

Messiah Lutheran Church

www.wefoundmessiah.org

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500 Baytree Road

Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv.

Ministers: Every Member

Church Office: 244-0143

Pastor's Home: 244-2831



If any
want to
become
my
followers
let them
deny
themselves
and take up
their cross and
F·O·L·L·O·W M·E

M A T T H E W 1 6 : 2 4

August 31, 2008

Proclaiming GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

*WELCOME WITH JOY AND A FEW SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS
RINGING OF THE BELLS AND SILENT MEDITATION*

+ please stand as you are able for these parts of the service

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of compassion,

All we confess that we have failed to bear witness that you desire to draw all people to yourself.

In our hearts we have thought ill of those who differ from us, and our love of others has not been genuine.

We have been caught up in the cares of the world.

We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships.

Forgive our sins, merciful God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for those in need, and that our lives may witness to your never-failing love for your creation.

Amen.

P Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven.

The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

All Amen.

P Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
C **Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.**

P The God who created the world and fills it with life
be with you all.
C **And also with you.** (*Greet one another in the pew around with the unity
and peace offered through our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

+ KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy;
C **Christ, have mercy;**
P Lord, have mercy.

+ HYMN OF PRAISE LBW, Setting One, p. 60

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of
suffering for the sake of the world.
C **Humble us by his example, point us to the path of
obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands,**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A READING FROM **Romans 12**

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LBW, p.

83

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Get behind
Me, Satan
Sunday



+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced

P The Gospel according to **St. Matthew 16**

C Glory to you, O Lord

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SUMMONS HYMN

RWSB # 276

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name,
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show,
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

TODAY’S MESSAGE

“SHAPED BY THE SPIRIT: Part 2, Practice Modesty in an MTV
World”

Is your life shaped by the values and viewpoints of this age or shaped by the Spirit and mercies of God? God has given some practical advice in Romans 12 on how your life is now shaped by the Spirit through faith in Christ to bring the best out of you!

+ WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

P/ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**original and preferred text means throughout the world*

+ PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response:

P Hear us, O God;

C your mercy is great.

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

C Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for you have created all things and by your will they exist and were created. Therefore, day and night we never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

+ SANCTUS

LBW # 165

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

+ LORD'S PRAYER

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All good gifts come from God.

C We come with gratitude to this table of bounty.

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? Our beliefs about Holy Communion ...At Messiah Lutheran Church, the Holy Supper of our Lord is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that we receive "the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink." Our Lord welcomes to His table those who have faith in these words, "given for you" and "shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin." Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

BOB #202

“Spirit Song”

John Wimber

O let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love,
Let Him fill your life and satisfy your soul.
O let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy,
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
O give Him all your tears and sadness,
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

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Sixteenth
Sunday after
Pentecost



WOV # 649 I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race. We shall know the joy of Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

LBW # 444

“With the Lord begin your task”

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For his aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And, when day is ended,
In his name then close your eyes; Be to him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With his presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
In his promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

P O God, our provider, you nourish us with holy food and
drink, and you open our hearts to the needs of others.

**C Refresh us with your Spirit, that our words and deeds may
proclaim your creative and life-giving Word, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

+ THE BLESSING

+ SENDING

LBW p. 72

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, live the Gospel. **C Thanks be to God.**

Have a Happy Labor Day!

WOW! PETER GOES FROM
HERO TO ZERO
IN JUST FIVE VERSES!

THE POINT ISN'T TO BE A HERO.
THE POINT IS TO FOLLOW JESUS.

OH... RIGHT!
AND THEN
BE A HERO!



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MATTHEW 16:21-28

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.

