

The Messiah Messenger

SUNDAYS

Sunday School (all ages) – 9:15 AM
Worship – 8:00 & 10:45 AM
“WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS”
Resumes Sept. 15
5:30 Meal ~ 6:15 Worship
7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal & Catechism Class

6670 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36116
PHONE 334-277-4213 * FAX 334-272-4111

August 24, 2010

PASTOR: Rev. Randy Jones
Pastor's E-MAIL: messiahlutheran@aol.com
WEBSITE: nonprofitpages.com/messiah
OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Karen Collier
Karen's E-MAIL: mlcmontg@knology.net

Junior & Senior High Students to Attend *En Fuego*

The youth will be going to *En Fuego* in Verbena, AL on August 28, 2010. *En Fuego*, meaning “on fire” in Spanish, is a free concert, but the youth will need to bring money for concessions, etc. Transportation will be provided and a permission slip will be required.

For more on *En Fuego* you can go online at www.enfuegoinfo.com to see history, concessions list, videos, and “faq” which includes what to bring and not to bring. For more information, contact Keri Broughton, 334-451-4222.

Thrivent Seminary Fund-Raiser for **Tiffany Chaney**

Tiffany Chaney, a member of Messiah Lutheran, is attending Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia PA. **Tiffany** was an active member of Messiah Lutheran. Central Alabama Chapter 30430 has made available \$500 in supplemental funds to support the fund-raising effort to assist with her education, namely tuition and books. This is an opportunity for you to have your contributions supplemented up to the \$500. The goal is to raise \$1,500. Approximately \$150 was raised at the Easter Breakfast. Your opportunity begins on August 22, 2010 and will continue through September 19, 2010. Thrivent Financial is committed to supporting seminarians and this is a great opportunity for you to assist in this effort. This fund-raiser helps defray some of the congregational commitment to support seminary student **Tiffany Chaney**.

Please make your check payable to Central Alabama Chapter 30430. Receipts will be available for your tax deductible contribution. If you have questions please refer questions to James S. Willoughby, Activity Coordinator, 334-300-2326, jmsnwo@charter.net.

Thrivent Seminary Fundraiser for **Lyle Belleque**

Lyle Belleque, a member of Messiah Lutheran, is attending Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, MN. **Lyle** was an active member of Messiah and served on the church council. He has retired from the USAF and becoming a Pastor is his second career.

Central Alabama Chapter 30430 has made available \$500 in supplemental funds to support the fund-raising effort to assist with his education, namely tuition and books. This is an opportunity for you to have your contributions supplemented up to the \$500. The goal is to raise \$1,500. Approximately \$1,500 was raised at the Easter Breakfast. Your opportunity begins on August 22, 2010 and will continue through September 19 2010. Thrivent Financial is committed to supporting seminarians and this is a great opportunity for you to assist in this effort. This fund-raiser helps defray some of the congregational commitment to support seminary student **Lyle Belleque**.

Please make your check payable to Central Alabama Chapter 30430. Receipts will be available for your tax deductible contribution. If you have questions please refer questions to James S. Willoughby, Activity Coordinator, 334-300-2326, jmsnwo@charter.net.

5th Sunday Schedule

August 29, 2010

9:15 am: Sunday School

10:30 am: Worship

12:00 pm: Covered Dish Fellowship

Bring your favorite dishes to share! All members, visitors and friends welcome!

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6670 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, AL 36116

POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 467
NON-PROFIT ORG
MONTGOMERY, AL

Messiah Lutheran Church to celebrate it's 25th Anniversary!

.....not until Oct. 18, 2012, but that gives us lots of time to plan. If you can help serve on the 25th Anniversary Committee, please contact Karen Collier or Pastor Jones and let them know you want to join the “party squad!”

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor's Message

To all the Saints at Messiah:

Recently, I was given an article from the August 13th edition of the Wall Street Journal entitled, "The Perils of 'Wannabe Cool' Christianity", by Brett McCracken. Brett McCracken describes himself as a 27 year old evangelical Christian. His article is very informative, as well as very affirming for me.

The core of the article had to do with the mass exodus of young folks (especially between the ages of 18-22) from evangelical churches. Now for me there's no big surprise here simply because many, if not most, youth cease regular worship attendance when they go off to college; face it partying takes its toll and sleep on Sunday morning is very attractive. Anyway, "Lifeway Research determined that 70% of young Protestant adults" stop going to church on a regular basis. As I said no big surprise there.

In response to this phenomenon many churches have tried many different things to either keep these young folks in church or draw them back. If you look at many of the evangelical churches today you will see what this article called "a total image overhaul." Some churches have started meetings in theaters and bars, some have put up large projection screens, some have given their pastors complete make-overs to make them more hip (some even get \$80 haircuts), some have gone so far as to embrace the internet so completely that they offer worship services on-line, etc. etc. etc. And that's not all that's changed.

