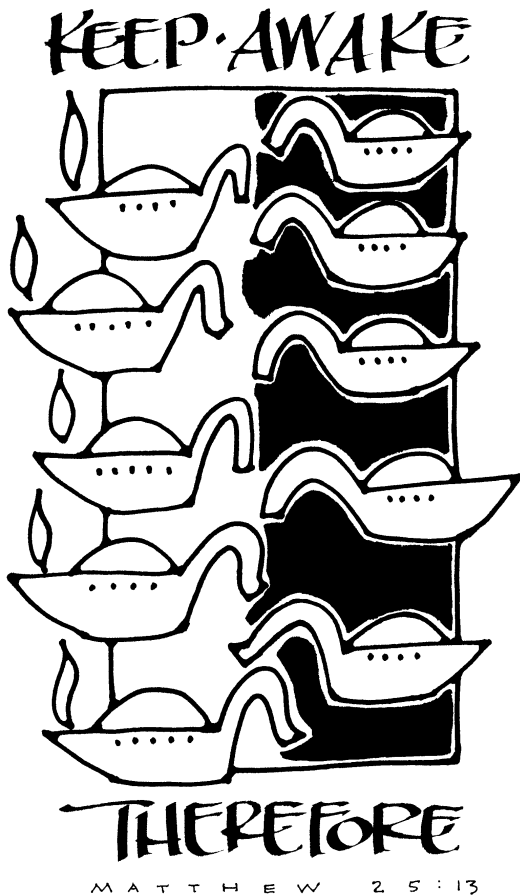


Messiah Lutheran Church

www.wefoundmessiah.org

Email messiahluth500@bellsouth.net

500 Baytree Road Valdosta, Georgia 31602
Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv. Ministers: Every Member
Church Office: 244-0143 Pastor's Home: 244-2831



November 09, 2008
Proclaiming GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense
Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! During November our liturgy is filled with images of the communion of saints, judgment, and a second coming of Christ. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. We gather for the eucharist—the marriage feast of the Lamb—that we may live each day to the fullest. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory.

**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

+ **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

C Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth.

C You are the everlasting wellspring.

P You gather your people from sea to sea.

C You quench our thirst, and you comfort all who weep.

P Your Son stands among us, Shepherd and Lamb, to lead all the saints through death to life.

C Pour out your Holy Spirit.

P May (this) water be a sign of the end of all tears; for we stand under the name above every name, Jesus your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ **GREETING**

P Beloved, remembered by God and remembering both the call and the promises of God: the everlasting love of the Father, the gift of the Son, and the strength of the Holy Spirit 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.*)

+ **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 of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with
the words of your Son.

**C Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of
others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

A READING FROM 1 Thessalonians 4

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNG BY THE CHOIR

“Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure”

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced

P The Gospel according to **Matthew 25**

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

⁶"But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

¹³"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

RWSB # 102

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

REFRAIN

Children, don't grow weary, children, don't grow weary,
Children, don't grow weary, for this work's almost done.

Darker mid-night lies before us,
Darker mid-night lies before us,
Darker mid-night lies before us,
for this work's almost done.

REFRAIN

Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for this work's almost done.

REFRAIN

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.

REFRAIN

TODAY'S MESSAGE

"Why All the Fuss About Oil?"

Are you prepared, whatever may come? What is the "oil" that keeps your lamp "lit?" The parable of the bridegroom and the ten bridesmaids in today's gospel is a reminder to keep our focus on Christ—the bridegroom.

+ PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE
Response:

P We pray in hope, C **make all things new.**

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
C **for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. 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, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

+ SANCTUS

LBW # 175

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:

"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, All saints triumphant, raise the song:

"Alleluia! Alleluia," Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

+ LORD'S PRAYER

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Saints of God, taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? 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:

LBW # 383

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts With nobler zeal
might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;
As heirs of God's baptismal grace, His word of hope
proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom's task embrace;
Redress sin's cruel consequence; Give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
Stretch forth your hand of healing now, With love the weak
sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek The paths which Christ has

trod

And quickened by the Spirit's power, Rise up, O saints of
God!

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P O God, we have found refuge in the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ, and we have truly tasted that the Lord is good.

C **May your holy goodness instill in us holy fear, endless
praise, and continual longing for the fullness of your
kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ THE BLESSING

P We serve a resurrected Lord who calls both the living and the
dead to new life.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING

WOV # 744

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Announcements and news for the week of November 9 – November 16, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	26 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM
MONDAY	Joyful Noise Lunch at Barberitos on Baytree Road	11:45	AM
	Church Council	7:00	PM
TUESDAY	VETERAN'S DAY		
WEDNESDAY	Jr. Confirmation class	5:00	PM
	Choir	7:30	PM
THURSDAY	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA group reserved fellowship hall for a special meeting	9:00 AM – 12	PM
	Baytree AA grop	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	27 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM

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	\$ 114,004.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 11/02	\$ 122,029.00
Offering Last Sunday 11/02	\$ 3,115.00*
*incl \$16 from Thursday lunch bunch	
Weekly average for 44 weeks	\$ 2,779.00

Designated Offerings:

Building Fund	\$ 110.00
Organ Fund	\$ 20.00

"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 Lisa Tinney in honor of Dana Black's birthday (11/17) and by the Sheeley's in honor of Kathy's birthday (11/14).

