

Messiah Lutheran Church

www.wefoundmessiah.org

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Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv. Ministers: Every Member
Church Office: 244-0143 Pastor's Home: 244-2831



December 28, 2008
Proclaiming GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense
Est. January 3, 1956

*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

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

This service may be used during the twelve days of Christmas.

+ **GATHERING SONG**
Angels We have Heard on High LBW 71

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee! Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

+ **DIALOGUE**

P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

P Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

+ **OPENING PRAYER**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

C **Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *“God is near”*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

“I Wonder As I Wander” WOVS 642

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor ord’-n’ry people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow’s stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star’s light did fall;
The promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God’s angels in heav’n for to sing,
He surely could have had it, ‘cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die

For poor ord'-n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

“O little town of Bethlehem” LBW 41

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep The silent stars go
by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee
tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of
wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the
earth!

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his
heav'n.

No ear may hear his coming; But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ
enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

“Lo, how a rose is Growing” LBW 58

Lo, how a rose is growing, A bloom of finest grace;

The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesse's race
Would bear one perfect flow'r
Here in the cold of winter And darkest mid-night hour.

This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in
fear.

True God and yet true man,
He came to save his people From earth's dark night of sin.

O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt all human woe;
O Savior, king of glory, Who triumphed o'er our foe:
Bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of heaven And into endless day.

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” LBW # 44

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings
bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the
morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the
morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born
for you!

Fifth Reading: Luke 2: 8-20

“On Christmas night” RWS 112

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the
angels bring.

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the
angels bring.

News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our
merciful king's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer
made us glad!

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer
made us glad,

When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels
sing this night.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels
sing this night:

"Glory to God in highest heav'n; peace on earth, and good-
will. Amen."

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

"What Child Is This" LBW 40

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is
sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and
angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate Where ox and ass are
feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne
for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant,
king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

“Love Has Come” RSW #116

Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

HOMILY

"Dream Come True"

+ THE NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from
the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

+ PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response:

P Gracious God,

C hear our prayer.

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing us your grace and truth.

C As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once again, all we have to offer is what you have given us. Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory and for your service, in the name of 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 It is indeed good and right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their undering hymn: LBW 42

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,

And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen

+ **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**
+ **LORD'S PRAYER**

+ **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come, all is ready.
Eat and drink the good news that is Christ Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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:

WOV #701

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come
from heaven/
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from
heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from
heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is
given?

This, this is Christ the king, the son come down from
heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from
heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is
given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” LBW, #50

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all
the earth;

Once you sang creation’s story; Now proclaim Messiah’s
birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the
new-born king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the
new-born king.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel:
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P God of all creation, you have set before us our inheritance of salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. You have filled us with your goodness and peace.

C **Use us that all might be satisfied with your abundance; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ **THE BLESSING**

P May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ **SENDING**

LBW 70

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry-where;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by
night,
Behold, through-out the heavens There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled When, lo, above the
earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

+ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**



MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Announcements and news for the week of December 28 – January 4, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes break until next week		
	1 st Sunday after Christmas	10:30	AM
THURSDAY	New Year's Day		
	Baytree AA Group	7:30	PM
FRIDAY	Holy Baptism of Shea Lorraine Kanning	4:00	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	2nd Sunday after Christmas	10:30	AM
	Installation of Church Council		

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	\$ 132,141.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 12/21	\$ 142,480.00
Offering Last Sunday 12/21	\$ 1,603.00
Poll Worker wages from Lowndes Board of Elections	\$ 510.00
Gift for needy	\$ 300.00
Weekly average for 51 weeks	\$ 2,794.00

Designated Offerings:

Poinsettias	\$ 10.00
Building Fund	\$ 0.00
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 Betty Zipperer in memory of husband, Paul's birthday and from Nancy and Dale Sult to the Glory of God.

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: Lee Keller, Deane Willis, Drew Pieplow (12/28); Kreg Schmidt, Bernice Koenemann (12/29); Rae Hubbard (1/2). 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, Kevin Sparks (Robins AFB, GA) Brian Sparks (Navy, VA) deployed to the middle east area.

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:

Charles Kluball, consultation with oncologist
Isabelle Vincent, cataract surgery postponed until 12/30
Nancy Stewart back surgery 12/31

Randall George carotid artery surgery 12/31 at Emory, Atlanta

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
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
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	Verne'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
Berry Shaffii	bone marrow transplant	Linda Welch	co-worker
Donna Bramlett	undergoing tests	Dick Rockey	sister
Alyssia Ventura	problems with MS	Silke/PatrickDeeley	daughter

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano		Kay Vincent	
Choir Director			Marjorie Fix
Reader			Norene Olsen
			Kathy Lane
Acolyte			Rhys Spencer
Presenter, Children's message		Nancy Sult, Tina Wright	
Greeters			Betty
Nursery		Zipperer, Fran Sparks	Valerie
		Behnke	
Ushers			George Vincent, Lisa
	Vincent		
	Behnke		Jeff Willis, Bob

Altar preparation/Chancel care	Cyndy Pieplow	Volunteer
Sound tech		Bob & Valerie
Custodians	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

	Jan4	Jan11	Jan18	
Reader:	J Moxley	D Kluball	C Christians	
Com Assist:	M Moxley	B Kluball	M Fix	
Acolyte:	Z Moxley	A Sweeney	C Christians	
Chancel:	N Boyd	J Jansen	P Simpson	
Nursery:		J Christians	M Foutz	J Hostetler
Greeters:		J Willis	J Sparks	C Miller
		D Willis	P Simpson	B Miller
Ushers:		W Tinney	R Behnke	D Kluball
		L Tinney	V Behnke	B Kluball
		G Klement	W Hostetler	C Sweeney
		G Vincent	J Hostetler	N Boyd

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

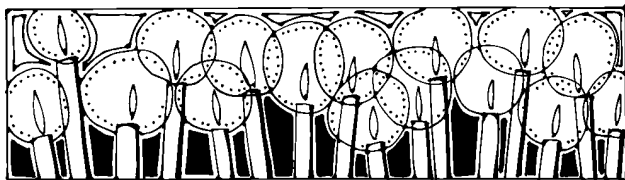
Christmas greetings and a gift in memory of Mrs. Margaret Lauber was sent to Messiah Lutheran by Jo and Terry Cawley. + + + Thank you to all the poinsettias donors. If you take your plant today, please leave the plastic tray underneath so that they can be reused. + + + Our church officers will close on the property adjoining our property on Tuesday afternoon. I would think that a dedication of the property and of the house for church use will be

announced as soon as possible. + + + As 2008 comes to the end of its run, it is probably inevitable that we begin to think about the future and what it will bring. We are usually wrong when we speculate about such things, because the future has a way of veering off in completely unexpected directions. This is what we hear in the voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna. It is good to join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

HUGE THANK YOU!

Cyndy and I are overwhelmed by the "Christmas gift" we received from the Church on Christmas Eve. We do not know who to thank personally, but a huge thank you to all of you for your gracious and generous gift to us. God bless and we love ya'll!

2009 OFFERING PACKETS are ready and available to be picked up today under the "mail box" rack. Thank you for your regular and weekly financial support of this ministry.



First
Sunday after
Christmas

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