families (75,000 people) still coping with post-storm conditions. More funds are needed to support a long-term comprehensive response to this disaster.

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.

**ANNUAL MEETING - PART II
SUNDAY MORNING AFTER EACH WORSHIP
JANUARY 31, 2010**

When this issue of THE MISSAL arrives, you will most likely be packing Christmas away in storage until next year.

With that in mind, let us recall the words of Jaroslav Vajda, set to music by Carl Schalk, two beloved hymn writers of the Lutheran Faith.



*Where shepherds lately knelt
and kept the angel's word
I come in half belief,
a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and
welcome there for me,
But there is room and
welcome there for me.*

*Can I, will I forget how Love was born
and burned its way into my heart —
Unasked, unforced, unearned;
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS and LETTERS

A NOTE ON THE CALL COMMITTEE

At the Congregation Council Meeting on December 13th, the Call Committee was nominated to begin our quest for our future pastor. Those serving are Council Representative, Karen McIntyre; Transition Team Representative, Grace Grary; Youth Representative, Will Schuette; At Large, Jake Young, Ben Gray and Yvette Barton; Alternate, Diane deWitt. Our prayers are with them as they begin their search.

CLAMS

(Concerned Lutherans at Messiah)

There were 21 attending our Christmas luncheon. Ham was provided while side dishes were prepared and shared with those attending. Heidi Carpenter presented another outstanding puppet show program for the group. Afterwards we sang some familiar Christmas songs and enjoyed sharing time with each other. All were reminded to continue collecting school supplies for LWR and food, deodorant, and soap for DEEM.

The January meeting will be held on Friday, January 8th at 11:00 a.m. Brunch will be provided. All are invited.

Thank You . . . To Karen McIntyre and the many others serving on the Altar Guild for your time and wonderful ministry of to Messiah this past year. God bless you!

A friend from Messiah.

Also, MANY THANKS to the Chancel Choir for their many hours of music and worship leadership during the Advent and Christmas Season. Without your gifts of music, this sacred time of year would have been silent and void, an interesting thought not often realized

A THANK YOU to Diane deWitt for her many hours of help in the church office..

And, **THANKS** a bunch to all those who helped make things just right "*behind the scenes!*"

Church Women United

The Annual meeting of Church Women United will be held at Decatur First United Methodist Church on January 15th at 9:45 A.M. 2010 officers will be installed at this meeting.

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

Happy 2010 to All!



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 January is given to the glory of God by "Chick" Jones and in honor of her children, Tommy, Phil and Steve.

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.*

ATTENDANCE COMPARISON

Average attendance for December 2008: 107

Average attendance for December 2009: * 108

	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Sat.	Sat.	8:30	8:30	11:00	11:00
1st week	6	n/a	19	17	78	71
2nd week	21	n/a	28	14	169	69
3rd week	12	n/a	17	16	68	67
4th week	17	n/a	19	n/a	62	59
5th week	9	n/a	15	n/a	60	n/a

Includes Christmas Eve: 119

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Pledged Year to Date:	\$ 130,438.88
Pledges received YTD:	\$ 134,109.53
Total needed per month:	\$ 11,126.08
Total received this month:	\$ 12,868.40
Total needed YTD:	\$ 144,639.04
Total received YTD:	\$ 146,526.03

Complete financial figures will be available at the January 9th meeting.

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ABOVE & BEYOND

Flowers	\$150.00
Poinsettias	\$162.00
Angel Tree	\$340.00
Advent Midweek	\$370.00
Christmas Offering	\$1,291.00
I Care Appeal	\$75.00
World Hunger/Little Red Wagon	\$50.00

GIFTS OF NON-BUDGETED ITEMS \$2,438.00

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

Martin Luther

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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 JANUARY



*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.*

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.
May it be a time of grace for us, a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew our commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.
May it be a year of blessing for us, a time to embrace our faith more fully.
Walk with us in every day and every hour of this new year,
that the light of Christ might shine through us, in spite of our weaknesses and failings.
Above all, may we remember this year that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.
Amen