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 THIS WEEK: George Vincent (11/12); Roger Sparks, Kathy Sheeley (11/14); Jake Whitten (11/15). Missed *on this list?* **Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.**

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Jeremy Christians in Korea; Dan Shannon deployed to Iraq 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

Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones

Vi Heidemann, heart condition

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Comfort for the family of Lillian Lawrence who joined the saints triumphant on Tuesday, especially her mother, Isabelle Vincent.

Born to Javon & Dawn Longieliere, on Monday, Nov. 3, Cade Ashton Longieliere.

We salute our veterans with a prayer

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig's disease	Rae Hubbard	friend's brother
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
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Lorna	hospice care	Linda Klement	mother in MN
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer's	Betty Zipperer	sister
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	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Landon Adkins (age 5)	serious allergic reactions	Janie Jansen	friend
Diane McNamara	breast cancer	Pat Simpson	niece
Trudy Sigmon	tumor on tongue	Nancy Stewart	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	ICU	Nancy Stewart	mother in MI
Dr. Bradley Woodward	cancer	Pernell Jones	friend
Maebeth Gerisch	nursing home care	Ed Gerisch	wife
Charles Todd	tests on pancreas	Dana Black	friend
Melanie McDonald	brain seizures	Mary Kichen	cousin
Lisa Lane	cancer	Nan Boyd	coworker
Peter Dotlich	colon cancer	Bo Miller	friend
Dr. Peter Medrano	pulmonary fibrosis	Pr Richard	friend
Suzanne Padgett	chemo pending	Kay Vincent	coworker
Will Parker	stroke, surgery pending	Dorothy Hauge	brother-in-law
Karen Lane	tests for tumor at Mayo	Kathy Lane	Vern's daughter
Teri Williams,	complications with pregnancy		

Vickie Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	mother
Bobby Joe Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	step-father
Jamie Barnhart (25)	kidney failure	Amber O'Quinn	friend
Roger	heart issues	Linda Klement	friend
Roxann Allen	foot amputation	Nancy Stewart	niece
Felton Tyson	CICU heart attack	Deanese/Jeff Willis	friend

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano		Kay Vincent
Choir Director		Marjorie Fix
Reader		Cindy Sweeney
Communion Assistants		Nan Boyd
Acolyte		Alina Sweeney
Presenter, Children's message		Nancy Sult, Tina Wright
Greeters		Victoria & Edward Benavides
Nursery		Valerie Behnke
Ushers		Bo Miller, Jeff Moxley
		Jesse Sheeley
Altar preparation/Chancel care		Nan Boyd
Sound tech		Volunteer
Custodians		Bob & Valerie Behnke
Altar linen		Fran Sparks
Flower service		Helen Whitten
Flower beds		Whitten family
Grass cutting		Fred Daniels 245-0483
Floor Maintenance	Smith's Janitorials	Laverne Smith 229 387-6060
Church Council.....		
Kay Vincent, president		Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
Jan Sparks, financial secretary		Kathy Lane, treasurer
Jeff Moxley, stewardship		Cindy Mitchell, youth
Bo Miller, worship		Vacant, evangelism
John Mitchell, property		Dana Black, Christian Ed.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
Reader:	B Miller	D Rockey	J Moxley
Com Assist:	C Miller	D Rockey	M Moxley
Acolyte:	R Spencer	Z Moxley	B Nelson
Chancel:	L Grall	E Mitchell	C Sheeley
Nursery:	C Spencer	P Simpson	K Boles
Greeters:	M Rupp	W Gee	V Hodge
	M Evans	B Gee	H Hodge
Ushers:	W Gee	G Vincent	D Rockey
	B Gee	L Vincent	D Kluball
	W Tinney	J Willis	B Boles
	L Tinney	B Behnke	K Boles

Mission Statement

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

Christ's love.

This bulletin is published for use at Messiah Lutheran Church only. All rights reserved.

Get Ready to Serve

"Keep awake!" "Get ready!" "The time is almost near!" How many different ways can it be said? Something is about to happen, and if you don't pay attention you will miss it altogether! The parable of the bridegroom and the ten bridesmaids in today's gospel is a reminder to keep our focus on Christ—the bridegroom. Some have used parables such as this one to frighten people into conversion. However, the primary message is not "Hurry! Jump on the bandwagon and save yourselves before it is too late!" When understood in that way, we focus on ourselves, which is not what God in Christ is calling us to do.

We can be easily distracted by our own needs. In this story, the bridesmaids' need for sleep was more important than keeping watch for the bridegroom. Popular culture attempts to steal our attention away from Christ by drawing us inward, examining ourselves with a magnifying glass of vanity. Quickly, without noticing how we have been distracted, we are sucked into trying the latest diet fad or exercise routine, needing to own the biggest and most expensive automobile, stuffing our closets full of clothes we will never wear, accumulating each new electronic gadget that hits the stores. Our striving to better ourselves, to save ourselves, takes hold.

Before we know it we are drawn into the web of the evil one whose goal is to distract us from the one who can save us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. Our focus must be on Christ, who calls us to serve our neighbor, to work for justice and peace in the world. This is how we are called to be ready. There are people all around you who also need Jesus at the center of their lives, just as they need food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and gainful employment. In service to them, we witness that Jesus Christ is present in their lives and loves them—and us—unconditionally.

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress



“Thank You for Your Gift to Building on Faith 2008 in the amount of \$1,185.00” - Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity