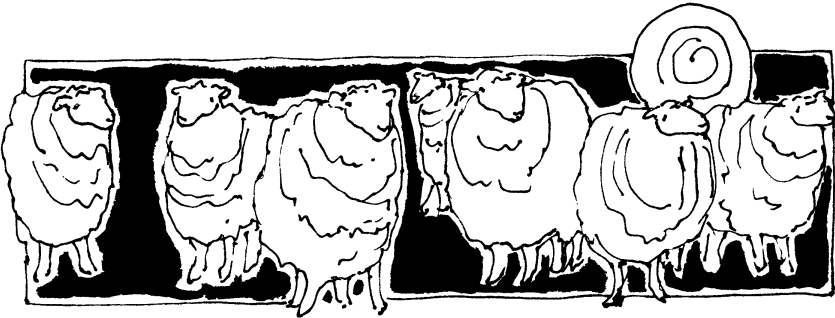


Messiah Lutheran Church

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



I WILL SEEK the LOST.
BRING BACK the STRAYED.
BIND UP the INJURED
STRENGTHEN the WEAK

E Z E K I E L 3 4 : 1 6

November 23, 2008
Proclaiming GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense
Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

**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 power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.

C Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A READING FROM **Ephesians 1**

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the

dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNG BY THE CHOIR

“Thanksgiving Medley”

arr. by Hal Wright

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced

P The Gospel according to **Matthew 25**
C **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

³⁴"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

⁴¹"Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to

Who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death my die.
Crown him the Lord of peace, Whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Absorbed in
prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, And round his pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet.

TODAY'S MESSAGE

"Thy Kingdom Comes! Out of Sight! But Who Knew?"

What an absolutely splendid way to bring the cycle of the church year to an end! Throughout this year we have found God in a manger, among lepers and the blind, in strange stories with unexpected twists, hanging on a cross, and missing from a vacated tomb! "When did we see you, Lord!" Both sheep and goat are shocked and surprised. "As you did it to the least... you did it to me." Who knew?

+ THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**ALL 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.

+ 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

BOB # 95

Hosanna, hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest;
Hosanna, hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest.
Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, O Lord, my God,
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

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+ 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:

PRAISE TO THE LORD LBW 543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of
creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and
salvation!

Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously
reigning

And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and
defend you;

Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend
you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore
him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises
before him!

Let the amen Sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

LBW 518

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,

Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moon-light,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!

+ 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.

Christ
the King
Sunday



RSVP at the greeter's desk for Thanksgiving pizza supper on Wednesday, 6pm.
and join in worship at 7: pm. HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND SAFE
JOURNEY TO ALL WHO WILL BE TRAVELING!

+ SENDING

LBW # 386

Christ is the king! O friends, rejoice;
Brothers and sisters, with one voice
Let the world know he is your choice
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, magnify the Lord, and raise
Anthems of joy and holy praise
For all his saints of ancient days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

So shall the Church at last be one;
So shall God's will on earth be done,
New lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Giving Out of Abundance

Several weeks ago, we listened as Jesus responded to the question, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus responded that there are actually two great commandments, to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." Today's gospel reading takes that statement a bit further. Jesus tells us that, when we care for those in need, it is the same as if we had done it for Jesus himself. In other words, it is in the loving of our neighbor that we most fully love God.

Christ's invitation to the great feast is unconditional, for all are welcome. But there is also an expected change of heart to be lived out in word and deed. Have we cared for those who are in need? If you have cared for those in need, then you have cared for me, Jesus says. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true.

If we selfishly hoard our possessions, if we ignore those in need in our world, loving ourselves more than our neighbors, it is the same as if we ignore Jesus himself.

Our care for our neighbors is born out of our love for and faith in Jesus Christ. For Matthew, refusing to care is akin to refusing to believe in Christ himself. In telling this parable, Jesus reminds us of all the blessings we have inherited through him in hopes that we would be moved to share equally with our neighbors. There are people in our world to feed and clothe, sicknesses to cure, hospitality to be shared. In other words, God's love is waiting to be shared with those in need. Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Announcements and news for the week of November 23 – November 30, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	Christ the King	10:30	AM
WEDNESDAY	THANKSGIVING SUPPER (RSVP on the greeter's table)	6:00	PM
	THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE	7:00	PM
	Choir (after service)		
THURSDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY		
	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	First Sunday in Advent	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	\$ 119,186.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 11/16	\$ 128,946.00
Offering Last Sunday 11/16	\$ 3,073.00*
*incl \$150 from AA for use on 11/15 also \$15 Thanksgiving offering	
Weekly average for 46 weeks	\$ 2,803.00

Designated Offerings:

Building Fund	\$ 70.00
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 John and Diane Schmidt in memory of Anne K. Schmidt and from Warren and Barbara Gee in thanksgiving of 53 years of marriage on 11/26.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION to approve a budget for 2009 and elect church council leaders will be held Dec. 14.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: *.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, Paul Kannon 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, Friendship Home

Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones

Vi Heidemann, heart condition

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Comfort for the family & friends of Trudy Sigmon (Nancy Stewart's friend)and Lisa Prince (Montine & David Foutz' friend) who have joined the Saints Triumphant.

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
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	radiation treatment	Nancy Stewart	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	Rehab	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
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
Mike Patterson	chemo treatments	Jan Bristow	
Lisa Prince	pneumonia ICU	Montine/David Foutz	friend
Berry Shaffii	bone marrow transplant	Linda Welch	co-worker

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano		Kay Vincent
Choir Director		Marjorie Fix
Reader		Dick Rockey
Communion Assistants		Dena Rockey
Acolyte		Zach Moxley
Presenter, Children's message		Nancy Sult, Tina Wright
Greeters		Warren & Barbara Gee
Nursery		Pat Simpson
Ushers		George Vincent, Lisa Vincent
		Jeff Willis, Bob Behnke
Altar preparation/Chancel care		Ellen Mitchell
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 30	Dec 7	Dec 14
Reader:	J Moxley	Children/	C Pieplow
Com Assist:	M Moxley	youth	J Sparks
Acolyte:	B Nelson	Christmas service	C Christians

Chancel:	C Sheeley	L Tinney	K Sheeley
Nursery:	K Boles	D Willis	T Wright
Greeters:	V Hodge	E Mitchell	C Sweeney
	H Hodge	C Pieplow	N Boyd
Ushers:	D Rocky	E Sheeley	W Tinney
	D Kluball	JSheeley	L Tinney
	B Boles	B Miller	G Klement
	K Boles	JMoxley	L Klement

Mission Statement

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

GRACE AND PEACE BE YOURS from Pr. Richard

2 members are needed to serve a 2 year term on the church council beginning Jan. 2009. Nominations are requested for Financial Secretary and Evangelism. The role of the Financial Secretary is to count the weekly offering, record contributions and deposit into the bank. The role of the Evangelism leader is responsible for all evangelistic efforts of the congregation. If you have any interest in serving in these areas, please contact any member of the church council. The following have agreed to serve another term: Cindy Sweeney, youth work; Sandy Adams, Vice Pres/secretary; Jeff Moxley, stewardship. A date for the annual congregation meeting to elect council members and approve an operational budget for 2009 has not yet been set.

LWML

“Christmas stockings”... jar in the narthex for you to empty your stockings by December 7.

Thank you from LWML for supporting all our mission projects throughout the year.

Due to the run-off election on December 2, and the Toys for Tots concert on December 9, the December meeting will be Monday, December 8, 7: PM. Joyful Noise lunch will be at the Red Lobster on December 8.



SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR THE SEASON

Wednesday, November 26, THANKSGIVING EVE

Pizza Supper 6: PM
Worship 7: PM

Saturday, November 29, Prepare the church for Advent (we will put up the Christmas tree and outside lights on Saturday, December 6, 9: AM.)

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday in Advent, Theme: "Recipes for Relationships: Covenant" Dedication of new blue paraments in memory of JoAnn Cross.

*Sunday, December 7, Second Sunday in Advent, Children's Service.

Monday, December 8, Joyful Noise Lunch at Red Lobster, 11:45 AM and LWML Christmas party, 7: PM.

Tuesday, December 9, TOYS FOR TOTS Concert presented by a group from VSU, 7:30 PM.

*Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday in Advent, Theme: "Recipes for Relationships: Grace"

Monday, December 15, Church Council Christmas at the Pieplows.

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday in Advent, Theme: "Recipes for Relationships: Empowerment"

Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:30 PM, Holy Communion Candlelight "Recipes for Relationships: Intimacy"

Christmas Day, December 25 Spend day with family and friends celebrating God's gift to the world... "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Joy to the world!

*** please note the date of the children's Christmas service has been changed from Dec. 14 to Dec. 7**

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