Announcements and news for the week of August 31 – September 7, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM
MONDAY	LABOR DAY		
WEDNESDAY	Jr. Confirmation Instruction	5:00	PM
	Choir	7:30	PM
THURSDAY	Thursday Crafts & Lifelifter	9:00	AM
	Baytree AA Group	7:30	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA Group	7:00	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes resume	9:15	AM
	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM
	Grandparents' Day		
	RALLY DAY PICNIC after church		

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... "God's Love, Our Response"

2008 Budget Goal	\$ 134,716.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,591.00
Goal to Date	\$ 88,094.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 08/24	\$ 98,357.00
Offering for 2008 Budget 08/24	\$ 2,208.00*
*inc \$25 food allowance from Lowndes County Board of Elections	
Weekly average for 34 weeks	\$ 2,893.00

Designated Offerings:

Poll Worker Wages paid by Lowndes County Board of Elections	\$ 515.00
Building Fund	\$ 0.00
Other (organ fund)	\$ 0.00

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that ... having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9: 8)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God’s love to bloom where you are planted from Cherylene & Bo Miller on their 42nd wedding anniversary, (9/2); and from Valerie & Bob Behnke on their 35th wedding anniversary.

Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS: Mary Kinchen (8/26 belated), Nikki Williamson (8/28 belated); Gloria Cook, Silke Deeley (9/2); Leilani Welch (9/4); Nancy Johnson (9/5).. Missed **on this list?**
Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Corey Christians and Jeremy Christians (father & son both in Korea) At US bases: Kevin Sparks (Robins AFB, GA) Brian Sparks (Navy, VA)

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS

Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home
Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home
Mike Lagioia, Heritage House Nursing Home

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Dan Jansen, having surgery to install plate in his skull on Wednesday
Hooray for Jori Hall, hooray for God... she received her heart transplant and all is well so far.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
Vi Heidemann, heart condition
Nancy Johnson, outpatient surgery Friday

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig’s disease	Rae Hubbard	friend’s brother
Steve Robkin	brain tumor	Teri Williams	Rob’s step-dad
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Pr. Duane Hoyer	brain tumor	Warren Gee	friend
Lil Lawrence	hospice care	Vincent family	sister
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Lorna	declining health	Linda Klement	mother in MN
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer’s	Betty Zipperer	sister
Millie Kram	pancreatic cancer	Nancy Stewart	friend
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle

Elizabeth Rabon cancer
 Amber O'Quinn brain tumor
 Jori Hall heart transplant list
 Linda Brightwell cancer
 Landon Adkins (age 5) serious allergic reactions
 Diane McNamara breast cancer
 Marcia Futch Jordan back surgery (7/22)
 Yvette Milton cancer
 Roger heart attack
 Sarah Volloton hospice care
 Trudy Sigmon tumor on tongue
 Sandy hip surgery
 Linda depression
 Ruth Eikelberg tests
 Barbara Perdue extensive surgery

Erin Jansen grandmother
 Pr Richard VSU student
 Friends LHS student
 Tina Wright friend/co-worker
 Janie Jansen friend
 Pat Simpson niece
 Pat Simpson friend
 Ellen Mitchell friend
 Linda/Gary Klement friend
 Stephen Sparks friend
 Nancy Stewart friend
 Linda Klement friend
 Nancy Stewart friend
 Nancy Stewart mother in MI
 Betty Zipperer friend

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano
 Reader & Communion Assistants
 Acolyte
 Presenter, Children's message
 Greeters
 Nursery
 Ushers

Altar preparation/Chancel care
 Sound tech
 Custodians
 Altar linen
 Flower service
 Flower beds
 Grass cutting
 Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials

Church Council.....
 Kay Vincent, president
 Jan Sparks, financial secretary
 Jeff Moxley, stewardship
 Bo Miller, worship
 John Mitchell, property

Kay Vincent
 John & Ellen Mitchell
 Rhys Spencer
 Nancy Sult, Linda Welch
 Margaret Rupp, Mildred Evans
 Deanease Willis
 George Vincent, Lisa Vincent
 Jeff Willis,
 Ellen Mitchell
 Volunteer
 Bob & Valerie Behnke
 Fran Sparks, Jan Sparks
 Helen Whitten
 Whitten family
 Fred Daniels 245-0483
 Laverne Smith 229 387-6060

Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
 Kathy Lane, treasurer
 Cindy Mitchell, youth
 Bob Burns, evangelism
 Dana Black, Christian Ed.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

