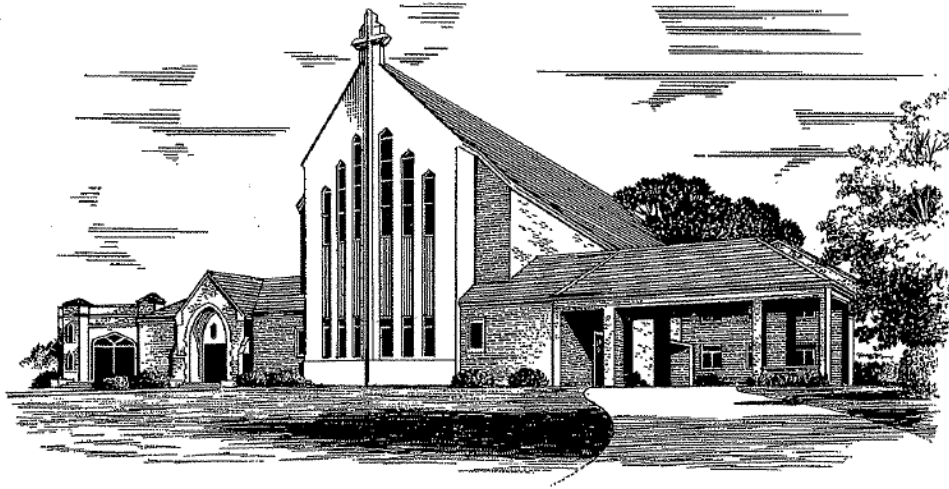


# Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church



*"When I was in want...my needs were supplied  
by the people who came from Macedonia."  
II Corinthians 11:9*

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, August 23, 2009  
10:30 Worship Service**

# MACEDONIA'S MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: A community of believers responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, worship and action.

Vision: That Christ might have first place in everything. (Col. 1:18)

- *Invest in youth and family life.*
- *Support and develop education programs.*
- *Build community by developing strong Christian fellowship.*
- *Improve communication including the effective use of technology.*

- *Think beyond ourselves to be involved in local synodical and churchwide programs.*
- *Strengthen and develop programs to attract others to Christ.*

- *Increase cooperation and mission opportunities with Lutheran Retirement Ministries.*
- *Encourage an attitude that promotes the development of new ministries.*
- *Identify and use the talents of the congregation to meet the needs of the church and community.*

# Sunday, June 28, 2009

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Setting One – 10:30 (ELW)

### The Marks of Discipleship: I will strive to . . .

- + Pray daily
- + Worship weekly
- + Read the Bible daily
- + Serve at and beyond Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church
- + Be in Relationship with others to encourage spiritual growth
- + Give of my time, talents and resources in a generous manner and to the glory of God

### INTRODUCTION

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

*P = Pastor*

*C = Congregation*

*A = Assistant*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Psalm 149:1, Joel 2:15-17; Matthew 18:20)*

*(Please prepare yourself for worship during the Prelude)*

**PRELUDE**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

setting by Robert J. Powell

**Stand**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

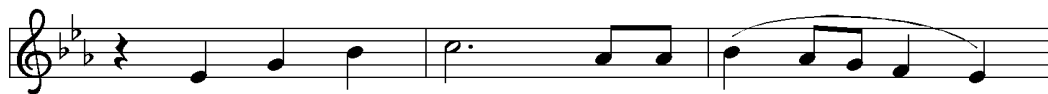
*(stz. 1-4 & 6) ELW 873 (Red Hymnal)*

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *(Revelation 5:12,13)*



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



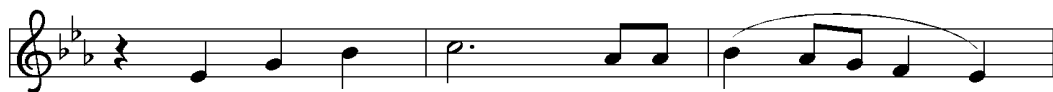
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## ANTHEM