Many of the pastors in these churches have taken to trying to be "more culturally savvy." They quote the current cultural icons such as Lady Gaga and Stephen Colbert in their sermons in order to make their message more contextual, and sex in many of these churches has become a regular subject of sermons. "Oak Leaf Church in Gainesville, Georgia, created a website called yourgreatsexlife.com to pique the interest of young seekers." While part of the task of preaching a sermon is making sure it is contextual, it is very easy to go too far and lose the central message of the Gospel — Jesus. Jesus is the message and he is apparently not being seen very often in these churches.

I have over the years been asked why we haven't tried some of these things. I have always resisted simply because I don't believe that worship on Sunday morning is about us giving God a make over. Instead it is first and foremost about God transforming us into the image of his Son, our Lord Jesus the Christ. It is about what God has done, is doing, and promises yet to do through the death and resurrection of Jesus. That is the message I was given to preach in my ordination and it is the message I will stick with until I die. St. Paul admonished St. Timothy with these words, "Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy spirit living in us." (II Timothy 1:13-14) On occasion St. Paul got it right.

Mr. McCracken affirmed this for me when he said this in his summary: "If we are interested in Christianity in any sort of serious way, it is not because it's easy or trendy or popular. It's because Jesus himself is appealing, and what he says rings true. It's because the world we inhabit is utterly phony, ephemeral, narcissistic, image-obsessed and sex-drenched — and we want an alternative. It's not because we want more of the same." Does that sound familiar?

My brothers and sisters this is an invitation to those of us who remain faithful to our Lord and worship him on a regular basis. This article is a wake up call to the church, to us, to tell the story of Jesus with our lives and with our lips. So, be on the look out for opportunities to remind folks that Jesus died for them and that God raised him from the dead for them. I promise you won't get hurt. You may be rejected on occasion; you may have eyes rolled at you on occasion; you may even be called a Jesus freak on occasion. But remember what our Lord said about this, "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven." (St. Luke 6:21-22a)

May God continue to bless us so we may be a blessing to our small corner of the world.

Shalom
Pr. Randy

It's That Time of Year!

Look for the forms stuffed inside the bulletins this Sunday where you offer your commitments of time in service to our Lord at Messiah Lutheran Church. Please take the form home and give prayerful consideration to your choices, maybe even step out of our comfort zone and try something new. Return your completed forms by September 11, 2010, by way of placing them in the offering plate or the Stewardship mail cubby, or returning them by mail to the church office.

Parish Register Incomplete

Some of you did not complete the "Church Record Questionnaire" when you joined the church. We need those dates and information to make our parish register complete.

Other information we would like to have for office use is your email address. That is the most efficient way to get news to you.

The Sisters of Mary Magdalene

Fiscal Year 2010 has been a very good year for the Sisters of Mary Magdalene. This small group of women from Messiah continues to meet monthly to pray with and for each other as well as for all the members of Messiah and various other concerns that may come to our attention.

For those of you who may wonder what this group is all about, I will try to provide some answers. The Sisters of Mary Magdalene is a loosely organized group of women who meet on a regular basis. Our purpose is to support each other in our spiritual journeys, to pray for each other and to do good wherever we can as we try to reflect the love of Christ to all with whom we come in contact.

There are no elected officers. The members of the group take turns leading discussions on a variety of topics of interest to the group. You do not have to lead a discussion if you choose not to. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Since most of the members of the group work outside the home, we make a concerted effort to limit the meetings to one hour.

Some of the topics we have addressed include prayer, balancing the demands of every day life with the attempt to have some meaningful time with God, and effective ways of leading lives that reflect who we perceive ourselves to be as Christian women.

We look for ways to reach outside ourselves and make contributions to Messiah and to the communities in which we live. We have provided refreshments during Fellowship Hour at Advent and various other times during the year. We have adopted the garden area adjacent to the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex and each month we send Birthday cards to all members of Messiah who are having a birthday that month.

There are no requirements to join this group. We simply ask that you respect every woman's opinion, even if it differs from your own, and that you maintain the confidentiality of discussions within the group. We are actively seeking new members and would love to have you join us as we explore ways to deepen our spiritual lives and grow closer to God through community. If you are interested in joining us, please contact any of the following Sisters: Joyce Colburn, SuSu Draper, Jennifer Haynes, Patt Riggins, Tara Severance, Iola Williams or Doris Underwood.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doris Underwood

☺ Wednesday Meal & Worship ☺

Resuming September 15

5:30 pm.....Meal

Meal cost \$3.00 (\$1.50 ages 3-10)

6:15 pm Worship

Please RSVP (by Tuesday noon) for the meal on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside church office, or call the church office. More sponsoring teams are encouraged. If you have questions, or would like to join a team, please contact one of the Wednesday Task Team members: Kathy Bartley, Karen Collier, Alice McMullan, Gloria Stough, Peg Walker.