



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

# THE MISSAL

FEBRUARY 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

**February 14**

*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

**February 17**

*Ash Wednesday*

Liturgies at 7 pm

**February 21**

*First Sunday in Lent*

**February 24**

*Evening Prayer at 7 pm*



Serving Christ since 1932

*"I would rather wear the smudge on my forehead than to admit its residence upon my soul."*

by Safiyah Fosua

I find these words from author by Safiyah Fosua (quoted on a Methodist resource page) a succinct confession with which many might agree. Often we find it hard to admit to our spiritual struggles, empty feelings, sin, or spiritual smudges. Worse yet, church can become the place where we smile and put on our socially acceptable faces, rarely sharing deep questions or concerns.

Mercifully, there is the church season of Lent. As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). During Lent we have a time of more subdued worship; more of the liturgy is spoken, no flowers adorn the altar, a minor key is heard. It's a time to reflect, confess and find again ways to open our souls to God.

**Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>**, and we will mark our foreheads with the ashes of repentance and honesty. Worship that evening and every evening during Lent will focus on "The Lord's Prayer." Martin Luther reportedly described the Lord's Prayer as the greatest martyr, "for everybody tortures and abuses it." The abuse of the Lord's Prayer has us *saying it*, rather than *praying it*. Abuse has us reciting words without letting them penetrate our minds and hearts.

Rather than rote repetition, our worship will offer a time of exploring the meaning of the words and a time of meditation upon them.

The schedule is this:

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday: Our longing for God

February 24<sup>th</sup>: God's Name

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: God's Kingdom and Will

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Our Need for Daily \_\_\_\_\_

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Forgiveness

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Deliverance from Evil

A dinner precedes each service (except Ash Wednesday) with food being served from 6:00-6:30 pm. This time frame will allow ample time for cleaning up and quieting down before the 7:00 pm beginning of worship. During Lent, intercessory prayer group will meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm.

**Maundy Thursday** Service this year will NOT include a meal. Come directly to the nave for the 7:00 pm worship. On **Good Friday** a solemn service of Tenebrae will be held at 7:00 pm. One glorious service of Easter Sunday Worship will be held at 11:00 a.m.

May this Lenten season be a time to tend and prepare your heart and soul.

*Pastor Mary*



**Ash Wednesday**  
**is a reminder of humanity!**

**Join Us on February 17th at 7 PM**  
**for the Liturgies of this holy day.**  
**Holy Communion and**  
**Imposition of Ashes**

#### **A TABLE PRAYER DURING LENT**

O God, you have borne us  
on eagle's wings from death to  
life. You have set this food  
on our table;  
we eat and are satisfied.

Blessed are you,  
our wings toward life.

Gather up all those who are  
hungry or helpless or harassed,  
that none may fall by the way,  
but all may be saved by your

### **What is Lent?**

Lent is a 40 day season of the church year that runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week. The Bible readings, hymns and worship focus on the ministry, suffering and death of Jesus.

#### **Why do we need Lent?**

As the Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Our sins have cut us off from God and God's good and gracious intention for our lives. The season of Lent recalls for us how God in his mercy sent his sinless Son, Jesus, to take our sins upon himself and receive the punishment of sin by dying on a cross so that we might be forgiven, given new life and sent out to live as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

#### **Why do people give things up for Lent?**

People choose to give things up for Lent, as a sacrifice, reminding them of Jesus' great sacrifice. As a society we have moved away from this practice, but sacrifice can be a good thing. Sometimes people can take things up for Lent - regular prayer, Bible study, and participating in Lenten worship times.

#### **What does the Ash in Ash Wednesday mean?**

We receive the sign of the cross on our forehead the first day of Lent and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The ashes remind us of our mortality. The ashes are associated with sorrow over sins and acts of repentance.

#### **Why does Lent last 40 days?**

The Bible tells us that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness before his public ministry began. The 40 days of Lent (not including Sundays) signify a time of preparation and a time the significance of what Jesus has done for the world.

#### **Why does Lent begin at a different time each year?**

It's all about Easter. The festival of Christmas is celebrated on the same date each year but the date of Easter changes. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This is done to parallel the Jewish lunar calendar and its observance of Passover.




