

The church of Christ at Luverne

67 North Woodford Ave.
Luverne, AL 36049
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Assembly Assignments for July, 2009

The Lord's Supper

Ronald Hilburn / Jim Johnson / Bob Williams / Steven Frost

Announcements

Frankie Sims

Building Duties

Darrin Sanders

Greeters

J. W. Furr
Noel Orozco

Nursing Home Duties

Keith Hermeling
Dale Sanders

Lord's Supper Preparation

Patsy Owens

Scripture Reading

Ross Sanders

Privileged to Serve on July 26th

Morning Prayer

J. W. Furr (opening)
Danny Rolling (closing)

Evening Prayer

Sam Sanders (opening)
Isaac Sanders (closing)

Song Leader

Dale Sanders

A/V Equipment

Jonathon Welch

If you are unable to serve, please contact Danny Rolling – 429-0055/335-3030
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

Services

Every Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Every Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

"BETWEEN THE ETERNITIES"

Raymond Elliott

In the Movie made for television "Broken Trail", Robert Duvall as Print Ritter said a few words at the grave of one of the young Chinese women who had been left in his care. He nervously uttered these words *"We are travelers in this world from the sweet grass to the packing house. Birth to death we travel between the eternities."* It is the last sentence that is so simple and yet so profound in its meaning that I wish to notice with you presently. First of all there are not two eternities but eternity has always been and will always be. You and I in our finite mind cannot in any way comprehend eternity. There is no example that can even begin to illustrate the length of eternity since there is no beginning or ending. On the other hand time does have a beginning and it will have an ending. It was in the beginning that God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1). When Jesus Christ shall come again time will cease to exist. The righteous, by God's infinite grace will inherit eternal life in a place called heaven where Jesus has prepared a place for them (John 14:1-3; Matthew 25:34). It will be then that *"the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned"* (2 Peter 3:10). Time is simply a minute blimp on the screen of eternity. In contrast to time and this physical world, the spirit of man returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The spirit of man was made in the likeness of his Maker who is spirit (Genesis 1:26, 27; John 4:24). God is the *"Father of spirits"* (Hebrews 12:9) and the one who *"forms the spirit of man within him"* (Zechariah 12:1).

In time and in this life we often have a second chance to correct our mistakes. Our youth have seen so many movies and television shows in which people are killed and yet these same actors can be seen in later movies that there is a feeling instilled in these young minds that death is not so final after all. Some religions teach that man will have a second chance after death but the Word of God teaches differently. In Hebrews 9:27 the writer declares, *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."* In the story Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus dying and going to the unseen world of departed spirits, he revealed that once a person dies and his spirit goes either to paradise or a place of punishment that his/her eternal destiny cannot be changed (Luke 16:19-31). It will be too late to wish for another opportunity to give one's life to the Lord in humble obedience to the commands of the gospel of Jesus Christ; or, to return to God the Father in repentance and asks His forgiveness as did the prodigal son who was mentioned in the parable related by Jesus Christ and recorded in Luke 15:11-23.

One can find no comfort in such teachings that explain the punishment for the unbeliever, the immoral, the rebellious and the unfaithful as being brief and then complete annihilation. Jesus did not speak of annihilation but of punishment for the wicked when He said, *"And these (those on the left at the Judgment) will go into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"* (Matthew 25:46). The apostle John wrote in Revelation 21:8, *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* I heard a statement relative to this matter some forty years ago that has stuck in mind ever since and this is it, *"There will be no love in hell."* God has made every provision through the death of His Son and according to the riches of His grace to save us. I pray that everyone will respond to that grace by a faith that is living, active and obedient (Romans 5:1, 2; Hebrews 5:8, 9).



In Our Prayers

- Lynn Beasley – no cancer found in lymph nodes!
- Sarah Carpenter – surgery On 7-23
- Pat Blackerby – open-heart surgery
- Joe Griffin – general health
- Bobbie Sue Henderson – cancer
- Sarah Hoffman – health problems
- Cecil Kelley – COPD; general health
- Chris Kyser – serious health problems
- Susan Martin – health problems
- James Mitchell – recurring cancer
- J. T. Owens – lung cancer
- Valera Rolling – scheduling gall bladder surgery
- Annie Senn – cancer in mouth and stomach
- Lindsay Turner – continuing recovery
- Gerri Wise – cataract surgery on other eye

In Luverne Nursing Facility:

- Margaret Hall Allene Mount Edwina Rolling
- *Pray for all those who have lost loved ones.*
 - *Pray for soldiers overseas:* Kevin Singleton
 - *Pray for missionaries, for leaders, for our congregation, and for our efforts to carry out God's will.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pick up your **Shoeboxes for Panama**. Spanish material is already in the boxes. Approximately ½ the boxes remain.

Our **Vacation Bible School** will be on Saturday, August 1, 2009 from 2:00 until 5:00 and there will be a congregational fellowship following with hamburger, hotdogs, and homemade ice cream. Please sign up for what you can bring.

AREA HAPPENINGS

Homecoming & Gospel Meeting - Salem church of Christ – **July 26-30, 2009**. Speaker – Jimmy Matthews. Singing @ 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Monday – Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

VBS @ Grady church of Christ – Saturday, July 25, from 8:30 til 3 p.m. Classes for Nursery through Teens.

Gospel Meeting @ Grady church of Christ, July 26th – 31st, Keith Ellis speaking, singing on Sunday @ 2:30, nightly Sunday – Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

A Window to the Heart

If we had a window that
Was an opening to our heart,
When others stopped to take a look,
Where would our window start?

What would people see there,
As they looked upon your soul?
When they gazed down on the window,
What would their eyes behold?

Pretend it was a camera
That shot photos of your day
It recorded everything you did,
At work or even play.

Would you care for other people
To see what lies inside?
Or, would you want it hidden?
What do you have to hide?

Would you be a loving person
Than cared for others so?
What would your window have to say
What would your window show?

Would it make a difference
In what you set out to do?
Would it change the way you live,
If others could see in you?

Copied
Matthew 9:4: And Jesus knowing their thoughts said...

Psalms 95:11: The Lord knows the thoughts of man...