

Messiah Lutheran Church

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500 Baytree Road

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Pastor's Cell: 561-2339

Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv.

Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Pastor's Home: 244-2831

Ministers: Every Member



December 13, 2009

Proclaiming GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Est. January 3, 195

MESSIAH MESSENGER

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

Announcements and news for the week of Dec 13 – Dec 20, 2009

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Welcome in the Name of the Messiah, Jesus, our Savior and Lord! Our children and youth present a special service for Christmas. We begin the service with the lighting of the Advent candles and a song by the choir to proclaim our joy at the news, the Savior of the world is coming!

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	am
	3 Advent	10:30	am
	Service led by the children and youth “Messengers for the Messiah” Brunch served by LWML Div. 3		
WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice	7:30	pm
THURSDAY	Thursday Group will resume in January		
	Baytree AA Group	7:00	pm
SATURDAY	Baytree AA Group	7:00	pm
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes on Christmas Break Resume Jan 10		
	4 th Sunday in Advent	10:30	am

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING OURSELVES, OUR TIME, OUR RESOURCES

2009 Budget Goal	\$ 134,486.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,586.00
2009 Goal to Date	\$ 126,727.00
Offerings for 2009 Budget – as of 12/06/09	\$ 131,911.00
Offering on 12/06/09	\$ 3,957.00
Weekly average for 49 weeks	\$ 2,692.00
Designated Offerings:	
Building Fund	\$ 50.00
Pine Tree House Debt Reduction Fund	\$ 0.00

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” Matthew 5: 16

Pinetree House Property Loan Balance as of 11/20/09
\$79,864.77

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS Rob Williams (12/13) Missed *on this list? Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.*

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES The deployed from MAFB (several squadrons) Cheston Morgan, Afghanistan, Verla George's grandson in the Army. Keith Missildine, (Navy, New Jersey), Brian Sparks (Navy, R.I.), Kevin Sparks (AF, Florida)

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS

Charles Kluball, Fellowship Home
Vi & Clarence Heidemann, homebound

NEW JOYS & ON-GOING CONCERNS:

Rae Hubbard healing from shoulder replacement surgery on Dec. 8
Hobe Hodge had a stent placed in a kidney, doing well

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer's	Betty Zipperer	sister
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	Hospice care	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Melanie McDonald	brain seizures	Mary Kinchen	cousin
Vickie Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	mother
Bobby Joe Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	step-father
Alyssia Ventura	MS	Silke/PatrickDeeley	daughter
Jake Tillman's grandson (12)	leukemia	Don Sullins	friend
John Harris	multiple health concerns	Jan Bristow	friend
Sally Carson	tests	Jack/Joanne Hostetler	daughter
Mike Ellis	diagnosed with leukemia	Bo Miller	friend
Steven Bridges	leukemia	Lisa Tinney/Dana Black	friend
Edgar Vizcarondo	cancer	Rae Hubbard	friend
Jeff Griffin	colon cancer	Don Sullins	friend
Robert	health issues	Duane Hauge	brother
Billy Langdale	circulation problems	Pernell Jones	neighbor
Ira & Louise Whatley	cancer	Nancy Stewart	
Charli Butler (6mth)	chemo treatments	Wendy Tweeter	friend of parents
Nancy Golden	liver failure	Teri Williams	friend
Denny Brown	cancer	Carrie Meyer	friend's dad
Rev. Thomas Mendenhall		Marjorie Fix	pastor in K
Warren Gee	prostate cancer		former member
Richard	heart disease	Susan Keller	brother
McKenzie Brownlee	(age 2) leukemia AML	Dr. Brad Meyer	nurse's child
Doris Olsen	(age 94) congestive heart	Norene Olsen	stepmother
Betty Hesemann	(age 90)	Carrie Meyer	grandmother
Phyllis Greer	hospice care	Pernell Jones	friend

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano
 Choir Director
 Acolyte
 Greeters
 Nursery
 Ushers
 Altar preparation/Chancel care
 Sound tech
 Custodians
 Altar linen
 Flower service
 Flower beds
 Grass cutting
 Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials

Kay Vincent
 Marjorie Fix

Volunteer
 Bob & Valerie Behnke
 Fran Sparks
 Helen Whitten
 Whitten family
 Fred Daniels 245-0483
 Laverne Smith 229 387-6060

Church Council.....
 Kay Vincent, president
 Gary Klement, co- financial secretary
 Kathy Lane, treasurer
 Cindy Mitchell, Christian E
 Jolleen Christians, evangelism

Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
 Lisa Tinney, co-financial secretary
 Jeff Moxley, stewardship
 Bo Miller, property
 John Mitchell, worship
 Dana Black, youth

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

	<u>Dec 20</u> 4 Advent	<u>Dec 24</u> Christmas Eve	<u>Dec 27</u> 1st Sun of Christmas
Reader:	J Moxley	C Sweeney	D Kluball
Com Assist:	M Moxley	K Lane	B Kluball
Acolyte:	Z Moxley	A Sweeney N Kraushaar	
Chancel:	K Sheeley	V Behnke	C Pieplow
Nursery:	M Foutz	Bobbi Schmenk	C Pieplow
Greeters:	M Rupp M Evans	D Kraushaar J Kraushaar	N Stewart A Janney
Ushers:	W Tinney L Tinney G Klement G Vincent	D Rockey L Tinney W Tinney R Behnke	volunteers

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Cindy Sweeney, her Sunday classes staff, and the children and youth for bringing us this special service this morning...
MESSENGERS FOR THE MESSIAH! Great job! All are invited to a Sunday Brunch provided by the LWML Div. 3 group, Karin Boles, chair and Pat Simpson, co-chair.