**MEMBERS**

BETTY BELVILLE                      LOU COLVALT  
 KATHERINE COPENHAVER   CAROLINE GAM-  
 MELL  
 SUE GREGG - TOMMY LANE - LILLIAN  
 RUHNKE

**FRIENDS**

Gary Atkins - brother of David Atkins  
 Kelly Bannevans - friend of Yvette & Keith Barton  
 John Barker - brother of Anne Burr  
 Howard Barton - father of Keith Barton  
 Isaiah Brawb - grandson of Jenny & Frank Watson  
 Brown Family - death of Eileen Ward  
 Al Buchler - father of Mike Theiss  
 Mike Campbell - nephew of Joe Attaway  
 Glad Comey - friend of Tom Carpenter  
 Papa Doug Conley  
 Arthur Coutour - uncle of Candice Scott

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  
 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  
 Jeff Paterson - friend of Alfred DuPree  
 Amanda Phillips - niece of Gail Guzman  
 Rachel  
 Marcia Richt - friend of the congregation  
 Adam Rydell - friend of Messiah  
 Rosie Servin - friend of Sallie Schlosstein  
 Sherri Smith - friend of David Atkins



*Our Sincere Condolences to . . .*

*David, Betty, Michael, Tyler Young and their Family and beloved ones at the death of **Jacob Hosea Young, Jr.**, "Pastor Jake," on January 7th at his residence, Clairmont Oaks. A Memorial Service was held at Messiah on January 10th with Pastors Mary Peters and Haco von Hacke officiating. Burial was at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Wilmington, North Carolina.*

***"Rest eternal grant him, O Lord,  
 and may perpetual light shine upon him."***

***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 Lenten Opportunity***

Beginning February 21st, the First Sunday in Lent, you will find three baskets on the hallway table leading to the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to place a slip of paper in two of those baskets noting ~

- † **Lenten Prayer Requests**
- † **Fasting: What you are giving up for Lent**  
*(no name required)*

In the third basket, you may leave pocket change or coins for the poor from your home and/or car

- † **Alms giving**

We will be blessed at sharing with those less fortunate and giving during this penitent season.

**WORLD HUNGER APPEAL  
AND LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

"The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is responding to the earthquake in Haiti through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)," wrote the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, in a Jan. 13 letter to members. Hanson, who is also president of the LWF, noted that the ELCA has committed substantial funds to support relief efforts, and encouraged members to share information and provide financial gifts. The ELCA is thankful for partners in the relief effort. Hanson wrote that the LWF staff in Haiti is coordinating the responses of Protestant and Orthodox churches throughout the world through Action by Churches Together (ACT). The ACT Alliance is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working together in disaster response and development. The ELCA



is member of the alliance.

The ELCA churchwide organization is also coordinating with the efforts of the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod, which is working to provide disaster support "to and possibly through the emerging Lutheran church in Haiti," he wrote.

More information on how you can contribute will be available on Sunday. You can also go to [ELCA Haiti Response](#) or to [Lutheran World Relief](#).

Please keep the people of Haiti in your prayers as well as the family of Benjamin Judd Larson, a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. Ben Larson's wife, Renee Splichal Larson, and his cousin, Jonathan Larson, were in the same building as Ben at the time of the earthquake. Renee and Jonathan "made it out, eventually found each other, then returned to St. Joseph Guest House in the attempt to rescue Ben, to no avail." Ben, Renee and Jonathan are fourth-year Wartburg seminarians certified for ordination. They traveled together to Haiti to help with the new Haiti Lutheran Church. Ben was teaching at the Pastors and Lay Leaders Theological Conference in Haiti.

~ Pastor Mary

## **Hunger Walk | Run 2010, Sunday, March 14, 2010**

*A project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank*

**JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER.** Your \$25 10K race application fee will benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Bring your whole family for a day of fun and games for a good cause. Enjoy carnival games, space walk, food, drinks and more!

The total amount raised by Messiah for 2009 was \$490 from which LSG allocated \$177 to Messiah for our S.O.S. (Sandwiches On Saturday/Sunday) program to help feed Meals on Wheels Recipients for the week end.

Turner Field • Sunday, March 14, 2010 "Day-of" Registration @ 12:00. 10K Run @ 1:00 • 5K Walk @ 2:30

Packets are here!



### **Register Now!**

You are invited to attend the annual Catch the Spirit two day retreat on **February 5 & 6, 2010** at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atlanta, GA. David Stark from Changing Church is the keynote speaker. There are several workshops to choose from that will encourage growth and transformation in the church.

Cost is \$25 prepaid or \$30 at the door. Visit the website: [synod-office@elca-ses.org](mailto:synod-office@elca-ses.org) to register online, view the schedule and workshop descriptions.

## ***Souper Bowl of Caring - Feb. 7, 2010***

This national, youth-led effort takes place annually on the same day as the NFL Super Bowl. Join other ELCA youth groups and congregations and take part in the next [Souper Bowl of Caring](#). This annual event is a grassroots movement of caring, the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in our communities. The youth will collect donations (paper, coin, or check) in "soup pots." Gifts to be divided between Lutheran Community Food Ministry and D.C.M.'s Project Take Charge.



### ***A Tip on Wellness***

## **LASTING RESOLUTIONS**

One must continually recommit to the New Year's resolutions we make for a healthier lifestyle. Don't fall prey to common excuses that prevent success:

1. Not enough time for exercise or to eat healthy food.
2. The gym is too expensive.
3. "I just can't quit" that poor habit.
4. Too tired to exercise.