Sept 7

Sept 14

Sept 21

Reader: *D Beckey*
Com Assist: *D Beckey*
Acolyte: *A Sweeney*

Rae Hubbard, J Moxley
G Vincent M Moxley
B Nelson C Christians

Chancel:	<i>K. Shooley</i>	<i>I. Finney</i>	<i>C. Shooley</i>
Nursery:	<i>L. Jansen</i>	<i>T. Wright</i>	<i>V. Behnke</i>
Greeters:	<i>C. Mitchell</i>	<i>D. Beckey</i>	<i>D. Willis</i>
	<i>N. Boyd</i>	<i>D. Beckey</i>	<i>J. Willis</i>
Ushers:	<i>W. Gee</i>	<i>D. Beckey</i>	<i>B. France</i>
	<i>B. Gee</i>	<i>D. K. Suball</i>	<i>T. France</i>
	<i>I. Finney</i>	<i>B. Belos</i>	<i>M. Dauphinais</i>
		<i>K. Belos</i>	

Mission Statement

A place of worship for all to know Christ, be energized by the Gospel and share Christ's love.

Grace & Peace from Pr. Richard

One last time: we're just getting warmed up so it's not too late to join the Sunday Class crowd. Kids and youth meet in the fellowship hall area and the adults meet with me around the table by the church office. + + + Also, I'm pleased to announce again that Marjorie Fix will give direction to our choir this season. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, Sept. 3, 7:30 pm. There's a cute song, "A Place in the Choir", with a chorus that goes: "All God's critters got a place in the choir, Some sing low and some sing higher, some sing out loud on the telephone wire and some just clap their hands or paws or anything they got now." If you can do any of that, you're more than welcome to join the choir on Wednesdays and sing with us most Sundays. "It's a simple song, a livin' song everywhere By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear; the grumpy alligator and the hawk above, the sly raccoon and the turtle dove." Do any of these critters have names? + + + Our Christian condolences to Gary & Jane Vickers who had very extensive damage to their home due to TSFay that the insurance sent its "disaster team" to clean up the mess and begin repairs. The tree that fell into their kitchen had to be removed by a crane. Lee & Susan Keller's son, Tim, had severe damage to some cars and a storage room on their property. Helen & Jake Whitten had water damage in their house, Rev. John & Renee Akers car was smashed by a tree, and as I mentioned last week Jan Bristow had a limb through her roof. Thankfully no one was injured. + + + Sandy Adams and Rae Hubbard sent some wonderful news. The LHS student, Jori Hall got her heart transplant on Aug. 22 after months of waiting at Shands hospital in Gainesville, FL, and that so far all has gone well.

THANKS FOR CARING

The "FLOOD RELIEF" funds collected in August for the Midwest will be sent this week. For every \$2 received, Thrivent financial will donate

\$1 up to \$250,000. Funds will be disbursed through Lutheran World Relief. The fund drive ends today so if you wish please use the jar on the greeter's registry desk to make a donation. Make checks payable to South Central GA Chapt. Thrivent.

REMINDER: Rally Day Picnic will be Sunday, September 7, following our morning worship! Activities and games for the kids and lots of food for all to enjoy ... dress is casual ... Come!

Lost and Found

In an age where self-actualization and finding oneself are high cultural values, it can be easy to see these tasks as a steady trajectory toward a fixed end, one that we can control.

Jesus says, on the other hand, that in order to find our life—our identity—we must seek to lose our lives. We are to identify with Jesus so completely that he becomes our identity. And here's the ace-in-the-hole, the part that even our therapists and life coaches can accept: It's not that we identify with Jesus in order to forget who we are—to forget the childhood that wasn't perfect and the mistakes we made as teenagers and the people we've hurt along the way. We identify with Jesus in order to remember who we are—children of God who are created by God.

So what of Peter? He's just been named the Rock and handed the keys to the kingdom. But now he's trying so hard to protect this newfound identity that he forgets how he got it in the first place. It's no wonder that when his hopes for the kingdom are threatened and Jesus talks about death, Peter is the one to say—"Hold up."

Jesus diagnoses Peter correctly—he is clinging to his new self-understanding as "right-hand man" more than he is clinging to God. It's his protectiveness and rigidity that earn him the name Satan, not his zeal.

When Jesus says that we must lose our lives, he's not offering a formula. Jesus is asking for a willingness to accept something different from what we've planned or expected, a willingness for Peter to relinquish his understanding of the rock. It's only this

willingness to follow a meandering path and to give up our control over the outcome that results in the found life we all look for.

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