**FIRST READING***Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**(John 1:1-5; Colossians 3:16)*

**A** A reading from Joshua chapter twenty four.

*In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

**A** Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Ephesians 6:10-20*

**A** A reading from Ephesians chapter six.

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

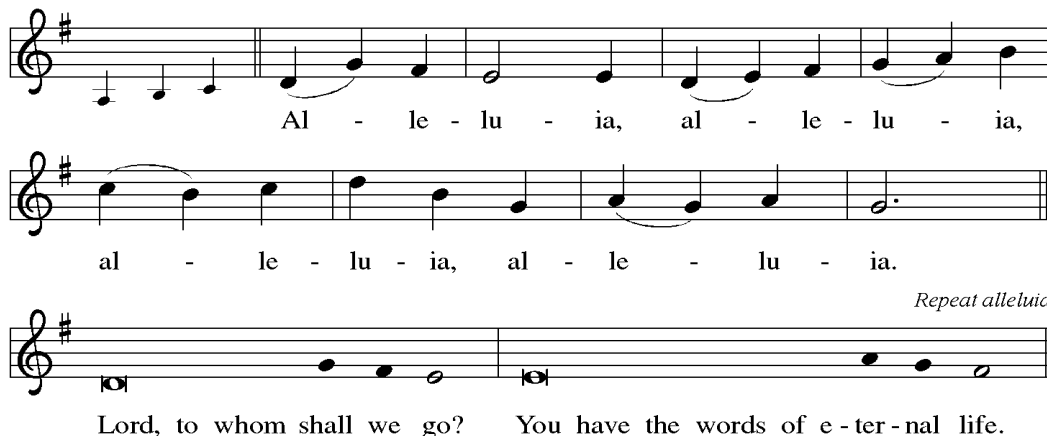
<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**A** Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Stand**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(John 6:68)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL *John 6:56-69*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?" <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

**ELW 810** *(Red Hymnal)*

## SERMON

**"IS FAITH BAD FOR YOU?"**

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE *(Matthew 5:23-24)*

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

**OFFERTORY HYMN** *Come, Holy Ghost, God & Lord* (stz. 1 & 3) **ELW 395** *(Red Hymnal)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(1 Timothy 2:1,2)*

**A** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Holy One, you grace your people with powerful gifts. Call many leaders for your church, and strengthen those who serve you, that your love may be felt at all times and places. God of mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** You created the earth and all that is in it. Provide water for thirsty ground, clean air for troubled lungs, and protection for endangered plants and animals. God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You breathed life into the first human creatures. By your spirit, renew the whole human family, that all nations may be at peace with one another. God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Clothe with your love all those in need: the poor, malnourished, or exhausted; the injured or disabled; those in need of constant care; the dying and the sick (*especially*). God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You dedicate yourself to your people. Come to the aid of our community (*especially*). Listen to the aching of our hearts and stimulate our faith. God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Your light shines through the saints of all ages (*especially*). Comfort the grieving, and gather us all at your feast that has no end. God of mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Loving God, you are near to us when we cry out to you. Into your embrace we commend all for whom we pray, through Christ and by the power of your Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## BLESSING

**P** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

**ELW 537** (*Red Hymnal*)

## DISMISSAL

*(Matthew 28:19)*

**A** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

setting by J. Bert Carlson

Eagerly we **welcome** you and yours to God's house. May we all strive to be children of God here on Earth.

**Visitors!** We are delighted you are with us. Please give us your name, address and phone number on a Welcome Card in the pew pocket or in the Friendship Register.

The **Kyrie** is not sung after Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7. We will sing it again on Christ the King Sunday, November 22.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God.

***Loaves and Fishes*** – For the month of August please bring juices, fruit & applesauce.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Jim Copland, Joe Evanoff, Don Honeycutt, David Millspaugh, Joseph Minnick, L. B. Owen, Elizabeth Pickard. (*Prayer requests should be renewed weekly by contacting the church office.*)

The Youth are planning a lake trip August 29-30, to John and Sharon Walker's lake house. This trip will be a welcome for our rising 6th graders. We will need parents to drive and chaperone. The cost for this is yet to be determined, but it should not exceed \$30. We will be meeting at the church at **8:00 a.m.** to leave for the Walker's lake house on the 29th. Please contact Michele Claypool at: [wclaypool@triad.rr.com](mailto:wclaypool@triad.rr.com) or Melinda Menz at: [menz\\_melinda@yahoo.com](mailto:menz_melinda@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending or chaperoning. We are looking forward to a great year with our Middle and High School Group.

**Meals on Wheels** is having their Rubber Duck Race Fundraiser on Sunday, September 20th, 2009 at the YMCA @ 3:00 p.m. The ducks race and the winning rubber duck sponsors will win great prizes. Meals on Wheels is desperately in need of funds to provide meals to the elderly in our community. Form to sponsor a duck are located on the community news bulletin board outside of the church office. You can also contact the Meals on Wheels office at (336) 228-8815.

Have a **SUGGESTION OR QUESTION** about the ministries, programs, or facilities here at Macedonia? We take your feedback seriously and have placed a new Suggestion Box in the Narthex near the entrance to the Sanctuary. The box is checked frequently and only by our Congregational President. Every suggestion received is reviewed by the Executive Committee. If you provide your name and contact information, we will notify you within one week that we've received your suggestion. We will contact you again with a status report following the next monthly Council meeting. Quarterly, we will review all suggestions and questions to ensure that we've taken appropriate action where warranted.

