

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

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The Messenger

Elders

Ray Frost
Larry Hoffman
Darrin Sanders

Deacons

Mike McDougald
Dale Sanders
Steve Sanders
Frankie Sims

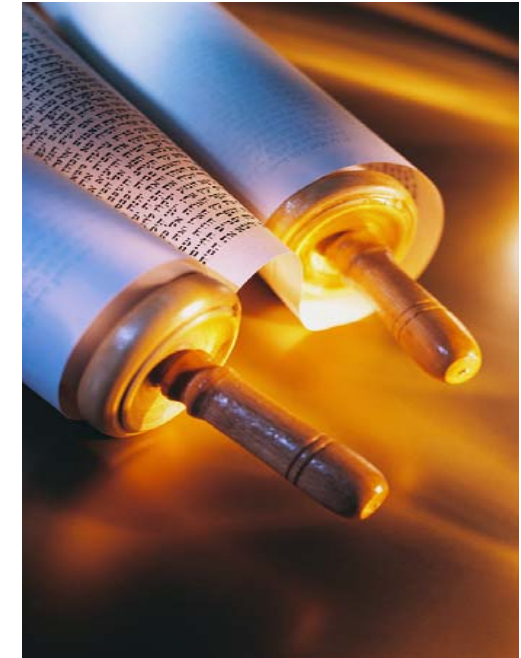
Services

Every Sunday

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

Every Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 PM
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From

The church of Christ at Luverne

67 North Woodford Avenue
Luverne, Al. 36049
(334) 335-5089
office@lcoc.net
www.lcoc.net

Assembly Assignments for October, 2008

The Lord's Supper

Andrew Moorer / Steve Sanders / Robb Sanders / Zack Wilson

Announcements

Mike McDougald

Building Duties

Ray Frost

Greeters

Ray Frost
Darrin Sanders

Nursing Home Duties

Isaac Sanders
Jace Sanders

Lord's Supper Preparation

Amy Baugh

Scripture Reading

Ross Sanders

Privileged to Serve on October 12th

Morning Prayer

Larry Hoffman (opening)
Ray Frost (closing)

Evening Prayer

Frankie Sims (opening)
Rodney McCartha (closing)

Song Leader

Darrin Sanders

A/V Equipment

Steven Frost

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

Volume VIII

October 12th, 2008

Issue 39

ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Raymond Elliott

It must have been a very emotional scene as the Marine Commandant visited the young men who lay wounded on their hospital beds following the terrible truck bombing of their barracks in Beirut on October 23, 1983. One young marine, who was critically wounded and could not talk because of the tubes in his throat, made a sign with his hands as the General visited him. It was soon understood that he wanted a pen and pad in order to write something. Upon receiving them, the marine wrote the words *"Semper Fi"*, short for *"Semper Fidelis"*. The message, "Always Faithful" is a motto of the Marine Corps. In the face of death, in pain and discomfort, here was a person loyal to the cause, faithful even unto death. Our hearts are filled with admiration for young men with such courage, fortitude and faithfulness.

My mind was filled with exhortations from the Holy Scriptures regarding the faithfulness of Christians to the Captain of our salvation, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:10). The encouragement in Revelation 2:10, *"Be thou faithful unto death..."* must be understood in the light of the context. Many of the saints in Smyrna were being imprisoned and not a few were being killed because of their love for and their loyalty to the Lord. Regardless of the severity of the persecutions, Christians were urged to be faithful to Christ even if it cost them their very lives. If they would not recant but die confessing Christ, the Lord promised them *"the crown of life."*

Oh, how we need to emulate the traits of courage and faithfulness of the young marine, and especially of our brethren in the first century, many of them dying horrible deaths. The example of faithfulness exemplified in the lives of men and women of every age needs to be imitated today. No greater example of endurance and faithfulness to the Lord can be found than that of the apostle Paul. Think of his rejection, his suffering, and his imprisonments; yet, he never wavered in his faith. He, too, could have written, "Always Faithful" at his death. In fact, this is what he did write during the last days of his life on this earth: *"For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith..."* (2 Timothy 4:6-8). His faithfulness cost him his life but he received that *"crown of righteousness"* from Jesus Christ.

It is truly disheartening to learn of brethren, after many years of faithfulness, falling from the grace of our Lord. Some apostatize because of apathy, others because of carnality, while many falter because of their unscriptural marital relationships. Some apostatize from Christ, embracing religious errors and practices. How foolish for a person to 'quit the church' because of hurt feelings or an injury to one's pride. In contrast, it is so wonderful to know of brethren who remain faithful to Christ all their lives. I spoke at the funeral services for an elder of a congregation where I had formerly served as a preacher. It was with confidence and assurance made possible by God's grace, love and the death of Jesus Christ, that it could be said that this brother had gone to be with the Lord. It could have been written on his grave marker, "Always Faithful". Whether your life may be taken because of your love for the Lord or whether you live until you die of natural causes, may it be written of you, *"SEMPER FIDELIS!"*



In Our Prayers

- Percy Coggins – back problems
- Raymond Elliott – health problems
- Virginia Elliott – health problems
- Joe Dexter Flynn – brain tumor
- Joe Griffin – general health, improved some
- John Allen Helms – at his daughter's in Prattville
- Bobbie Sue Henderson – cancer
- Richard (Rich) Hodgkinson - cancer
- Dianne Hoffman – in B'ham; transplant recovery
- Francis Hoffman – back pain and torn rotator cuff
- Donald Hilburn – treatments for cancer
- Cecil Kelley – COPD
- Rusty King - neck & shoulder problems
- Chris Kyser – a little better, still serious condition
- Maggie Marshall – on ventilator only at night
- J. T. Owens – lung cancer
- Weaver Robinson – back problems
- Danny Rolling – neck problems
- Alice Smith – Debbie Beaver's grandmother, health
- Lindsay Turner – transfer to B'Ham for surgery on 10-8
- Ted Tindal – brain cancer
- Sammy Vassas - health
- Carolyn Wilkerson – pulled muscles in her chest
- Joseph Wright – in trauma unit in B'ham

Sympathy is extended to the family of Winston Fussell. This was Michelle Laird's dad.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Stephanie Martin.

In Luverne Nursing Facility:

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

- *Pray for soldiers overseas such as Dickie Sims*

Mission Efforts

South Africa
India
Rainbow Omega
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Panama Missions
Santiago, Panama
church of Christ, Tooele, Utah

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

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

● **HOME COMING 2008 – October 12:** **Everyone is invited! Brother Dennis Sanders** will be speaking. A pot luck lunch will be served at noon with the final service of the day following the meal. We hope to see lots of friends and family "home" for a visit.

● **The church of Christ at North Lowndes** in Hayneville, AL invite us to join them for their fall **Gospel Meeting** October 12th through October 14th. **Brother Charles Box** from the church of Christ at Walnut Street in Greenville will be the speaker. Time: Sunday – 6:00 p.m., Monday and Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.

● **Copies of sermons** are available on CD.

● **Ladies Caring and Sharing** group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30.

Watch "Good News Today" on:
DirecTV – Channel 323 – 7 to 8PM CST
Dish Network – Ch. 9407 & 9396 – 11 to 12PM CST