

*The church of Christ at Luverne*  
67 North Woodford Ave.  
Luverne, AL 36049

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**Luverne, AL**  
**Permit # 28**

### *Assembly Assignments for September, 2008*

#### **The Lord's Supper**

Mike McDougald / J. W. Furr / Russ Kilcrease/Steven Frost

#### **Announcements**

Dale Sanders

#### **Building Duties**

Jim Johnson

#### **Greeters**

Larry Wyrosdick  
Jim Johnson

#### **Nursing Home Duties**

Ross Sanders  
Zack Wilson

#### **Lord's Supper Preparation**

Melissa McDougald

#### **Scripture Reading**

Reed Kilcrease

### *Privileged to Serve on September 7th*

#### **Morning Prayer**

Larry Hoffman (opening)  
Ross Sanders (closing)

#### **Evening Prayer**

Steven Frost (opening)  
Robb Sanders (closing)

#### **Song Leader**

Darrin Sanders

#### **A/V Equipment**

Jace Sanders

Please notify Mike McDougald if you are unable to serve.  
All announcements need to be written and turned in before each assembly!

# *The Messenger*



*From*

## *The church of Christ at Luverne*

67 North Woodford Avenue  
Luverne, Al. 36049  
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[www.lcoc.net](http://www.lcoc.net)

#### **Elders**

Ray Frost  
Larry Hoffman  
Darrin Sanders

#### **Deacons**

Mike McDougald  
Dale Sanders  
Steve Sanders  
Frankie Sims

#### **Services**

##### **Every Sunday**

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

##### **Every Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Volume VIII

*September 7, 2008*

Issue 34

## “The Value of the Reward”

Why is an Olympic gold medal so highly prized? Its monetary value is only about two hundred dollars. What the medal represents, however, is a lifetime of strenuous effort, pressing toward a goal. The gold medal may not be worth much in the fiscal sense, but all who see it recognize the sacrifice that has gone into winning it. For that reason, it is considered a prize worthy of the quest to obtain it.

Christians, likewise, seek a reward which cannot be quantified in dollars and cents. To those who prize only the material, the prospect of an eternity in heaven has little meaning. But a heavenly hope is of infinite value to the true children of God, because we recognize the sacrifice the Father has made to make it available for us (Acts 20:28) – as well as the sacrifices we have made in order to obtain it as our own.

If one doesn't understand the greatness and gravity of the event that occurred at Calvary – that the only begotten Son of the Creator of all things, Himself divine, surrendered the glory of heaven and died for the sins of His creatures (Philippians 2:5-8 – he cannot comprehend why an eternity with God would be such a big deal. To those without this understanding, the whole concept is just so much “pie in the sky by and by when you die.” Most people want their pie now, with ice cream on it, and whipped cream and sprinkles and a cherry. Instant gratification is all they know.

In Christ, we learn that today is not all there is, and that the concerns of the immediate are only temporary. Life is a process, a continuum, a stream – one that does not end at the grave, but continues for an infinity beyond. We, then, can see heavenly reward in context as the outcome of a God-serving life, and in fact as the continuation of that life. To the Christian, “to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). In that context, the trials and travails of life are only the scenery along the path to eternal glory (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4: 17-18).

Here, really, is one triumph of faith – being able to conceive of greater worth in things which cannot be seen or felt than in those things that can. Abraham was a wealthy man, perhaps as wealthy as any in his day. His son Isaac and grandson Jacob were likewise. Yet of these men the Bible says, “These all died in the faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland” (Hebrews 11: 13-14).

Here were rich men who saw true wealth as being not what they had, but where they were going. Their glory would be in sharing that which would not even become available until centuries after their deaths (Hebrews 11:39-40). If only we had a fraction of their faith!

The Israelites sojourned forty years in the Sinai wilderness. Forty years, from a human perspective, is a long time. Of those who began the journey as adults, just two men – Joshua and Caleb – would survive to enter Canaan. Along they way, they witnessed the deaths of thousands of their kinsmen and friends. How sweet it must have been at long last for these men to stand together on the soil of the promised land, in full recognition of how costly in human terms the trip had been! Do you suppose for a moment that they thought it hadn't all been worthwhile?

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## In Our Prayers

- Jerry Barr – lung biopsy on 8-26; awaiting results
- Margaret Deese – gallbladder surgery recovery
- Joe Griffin – general health, improved some
- Bobbie Sue Henderson – cancer
- Richard (Rich) Hodgkinson - cancer
- Dianne Hoffman –bone marrow transplant on 9-12
- Bessie Frazier - illness
- Mildred Frazier – tests
- Donald Hilburn – surgery
- Cecil Kelley – COPD
- Chris Kyser – a little better, still serious condition
- Maggie Marshall – on ventilator only at night
- Stephanie Martin – cancer; not doing well
- J. T. Owens – lung cancer
- Teresa Parker – tests
- Lisa Rolling – good report; more tests
- Alice Smith – tests
- Ted Tindal – brain cancer
- Amber Wilson – tests
- Wood Family - health

### In Luverne Nursing Facility:

- Margaret Hall - Allene Mount
- Fanny Nichols - Charles Phillips Edwina Rolling

*- Pray for soldiers overseas such as Dickie Sims*

*- Remember to pray for missionaries, for leaders, for our congregation, and for our efforts to carry out God's will.*

**You and I, as the song goes, are “camping toward Canaan.” The journey is long and difficult, and fraught with peril at every turn. There will be millions who began the sojourn who will have fallen by the wayside before we all arrive in the promised land. Only a few will persevere to the very end. For those who do, the most blessed of rewards awaits – resting forever in the light of the living God.**

**The price of that reward will have been incalculably expensive. It will have cost God the blood of His Son. It will have cost those who emerge victorious many of the temporal pleasures this world has to offer, and it will have cost them the surrender of their wills to the will of God. But how sweet – how sweet – the arrival at home will be! Let us run, that we may obtain the prize (I Corinthians 9:24).**

Michael D. Rankins, Penngrove church of Christ

## What Must We Do to be Saved?

### The Alien Sinner Must:

1. Learn the truth (John 8:31-32; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24).
3. Repent of his sins (Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10).
4. Confess his faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32).
5. Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:20, 21).

### The Child of God Must:

1. Study the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15).
2. Grow spiritually (1 Pet. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:5-11).
3. Worship regularly (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:24-31).
4. Live right in this present world (Titus 2:11, 12).
5. Be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 10:22).

### The Erring Child of God Must:

1. Repent and confess sins (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8-10).
2. Pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; James 5:16).

## Announcements

● **Bible teachers** for the quarter beginning September 7 are:

**Nursery:(0-4 Years):** Shuana Sanders/ Chrystal Frost

**Kindergarten:** Lisa Turner

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades:** Traci Sanders

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Jennifer Moorer

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Darrin & Teresa Sanders

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades:** Steve Sanders

● **The Walnut Street church of Christ in Greenville invite us to a Ladies Day Seminar** on Saturday, September 13. The topic is “Seeking Spiritual Beauty” and will be presented by Shelia Butt. 9:15 until noon. Call 334-382-3001 if you plan to attend.

● **Shoebboxes for Panama** –Shipping is \$5 per box. If you would like to help, give your money to sister Joyce Bozeman.

● **“I thank you** for the wonderful package you sent to us. ...I appreciate the fact that to send this it did take time and effort on your part and I want you to know that it was well received and much appreciated by all stationed here with Alabama's native son William (Dickie) Richard Sims.”  
SFC Parrish Cruz, Taji, Iraq