### **ALSO SCHEDULED THIS WEEK**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Today (8/23)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8:15 Worship/Communion</li> <li>- 9:30 Sunday School</li> <li>- 10:30 Worship</li> </ul>                                     |
| <b>Monday</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7:00 CS Troop 39</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10:00 Thrivant Meetings</li> <li>- 1:00 Sewing Group</li> <li>- 7:30 Chancel Choir Practice</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>Thursday</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7:00 Fellowship Committee</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Friday</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10:00 Church Women United Meeting</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Saturday</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8:00a.m. Youth Leave for Walkers Lake House</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sunday (8/30)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8:15 Worship/Communion</li> <li>- 9:30 Sunday School</li> <li>- 10:30 Worship/Communion</li> <li>- 6:00 Crossways</li> </ul> |



# MACEDONIA MINISTRY MANIA

**Sept. 12th starting at 3:00 p.m.**

We will be having a pig roast, music, activities, inflatables and a chance to learn more about the different ministries at Macedonia.

Don't miss what promises to be a fun-filled day.

## **Attention all ministries of Macedonia!**

Macedonia Ministry Mania will be an opportunity for each ministry to share what they have been doing and are planning on doing during the upcoming year. (Maybe even get some new recruits). The hope is that each ministry will be represented by some type of display and/or representative in Luther Hall on this day.

## WORDS OF LIFE

Jesus had just said something amazing to people of his time. Believers must eat and drink his body and blood. His disciples were put off by the idea and were complaining that it was difficult to accept. Jesus, with his insight into human behavior and thought, called the question: "Does this offend you? ... It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless" (John 6:61-63). In other words, his coming as both God and human (incarnation) holds spirit and flesh together.



Then, as he often did, he named the truth. Some of you don't believe, and none will come to me except by God's leading, he said. Because of that, some of them left him. He turned to his disciples and asked them whether they also wished to leave him. Simon Peter then spoke the words that that we often use in worship to welcome the gospel: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

Often we read the Bible in search of answers. At times we isolate statements in the Bible to proof-text an idea that we had before we began reading. It's a risky business because we might fall into a trap of taking a few thoughts out of context or misinterpret what Jesus is saying. We rely on both knowledgeable scholars and the Holy Spirit to help us understand the scriptures. It's part of why Lutherans are committed to teaching and learning about the Bible as part of our spiritual journey. The word guides us.

Today, Peter affirms that in Jesus' words, we receive eternal life. We find these words in the Bible, but we do not worship the Bible. We worship and follow the Jesus who is revealed in the Bible. In these words we discover that Jesus is the Word of life, even when his teachings are hard to accept.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### August 23, 2009 - Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Monday	Psalm 119:97-104, Nehemiah 9:1-15, Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Tuesday	Psalm 119:97-104, Nehemiah 9:16-31, Ephesians 6:21-24
Wednesday	Psalm 119:97-104, Isaiah 33:10-16, John 15:16-25
Thursday	Psalm 15, Exodus 32:1-14, James 1:1-8
Friday	Psalm 15, Exodus 32:15-35, James 1:9-16
Saturday	Psalm 15, Exodus 34:8-28, John 18:28-32
Sunday	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Psalm 15, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

# Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church

421 West Front Street - Burlington, NC 27215

Phone: 336-227-5554 - Fax: 336-227-6859

E-mail: macedonia\_office@bellsouth.net

Website: www.MacedoniaLutheran.com

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor (585-0666).....	Rev. Stephen C. Rust
Associate Pastor for Visitation (436-0104).....	Rev. Dr. Dianne Dietz
Director of Church Music.....	Joy H. Rust
Director, Chancel Choir and Reformation Ringers .....	Sylvia R. Crews
Organist (8:15) .....	Mary Anne Dettman
Organist (10:30) .....	Joy H. Rust
Organist Emeritus .....	Terry G. Woodings
Director, Cherub Choir .....	Joy H. Rust
Director, Macedonia Ringers and Melody Choir .....	Sylvia R. Crews
Sunday School Superintendent .....	Ruth W. Matkins
Crucifer .....	Sarah Menz
Acolytes .....	Max Menz, Maddie Braxton
Children's Message.....	Angie Gilliam
Lay Reader .....	(8:15) Don West..... (10:30) Ruth Matkins
Communion Assistant .....	(8:15) Frank Rhue
Greeters .....	Jane Moore, Randi Dunn, Vern Misenheimer, Patty Misenheimer
Nursery Attendants .....	Xylda Gee, Maddie Johnson
Ushers .....	Tommy Turner - Chief, Dave Robinson - Ass't. ..... Bill Claypool, Charles DeBoard, John Gee, Richard Johnson, Ron Mills, Jim Ysteboe
Sound System.....	Randi Dunn
Dust Covers .....	Betty Davis, Sharon Walker

## Lutheran Retirement Ministries/Twin Lakes Community

Executive Director, TLC .....	Charles R. Harris
Director, Pastoral Care, TLC.....	Rev. Craven G. Ford



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