A simple brief walk is free, and beneficial. Eating an apple takes less time to eat than a bag of chips. Refocus on what you can do rather than what you can't do. Poor diet and lack of exercise can lead to fatigue, while regular exercise can improve energy levels. You have the power to make positive change. Go for it!

*From an article by Angie Ferguson, exercise physiologist, News Press, January 5, 2010. Re-printed with permission.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and LETTERS

Dear Messiah Family,

Words cannot express our feelings of gratitude to all of you for the food, fellowship, hugs, love and concern given to us after Dad's death. All of it was greatly appreciated during a very difficult time. May God bless you all.

Love,  
The Family of Rev. Jacob H. Young, Jr.

### **CLAMS**

*(Concerned Lutherans at Messiah)*

CLAMS did not meet in January due to inclement weather, however we will be meeting on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Brunch will be provided – no need to bring any food. We will be discussing programs for 2010 and we will continue to collect school supplies for LWR and food items, deodorant, etc. for Decatur Cooperative Ministry. All are invited to come and fellowship with us.

### *Church Women United*

The DeKalb Unit of Church Women United met at Decatur First United Methodist Church on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> for our annual meeting and installation of new officers. The Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert of Disciples of Christ Christian Church in Decatur officiated. The World Day of Prayer Celebration will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Decatur Presbyterian Church. Registration begins at 9:45 a.m. and the Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Celebrations are open to all. All programs are written by affiliates from all over the world. Ingathering is for diapers for Our House, clothes for Oakhurst Family Center, women's hygiene products for Breakthru House, and household items and cleaning products for Interfaith Outreach Home. Hope to see you there.

### **CALL COMMITTEE NEWS**

On Tuesday evening, January 26<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Darrell Peterson, Assistant to Bishop Gordy, met with the newly formed Call Committee to begin Messiah's pastoral call process. Information shared and discussed consisted of:

- 1.) the importance of proceeding prayerfully and as a team, throughout the process.
- 2.) the importance of confidentiality throughout the process;
- 3.) the importance of keeping the congregation informed without breaching confidentiality;
- 4.) the importance of compiling an accurate and timely site profile of Messiah, which serves as our resume;
- 5.) the importance of gathering information from the congregation, as well as, the community;

Lastly, the committee elected the following:

Karen McIntyre, *chair*  
Diane DeWitt, *secretary*  
and Grace Crary, *chaplain*

We are blessed to be serving with our teammates,  
Yvette Barton  
Ben Gray  
Will Schuette, *youth representative*

The next meeting will be a planning session and Community Advisory Forum on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> following the 11 o'clock worship.

Respectively,  
Karen J. McIntyre

**Please NOTE:  
Our e-mail address is  
[Lmessiah@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 February is given to the glory of God by the Worship and Music Committee and in celebration of Pastor Mary's first year of ministry among us as our transition pastor.

*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 2010 Offering Envelopes . . .**

. . . are available in the copy room across from the church office on Sundays. Please stop and pick yours up to help us save some postage.

**ATTENDANCE COMPARISON**

Average attendance for January 2010: 66

Average attendance for January 2009: 89

	2009	2010	2009	2010
	8:30	8:30	11:00	11:00
1st week	22	11	54	25
2nd week	27	n/a	67	56
3rd week	26	19	64	63
4th week	27	13	69	69
5th week	n/a	18	n/a	54

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Pledged Year to Date:	\$ 12,019.23
Pledges received YTD:	\$ 12,560.05
Total needed per month:	\$ 13,173.08
Total received this month:	\$ 12,991.40
Total needed YTD:	\$ 13,173.08
Total received YTD:	\$ 12,991.40

**GIFTS FOR MINISTRY ABOVE & BEYOND**

Initial	\$170.00
Eternal Candle	\$15.00
Flowers	\$200.00
Rent	\$350.00
DEAM	\$100.00
Presents for His Presence	\$50.00
ELCA Earthquake Relief	\$330.00
Jake Young Memorial	\$35.00
Ione Murphy Memorial	\$155.00
World Hunger/Little Red Wagon	\$99.00
Youth Recycling	15.70

**GIFTS OF NON-BUDGETED ITEMS \$1,519.70**



**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE MESSIAH**  
465 Clairemont 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 FEBRUARY



*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, we praise you for the gift of faithful leaders.  
We thank you at this time for our newly elected council members and Call Committee.  
As they begin the tasks and assume the responsibilities for which they have been chosen,  
grant them wisdom, sensitivity, courage, and energy for their ministries.  
We pray that You would grant them great boldness to carry out Your will,  
leading by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the truth found in Your Word.  
It is through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray, trusting in your mercy.

Amen