ALTAR FLOWERS are a warm reminder of God's blessings and a gift for you from Kathy Lane in honor and memory of her parent's, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Condon, 60th anniversary and also "**Vern and my 27th anniversary.**" *Thanks for the gift of flowers to brighten this day and to glorify the Lord who richly blesses you! Please use the registry across from the picture board to sign-up for flowers. The 2010 sign-up sheets are ready!*

IT'S TIME TO UPDATE A LIST OF PEOPLE DEVOTED TO SERVICE IN 2010. If you already serve, thank you! If not, can the church count on you in 2010? To add or remove your name to the list, please sign form located on the table under the member mail slots. Thanks for your support!

Thank you from Jessica and Michael Hudgins who wrote:

"Thank you so much for the generous cash you sent for a wedding gift. It really helped Michael and I on our honeymoon. We took a cruise to the Cayman Islands and to Cozumel. We had a wonderful time. Thanks again.



Grace and Peace from Pr. Richard

The third candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes JOY! Joy at the coming of the Savior's birth. Joy at the promise of his arrival again. How shall we prepare for God's coming among us? With Joy! With resolute action! With prayer and thanksgiving! The Lord is near. The first candle lit the first Week in Advent symbolized HOPE. The second candle symbolized PEACE. + + + I learned from Tina Wright this week that she also is among our Graduates this fall, receiving a Bachelors of Science in Education degree (concentration in Adult and Continuing Education). yesterday from Valdosta State University. Congratulations Tina!

Small Group Opportunities Beginning in January:

Marriage Enrichment group will meet the 4th Sunday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Pine Tree House starting Sunday, January 24. Facilitator: Jolleen Christians

Men's Bible Study group will meet in the evening on the second Tuesday of each month starting in January. Location and time to be announced. Facilitator: Joe Mitchell

Stress Management Bible study group will begin Sunday, January 31, at the Pine Tree House. Facilitator: Lisa Vincent

A sign up sheet for the groups are located on the table in the entryway. Information about other small groups being offered will be provided when available.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS.... AND THANK YOU... PRAISE THE LORD!

PRESIDENT. Dick Rockey , elected to serve a 2 year term.

TREASURER John Mitchell , elected to serve a 2 year term.

PROPERTY Leader. Lisa Vincent elected to serve a 2 year term.

WORSHIP Leader. Norene Olsen elected to serve a 2 year term.

Jay Welch removed himself to serve as vice-president. Sandy Adams will complete her term as vice-president/secretary.

A proposed budget for 2010 of \$141,636 was approved. May we pray to take a leap of faith in our giving trusting that God will supply all we need to support this church, our missions, and our own personal needs. To whom much is given much is required.

Pastor Richard announced that he would pursue retirement in 2010. No date has been set yet, but it will commence when he applies for his retirement forms from Concordia Retirement Plans. The process takes 90 days.



Any Good in This News?

Winnowing, burning, fleeing, and name-calling: where is the good news? Luke 3: 7-18 ends a bit abruptly: "So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people." Where is the good news in the Advent gospel message from John the Baptist?

The word "gospel" literally means "good news" and is used to describe the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John--those books that describe the life and ministry of Christ. "Gospel" is also used to describe the reading each week that comes from one of these four books. So where is the good in this news from Luke's story of John the Baptist, a prominent character in preparing our Lord's way?

John the Baptist has earned his reputation for fiery and provocative preaching partly because of his startling address to those who came to be baptized: "You brood of vipers!" Comparing one's own congregation--those who came to hear him preach and be baptized!--to a hissing and writhing mess of poisonous snakes probably doesn't earn too many fans. John continues to antagonize by even dismissing the entitlement claims of those who have been born into a faith community. And so we ask with the crowds that day, "What then should we do?"

Here is the good news, here is the gospel: we are all snakes, we are all children of Abraham, our lives both wheat and chaff. John's words strip away all pride and self-righteousness while simultaneously promising inclusion and salvation beyond anything this world can offer. While we self-defensively curl up and hide among the shadows, fleeing in terror at any tremor or perceived earthly danger, the promise of the gospel redirects us: "Bear fruits worthy of repentance." John has caught our attention, not to insult but to inspire our Advent preparations. For the Messiah draws near, baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire. This is truly good news.

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